

Cedar Grove resident publishes book

Thursday, February 17, 2011

LAST UPDATED: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2011, 1:43 PM

BY MOLLIE GRAY

THE RECORD

MANAGING EDITOR

"Hieroglyphics of the Heart" is a collection of poetry by Cedar Grove resident Dr. Susan Marc Lawley.

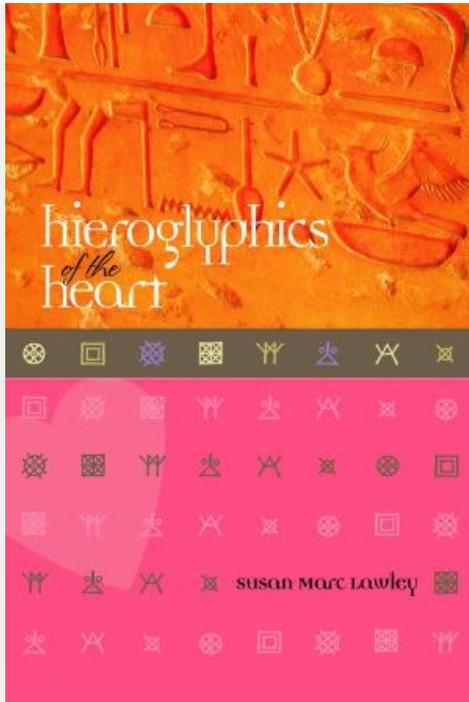


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTIN SOMMERS

Cedar Grove resident Dr. Susan Marc Lawley tackles topics of marriage, divorce and conflict in her recently released debut book, "Hieroglyphics of the Heart."

"Hieroglyphics of the Heart" is a collection of poetry that touches on a wide range of topics, from marriage to motherhood, from divorce to death; political conflict to family conflict; illness and recovery, moving and being moved, transformation and resurrection. The range of emotions expressed covers love and pride, sadness and grief, compassion and kindness, anger and forgiveness, loss and hope.

"I was inspired to write this book because I believe it is often hard to express authentic emotions in our society; we push them down rather than release them," said Lawley. "We often talk in code or jargon to one another. This book is about being real and saying what is true. It is about transforming our conversations from undecipherable hieroglyphics to meaningful connections."

Lawley said she pulls inspiration from her personal experiences in tackling a number of different subjects.

"I think it comes from critical events in my past life ... whether it's the loss of my mother, the birth of my son, sibling rivalry, whatever it might be. One way I'm able to work it out and understand it better is to write about it," she said.

"Some of my poetry is about exposing my struggle and how I cope with it, and also celebrating the good things. There is some of it that's really quite joyful," she added.

Lawley grew up in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan. She moved to Cedar Grove six years ago from Fairfield.

She's had poems published in the journal, "WomenKin" and one in an anthology titled "Passing" published by Poetworks Press, but this is her first authored book.

When asked about the meaning of the title for the book, Lawley said, "When I think about hieroglyphics, I think about the mysterious, and how you have to decode those ancient message and what they mean. I think poetry helps you decode your emotions – emotions that can go back generations and can feel very mysterious until you start to pull them apart and think of them very differently."

Lawley, who has a B.A., M.B.A., M.A. and Ph.D, has held senior management positions at Bankers Trust Company and Goldman Sachs. She co-founded an award-winning corporation, The Camelot Group, in 1989 and then sold the enterprise to a publicly traded firm in 1998.

She currently works for a leadership consulting firm in New York City, where she coaches executives and provides leadership training for clients in New York and New Jersey.

Some of her clients have even helped influence her writing. "When I see the changes they are trying to make ... seeing what a client was trying to accomplish or what they were trying to overcome. I start a story around that in the form of a poem," she said.

Lawley co-created Lasting Connections in 1992, a non-profit foundation to help the families of seriously ill patients pay their telephone bills. She is also the founder of Sisters-in-Script, a non-profit organization she started in 2009 devoted to the professional and personal development of women writers. Sisters-in-Script offers writing programs and networking events for women who love to labor with words. Three times a year, Lawley offers her Keepsake Conversations workshop in which participants bring a treasured memento or family heirloom and write about the object using a six-part model she developed. The organization awards an annual grant to support an author who wishes to self-publish her debut manuscript.

Lawley has a grown son and step daughter. She lives in [Cedar Grove](#) with her husband Bob and their miniature schnauzer, Oreo.

"Hieroglyphics of the Heart" can be purchased through Amazon.com and the publisher's website, www.arseya.com.