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#### Authors Delaney, Godwin and Shreve speak at Junior League of Morristown luncheon

Print Page

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Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster Township was all abuzz on Friday, May 14, when 294 women attended the Junior League of Morristown's 9th annual "Lunch with the Authors," held at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster Township.

The authors were Frank Delaney of Litchfield County, Conn., Gail Godwin of Woodstock, N.Y., and Anita Shreve of Dedham, Mass.

#### About Frank Delaney

Delaney is a best-selling author of 21 books; his latest is "Venetia Kelly's Traveling Show." He is also a radio and television personality in Great Britain.

Referring to the work of the Junior League, Delaney said, "My mother was saying, 'If you want something done, ask a busy woman.' Something that amazes me about this country is its generosity. You give and you give and you give.

"I've written more than 20 books. What I like to do is teach. I gave myself a mission – to finally finish reading 'Ulysses.'

"I tried again and again to finish it in college. Finally, I decided to write a book about it so I could finish it, and found that I had a passion for "Ulysses" and James Joyce." The book, "James Joyce's Odyssey," landed on the bestseller list.

"Authors impart knowledge of emotion," he noted.

His book, "Tipperary," is about the restoration of an old castle in his hometown in Ireland. He was once asked, "Why is every character in your books an only child?"

His answer was, "Because we write what we want." Delaney has seven siblings.

#### About Gail Godwin

Godwin, a New York Times best-selling author who has written 13 novels and received several awards for her writing, said her inspiration for her latest book, "Unfinished Desires," was "places that haunt you," and her favorite stories are about people "haunted on the insides."

As a child, she lived in North Carolina, where she attended St. Genevieve's School, which doesn't



Enjoying the "Lunch with the Authors" event on Friday, May 14, at the Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster Township are, from left, Megan Schubiger of Morristown, author Gail Godwin, author Frank Delaney, author Anita Shreve and Amanda Boyadjis of Morristown. Schubiger and Boyadjis were the chairwomen of the event. Photo courtesy of Junior League of Morristown

exist anymore. This was a place that haunted her. In preparation for the book, she returned to North Carolina and for a few days she stayed in the building that used to house St. Genevieve's. She said that the theme of the book is adolescent girls and nuns.

### **About Anita Shreve**

Shreve has written 15 novels, won awards and also had three of her novels made into movies: "The Weight of Water," "The Pilot's Wife" and "Resistance." Her latest novel is entitled "A Change in Altitude."

She lived for a time in Karen, a suburb of Nairobi in Kenya. "There was a deep gulf between the haves and the have-nots. There were shacks versus large houses with servants. I climbed Mount Kenya, and it was the most physically arduous and most miserable experience of my life. There are more deaths on Mount Kenya than any other mountain each year.

"'A Change in Altitude' is about a couple who climbs a mountain. Kenya is the most lawless country. It isn't safe to go there. One morning, we awoke to find that we had been robbed of everything while we were sleeping - even the sinks," said Shreve.

At one time Shreve thought that she might be able to get inspiration for her books from her diaries. But they were no help. The Monday after her Mount Kenya climb, she wrote in her diary, "Climbed Mount Kenya. Made it to the top. It was hard."

Another entry: "Norman Mailer came into the office today. What an a-hole."

### **The Luncheon**

The annual Junior League authors luncheon began and ended with a meet-and-greet with the authors, as well as book sales and signings.

In between was lunch, talks by the authors, and a question-and-answer session with the authors.

"It's an opportunity to bring out the community and to raise money for our causes," said Amy Vincent of Bridgewater Township, a member of the State Public Affairs Committee, a committee of Junior Leagues that advocate for issues that affect women and children.

Kimberly Walters of Madison, president of the Junior League of Morristown, served as the Mistress of Ceremonies, and Amanda Boyadjis and Megan Schubiger, both of Morristown, were the chairwomen for the event. Authors' Aides were Lisa Boles of Chatham, Kim Rescorla of Franklin Park, and Vincent.

A 50/50 and a basket fundraiser were also featured at the event. Among the 29 basket prizes auctioned off were a basket of cookbooks; travel items including a photo album and books to enjoy while on vacation; tickets to a Jets game; an autographed Zach Parise NJ Devils wall plaque; museum memberships; and gift certificates for shops, restaurants, spas and salons. Also, there was a lucky winner of an iPad.

The proceeds from the event will support the community projects of the Junior League of Morristown and its Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to voluntarism in the community.

On Wednesday, April 28, four students were awarded scholarships of \$2,500 each for exhibiting exceptional volunteerism. They are: Lindsay Alexander, who will be graduating from Roxbury High School; Anna Kalavrezos, who will be graduating from Boonton High School; Kathleen Pine, who will be graduating from Ridge High School; and Christopher Seery, who will be graduating from Hanover Park High School.

In 2006, the Junior League of Morristown began awarding a Women Moving Forward scholarship to a woman aged 40 or over who is studying to obtain her college degree. Since the establishment of the Scholarship Fund in 1986, more than \$140,000 in scholarships has been awarded to individuals residing in Morris and Somerset Counties.

"We want the community to understand that we serve as a catalyst for change in our communities. We are an organization that's about service and community and civic leadership," says Vincent. "The Junior League was successful in the passage of legislation declaring March as Child Obesity Prevention and Awareness Month. It was passed unanimously in the senate and in the assembly."

According to Vincent, the focus area of the Junior League of Morristown is the health and wellness of women and children; specifically, childhood obesity, domestic violence, and providing community-driven workshops. The Junior League offers nutrition workshops for children.

The Junior League of Morristown also runs a consignment shop, the Nearly New Shop, as part of their mission "to meet the needs of the community by offering usable items at lower prices, providing a Junior League presence, and directing the funds back into the community," said Vincent.

Information about these and other programs, as well as how to join as a member or a volunteer, can be found on their Web site at [www.jlmnj.org](http://www.jlmnj.org). Also, Kathy Metrocavich, the office manager, can be e-mailed at [jlmkathy@yahoo.com](mailto:jlmkathy@yahoo.com).

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