



Jim Mockford presenting his children's book, 'The Kite That Touched the Sky,' to Alexis Hood at Ilwaco Timberland Library.

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things. She soon became the go-to person, working a kind of worldwide kite diplomacy, and put Long Beach front and center in the international kite community. For Kay, being involved in every aspect of the festivals and the museum was her life."

A memorial for Buesing was planned for the Washington State International Kite Festival in 2021, but was canceled due to the coronavirus.

"But I wanted to do something," Mockford said. "I thought sharing my love of kite flying, as illustrated in 'The Kite That Touched the Sky,' would encourage and help children know the joy that we both knew so well."

Mockford donated his children's book, "The Kite that Touched the Sky," to the Pacific branches of the Timberland Regional Library.

Alexis Hood, library assistant at the Ilwaco branch, said Mockford simply walked into the library with his books and asked what the process might be to make them available to young readers.

"We were certainly excited about it," Hood said. "The book has beautiful illustrations of our local area that kids will be sure to recognize. It's a book that needs to be in our community."

Mockford's intergenerational storybook was inspired by his four grandchildren, two of whom live in China, and all of whom he calls the "newest generation of kitefliers." The book exemplifies that kite flying knows no cultural boundaries. It is available in both Chinese and English languages.

After a month of library system processing, "The Kite That Touched the Sky" is now in circulation in the library children's sections at Ilwaco, Ocean Park, Naselle, Raymond, South Bend and Shoalwater Bay.



Submitted photo

Kay Buesing and Jim Mockford at the World Kite Museum with the Chinese dragon kite trophy Mockford won in 1987.





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