

## INDIAN LAKE WRITERS' GROUP

Monthly Newsletter

May, 2012

Donna Bradley

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This month our group included a special visitor, one who just may stay with us throughout the summer. Lucy Graves, Peppi's daughter had attended and delighted us with her writing several years ago as a bit of a youngster. She returns to us now after her first year attending Smith College, a young woman.

Nancy's piece segued perfectly into a subject pertinent to a college students' desire to figure out how to find one's place in the working world. Her piece reflected a transformation from a young woman with children dealing with life's issues, to an accomplished senior photo editor working for the Smithsonian. This transformation occurred through a variety of experiences including a stint at the National Park Service, and an eventual connection to a close friend and mentor. Life often evolves in unique ways.

Jim started us off with a poem about transitions. Four words in each line effectively evolved into a composite of life's experiences ranging from cold, cool, warm, and hot to birth, youth, aging, and death. Jim's next piece, titled, 97 Fairview described his grandparents' lovely large home with incredible detail. Every inch of space in this home carefully captured in his words, reflected the love and attachment of a young boy to his grandparents. Who knew until the ending that Jim's independent walk to his grandparents' home that particular day was taken by a little four year old.

Bob shared a poem entitled Leaves in the Wind. Beginning with a single leaf on a tree opening up on an early spring day, he carried us through the seasons as the leaf transformed from the life blood of its tree host in the summer, to the spectacular and colorful ending of its attachment, to its winter wait time, and then to its rebirth as it turns into soil and nourishes the next seed fallen from the tree.

No matter what the topic, we each discover a connection in our lives to the word chosen for our monthly assignment. When Peppi contemplated the topic, transformation, she remembered her days in New York City in the eighties. This was a time when Primal Therapy was a hot topic and the search to enlighten and enhance one's life intrigued many. Peppi took the E.S.T. training, a program initiated by Werner Earhard. Although she

realized that it was a controversial experience for many, Peppi felt that she benefitted from the training and experienced a positive transformation.

Lorraine shared her experience on Mother's Day with her son, Tom, who drove up from Wilton to spend the day with his mother and take her fishing. They ended up fishing on the south fork of Raquette Lake with absolutely no one around. They spied a bald eagle, an owl, loons, and could hear coyotes in the distance. Although Tom successfully caught a few trout, Lorraine had only a bite. Their day ended with a canoe that got away, still filled with many of their supplies, and luckily trapped in a swampy area so that Tom was able to capture it. These are the experiences in life that create wonderful memories and fodder for a good story. Lorraine also delighted us with her haikus. Beautifully written, they reflect Lorraine's wide knowledge and love of nature.

Lucy's first poem captures her view of life as the everyday experiences and not necessarily the "ding" events. "Life isn't the car into the robot, not even the robot into the car". Her images reflect a unique way to express her viewpoint, using her divergent thinking. Her second poem continued in this vein, and although it reflected a bit of a connection to The Hunger Games, a recent series of books and movies, it also had its unique approach which included Lucy's love of games and intrigue.

Donna shared a poem of transformation using the life cycle of the butterfly. Her additional piece, The Need for Transformation, captured the experience of one little boy in her first grade classroom who suffered from many serious family problems, was exceptionally bright, but whose inner anger clouded his ability to adjust to his school environment.

\*\*\*Next meeting: June 20 1:30 in the library

\*\*\*Assignment: "Visitors", or any other idea you may have.

Nancy shared a quote from E.B. White which had been included in her mother's day card from her son, Ben. Here is an excerpt:

"There is something about North," he said, "something that sets it apart from all other directions. A person who is heading North is not making any mistake in my opinion..."