



Author Lisa Spahr plans to visit Allentown area and share story

by Victoria Smith

Lisa Spahr will be at the Parkland Library March 4 at 7 PM to discuss her book. Spahr's novel is entitled *WWII Radio Heroes: Letters of Compassion*. It features over 30 letters and postcards that were mailed by kind strangers to her family during the war in 1943. After her grandfather was captured, scores of sympathetic radio listeners selflessly sought to notify her family that he had become a prisoner of war (P.O.W.).

Ms. Spahr felt it was her duty to track them down to be able to acknowledge and properly thank the people who had aided her family and countless others. These 'radio heroes' helped to alleviate the pain of families worrying at home, informing them of the status of their estranged loved ones lost in combat. A very limited number of people even know these good deeds took place, but she hopes this book, revealing their story, will change that.

"My goal is to share this story with a million people by 2015. I feel confident that we have already reached 350,000 via outlets we have received attention in. I am really proud of that," said Spahr.

Lisa Spahr is actually a research

psychologist who originally worked for The American Legion Headquarters in Washington D.C. with the objective of giving back to veterans. Then she worked with the military as a sort of contractor, testing equipment and operator efficiency. Therefore, she had a lot of background knowledge of the military, but never intended to become an author. That goal only came about after she randomly found 69 letters

sent to her great-grandmother, all hidden in her grandfather's old trunk.

As of 2007, Spahr lives in Pittsburgh, with her vintage radio enthusiast husband and continues to have high expectations for her story. "I want a documentary done on this topic, while we can still interview those original authors. This is the next big push. The story deserves it," said Spahr.

Although it may seem strange that someone would make such an effort to inform the world of something

that occurred more than 60 years ago, it is always better late than never. Ms. Spahr only began to uncover the secret of these P.O.W. saviors upon discovering the letters addressed to great-grandmother, already a great deal after the fact. However, she adamantly believes this story still needs to be heard and continues to be relevant.

"To this day, I get emails from people who found my book and realize they have a tie to the story. Just the other week a man reached out to me to say his father was one of my 69 original authors. It is so touching to be able to celebrate the good deeds of those who are still with us as well as those who have passed. They truly are heroes in my mind," said Spahr. Those interested in Ms. Spahr's novel should visit www.powletters.com to see author interviews and sample radio shows.

Parkland Public Library- March 4 at 7 PM
Luther Crest Retirement Facility- March 5 at 11 AM
Short-Wave Radio Festival- March 5 at 2 PM
Country Meadows Wyomissing- March 6 at 12 PM
(Autographed Books and Audio Books (3 CDs) available)



photo courtesy of Lisa Spahr

Lisa Spahr is the author of *WWII Radio Heroes: Letters of Compassion*.

Parkland saves \$600,000 with new agreement

by Riddhi Doshi

A school district with seven elementary schools, two middle schools and one huge high school needs a lot of electricity, especially with all of the new technology that is being used to teach more effectively. In order to save money on this vital resource, on January 1, 2010, the school board approved an agreement with PPL EnergyPlus. This new agreement is for one year and will save the District an estimated \$600,000.

The reason that the District has been looking for a supplier is that the state-imposed electricity caps were to expire on January 1, 2010. The school board is confident that they got the best price possible. They agree that if they had made an agreement with another supplier the electricity bill would be much more costly. Even with the new agreement that has saved the district thousands on its electricity bill, prices will still have increased approximately 30 percent.

"This is a textbook example of how the competitive market can help a school like Parkland save on its energy costs," said the Senior Vice President of Marketing for PPL EnergyPlus, Gene Alessandrini. "It's our job to find ways for [business, industrial and municipal customers] to save money by offering solutions to meet their specific energy supply need. We are excited to work with customers to find for them the best products and pricing options to make them more efficient and cost effective."

"Several months ago, we started searching in earnest for all possible suppliers that could offer generation of electricity for our buildings and

then asked for pricing, trying to be as proactive as possible to get the best deal. PPL EnergyPlus offered the lowest price and we are pleased to be partnering with them," said John Vignone the Director of Business Administration at Parkland. In an interview with the Director of Community and Public Relations, he commended ClearChoice Energy, a company situated in Pittsburgh, for their advice and guidance through a time of "uncertain deregulation."

Electricity is an essential commodity for schools in Parkland, especially with the use of technology becoming more and more popular. In every classroom in the high school, a teacher can use teaching tools such as PolyVision boards, Mac laptops, microscopes which can its slide projected over head on the Polyvision board so the whole class can see. In classes like Mrs. Kowalski's biology honors classes, students are able to design an experiment for students in a school in New Jersey and communicate with them through the use of Google Docs, Wikispaces, Keynote, email and so much more. Many agree that technology has enhanced the learning experience. A day without the use of the polyvision board, laptops or some other kind of technology seems odd. Fifty years ago, a classroom with a huge high-tech touch screen computer and laptops would probably have seemed out of reach for any school. Today, with the help of technology, students are learning better and with the new agreement Parkland has made with PPL EnergyPlus, the school district will be saving money that they can use to help students achieve more and reach great heights.

"Snooki" visits Easton, Pennsylvania

by Cain Azar

On Saturday January 23, Nicole Pollizi signed autographs and took pictures with fans at Star Pontiac Buick GMC in Easton, Pennsylvania. Pollizi made an appearance along with Ronnie's mother and brother, signing pictures to raise money for Haiti relief. In addition, for every car sale that day, one hundred dollars was donated to the cause by the dealership.

Pollizi, better known as "Snooki," is a reality star from the hit MTV show, *Jersey Shore*, in which eight strangers share a shore house during the summer. The show was filmed in Seaside Heights during the summer of 2009, and since then, the cast has received huge recognition for their fights, arguments, hook ups, hair poofs and duck phones.

MTV has recently signed up for a second season with the same cast, but the show has received a lot of negative publicity. Italian-Americans are up in arms over the intense stereotype of "guidos" and "guidettes." Doctors are complaining about the excessive use of tanning beds and careless behavior. Regardless, the show has taken over the internet and televisions everywhere.

"I love Jersey Shore!" said junior Steph Keubler. "It's so entertaining and the people are so interesting. I'm getting so pumped

for season two—fist pumping that is!"

The event ran from two o'clock until four in the afternoon initially, but "Snooki" arrived nearly 45 minutes late, pushing the time back by nearly an hour. The people in the front of the line, who had been waiting for hours, were

the first allowed entry into the showroom.

"We were close to the midway point of the line. Even though we had to wait, it really didn't matter. We got a signed picture of "Snooki," and it was worth the two hour wait," said junior Maddy Gerhard.

After the first hour of signing autographs and posing for pictures, "Snooki"

and the dealership decided it best to only allow autographs to be issued. Fans, upset with the lack of time, were forced to settle for pictures of "Snooki" opposed to pictures with her.

"It was pretty upsetting. We waited for a really long time and only got an autograph, which was printed in black and white on computer paper. I really wanted pictures with her so I could show that I really did meet her," said junior Alexis Puzzela.

By the end of the day, the car dealership managed to gather a large sum of money for Haiti. Multiple cars were sold, and a lot of money was directly donated to the dealership from fans. "Snooki" was happy with the day's turnout.



photo by Cain Azar

"Snooki" hands out signed photographs.