LiSpahr 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 help 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.

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

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by Victoria Smith

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by Riddhi Doshi

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by Cian Azar