



The Community  
School

Passages Program



# Passages Press

## The Piano

*A beautiful instrument*

by Leana Hendrickson

When I was asked to create something for one of my core skills, I had no clue what to do. I was never really into creating things. Then I thought about it and since I have always loved the piano, and I knew a little about reading music, I thought I would try to write a song. I had created short little tunes before, but never put too much thought into it and never written it down.

I have played the piano pretty much all my life. From what I remember we have almost always had a piano in our house. My mom would teach me little songs like "Mary had a Little Lamb" and



"Heart and Soul." could never read music until I was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and took lessons. I took them for about six months. I learned the basics in reading music, but I quit before I got really good at it. It was a lot of work. Sometimes I

enjoyed it, but other times it was a drag. I do hope to start up with more lessons, though. I have always dreamed of being a great piano player. I never wanted to be up on a stage or anything, but just to know how to play really well.

When I began writing my song, I just fooled around with the keys until I liked what I heard. I would record it and listen to make sure it sounded good. When I was happy with it, I began to write it on music paper. My teacher was a big help. She helped with writing some of the notes and rests that I wanted to put in my song. I found out that to just write a short song can be really hard. I thought it

would be a lot simpler to write a song than what it was.

Like I said before, my mom taught me a lot of the songs I know how to play, and she has also been a big inspiration to me. I have always loved to hear her play and have her try to teach me what she was playing. She never taught me how to read music, but she was the one who encouraged me and took me to my piano lessons every week.

I thought it would also be interesting to find out a little about someone who plays the piano for a living. I interviewed Ruth Gelsing. She is very involved in music and the piano. She also sang in chorus and plays the guitar a little. Ruth plays the piano for fun, a living, and teaches lessons. She started to play when she was around five years old. Like me, Ruth had a piano in her house. She found it one day and she really enjoyed it. She still had to wait two years until she could have lessons, though. She then had lessons through grade school, high school and even in graduate school. Most of her teachers were very good and encouraging.

Ruth loves to play because it sounds beautiful to her and she is very content when she plays. For a long time her favorite type of music was classical. Now her favorite is American musical theater music because she gets to work with singers, actors and dancers. These are all people she enjoys being around. Last year a song she played a lot was "Milonga del Angel" by Astor Piazzolla. Recently she has been enjoying a Chopin Prelude.

Learning how to play the piano takes a lot of work. Writing your own song takes even more work. I give a lot of credit to all the songwriters out

there, whether it is a song that is played on an instrument or sung, it is hard work. I think someone who deserves a lot of credit is Beethoven. He created marvelous pieces of music without even hearing them. At a very young age he created beautiful songs that are still played and enjoyed by many people today. A song that I personally like is "Für Elise." I can play a short part of the song, but I hope to be able to play the whole thing some day.

## On Propaganda

by Sheena Stone

A fact is something that is true. Fact is reality. It is known to be true. For example, say you are studying on what a lion eats. You examine its habitat, body, teeth and claws, and you see it stalking water buffalo. You then know for a fact that it eats meat. It is a predator!

An opinion is something a person believes to be true. It's what they believe in.

Everyone's opinion is different, but may share the same views! For example, say someone says, "I love fishing, it's so fun and very rewarding!" Another person could say, "I hate fishing, it's so boring, nothing ever happens and when it does I have to unhook the slimy, gross fish!" An opinion is just something someone thinks about something.

I do have an awareness of propaganda and I know better not to get sucked into it, although I am aware that I smoke cigarettes and the whole reason I started was because my mom and dad were doing it. That is propaganda - "Bandwagon." They were smoking, so why not me?

I know that propaganda can be and usually is a bad thing. It can get you hanging out with a bad crowd and I just don't want that! You could end up doing something that you thought was cool because other people were doing it, and end up getting hurt or in trouble. You could see something on television that you want because they keep telling you to buy it, end up buying it and come to find out it doesn't even work the way you thought it would, wondering why you wanted it in the first place.

Propaganda plays a big part in all of our lives, even if we try so hard to ignore it. Propaganda is used to try to make you believe in something, to get you to join something, to get you to believe you are "Somebody." One of the big things propaganda is used for is to try and get you to buy

something, to get you to believe that one product is better than another by pounding it in your head on commercials. When hearing or seeing propaganda, you are the one who has to sort out fact from fiction or opinion. What's good or not good for you, not the people who are trying to sell you something. I just have to remember that propaganda is not for me and never will be, I hope! I just have to remember I am a strong woman!

## Powder

by Santa Havener

My baby is on a roll again  
Creating another mess for me  
Powder...  
Powder...  
Powder...

It's everywhere, it is all I see

Me being me I have to call her daddy  
Tell him about the powder he left without no seal  
Now something so little has become

a great big deal  
Powder...  
Powder...  
Powder...

It's dumped on the floor  
It's wiped on the table  
It's smeared on her face  
It's even on her clothes  
It's lathered through her hair

Oh no  
Powder it is everywhere  
Powder...  
Powder...  
Powder...

You see I am not mad  
I'm actually somewhat glad  
It is only another memory  
She has created just for me  
Powder...  
Powder...  
Powder...

I love my precious little angel Lydia  
She brightens up my day  
Powder powder everywhere  
a great way to end the day

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## Bonding with my Baby

by Heather Beverage

Babies can be hard to take care of. Keaonna is a pretty easy baby, though. She usually can occupy herself when it comes to most things. I was told by friends that she was going to be very cranky and a hard baby to take care of. I proved them wrong; all of my friends got the cranky ones.

Keaonna keeps me going all day. When she naps, it's my time to sit back and relax or to clean up the house. Her needs are pretty much the same every day. Keaonna wakes up in the morning around nine. I feed her cereal and then put her in the bathtub. In the tub I play with her by splashing the water or running water over her head. She enjoys that the most. Throughout the day, I enjoy playing with her by holding her and cuddling, or taking her outside. We go for a walk almost every day, if it is nice out. When she goes down for a nap, I hold her and cuddle with Keaonna until she falls asleep. I also entertain her by dancing with her or looking in the mirror.

I researched and learned that bonding with your baby is the best. Bonding with your baby can be done in many different ways, such as breastfeeding, which is the best bond for Keaonna and I. Another way to bond with my child by disciplining and teaching Keaonna things such as how to clap, play patty cake, or even the itsy bitsy spider. By bonding with Keaonna I am able to also find out what her needs are. I teach her how to say words; I already taught her how to say momma, dada, bubba, but of course her first word was momma!

Overall, my baby is special and I try to give her whatever she wants and needs. Being a mom has been pretty hard and interesting at times for me. I have learned that I don't always get to do what I want; other girls my age are still going out and hanging out with friends. My friends stopped hanging out with me when I was pregnant and after I had Keaonna. The only thing I regret not doing is graduating with my class. I plan to graduate and someday be a C.N.A, so I will be able to give Keaonna a better chance to do more in life than I have.

## Interview with Ellie King: a Child Protective Services Caseworker

by Ashley Luce

Ashley: How long have you been doing this?

Ellie: I have been in this department for less than a year.

Ashley: What is your favorite part of your job?

Ellie: Helping kids.

Ashley: What is your least favorite?

Ellie: Ummm...Not being able to change the world!

Ashley: What are some things that might get you to check up on a family?

Ellie: We do not get any direct calls where I am. All the calls go through the main office hotline, then the concerns are presented and if we need to do further investigating the case gets transferred to a supervisor, and then to a caseworker.

Ashley: How often do you actually have to remove a child from their home?

Ellie: I am not sure of the statistics.

Ashley: What are some things that might make you remove children?

Ellie: Well, our first goal is to not remove a child, but unsafe environment, physical or emotional neglect, abuse, sexual abuse, basically the safety and well-being of a child. If the child is not safe, then they do not need to be in that environment.

Ashley: What is the age range of children who are removed?

Ellie: Infancy through 18.

Ashley: What is the process in removing children?

Ellie: First we have to do a safety assessment to determine if the child has to be removed. Then I would interview the child if old enough and also friends and neighbors. If I find that the child has to be removed, then it is a legal process where a judge gets involved and gives the final OK.

Ashley: Are there a lot of teen parents who get their children removed?

Ellie: I do not believe it is any higher, but I am not sure of those statistics.

Ashley: Once a child is removed from a home, where do they go?

Ellie: Arrangements are made before a child is removed. Infants and small children go into foster

care and older children go to a bridge home or an emergency shelter.

Ashley: Can a parent get their child back once they have been removed?

Ellie: Definitely. Our goal is to, whenever possible, reunify. We try to remedy the problem and put the child back.

Ashley: Is there anything else that you would like to tell me about your job?

Ellie: It is extremely high stress. You have to love what you are doing, because there is a lot of heartache and disappointment. I just love helping the helpless children. I get to change their life.

## You

by Courtney Ray

I feel so special,

Our love for each other is eternal.

The love we have is hard to explain,

But it is not lame.

Sometimes, I feel confused

But all I have to think of is that I'm not used.

I am loved.

Deep down inside, I can actually see I am beloved.

I'll be beside him through thick and thin,

And just maybe I'll get in...

I'm never going to sear up my feelings.

There are some moments I'll never forget,

It's like a silhouette.

But not really like a silhouette, in that perspective, a silhouette of our Memories we shared.

Never going to be feared...

To be cherished.

It is so rich and pure,

And I know for sure...

This is it.



## The Book Corner



### The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidder

Reviewed by Leana Hendrickson

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd was a very good and interesting book. I enjoyed following the characters through their journeys and anticipating what would happen next.

The story was told through the eyes of a teenage girl named Lily. She is an interesting person who has been through a lot. She accidentally shot her mother when she was very young, her father doesn't even acknowledge her, unless it is to punish her, and she doesn't really have any friends. As it says in the book; "...no one, not a single person ever said, 'Lily, you are such a pretty child,' except for Miss Jennings at church, and she was legally blind." Even though she was not a real person I felt badly for her, and I had to give her credit for being so strong through everything.

The book was set in South Carolina in 1964. The book talked a little about how things were pertaining to people of color during that time. I thought that it is cruel how badly they were treated. Even though racism is still around, I couldn't imagine it being as bad as it was back then. I am glad things have changed since then. Here is an example of some of the things it talked about in the book. Three men were sitting outside as Rosaleen and Lily walked by...

"Well, Look what we got coming here,' he called out. "Where're you going, nigger?"

Firecrackers made a spattering sound in the distance. "Keep walking," I whispered [Lily talking]. "Don't pay any attention."

But Rosaleen, who had less sense than I'd dreamed, said in this tone like she was explaining something real hard to a kindergarten student, "I'm going to register my name so I can vote, that's what."

"We should hurry on," I said, but she kept walking at her own slow pace.

The man next to the dealer, with hair combed straight back, put down his cards

and said, "Did you hear that? We got ourselves a model citizen."

I heard a slow song of the wind drift ever so slightly in the street behind us and move along the gutter. We walked, and the men pushed back their makeshift table and came right down to the curb to wait for us, like they were spectators at the parade and we were the prize float.

"Did you ever see one that black?" said the dealer.

And the man with his combed-back hair said, "No, and I ain't seen one that big either."

It is horrible that people of color could not walk down the street without getting harassed. It really surprised me how bad they got treated, especially after they had the freedom to vote. You would think that things would be getting better for them at that time, but I guess not too much changed.

Even though things for people of color were still unfair at that time, Rosaleen was lucky and, with Lily's help, found people who cared about her. These were three loving and very amusing sisters. These sisters also cared a great deal about Lily. Even though they were all African American, and Lily was white, love is colorblind, and they treated her like their own daughter.

How Lily and Rosaleen found these people was very interesting and I enjoyed reading about it. Things got even more interesting after they moved in with these women. I loved what went on in their home and I was never bored reading about it.

The book also had a great ending. I couldn't have picked a better one if I wrote it myself. It was very surprising, but at the same time it went perfectly with the story. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves a great story. I have to admit, the beginning was not that interesting, but if you read only a few more pages the book will suck you right in.

### [The Wedding](#) by *Nicholas Sparks*

Reviewed by *Heather Beverage*

I read a book called The Wedding. I thought this book was really good. There were a lot of parts of the book that made me cry. This book is about a husband named Wilson, a wife Jane and their three children. Their children's names are Joseph, Anna and Leslie. Anna is the oldest, Joseph is the middle

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child, and Leslie is the baby. In this book I have learned that if you don't show your true love that someone will stop loving the other. True love is hard to come by. I have had a few boyfriends who I thought were the world, but I think that in order to have love you have to have trust and commitment.

I thought that the author wrote really good dialogue. There were a few parts that gave me some good visuals of Wilson on the phone with Joseph. Wilson was trying to find out what Jane was doing and if she was having fun or was miserable. Joseph said to his dad,

"Hey, Pop? I wanted to ask you something."

"Yes?"

"Did you really forget your anniversary?"

I took a long breath. "Yes," I said, "I did."

With that piece of dialogue I could actually picture Wilson on the other line saying what he did. I would have to say that I hope that Peter and I can be in love forever. But when you have a family to see and bills to pay, sometimes mommies and daddies can't always be in love. People sometimes drift apart after awhile.

I strongly recommend that anyone with a soft heart and who is ready to cry that you should read this book called The Wedding.

### [Locked In Time](#) by *Lois Duncan*

Reviewed by *Becki Giberson*

I read Locked In Time, by Lois Duncan. This book was different than anything else I have read. It was so good, very mysterious and suspenseful. This is the kind of book I really enjoy reading because with suspense like this, it was hard to put down at times.

It was about a teenage girl name Nore, same age as me, whose mother died. She had been going to school in New York, and then came to live with her dad for the summer. Her dad had remarried and wanted his daughter to meet and get to know his wife and her two kids. Everything was going really well at first. But then, she starts to notice small things about the family that just don't seem right. Then her stepbrother tries to kill her, which makes her determined to find out the truth. Of course, her father doesn't believe that her stepbrother tried to kill her, so Nore does everything she can to prove it. She does a lot of research and breaks into a secret storage cabin where her stepmother has kept records and her diary. She

finally figures out that her stepfamily never ages. They live off the money of the man who she remarries. Then kill him to get the money, before he realizes none of them are aging.

At first I hated the ending, but as I read on, it told everything I needed to know, unlike some books. The ending was completely satisfying it couldn't have been better.

Reading this book I kept thinking how great a movie it would make. Some books you just can figure out how to make into movies but this one is easy. I would love to see the movie if anyone decided to make it.

If I had to pick one thing that I didn't like about this book is that there were times where it was so descriptive that it just went on and on describing one thing. At those moments I learned how to skim though the boring parts. Even though it had very good description, it was just too long and not of much importance.

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who likes mystery and suspense. It wasn't a horror story though, which is why I liked it so much. It had all the good parts of a horror story, but without the scary, nasty, horrible parts that give me nightmares. I am looking forward to reading more books by Lois Duncan.

### [A Child Called It](#) by Dave Pelzer

Reviewed by Stephanie Freeman

I read the book [A Child Called It](#) by Dave Pelzer. It was a very sad book about the author's own childhood experiences. During his childhood, Dave endures lots of torture by his mother. His mom starves him, beats, him and all sorts of other awful things. The story is told in context of Dave as a little boy, recalling everything. You get to not only feel like you're living it with him, but you can hear the thoughts going through his head. This is a great book for insight into child abuse, and is the first in a series of three about the rest of Dave's adolescence and manhood.

This book made me really look at child abuse as a parent. It makes you really take a step into reality and how abuse to your child can be very damaging. All kinds of abuse can, not just physical, there's also emotional, spiritual, and intellectual abuse, and these are just as harmful. I know I would never do any of these things to my baby, and it made me sick to think that anybody would or could.

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## Life's Passages ...



Tiffany Towers gave birth to a 6 lb. 7 oz. baby girl named Bryanna Lynn Maxey on June 12, 2005,

Stephanie Preston gave birth to a 8 lb. 11 oz. Baby girl, Ileanna Maria on July 5th.

Leana Moon married Brian Hendrickson on June 11, 2005. Their son Daniel, dressed for the occasion in a tuxedo, walked down the aisle and stood with the wedding party while his parents recited their vows.



## Love Poem

by Courtney Ray

How you make me feel is so unreal.  
In my eyes you have looks to kill.  
Unspoken words I will tell you in good time.  
Baby I want you to stay forever mine.  
Because the situation is we just started.  
But the short time we have bonded.  
Those are times I am fond of.  
The way you make me feel no words can explain.  
My heart is at Love and it can't maintain.  
Please don't break my heart.  
Please be my one and only and I'll do my part.

## Summer Workshops

### Yoga

August 3<sup>rd</sup> □ 10-12  
Teen Center, Camden

### Nutrition – From Harvest to Table

August 24<sup>th</sup> □ 10-12  
Youthlinks, Rockland