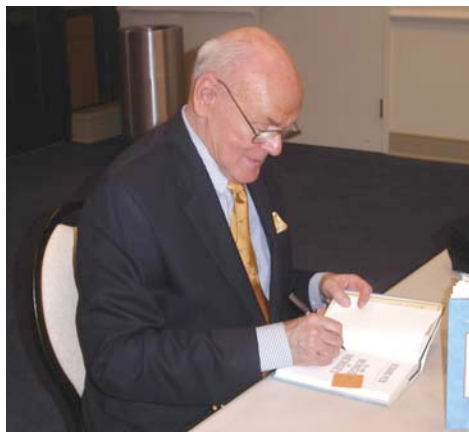


Richard Peck Event

By Sarah Henningsen

With his newest novel *On the Wings of Heroes* gracing children's bestseller lists, author Richard Peck is riding on literary success yet again. On March 26th, Newbery medal winner Richard Peck came to Lamorinda as part of his coast to coast tour, giving a speech and signing books at Temple Isaiah in an event that raised money for the Storyteller Bookstore and the Lafayette Library.

On the *Wings of Heroes* chronicles the life of Davy Bowman, a young American boy growing up during World War II. With an older brother off fighting in the army, Davy himself contributes to the war effort by collecting



Richard Peck

scrap metal in his neighborhood, an endeavor that introduces him to many unique characters and important life lessons.

The story is based loosely upon Peck's own boyhood. As Peck iterated in his speech, "I lived a red, white, and blue childhood of saving stamps, ration books, and 'loose lips sink ships'. We snooped

around and called it patriotism. Today, I still snoop and call it research." Although he drew somewhat from personal experiences, Richard Peck's impeccable research about World War II manifested itself in this great new work.

Following Peck's humorous and inspiring speech, audience members could purchase *On the Wings of Heroes* as well as other notable titles like *A Long Way From Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*. A percentage of the proceeds from the books sold at Monday's event will be split between the Storyteller Bookstore and the Lafayette Library. Both institutions work tirelessly to support literacy and reading skills among Lamorinda's youth, through the Tuesday Child author series that organized Richard Peck's visit and through various other events during the year.

The event itself was more than just a general speech and subsequent book signing. Musical trio Bob Sutherland, Don Hall, and Stewart Yasaki provided quality entertainment from the war era as audience members filtered into the social hall. Several local veterans—Blaine and Muriel Snow, Floyd Picket, William Harbin, and Jack de Leeuw—shared their war stories and photos with children and parents alike. At yet another station in Temple Isaiah's expansive room, individuals were given the opportunity to decorate and write letters to troops which Campolindo student Justin Batcheller is collecting for his Eagle Scout project.

Linda Higham, owner of The Storyteller in Lafayette, expressed her thoughts on the evening: "The main objective of Tuesday's Child is to bring families together to promote interest in books. In that sense, the event was very successful."

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