

Lisa Riddiough book-signing event at Nathan & Co



Jan Howland (left), Nathan Walden, and children's author Lisa Riddiough.

By Allyson Aleksey

Former Piedmont resident Lisa Riddiough recently unveiled her second children's book, *Letters to Live By: an Alphabet Book with Intention*. A book-signing event was hosted by Nathan Waldon at his Nathan & Co. gift shop on Piedmont Avenue on Saturday, April 2.

"Lisa is a longtime friend and we're so excited to add *Letters to Live By* to our selection of children's books," said Waldon. "The book's message is exactly what we look for when curating our collection: It inspires by reinforcing core values that help create a



Letters to Live By is Lisa Riddiough's latest children's book.

better world."

The book signing event coincided with the shop's 16th anniversary.

"What better way to celebrate? A friend, an inspiring children's book, and cookies," said Walden.

Letters to Live By is Riddiough's second book, illustrated by Asa Gilland. The author describes it as a social-emotional concept picture book that teaches young readers the power of setting intentions and embracing mindfulness. *Letters to Live By* is her debut picture book and is dedicated to Piedmont Middle School teacher Ted Greenbaum.

"It is surreal to have two books out in the world," Riddiough said. The author's first published book, *Elvis and the World as it Stands*, references *Letters to Live By*.

"When I was writing *Elvis*, my main character needed to refer to an alphabet book early in the story, so I used my own book. Little did I know both would be published around the same time, let alone published at all. It's a little 'Easter egg' of sorts and makes the publication of both books all the sweeter," she said.

"I knew I wanted alliterative phrases that could be both intentions and action items that could be accessible to younger readers,"

Riddiough said of the inspiration behind *Letters to Live By*. "I was reminded of a phrase that one of my kids' teachers used to say. Mr. Greenebaum, of Piedmont Middle School, sends his students home at the end of each week with his signature line, 'Rest up, have fun, read something, and practice peace.' I first heard this at back-to-school night and, as a picture book writer, 'Practice Peace' stuck with me."

Riddiough said she was a slow reader as a child and found it difficult to concentrate on required reading. This led her to choose literature with plenty of illustrations and white space, "and always stories with animals," she added.

"It's perfectly okay to choose a book that is short, has large font, and plenty of illustrations," she said.

Riddiough's first published piece was in the Piedmont Post, (Volume 13, No. 32) an article entitled "Happy Birthday, You Two," a tribute to her father and the Golden Gate Bridge on their concurrent 75th birthdays.

Riddiough's book *Letters to Live By* is available at Nathan & Co. on Piedmont Avenue, and online booksellers including Target and Amazon.

PPD Blue

EXCERPTS FROM THE *PIEDMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT LOG*

APRIL 1 - APRIL 8

This Week by the Numbers

- 1 Arrest
- 1 Catalytic converter theft
- 1 Automotive burglary
- 2 Residential burglaries
- 11 Automatic license plate readers triggered by stolen vehicles or plates

Friday, April 1

- 1:42 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by 2019 black Nissan Sentra.
- 5:58 p.m. Greenbank Ave. **Auto Burglary**. Vehicle and lock box rifled through. Owner manual and sports equipment stolen. Garbage cans also rifled through.
- 7:34 p.m. Sunnyside Ave. **Residential Burglary**. Shoes stolen from front porch.

Saturday, April 2

- 2:39 a.m. Moraga Ave. **ALPR** triggered by unidentified vehicle.
- 3:13 a.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by unidentified vehicle.
- 4:39 a.m. Park Blvd. **ALPR** triggered by 2016 gray Infiniti Q70.
- 12:16 p.m. Pala Ave. Report of BMW parked on curb and taking up two parking spots; officer finds claim unfounded.
- 1:05 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by gray Infiniti with stolen plates.
- *11:19 p.m. Arroyo Ave. **Arrest**. Report of man sleeping in car, who had previously scared resident's daughter. Man approaches front door; officers on scene. Man arrested and taken to Santa Rita jail for previous warrants.

Sunday, April 3

- 9:20 a.m. Olive Ave. Report of man ducking in between cars, acting suspicious. No one on site when officers arrive.

Monday, April 4

- 7:48 a.m. Oakland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by white Toyota Tundra with plates stolen from Sonoma County.
- 10:52 a.m. Linda Ave. **Vandalism**. Rear car window smashed.
- 2:47 p.m. Wildwood Ave. Report of gas-powered leaf blower.
- 5:33 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by 2005 green Toyota Tundra.
- 5:35 p.m. Linda Ave. Report of man walking down street with genitalia visible. No one on scene when officers arrive.

Tuesday, April 5

- 8:21 a.m. Moraga Ave. **ALPR** triggered by silver 2020 Audi Q7 stolen from Fremont.
- 12:08 p.m. Craig Ave. **Hit & Run**. Report of white truck sideswiping a brown truck, knocking off mirror.
- 2:10 p.m. Highland Ave. Report of parked vehicle hit in Community Center parking lot. Parties exchange information.
- 6:13 p.m. Oakland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by gray Jeep.
- 11:32 p.m. Grand Ave. **ALPR** triggered by stolen gray 2007 Nissan Maxima.

Wednesday, April 6

- 7:48 a.m. Highland Ave. **Vandalism**. Report of porta potty purposely knocked over during night.
- 3:13 p.m. Wildwood Ave. Report of gas-powered leaf blower.
- 3:22 p.m. Oakland Ave. **ALPR** triggered by red Ford pickup truck with stolen or lost plates. Truck found parked. Front plate that was put on rear of truck by mistake.

Thursday, April 7

- 3:47 a.m. Holly Ave. **Auto Burglary**. Report of catalytic converter theft in progress; resident hears noise of saw. Officer on scene, but suspects left scene after successful theft.
- 11:01 a.m. Sierra Ave. Report of gas-powered leaf blower.
- 3:34 p.m. Highland Ave. **Burglary**. Report of Chromebook stolen at Havens School.
- 7:11 p.m. St James Dr. **Residential Burglary**. Resident submits surveillance video of two suspects in small silver minivan stealing mail from mailboxes at 6:18 a.m.
- 9:53 p.m. Moraga Ave. Officer spots older green Chevy Tahoe running several red lights; vehicle flees towards Highway 13.

PICKS OF THE WEEK (2)

• *Obviously not very good at hiding.*

Saturday, April 2

9:02 p.m. Wildwood Ave. Report of several kids inside Beach School. Resident does not think school event is going on. Officer finds kids playing hide and seek.

• *Piedmont's continued infatuation with crosswalks.*

Sunday, April 3

12:04 p.m. Moraga Ave. Report of large Easter Egg Hunt starting at Blair Park. Resident is concerned there is lots of foot traffic and not enough crosswalks.

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FLIP by Phil Witte

Phil Witte

"In a new poll, a majority of Americans favor 'inflection point' over 'unprecedented' to describe the current political state."