



Hagaman Memorial Library

227 Main St., East Haven, CT 06512 203-468-3890 hagamanlibrary.org

Listen Up to the Stories Around

By: *Emili Lanno*

One night while out to eat, Sheila Bentley, former president of the International Listening Association, witnessed a mother and daughter sitting at a table—the daughter fully attentive while the mother was immersed in her cell phone. Throughout the night the mother-daughter duo hardly spoke. The mother didn't acknowledge the wait staff and when the cake was brought out, the mother didn't engage in the "Happy Birthday" tune.



This was one of the many stories Bentley included in her webinar entitled, "Listening Makes Us More Human."

Founded by Lyman K. "Manny" Steil, the International Learning Association formed in 1979 when a group of 27 professionals, mostly professors teaching listening as a part of communication at a variety of colleges, met on the campus of the University of Minnesota for the first State of the Art Symposium. Almost 38 years later, the ILA has evolved into an international community in almost 19 countries and this March is

declared International Listening Awareness Month.

When it comes to listening, said Bentley, the connection between people goes deeper than just hearing with our ears.

"Recently we have found that young people are on their screens about 10 hours a day and adults nine hours a day. We are not breathing the same air, we are not face-to-face and listening is not only about the words."

Bentley said when we are listening and communicating with another person, we notice their body language, their change in posture, are exhibiting direct eye contact and it can go as far as picking up a certain smell the body is giving off.

"We as individuals are more likely to trust someone if we can hear their voice," said Bentley. "We can figure out why they said that and are more likely to develop trust and a more connected relationship whether it's a personal relationship or a work relationship."

When it comes down to it, listening gives everyone a chance to make connections around them and fills them with an experience that will last forever, said Bentley.

"Whether it's listening to a book on audio, watching a play or at a concert, you are having a connection with the other people in the room right next to you," said Bentley. "It's impacting more senses also. You are not just getting it visually with the eyes or with the ears. It's aspects like the lighting and the people that make you more likely to remember the experience."

Bentley said listening is very much based on promoting the need to communicate and to truly make others around feel that importance.

"It's related to relationships and when you're listening to people, at least for that moment," said Bentley, "you are giving them that importance. It is about looking at what's happening in the world and just listening to each other."

Be sure to also check out various works written by ILA's very own members. A full list of titles can be found on their website: listen.org.

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Listen and Engage With These Upcoming Programs

Four-Part Book Voyagers Program Sponsored by CT Humanities

April School Vacation Week, April 10-13

Book Voyagers programs are designed to promote the joy of reading and encourage families to create literature-rich home environments. Our experienced program facilitator, Chris Brown, will use a variety of different program formats, including discussion circles, storytelling, and interactive workshops to immerse the whole family in compelling learning experiences. "Tales from Around the World" focuses on the art and illustrations of one book each day at 2 p.m. at the library.

Emily Dickinson: Her Poetry and Her Life April 22 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Actress Ginger Grace has toured nationally alongside famed celebrity impressionist Rich Little's "The President's," playing First Ladies from Jackie Kennedy to Hillary Clinton. The *Inside Emily Dickinson* poetry performance draws on Dickinson's letters as well as her work, chronicling a childhood spent among Amherst's affluent classes.

Trustee and Staff Picks: From One Reader to Another

"Follow the Star: Christmas Stories That Changed My Life" by T. D. Jakes
"He is a pastor, author, and filmmaker. He is head of "The Potter's House," a nondenominational American megachurch in Texas. These short stories are for all year long not just for Christmas time. They are very inspiring and comforting." -*Elaine Sammarco, Staff*

"Fooled by Randomness" by Nassim Taleb
"This is a standalone book (1st book) in Nassim Nicholas Taleb's landmark "Incerto" series, an investigation of opacity, luck, uncertainty, probability, human error, risk and decision-making in a world we don't understand." -*Stephen Haddon, Library Board of Trustees member*

"The Great Gatsby" by F.Scott Fitzgerald
"This classic novel combines the glitz and glamor of high society life set against the backdrop of the Roaring Twenties, where parties and excitement filled the air. Starring a reclusive billionaire with a hidden past, the story has something for everyone, not to mention, a tumultuous murder whodunit and an innocent love story from years past. It is this blend of mystery and drama that makes The Great Gatsby is a timeless tale enjoyed by readers everywhere." -*Christopher Hemingway, Staff*

"The Triumph of William McKinley" by Karl Rove
"This is a book which is fairly new and apparently not yet in the library's inventory. I am interested in some of the presidents which are less famous, in order to fill in some gaps in my knowledge of American History." -*Michael Enders, Library Board of Trustees Treasurer*

"Finding Me: A Decade of Darkness, a Life Reclaimed-A Memoir of the Cleveland Kidnappings" by Michelle Knight *with* Michelle Burford -*Luke Labagnara, Staff*

"Horses of God" written by Jamal Belmahi and directed by Nabil Ayouch
"While browsing through the extensive collection of DVD's at the library, I was captivated by the cover of this DVD. Based on true events in Morocco, with English sub-titles, the story of two brothers influenced by Islamic fundamentalists to become martyrs. A good insight into the dynamics of the free worlds nemesis radical Islamic terrorism." -*Ron Whitney, Library Board of Trustees President*

"The Unspoken Truth: If the Walls Could Speak What a Tale They Would Tell: A Memoir" by Lisa Zarcone, Former East Haven Resident
"This story takes the reader on a journey through Zarcone's perilous childhood. The book describes horrific abuse, but ultimately the reader comes away with a great sense of hope. Despite what she went through, Lisa was able to overcome great odds and become a successful career oriented woman. Her great success came from a strength and drive to keep going- deep within her that motivated her to become the beacon of light for others that she is today! I highly recommend this book. It inspired me in my own life to know that no matter how hard things get in one's life, we can persevere and be successful." -*Cynthia Gwiazda, Staff*

Meet the Editor

My name is Emili Lanno, I am a Southern Connecticut State University graduate with a B.A in Journalism and I have been a patron at Hagaman Memorial Library since the day that I was able to pick up a book. As the editor of our bimonthly newsletter, I hope to inform our readers on any happenings, events and features about the library that can make it a place the community chooses to dedicate its time. Happy Reading! Email: elanno@hagamanlibrary.org