

COMMUNITY

Portland-based author presents on how to live life like Julia Child

Two more will visit Hermiston as part of Altrusa series

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

Portland-based author Karen Karbo traveled to Hermiston last week with a butter-inspired motive.

Karbo, who was invited by the Hermiston Altrusa chapter, spoke about how she learned to live life like Julia Child while writing a book about her, called "Julia Child: Lessons on Savoring Life."

Karbo said even though Child is dead, people of different generations have come to know her in their own ways. She said the older generations came to know her through her book, which she authored with two others, called "Mastering the Art of French Cooking." Others, including Karbo, came to know her through her cooking show, "The French Chef."

"I watched the French Chef with my mom as a kid," she said.

Others still, Karbo said, came to know Child through a parody clip from Saturday Night Live where Dan Akroyd took the stage to reenact an episode of Child's show. The newest generation, Karbo said, has been able to learn about Child by reading or watching the book and now movie "Julie and Julia."

Karbo said, regardless of how people have found her over the years, most can say they have a special place in their hearts for Child. She said the main reason for that is because Child is someone to whom people can relate, and she never took herself too seriously. Those qualities, she said, are some of the things that made her so successful.

Karbo said, after reading several books and letters

about Julia Child, she realized Child didn't really live by any strict rules, which was in strict opposition to Child's specialty of French cuisine — an art that has more rules than any other. Karbo said, however, she believes Child adhered to a few rules.

One of those rules, Karbo said, was "Cooking means never saying you're sorry." Karbo said, during Child's cooking show, if she dropped something, she would pick it right back up and continue on. If she made a mistake on a recipe, she would use substitutes to make her creation just as good, if not better, than it had intended to be.

"Who is going to know?" Child asked on her cooking show, Karbo said.

"That is her legacy that she left for us," Karbo said. "She gave us ways that we could actually live with it."

Karbo said another lesson that can be learned from Child is that "to be happy, you must work hard."

Karbo said Child didn't achieve success until late in her life. She said while Child lived in Paris with husband, Paul, during the end of World War II, she attended classes at Le Cordon Bleu culinary institute beginning at 6 a.m. every day. At that time, many of the school's students relied on their own ingredients as the institute would run out of basic things such as salt or flour. Child was also known to speak the "worst French" anyone had ever heard, Karbo said, but nonetheless, Child pushed ahead.

A few years later, Child worked with friends Simone Beck and Louisette Bertholle to write "Mastering the Art of French Cooking," which they wrote specifically for Americans. About 10 years and two rejection letters later, the trio got their book published, which became one of the most popular cookbooks in history.



Author Karen Karbo signs copies of her books Thursday night after speaking on her book 'Julia Child: Lessons on Savoring Life.'

MAEGAN MURRAY PHOTOS



Author Karen Karbo talks with Hermiston and area community and Altrusa members about how they can live their lives like Julia Child.

"She never gave up," Karbo said. "That was Julia. She was passionate about what she did."

While on a tour for her book, Karbo said Child got picked up for a television show. She said she was be-

ing interviewed by a public television show and decided to cook the show's hosts an omelet using a campfire stove and her own utensils. Child was then offered a three-episode trial run.

Those attending Karbo's

talk about her book said they found Karbo enlightening and her take on Child refreshing.

Pendleton-resident Theresa Bosworth said she thought Karbo made Julia Child come to life with her

witty anecdotes about how she related to her life.

"I thought she did a great job," she said.

Hermiston resident Bette Brown said she also thought Karbo did a wonderful presentation.

"I love to hear about cooking and some of her recipes," she said. "Julia Child's personality really comes across in her book. I am so happy that she came."

Karbo said "Julie Child Rules" is one of four books in her series, which she calls the "Kick Ass Women" series. Her other three books include "The Gospel According to Coco Chanel: Life Lessons from the World's Most Elegant Woman," "How Georgia Became O'Keefe: Lessons on the Art of Living," and "How to Hepburn: Lessons on Living from Kate the Great."

Karbo's visit to Hermiston was made possible by Hermiston Altrusa because it received a \$5,600 grant this year from the Wildhorse Foundation.

Karbo was the first of three authors who will visit Hermiston this year. The second will be Maureen McQuerry, who will talk with middle school students about one of her young adult books. Altrusa member Karen Zacharias-Spears said they expect her to come in February or March.

The third author to visit Hermiston, Zacharias-Spears said, will be Charles Martin, who is a "New York Times" best-selling author, for Altrusa's One Book, One Community read project. She said this year's book will be "A Life Intercepted," which follows the story of a man who is falsely accused of rape. He will visit Hermiston on April 22 where he will first speak to students at Hermiston High School and then with the rest of the community at 7 p.m. at the Eastern Oregon Higher Education Center.

Hermiston man named new grounds director for Happy Canyon

BY MAEGAN MURRAY
HERMISTON HERALD

Johnny Pimentel may be from Hermiston, but he said that won't get in the way of his being named one of the newest board of directors for Pendleton's Happy Canyon as it heads into its 99th year this year.

Pimentel, who has volunteered for Happy Canyon for the last 13 years, was recently named the organization's new director of grounds. Pimentel, who grew up in Hermiston and graduated from Hermiston High School in 1987, said he has been welcomed to Pendleton with open arms. "I grew up a Bulldog, and the Buckaroos are our friendly rivals, but everyone has been very welcoming," he said. (Happy Canyon) is neat to be a part of."

Pimentel said some of his main duties as the director of grounds will be setting up and tearing down for concerts, getting the grounds ready for Professional Bull Riders events, hauling dirt and sawdust to get ready for the Happy Canyon Show and more. While he has helped with those things in the past as a volunteer, now that he is heading up the effort, he said he is both anxious and excited.

"There is a lot more responsibility about being a director," he said. "There is a lot of behind-the-scenes things that I never was a part of, but it is good excitement. The other directors are very helpful. They have supported me and have gotten me on my feet, and it is not like I am going in there blindfolded. I've been a major volunteer with that position — helping set up for concerts, managing the grounds."

In addition to his experience with Happy Canyon, Pimentel has experience on the rodeo scene. In 1995, he joined the Northwest Intercollegiate Rodeo Finals Association, for which he soon became the director of security. He stepped down after 13 years to be a bigger part of his son's sporting activities. He's also judged the Junior Rodeo when it has come to Hermiston, but stepped down from that



Pimentel

role in 2009.

Pimentel said he, his wife, Melissa, and son, Mitchell, have also been very active at Pendleton Round-Up for several years. He said he has volunteered at Round-Up for the last 17 years.

Pimentel said he is excited to be one of the Board of the Directors for Happy

Canyon and hopes to be just one part of the program's success as it heads into its 100th anniversary next year.

"A lot of people ask why I give so much time to it," he said. "Probably because it is a neat experience. Show me something in this area, a show, that has been around this long. It is pretty impressive. Things like that just don't

last that long."

The Happy Canyon Pageant is a show depicting the settling of the American West. It starts with a portrayal of the Native American way of life before the arrival of white people and continues with the arrival of Lewis and Clark and is followed by the prairie schooners of the Oregon Trail pioneers. The show

concludes with a reenactment of a frontier town's rollicking main street mishaps.

Pimentel recommends all people who haven't seen the show, come out and see it.

"You can count on one hand things that have been around for that long," he said. "It is good, family fun. There is nothing else like it around."

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