

HOGWARTS: FACT OR FICTION?

By Phillip Moore

These days I'm always on the lookout for good news. Sometimes I have to look really hard. I've discovered that good news, like a good man is hard to find. Major news sources like newspapers and television, CNN, radio and the internet are unreliable as sources of good news. It's there sometimes but buried beneath headlines designed to grab our attention and undermine any sense of peace and well being we may have acquired after a night's rest.

Summer can be a season of time out of time. For teachers and students it can be a time of summer camps, long days at the beach, sailing on a sweet sea, or reading long books. This summer I have rediscovered the world of fiction. And that is where the good news lives. I am almost finished reading J.K.Rowling's "The Order of the Phoenix", the fifth and latest addition to the Harry Potter series. And what a wonderful ride it's been. First just knowing that this book's first run was 6.8 million books and that they sold out and had to print an additional 1.7 million to keep up with the demand, is cause for celebration enough. But, as an educator, knowing that children in over 200 countries have read these books and that there are over 80 million in print and that they have been translated into 55 languages, is nothing short of a miracle.

A book, of all things, has captured the imaginations of millions of children and adults. A book, not a new video game, not a new film, not a new micro-processor gadget, but a book, something that has been around since

Gutenberg invented the printing press over 500 years ago. What's more the book is nearly 1000 pages long and costs almost \$30.00. The creative genius of Ms. Rowling's latest book has made publishing history by being the fastest selling book ever.

But what intrigues me most is what the book is about. For those uninitiated, the story is about an orphaned boy who lives between two worlds. The world of the Muggles (regular folks), and the world of Magic. The setting for most of the action takes place at a school. A school dedicated to teaching magic. The school is called Hogwarts.

Hogwarts as it turns out is not a perfect place; on the contrary, the school has a long history of discord and conflict. But it is under the leadership of a venerable and wise soul by the name of Dumbledore. The fifth book picks up where the fourth leaves off. Dumbledore addresses the Great Hall by saying, "I say to you all. Once again in light of Lord Voldemort's (the dark lord) return, we are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided. Lord Voldemort's gift for spreading discord and enmity is very great. We can fight it only by showing an equally strong bond of friendship and trust."

During a recent visit with my niece and nephew I had the opportunity to pick them up after day camp and to take care of them until their father returned late that evening. Caught in the spell of the book I greeted them after camp with a question, "does Hogwarts really exist?"

We went back to our house and after some food and drink we went off on an adventure. My 10 year old niece and her 11 year old brother were wide

eyed as we crossed the bridge and I told them that thirteen and fourteen year old kids built it. I suggested that maybe when we return the bridge would be lit by small insects that produce tiny dots of light. As we walked up hill towards the sweat lodge I mentioned that it would be a sign of good luck if a wild ground bird approached us as we made our ceremonial fire. Sure enough as we knelt by the fire pit still warm from the embers of Sundays lodge, a grouse (probably raised in a cage by the DNR, who has no fear of humans and lives near the EAC) approached Rachel. Her eyes large with delight looked in my direction and she asked if she could pet it. I told her no, that this was a wild thing not to be tamed. We made a small fire and I told them about our Native American Guide and about the four directions. We lit some sage and moved toward the medicine wheel. We entered at the east door and walked quietly clockwise from east to south talking about the circle of life and about their grandmother and how close she is to the end of her long and wonderful life. We paused at the west and honored the direction of death and transformation and Jake remembered placing a shovel of earth on his grandfather's coffin two years earlier. As we moved towards the north I told them about dragons that fly. I explained that in the time of dinosaurs that they had wingspans of over three feet but now they had evolved to be much smaller. I told them that they ate other flies and mosquitoes and that if they were very quiet and patient that they could catch one by gently approaching from behind and softly pinching their abdomen. Rachel immediately found one and

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

18TH SATURDAY

"STAFF & STU" 7:00PM

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE KAREN JOY THEATRE WITH TED STRUNCK, STEVE BHAERMAN (AKA SWAMI BEYONDANANDA), KELLI CLUTE, ANJULI DAWN AND MARY MARGARET GIROUX

27TH MONDAY

EMPTY BOWLS MEAL 6:00PM

OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF TOGETHERNESS AND COMMUNITY GIVING

NOVEMBER

7TH & 8TH FRIDAY & SATURDAY

QUILT RETREAT

JOIN US AS WE STITCH OLD & NEW FRIENDSHIPS ALONG WITH A TREASURED WORK OF ART

13TH & 14TH THURSDAY & FRIDAY

TPS FALL PLAY

21ST FRIDAY

THANKSGIVING FEAST FOR STAFF & STUDENTS

24TH & 25TH MONDAY & TUESDAY

1ST EVALUATIONS & HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR - **NO SCHOOL**

26TH, 27TH & 28TH WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

THANKSGIVING RECESS

DECEMBER

19TH FRIDAY

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION FOR STAFF & STUDENTS

20TH - JAN. 4TH

HOLIDAY RECESS - **NO SCHOOL**

We've Set The Stage, We've Taken A Seat, And It Is Now Time To Experience Opening Season At The



On behalf of Upland Hills School, we would like to thank all of you who have helped us create The Karen Joy Theatre. Because of your commitment and belief in our dream, we are proud to announce the opening season of our Performing Arts Building! In September, you will be receiving a brochure detailing the entire season of spectacular events we have planned.

But it is not too late to become a part of supporting The Karen Joy Theatre. Dedicated seats are available at \$500 each, but only eight are left. This is a unique opportunity to place your name or words of inspiration on a seat to be seen by countless numbers of theatre-goers.

If you like the idea of a dedicated seat but have a little more to say, consider one of our loveseats. For a donation of \$1000 you can dedicate one of the two upholstered seats that will sit on the entry level. A special addition to our project, these may well be "the best seats in the house".

If the dedication of a seat is not exactly what you had in mind, let us open other opportunities to you and your family. To offset the costs associated with professional entertainers, we are launching a Corporate Sponsorship program of the upcoming season. Please contact the office for details of how you or your business can help the Karen Joy Theatre garner top quality entertainers, all while advertising your business in our printed materials, and guaranteeing your seats for the event(s) you sponsor.

If you have not had the opportunity to add your names to the wonderful list of supporters that have helped this dream come true, take a moment to fill out the slip below and return it to Upland Hills School.

I/We would like to be a part of the opening season of the Karen Joy Theatre. Please accept my/our contribution in the following category(ies). I understand that all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law and that Upland Hills School is a non-profit 501(c)(3) institution.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

\$500 Dedicated Seat

\$1000 Loveseat

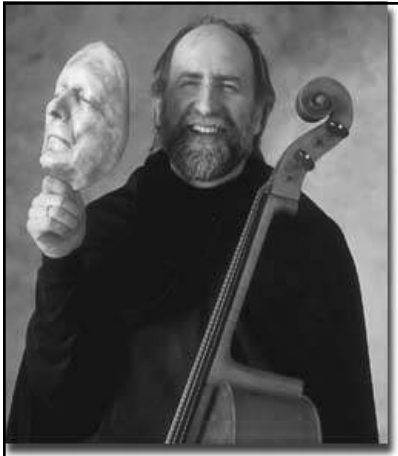
Other

Designation _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Our school was inspired by the work of R. Buckminster Fuller. Bucky insisted that we teach children to think comprehensively and that we encourage them to seek out those individuals who were leaders in their field. In 1980, Bucky visited our school and took part in a film documentary entitled, "Learning As A Journey". That experience led us to invite a number of 'world teachers' to our campus to inform and inspire us. Over the years we have developed contacts with several people who have taken our 'Upland Hills School' into their hearts and have been invited to return year after year. We honor these wonderful people by calling them our global teachers. They open our minds and our souls with their stories, music and wisdom

Eugene Friesen



Eugene Friesen is at the forefront of a new generation of musicians versed in classical, popular and world music. A graduate of the Yale School of Music, he is an active performer, composer, teacher and recording artist. He was awarded a Grammy as a member of the Paul Winter Consort for the 1994 album *Spanish Angel*.

Friesen's gift for the responsive flow of improvisatory music has been featured in concerts all over the world with the Paul Winter Consort, Trio Global, and with poets Yevgeny Yevtushenko and Coleman Barks. He has performed as a soloist at the International Cello Festival in Manchester, England; Recontres d'Ensembles de Violoncelles in Beauvais, France; and at the World Cello Congress in Baltimore, Maryland.

His compositional credits include four albums of original music: *In The Shade Of Angels*, *New Friend*, *Arms Around You* and *The Song Of Rivers*; *Grasslands*, a symphony premiered on the Kansas prairie in 1997; *Earth Requiem: Stories of Hope*; *The Brentown Musicians with Bob Hoskins*; *Sabbaths*, settings of poems by Wendell Berry

CelloMan, his one-man show for young audiences, features a wide variety of music on solo cello: classical, jazz, blues and rock. Created in collaboration with maskmaker/choreographer Robert Faust, CelloMan has been performed widely in the United States. The CelloMan video was released in 1999.

Eugene Friesen is on the faculty of the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He lives in Vermont with his wife, Wendy, and their children.

We are excited to highlight the opening season of the Karen Joy Theatre with the newest Eugene & Robert collaboration called, "Voice of the Wood."

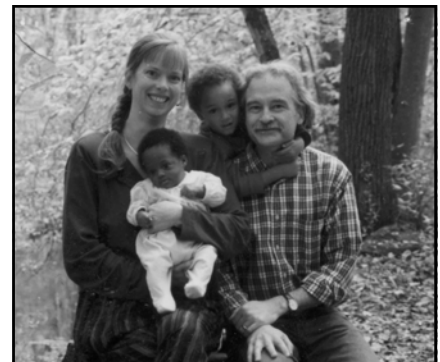
Details will be mailed out soon!

www.celloman.com

Medard Gabel has conducted workshops, consulted and given lectures for over 400 corporations, colleges, universities, high schools and organizations throughout the world. He is the former executive director of the World Game Institute, an UN-affiliated NGO that he founded with Buckminster Fuller. There he developed and delivered the "World Game" and numerous other global and local simulations for clients around the world. He has authored 5 books on the global energy situation, the global food situation, the U.S. food system, and multinational corporations, as well as developed software and Internet activities such as NetWorld Game - an online global simulation that places players in charge of the global economy. He has also developed curriculum and lesson plans for teaching about global issues, social science, environmental science, problem solving, critical thinking, and other subjects, as well as developed numerous simulations for educational and business uses.

Some of his other work includes *What The World Wants*, *Worldometers*, *The World Fact Game*, and *the Global Issues Primer*. He is also cofounder and consultant to o.s.Earth, a company dedicated to providing global and regional simulations to education and corporate clients around the world.

Medard Gabel



them our global teachers. They open our minds and our souls with their stories, music and wisdom. They inspire us to connect with each other, with the natural world, and with people from distant lands. They travel widely and come to us as emmisaries, bringing their collective wisdom and experiences. It is a great honor to include them as part of our staff. We hope you will connect with their links to find out more about their work and their performance schedules.

Rafe Martin



Rafe Martin is the author of nearly 20 books and the recipient of three American Library Association Notable Book Awards, Four Parent’s Choice Awards, two Anne Izard Storyteller’s Choice Awards, an American Folklore Society Aesop’s Accolade Award, several American Bookseller “Picks of the Lists”, an IRA Teacher’s Choice Award and many other awards of distinction. His work has been cited in Time Magazine, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report and USA Today. The Women’s National Book Association has honored him with their Lucille Micheels Pannell Award for his “unique creativity in bringing children and books together.”

Rafe appears in countless schools, libraries, festivals, and conferences in nearly every state in the U.S., and as far away as Japan. His books have been translated into many languages including Swedish, French, Korean, Japanese, Xhosa, Zulu, Afrikaans and Portuguese.

In schools he works with all grades and ages, kindergarten through college and adult, telling stories and sharing an empowering vision of language, writing, creativity, and imagination. He leaves listeners with an awareness of their own power to create. He offers adult and family performances, as well as professional workshops.

Rafe explains his how his love for sharing literature with children began, “through sharing stories each night with [my children] - usually reading aloud but sometimes telling stories - I began to understand how stories, when told in voice, come alive. In those nightly readings I saw that stories pass on archetypal dramas of cause and effect, making values an integral part of our emotional and imaginative thinking. I saw, too, that by getting us to use our minds, indeed, by forcing us to provide our own unique images for each detail, character, and event they re-establish our faith in the creative power of our own imaginations and in the power of wish and dream to guide our lives. I experienced how stories, too, help us stay in touch with the specifics of our own memories and simultaneously discover the universal patterns that run through each and every life.”

www.rafemartin.com

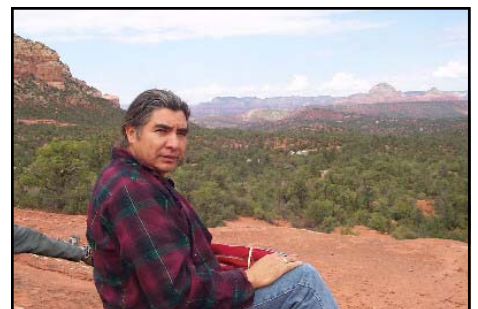
Jorge Arenivar, also known as Redtail Hawk, is a core energetic therapist, teacher & ceremonial leader. He has taught Native American Indian conscience and spirituality for 20 years.

His integrity is based on Mitak Oyisin, (detained harmony with all my relations). He works to realize his vision to bring Light in this world. Helping people in their work in lifting the consciences, the inner awareness and the need to stay in supported present.

Jorge lives with his family in St. Louis, MO. He travels internationally teaching and supporting students of all ages in transforming their lives and guiding them to be in right relationships with themselves and their community.

Jorge can be found at the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center several times a year guiding the Inipi Stone People’s Lodge Ceremonies, as well as teaching Native American Frame Drum making workshops.

Jorge Arenivar



Holly's

Several years ago I had these words above the opening that connects my room with Jeans': "Each day is a gift, that's why it's called the present." I continue to live my life with that perspective and I would add, "each year is a gift." This year, I have been given the gift of a group of 11 children.

I see my group this year as a gift because of what each child embodies: enthusiasm, wonder, openness, shyness, uncertainty, bravery and the desire to explore the known and unknown.

My group this year consists of 3 children returning for their second year, four siblings - one of them is also a staff child, and four new children which bring our school four new families. To me, this is a gift, a precious gift.

Summer has been wonderful, I have rested. I have travelled. I took a workshop in Connecticut and felt the energy of living in the presence of a fiber artist. I have soaked up time with family and friends. I have worked at school with an incredible group of parents who have helped make our school look better than it has ever been. And I have sat on my deck watching fireflies light up the night. These are my blessings, my gifts.

I so look forward to that first day that begins, for me, in the Apple Tree Parking Lot when I can say, "All Aboard!", and lead my new group down to a new year of unfolding adventures.



Jean's Group

I would like to welcome you all back, and am looking forward to a brand new year of new parents, new relationships and the opportunity to work together to help children blossom.

I am excited for the children to re-connect with our brand new playground! Special thanks to the parents who worked so hard to make the school look so welcoming and fresh. What a beautiful space for exploration & discovery!

David's Group

The summer has drifted lazily by, and the school community has been somewhat dormant. The staff (as instructed by Phil), has taken extreme measures to rest and recharge in preparation for the coming schoolyear. Each of us has enjoyed our summer, you may be sure of that. But now, I'm experiencing the feelings that accompany the slide into Labor Day weekend. I'm starting to sense the need to reconnect with the Upland Hills community - with the students, and the parents - everyone together and the school's 'engine' running again.

Some place in my heart, I still hold onto the space, the vacation, that summer provides. But there's a discomfort with this absence. There are times when absence makes the heart grow fonder, but there's a tendency for distance, apathy, self-fullness to creep in. I believe it's time to reunite and reconnect. For me, it's regular interaction that makes my heart grow fonder! I miss everyone. I miss neighboring, all school meetings, staff meetings, classes, sports at lunch, seeing smiling faces, daily routines, etc.

During the break, we are not in position to care for one another. While we enjoy our separate summers, it's easy for the sphere of caring to shrink and dwindle. Let's get together again and share the love we were meant to share at Upland Hills School. Bring on 2003-2004!

"A secure and happy childhood is of the greatest importance not because we stay children forever, but because we don't."

TEACHER'S CORNER

Jan's

Thought For Food

In early July, I was shopping at Costco and noticed a book entitled "The South Beach Diet". I scanned it quickly and decided to purchase it. The instant attraction for me was the claim that you would loose belly fat, and the recipes in the back looked good.

After I read the book more closely at home, my daughter Allison read it. My daughter Emily, needing to fit into a size 4 bridesmaid dress for an impromptu wedding, made us all decide to delve in and do the first two weeks as proposed by the author. Dr. Agatston called this Phase One. Phase One requires you eat *no* carbohydrates, sugar or fruit. After that, you eat carbs in limited amounts of whole grain products and whole fresh fruits and berries, but no fruit juice or processed fruit.

We had fun following the recipes and preparing them together. We lost weight, but more than that, we discovered first hand how much changing your diet can change how you feel. Usually by 2 or 3pm I am feeling sluggish, need to stretch out and power nap. That feeling went away the very first day! As my energy level evened out, so did my emotional level. Internally, I felt calmer and more in control.

All of this started me thinking about the foods kids crave and beg us to provide for them. There is no doubt they prefer white bread, pasta & rice, sweet juicy drinks and desserts in almost any form. Yet, all these foods are digested quickly, raise blood sugar levels dramatically and become body fat if more is consumed than the body can handle. Even if their young bodies are lean and trim, would a diet with more whole grains, protien and fiber make them feel better? Would they be more alert, less moody, more able to concentrate?

I am not suggesting young children do the South Beach Diet, but I am suggesting less processed foods and fewer sugary drinks and treats. Now I know you are thinking; my child will never choose a bowl of old fashioned oatmeal over a frosted blueberry pop-tart. You are right - so don't buy pop-tarts!

Cooking class will be an interesting challenge for me this year.

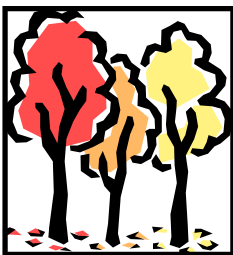
Karin's

I am so grateful and continually amazed by the parents and children who have adopted the UHS garden. When I was ready to give up on the idea, they stepped up to the challenge and never wavered. The redesign is both beautiful and functional, and we are hoping for an equally beautiful yield!

I would like to request donations of unsprayed leaves to use as mulch. It helps the garden, and reduces your yard waste too. Please place any leaves by the compost pile behind my classroom.

Also, for the upcoming semester, I am looking for donations of buttons to be used as recycled art.

Please let me know if you can help.



Ted's Group

A Brief History of Light

In the spring of 2002, my group, under the supervision of my student teacher, Tom Tomich, began to investigate the systems operating in our school. The 4 systems they looked into were: water, paper, food and electricity. The first thing they had to discover was an indicator for each system - a device that told them a measurable quantity of resources used. For the electrical system it was easy - the meter on the pole outside school.

The electricity group kept track of how much energy the school used per day. They calculated how much energy it took to light a classroom. With this awareness came a surprise - my kids no longer wanted to turn on the lights in our classroom unless absolutely necessary.

Needless to say, it was a little dark in there some days. Solution? Natural light. How to get it in there? A skylight tube - easy to install, almost foolproof, inexpensive.

In the fall of 2002, I said to my class that we should look into a skylight tube - costs, installation, etc. Two weeks later, I walked into my room and there was a big box. Turns out to be a Skytube. Charles Szost had purchased 3 tubes, and upon installing them, found he only needed 2. His son Jorian is in my group and told him of our situation. He generously donated the extra Skytube to our classroom.

My kids couldn't believe that we were going to cut a hole in the ceiling. It was a fun event. It was a "natural" solution, a sustainable remedy and it hasn't leaked yet, Phil. So there you have it - how light came into our room. Thanks to Charles and the kids who worked on it.

after three attempts caught it. I told her to release it on her shirt and if she were calm it would stay for a while before flying away. Rachel did just that and indeed the dragon fly stayed for a short time. Not to be outdone Jake tried to catch one and wouldn't leave until he had. But his didn't stay.

As we left the Medicine Wheel we paused at the door and said a brief prayer for their grandmother sending her our love and deep admiration. I asked them if they had ever met someone who strongly reminded them of someone else even though they didn't look exactly alike. They said yes, and I explained that they are called archetypes. People who share very strong attributes, mannerisms, interests, and vibrational fields. Their Uncle Richard is very similar to the actor Gene Wilder, especially in the goofy way they both make people laugh. I said we were off to visit someone who was very much like Hagrid. Hagrid is the half giant that teaches the kids of Hogarts about the care of magical creatures. They asked me how this person was like Hagrid and I told them that he collects and studies creatures from all over the world. He had built an entire room to house drawers and drawers full of these beautiful creatures and if they asked maybe he would show them. I saw Ken and Marilyn

sitting on their porch reading as we approached. They welcomed us into their house and as I made the introductions I noticed Jake taking Ken in. Ken was big, bearded, kindly and quite captivating. After introductions I mentioned that I had told them he was like Hagrid and Ken let out a huge warm laugh. Lots of kid's think I look just like Hagrid he told them.

We followed Ken up stairs to the room where he keeps his collection. He told us that he had already selected 32 drawers to go on a field trip to another school so he would have to find some interesting creatures in ones left over. As he pulled out each drawer the kids let out gasps of ooooohs and ahhhhs. He showed them large walking sticks, beetles and beautiful butterflies. He opened a case of Mophos and showed the kids how one side was a sharp metallic deep blue but the other side was perfectly camouflaged. We stayed for a while before making our way back over the bridge just in time to see the fireflies. When we got to school Jake asked about sports at our school and I said that on Fridays we played a game with the entire school called safety zone. He asked if we had teams and I told him that every Friday we picked new teams and that kids of all ages and skill played. He than asked if

he could try the adventure course and off we went into the woods.

After putting them to bed I thought about our day. I thought about this magical place we call Upland Hills and about all the lives it has touched. I thought about the friendships that began here. I thought about the values we tried to teach and I thought about something that J.K.Rowling said. I thought about the values that inform the books that J.K. has written. I thought about the millions of children in over 200 countries that embrace these values. Simple enduring values that include being kind, being good, being brave, forging deep friendships, learning how to trust and how to listen to your own voice. This was the good news I was looking for.

I feel much like J.K. when she said, "I am an extraordinarily lucky person doing what I love best in the world".



" We need the tonic of wilderness, to wade sometimes in marshes where bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground.

At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyable and unfathomed by us because unfathomable.

We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thundercloud, and the rain which lasts three weeks and produced freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander.

Henry David Thoreau

PLAIMS

We are looking for a parent to represent Upland Hills School in the PLAIMS organization. PLAIMS is the Parents' League of Independent Michigan Schools.

As our representative, you will attend an informative meeting once a month to discuss trends in independent schooling, parenting, and educational philosophy. Each meeting includes an informative guest speaker, a tour of the host school, and either breakfast or lunch. Please contact Janet Hartman for additional information.

Java & Joviality

don't forget Friday morning coffee at Big Apple Bagel on M-24 in the Kroger Plaza



Roots & Shoots Update

The Upland Hills School Chapter of Roots & Shoots needs adult facilitators in order to continue this year. If you are interested in keeping this program available, or would just like more info about Roots & Shoots, please contact Sue Wrubel.

*"Every individual matters.
Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference."*

Jane Goodall
zoologist and founder of Roots & Shoots

Girl Scouts

Troop 1530 will continue to meet every other Wednesday after school for interested girls ages 6 and up. This troop includes Brownies, Juniors and Cadets. Please call Nanette Montgomery at 248-693-8157 for more information.

Love To Read?

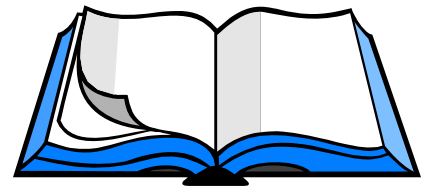
Come join the UHS bookclub! Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm at Holly Neumann's home.
5745 Cobb Creek
Rochester, MI

The first meeting will be September 16, 2003.

The books scheduled for discussion are "The Life of Pi", by Yann Martel, and "The Sixteen Pleasures", by Robert Hellenga.

If you love books, bring a friend or come alone, and join us for a very special monthly respite.

For directions and other information, please call:
Karen Moore 693-8487
Holly Neumann 652-2108



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Auction 2004

Remember to save Saturday, April 24, 2004
on your calendar for our annual bash.
Join us next year as we move the festivities to the
Twin Lakes Golf Club in Oakland Township!