

'When Books Went to War' is chosen for One City, One book program

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Molly Manning, author of "When Books Went to War." (Courtesy photo)
Martin Bentsen

LACONIA — "When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II" by Molly Manning has been chosen for this fall's One City, One Book reading program. The program is designed to bring the community together by encouraging citizens of all

ages and backgrounds to read and discuss the same book. Copies of "When Books Went to War" are now available at the Laconia Public Library.

This year's selection is sure to appeal to book lovers and history buffs alike. The book brings recounts the story of the little known nationwide campaign launched by librarians to send free books to American troops during World War II. The impetus of this campaign was the burning of more than 100 million books by Hitler's regime. By 1943, the War Department and the publishing industry joined in the campaign and the results yielded 120 million small, lightweight paperbacks for the troops to carry with them.

Molly Manning, the author of "When Books Went to War," will be on-hand Thursday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Laconia High School Auditorium to discuss her work and answer questions from the audience. Manning is an attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York City.

One City, One Book is sponsored by the Laconia Putnam Fund, Laconia Public Library, Laconia School District, and the Laconia Human Relations Committee.