

Book Signings

POLK COUNTY HISTORY CENTER BOOK SIGNINGS SPECIAL EVENT

Pat Allen DiGeorge

Book: Liberty Lady

July 22 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Pat Allen DiGeorge will present a reading from her newly published book, "Liberty Lady: A True Story of Love and Espionage in WWII Sweden." This book is about the lives of the author's parents, Herman and Hedy Allen, who came to Bartow in 1946. Herman had just been discharged from active military service, while Hedy worked for the Office of Strategic Services, the U.S. espionage agency which one year later became the CIA. They met in neutral Sweden where, with



Hedy and Herman Allen (1946)

the assistance of the nephew to the king, they married following a whirlwind courtship. Pat is sure that few Bartow friends had any idea about her parents' escapades during the war. Hedy used to say, "Oh I could never talk about what happened." Finding out wasn't easy. First-hand accounts and declassified OSS files from the National Archives led DiGeorge on a veritable scavenger hunt through World War II-era air bases in England; crash sites in rural Sweden; and a myriad of espionage-related locales in Stockholm and its surroundings. Over the course of several years, she was able to piece together an intriguing account, including personal details of a notorious wartime spy case.

David Groves

Book: No Uncommon Valor

July 25 - Noon to 1 p.m.



Threescore and eleven years ago, David Groves was a 20-year-old infantryman in the U.S. Army. In his book, "No Uncommon Valor," Groves reflects that during World War II he was blessed to be stationed in Europe instead of Japan and serve in the armored infantry rather than the "walking on your foot and dig a fox hole infantry." He also describes how he was stationed with a group



Members of Company B, 19th Armored Infantry Battalion, 14th Armored Division, U.S. Army.

who could sing Silent Night and White Christmas in tune without a piano or a book.

No creative writer could conjure up the experiences shared by Groves and his unit, including moments of joy after receiving a box of Jell-O from home and the heartbreak of witnessing the devastation at Dachau. Join Groves at the History Center as he retells many of these same stories in person and discover more about the cost of war and the enduring human spirit.

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