**INTERVIEW WITH JULIE OLSON**

**Question:** Tell us about your new book Discover America.

**Answer:** Discover America: From Sea to Shining Sea is an inspirational patriotic story set to the words of America the Beautiful. It follows a little red balloon across this great country, seen through the eyes of the children of America. And beyond the book, the educational part of the experience extends online, where people can launch their own virtual balloon and much more at DiscoverAmericaBook.com.

**Question:** What inspired you to make a career in illustration?

**Answer:** I love the art of Hilary Knight (who illustrated Mrs. Piggle Wiggle and Eloise). I also admire David Small’s expressive line work and Helen Oxenbury’s sensibility. Holly Hobbie’s watercolors and story telling ability make my jaw drop. And the honesty and craft of Erin and Philip Stead’s work make me want to stay true to craft.

**Question:** What advice would you give to young artists interested in illustration?

**Answer:** The best advice I can give to young AND old artists alike is PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! I am still practicing, learning, growing, changing and hope I always will. If you don’t use your skills you lose your skills, so use them. Then develop them further and keep on developing them your whole life through. I always am hoping my next book is better than the last. I always am trying to learn and grow and make better art.

**Question:** Any upcoming projects we should keep our eyes out for?

**Answer:** Well one in particular watch for my 3 original works of art coming soon to hang in the Orem Library Children’s wing. I’m excited to work on that. I’ve been sketching out ideas and can’t wait to start. Other than that, I am currently working on a picture book that is near and dear to my heart, which I hope a publisher decides to make into a book for the shelves very soon. Cross your fingers for me. Oh and if Discover America: From Sea to Shining Sea does well enough, I’ve already got the sequel planned and ready to put into production. So if you like this first book, get the word out so we can make another patriotic adventure with another twist.

If you have a hard time with her statement, think about a memorable family event, perhaps a vacation. Have you ever talked about it with a sibling or parent? Did you notice how their memories differed from your own? In my family, I remember one story in my family that involves doughnuts, a windy road, car-sickness, and angry children in the backseat of the station wagon. Believe me, when I tell that story, I am the martyr. However, my brother’s version would lead you to think that I was the villain, or at least the antagonist. Why do those differences exist? After all, didn’t everyone in my family experience the same event?

The answer is that although everyone did experience the same event, the versions of the stories we used to interpret the event are very individual. This is true about many things throughout our lives. Thus, in a very real sense, our stories make up who we are. We tell stories in order to live. Stories are the way we respond to and understand what happens around us.

**TAMPAHOGOS STORYTELLING**

The Timpanogos Storytelling Festival is a chance to hear others share stories about individuals, communities, and cultures. As we listen and enjoy the beauty of Erin and Philip Stead’s work we claim as our own—changing and hope I always will. If you don’t use your skills you lose your skills, so use them. Then develop them further and keep on developing them your whole life through. I always am hoping my next book is better than the last. I always am trying to learn and grow and make better art.

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By Eliot Wilcox

This Labor Day weekend, over 30,000 people from around the United States will gather in Orem to savor, discuss, share, and celebrate stories. In a time when media pundits decry the loss of community, when social scientists warn of technology’s overreach, and when individuals feel more disconnected and alone, the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival champions the story as a way to create community, cultivate face-to-face communication, and create a sense of self.

Human beings are, after all, naturally storytellers and story receivers. We use stories to define who we are. For example, are there certain stories that you tell people when you are getting to know them so that they can understand you better? Or, are there particular stories you use frequently to explain why you believe in something? Think of the “I learned this when” stories or the “my parents taught me” moments that you tell other people to help them understand why you believe the way you do on that particular subject.

I’m not the first to make the claim that stories are central to who we are, and definitely not the most eloquent. I always appreciated the way that essayist Joan Didion described this phenomenon when she wrote, “We tell ourselves stories in order to live….We interpret what we see, people when you are getting to know them so that they can understand you better? Or, are there particular stories you use frequently to explain why you believe in something? Think of the “I learned this when” stories or the “my parents taught me” moments that you tell other people to help them understand why you believe the way you do on that particular subject.

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THE OREM PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE HOSTING THE 4TH ANNUAL UTAH COUNTY FABRIC ART BOUTIQUE (FAB) TO SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR STORY

If you are a quilter, knitter, embroiderer, weaver, tatter, crocheter, seamstress, fashion designer, upholsterer, felter, or other fabric crafter, join us here at the library this July 7th through 12th for the 4th Annual Utah County Fabric Art Boutique.

What can you hope to find at this year’s FAB? Craft items including hoops and stands, fabric, yarn, threads, embroidery supplies, felt kits, patterns, ribbon and trim notions, buttons, and even sergers, sewing machines, tools and looms, as well as quilts, clothing, and other textiles for sale in a silent auction. Not only will you find these quality crafting items for sale at wonderful prices, but all proceeds go to support the Center for Story.

FAB HOURS:
Monday 12 to 6
Tuesday 10 to 4
Wednesday 10 to 4
Thursday 12 to 8
Friday 10 to 4
Saturday 10 to 4

For more information about FAB visit OremLibrary.org or call 801-229-7384.

SCREENINGS AUGUST – SUMMER SIZZLERS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 6:30 PM
The Way, Way Back (PG-13, 2013)
A shy teenage boy goes on a family trip and finds an unexpected friend in the manager of a local water park.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4 6:30 PM
The Parent Trap (PG, 1998)
Identical twins, separated at birth, discover each other at summer camp and make a plan to reunite their parents.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8 6:30 PM
What About Bob? (PG, 1991)
A successful psychotherapist goes on a month-long family vacation to a peaceful lakeside cottage and is tracked down by one of his most needy patients.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11 6:30 PM
The Muppets (PG, 2011)
When three fans learn that a greedy oil tycoon wants to drill under the Muppet Theater, they must find the Muppets and put on one last show to save the theater.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15 6:30 PM
A Streetcar Named Desire (PG, 1951)
Blanche DuBois, a troubled and pretentious Southern belle, moves in with her sister Stella in New Orleans and is confronted by her brutish brother-in-law.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18 6:30 PM
Heavy Weights (PG, 1995)
A group of plump kids discover their beloved summer camp has been sold to a crazy fitness fanatic who is determined to make their lives miserable.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 6:30 PM
I Declare War (PG-13, 2012)
An innocent game of Capture the Flag between neighborhood kids in the woods takes on a more serious tone.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25 6:30 PM
The Sandlot (PG, 1993)
Scotty Smalls is recruited by the leader of a neighborhood gang to play baseball on the nearby sandlot. He and his local baseball pals fall into adventures involving a snooty rival team, a legendary ball-eating dog, and an attractive lifeguard.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 6:30 PM
Secondhand Lions (PG, 2003)
A shy young boy is sent by his irresponsible mother to spend the summer with his eccentric, rich uncles in Texas.