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# 14 ST. LOUIS-AREA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN BOOK-SIGNING CELEBRATION

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BY fran-hamilton | Posted: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 11:17 AM

St. Louis, Mo., June 17, 2015—Fourteen student authors and artists from seven area schools were among the seventeen students honored at The Grannie Annie's annual book signing celebration at the Missouri History Museum on Sunday, June 7. These seventeen students, along with twenty-nine others across the United States, had their stories and/or illustrations published in *Grannie Annie, Vol. 10: Historical Family Stories Written and Illustrated by Young People*, which was released in both paperback and PDF editions in May.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in St. Louis, [The Grannie Annie Family Story Celebration](#) invites students in U.S. grades 4 through 8, and homeschooled and international students of comparable ages, to interview an older relative, write a story about something interesting they discovered from their family's history, share their stories with their extended family and community, and submit their stories to The Grannie Annie for possible publication. Students are also invited to illustrate their stories. After stories for publication have been selected, additional illustrations are solicited through art teachers.

During the celebration, student authors read their stories and student artists discussed their illustrations. Eight of the people whose experiences were depicted in the stories were on hand, adding to the day's festivities by their very presence. Among those special guests were a mother and grandmother who had escaped from Vietnam by boat in 1979, a dad who had accepted a dare to ride his dirt bike through his school in 1980, and a grandfather who has lived four decades longer than doctors predicted in 1973.

Participating published authors from Wydown Middle School in the Clayton School District were Belle Gage, "The Fox Stole the Show," and Lillian Ebeling, "Problem After Problem." From the Ladue Fifth Grade Center in the Ladue School District was Jackson DiBlasi, author of "The Union Visit." From Immaculate Conception of Dardenne School in Dardenne Prairie were authors Sierra Creek, "My Papa's Journey of Faith and Love"; Caroline Gaughan, "An Independent Woman"; Drew Hollman, "Did You See What I Think I Saw?"; Josie Pagano, "The Lady in White"; Logan Racine, "A Game-Day Surprise"; Roman Weaver, "The Dirt Bike Dare"; and Ashley A. Werdes, "The Hero of Vega Baja." From Westminster Christian Academy in Town & Country was Lauren Bohlmann, author of "Finally Home." Megan Nguyen from The College School in Webster Groves both wrote and illustrated her story "Where to Go?"

Other published artists participating in the book signing celebration were, from Wren Hollow Elementary School in the Parkway School District, Joshua Bowman, illustrator of "Honey for Olives," and, from Twin Oaks Christian School in Ballwin, Andrew Uihlein, illustrator of "The Bear Man" (the cover illustration). The artists talked about the research they did for their drawings and the techniques they used.



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"Seeing the young authors and artists receive such joyous support from their families as we all celebrate the family stories and illustrations together is a reminder of how rich The Grannie Annie experience is for all its participants," said Connie McIntyre, founding Executive Director of The Grannie Annie.

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Other local students whose work was published in *Grannie Annie, Vol. 10*, but who were not present for the book signing were, from the Ladue Fifth Grade Center, Camila Isai del Cid, author of "The Land"; from Westminster Christian Academy, Katherine Gaitan, author of "The Not-So-Lucky Shot"; from Meramec Elementary School in the St. Louis Public School District, Nasro Abdi, illustrator of "Problem After Problem"; and from Twin Oaks Christian School, Olivia Gravette, illustrator of "The Coin," Teagan LeVar, illustrator of "Shark Week," Kate Pogue, illustrator of "Too Much Lekvar," and Esten Ronning, illustrator of "The German Fisherman."

Illustrations published in *Grannie Annie, Vol. 10*, will be exhibited at the Sachs Branch of the St. Louis County Library through August 15, and at the Carpenter Branch of the St. Louis Public Library during September. Additional exhibits are being planned.

Currently celebrating its tenth anniversary, The Grannie Annie has published stories that have taken place on six continents over a span of nearly 400 years. The stories vividly depict unique events, while reminding readers of the fundamental experiences common to all.

Financial assistance for The Grannie Annie has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and by the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis.

In honor of its tenth anniversary The Grannie Annie will soon publish a collection of World War II stories that have previously been published in its annual volumes. The stories show people on battlefields and homefronts around the world finding life-saving help in unexpected places and finding ways to live out their beliefs and celebrate their blessings amid the oppression of war.

Complete details about The Grannie Annie, and all of the published stories, can be found at [www.TheGrannieAnnie.org](http://www.TheGrannieAnnie.org). Books can be ordered from the website or purchased at Left Bank Books. Exhibit prints and poster prints can be purchased by contacting The Grannie Annie at [orders@TheGrannieAnnie.org](mailto:orders@TheGrannieAnnie.org). Stories to be considered for publication in *Grannie Annie, Vol. 11*, must be submitted by February 1, 2016.

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