

BOOKS

Author's humour never stops

Another season of our Book Clubs recently wrapped up with our annual Book Lovers' Literary Lunch as the grande finale.

The guest of honour was journalist and author of the novel, *With a Closed Fist*, Kathy Dobson. *With a Closed Fist* chronicles Dobson's childhood, growing up in poverty in Point St. Charles, a slum in Montreal that was then considered the toughest neighbourhood in Canada.

In a review of Dobson's novel published in the *Globe and Mail*, author and mental health activist Pat Capponi describes the book as a "wicked, incisive, brutal memoir that moves with breakneck speed from incident to incident." There are moments of surprise, disbelief, and sadness throughout the book, but the sadness doesn't linger because, as Capponi suggests: "Dobson doesn't dwell too long on them and never descends into self-pity."

The humour never stops — it's everywhere in the book. In person, Dobson is also funny, engaging and intelligent. We were so fortunate and honoured to have her speak at our literary lunch.

She gave a very powerful, humbling and profound speech that left many of our members energized and eager to reread her book. Capponi is right when she says that "Dobson has enormous talent, and we all must be thankful that she did beat the odds and find her way through the maze of deprivation and violence to speak her truths in such a creative and telling book."

And it's definitely not a book you'd soon forget about. If



you'd like to read *With a Closed Fist*, we have copies in our collection for you to borrow. Reserve a copy through our catalogue, or call 905-356-8080, Ext. 2.

Are you interested in joining one of our book clubs? The book clubs meet once a month from September to April at the Victoria Ave. library, Chippawa branch, Community Centre branch and Stamford Centre branch. There are both daytime and evening sessions offered.

The books under discussion are provided by the library. Registration for the book clubs begins in July and there is a \$10 fee. You can register in person at any library or by telephone at 905-356-8080, ext. 0. You can also borrow sets of 10 to 16 books to use with your own book club. Sets can be borrowed for 6 weeks at a time. Visit the "For Adults" section of the library's website at www.nflibrary.ca for a complete list of more than 100 titles or call us for more details.

Please be aware that the free legal clinic brought to you in partnership with Niagara North Community Legal Assistance has been rescheduled from May 5 to May 12. All other details remain the same — it's still in the conference room at the Victoria Ave. library from 1 to 4 p.m. All questions can be directed to NNCLA at 905-682-6635.

Beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, join us for Big Screen Tuesdays at Victoria for a free screening

Kathy Dobson, who wrote *With a Closed Fist* that chronicles her childhood, growing up in poverty in Point St. Charles, was the guest of honour at the library's book club literary lunch.

of *The Lego Movie*. Starring Will Arnett, Elizabeth Banks and Alison Brie, this movie is

rated G and runs 100 minutes. An ordinary Lego construction worker, thought to be the Special, is recruited to join a quest to stop an evil tyrant from gluing the Lego universe into eternal stasis.

Did you know that the name Lego is derived from the Danish phrase *leg godt*, which means "play well."

Bring your lego loving child to "play well" at our free Lego Club. For more information,

please speak with a staff member at any location or go to our website.

Ashleigh Last is the acquisitions and adult services librarian at the Niagara Falls Public Library.