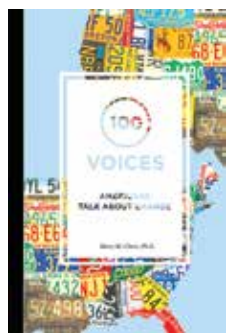


# Local author urges readers to give democracy a chance

By Polina Olsen  
The Southwest Portland Post

More than two dozen people crowded Annie Bloom's Books in Multnomah Village on October 6 to hear Mary M. Clare, a Lewis and Clark College counseling psychology professor, talk about her new book *100 Voices*.

The emphasis on change during the



last presidential election inspired Clare to understand America's yearnings. She took a cross-country road trip, interviewed people from all walks-of-life and wrote her book around the

question, "What does change mean to you?"

Gregory Ayres, director of operations for Loudmouth Press, introduced the speaker by noting this was the independent non-profit publisher's third book. Located in Brooklyn, New York, the press is dedicated to advancing civil rights and important social issues. Clare's story of the power of listening made a perfect fit.

"I'm a social psychologist," Clare began. "I know that a good way to get information is to ask big questions and not know where it will go."

"During the last presidential election, everyone was talking about and excited about change. I was curious to see what everyday Americans meant. With all this change, what should remain the same? What are signs that positive change is coming?"

Clare's book includes stories of her cross-country road trip, which she started after Barack Obama's presidential inauguration.

"As I'm sharing the voices, I write about my own experiences," she said. She knew about half the people she interviewed and found others at coffee



Mary M. Clare talks about her new book "100 Voices" at Annie Bloom's Books. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)

shops and family restaurants. Subjects ranged from children to seniors and covered the political spectrum.

In Georgia, a Sarah Palin supporter felt change meant less strife and more understanding of differences. An eighth grader in Long Island, New York said change was waking up and doing something for the community. Most people saw change as positive and felt individuals could be a catalyst. Some people saw extremes.

Clare spoke to an African American talk show host in Jackson, Mississippi the day after Obama's speech to a joint session of Congress.

"He was off to the races and upset," she said. "He was critical of Obama and progressive causes but as I listened long enough, I heard things where we saw

the universe the same way. He said, 'Tomorrow we're having a meeting of like minded people who are going to influence the next election.' I wondered if he meant the Tea Party."

Another time Clare overheard two men make plans for a Baptist youth group. "I walked over and introduced myself," she said. "At one point, the older one said, 'I'm a Republican and you're a Democrat. We're good at demonizing each other.' Another said, 'We've been majoring in the minors instead of the majors. We need to concentrate on the important stuff.'"

Clare hopes her book will motivate people to listen with an open mind. She urges everyone to set aside resistance and blur Democratic and Republican distinctions.

"It's easy to get offended by people," she said. "We have to stop the chatter in our heads long enough to see if we have something in common. The take away is, give democracy a chance. It's up to us."

## ANNASTASIA SALON



**APRIL PRICE**  
Level 4A stylist



**CAITLIN LAYTON**  
Level 4 stylist



**MAGGIE ARMENTROUT**  
Level 2 stylist



**MOLLY O'NEILL**  
Level 2 stylist



**KATHERINE REZANTES**  
Level 1 stylist



**LINDSEY DAVIS**  
Level 1 stylist

7741 SW CAPITOL HWY  
PORTLAND OR 97219  
503.293.5489  
ANNASTASIAS.COM



**FAT CITY CAFE**  
Multnomah Village Oregon

Great Food • Great Service  
Great Ambience

Now open Friday nights 4-9 p.m.  
All you can eat Spaghetti Dinner

Open Daily: 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

IN THE HEART OF MULTNOMAH VILLAGE

7820 SW Capitol Hwy  
503-245-5457 • www.fatcitycafe.net

## Dining Out Guide


Now Open

# JoLa cafe


STUMPTOWN Coffee • Food • Drink

5915 SW Corbett Ave., Portland, OR 97239    www.JoLaCafe.com

Find us on Facebook



Dandelion © Barry Peril 2005



Foothills Park © Barry Peril 2005

FINE ARTS PHOTOGRAPHER

## BARRY PERIL

PRESENTS AN EXHIBIT & SALE  
OF HIS CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY WORK

AT  
**O'CONNOR'S ANNEX**

in Multnomah Village  
7850 SW Capitol Highway, Portland 97219

Friday, November 18: 4:00 - 6:00  
Saturday, November 19: 10:00 - 6:00  
Sunday, November 20: 11:00 - 6:00

Barry Peril has exhibited his work around the world for the past 35 years, featuring Pacific Northwest landscapes, cityscapes and abstractions, as well as documentary projects on historical preservation in various Oregon communities.

www.barryperil.com