

New author offers ‘Good Fortune’

By Colleen Slater, KP News

“Wouldn’t it be wonderful if you could have someone write fortunes that would solve your problems and guide you through life?”

This was a question posed by Leslie Bratspis to her husband one rainy afternoon.

“What if it was a secret and you didn’t know someone was doing it?” she asked.

She grabbed a pad of paper and scribbled ideas for a novel.

This scene occurred about 16 years ago.

Bratspis’ book, “Good Fortune,” based on those suppositions, is now published.

“I knew the whole story, beginning to end, before I sat down to write it,” she says—“character names, jobs, conflicts, etc.” The story has remained the same through manuscript revisions.

She has written short stories and poetry, but the book is her first publication.

Researching Chinese customs and culture was an important part of this work,

as it’s the story of young men in both Chinese and American cultures who face challenges and work toward future life-changing goals.

Bratspis’ husband, Ned, and their Golden Retrievers moved to the Key Peninsula six years ago. She soon joined Jerry Libstaff’s writing group, and later became a member of the Lakebay Writers Club.

The first draft of her novel took about six months, she says, and she worked on it off and on, but it also spent several years in a box in their garage after moving here.

She began reading at two. Books were always important to her, and her parents encouraged her reading. At times growing up, she had two or three in process at the same time.

Her father was a writer, and Bratspis wrote little short stories as a child.

She was a reporter for her high school newspaper, majored in English at college earning an AA degree, then received a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology and a Standard Elementary Teaching Credential.

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Leslie Bratspis
Author of Good Fortune

She incorporated two of Ned’s poems in her book, neither previously published, although one of his pieces is in an anthology and another won first prize of 1,000 contest entries.

Bratspis says this about her book:

“I hope Good Fortune’s positive theme will be inspirational to anyone who has a dream or goal, but isn’t sure how to attain it. If your intent is strong enough, stay focused and the way to success will reveal itself. Don’t give up. Keep an open mind and heart, and you will find the way.”

Her first reading and book signing will be on Aug. 18 at the Key Center Library, from 7-8 p.m.

Good Fortune is available at Sunnycrest Nursery & Floral, Mostly Books in Gig Harbor, from Bratspis, online at amazon.com, robertsonpublishing.com, barnesandnoble.com, smashwords.com, and as a Kindle book.

For more information on Bratspis or her book, visit www.rp-author.com/bratspis or email lesliebratspis@yahoo.com.

She substituted in early elementary classes for six years, was a floral designer 14 years, a legal secretary at Walt Disney Studios for 17 years, then “retired” into floral design, employed at Sunnycrest Nursery & Floral, Mustard Seed in Gig Harbor, and Blitz & Co., Tacoma.

Bratspis is a member of Friends of the Library and volunteer Home Check Coordinator for Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue. She has studied art, and sketches and paints in acrylics and oils.

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