

# short on words

A POETRY & SHORT STORY EVENT

## MEET THE JUDGES



Ellen Demray recently retired from her role as principal of Grandview Elementary School in the Clarenceville District. Grandview received the State of Michigan Exemplary Blue Ribbon School Award in 2005, the same year Mrs. Demray was named State Principal of the Year by the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association! Ellen was honored to represent Michigan in Washington DC as a National Distinguished Principal in 2006. "Grandma Ellen" now plans to spend her free time visiting her favorite granddaughter, Taylor Mae!



Michele Fecht has been a writer and editor for more than 30 years. She began her journalism career as a reporter for The Northville Record, and later worked at The Detroit News. Michelle has been a contract writer for The Chicago Tribune, and her work has appeared in Hour Detroit magazine and other publications. A resident of the City of Northville since 1986, she and her husband Steve have two grown children, Clara and David.



Patricia Feldt enjoys reading and writing - and she has since childhood. Pat's Irish heritage may have something to do with her passion, her great-grandfather was an Irish poet. She has been a storyteller for as long as she can remember. Ms. Feldt had a piece published in The MacGuffin while in college and had a one-act play performed by the Livonia Redford Community Theater. Pat is the mother of nine and the grandmother of five, so far....



Linda Liedel and her husband have lived in Northville for 20 years. She became involved with the Northville Art House seven years ago as a volunteer. Linda retired from the education community and is now a very active Board member on the Northville Arts Commission. Retirement has allowed her to enjoy a passion for painting and writing children's books. "I am excited to be involved with fostering the talents of Michigan writers through the "Short on Words" competition."



Gail Gotthelf works for Hour Media. She has long been a “journal” writer and avid reader of poetry. Gail has experience writing press releases, travel and tourism related articles, as well as television and radio spots. As Director of the Birmingham Principal Shopping District, Ms. Gotthelf was the editor of the Birmingham Magazine. Gail is now a mentor with Women of Tomorrow, encouraging high school girls to discover their potential.



Jill Kara is an MSU graduate with a BA in English, is a certified secondary English teacher in Michigan and Georgia and has earned her Masters with a specialty in Literacy Education from Madonna University. As a Reading Specialist she has performed countless assessments and placed many students in appropriately leveled reading classes. Jill, and her husband Michael have three children - Parker, Emaline and Madeline. They are familiar faces at Our Lady of Victory in Northville, where she serves as a leader of the Junior Great Books reading program. Jill is thrilled to be a judge for the Short on Words contest this year!



Mary Brissette is a librarian for the Northville District Library. She has lived in Northville since 1988. Ms. Brissette is a graduate of Madonna University and Wayne State University, with a Masters in Library Science. She is a member of the Michigan Library Association (MLA). Mary has been a librarian for 20 years; the last 14 with Northville District Library.



Kurt Kuban is the Editor of the Northville Record. He has his BA from the University of Tampa where the focus of his studies were writing, history and political science and a Graduate Fellowship from the University of Ottawa. Mr. Kuban has received awards from the Michigan Press Association, Suburban Newspapers of America and the Society of Professional Journalists. He is the owner/editor of Streamside Journal.com. and an organizer of the annual Rouge Rescue event in the City of Wayne - where recently he was honored with the James Poplin Award for volunteerism. Kurt is married to Cheryl and the father of three - Maggie, Kameron and Kaden.