

Author Judy Angel speaks to the children she loves

By KATHY PARRISH

When one of her husband's piano students suggested she write children's books, Judy Angel just laughed. "Are you kidding? Do I look like Louisa May Alcott?" the sophisticated New Yorker asked.

Then he showed her one of Judy Blume's contemporary novels for youth. "Hey, you're allowed to do that?" she exclaimed — and started writing.

In less than three years, Bradbury Press (which also handles Judy Blume) has published five books for 9- to 14-year-olds by Judy Angel. Her most recent is "Secret Selves."

Under a pseudonym, the South Salem, N.Y. resident has also written two books for young adult readers.

Speaking to the Birmingham-Bloomfield Childrens Book and Author Society Nov. 6, the mother of two sons said she doesn't read children's books.

Her novels, which grow from the characters she creates, are based on

her experiences and those of young people she knows.

"I know a lot of kids," explained Ms. Angel, who calls her husband's piano students her "stooges."

"I see them all the time. And I am one," laughs the former school teacher. Ms. Angel says she spent "108" years attending and working at summer camps.

"Really, I write for me — and I'm 42."

A Long Island, N.Y. native, Ms. Angel became a teacher after graduation from Syracuse University. She taught second grade for three years in New York Public Schools.

"There were 42 kids in the class and one textbook for the year," recalls Ms. Angel.

"I loved the kids, but it was a really bad experience."

A trip to an employment agency led to a writing job with TV Guide magazine. She then wrote promotion copy for an educational television station.

At 30, she had her first son and gave up "working for pay." She and

husband Phil Gaberman, a former Detroit who teaches pop and jazz piano at home, moved to the country.

Ms. Angel says her goal then was to "watch soap operas and eat candy." That all ended when she started writing children's books.

Ms. Angel writes her books with the help of Dick Jackson, her Bradbury Press editor who also happens to be the father of the boy who talked her into writing for young people.

"We talk a story out together and it just grows," explains Ms. Angel, whose first two books were autobiographical. "The rest I don't know where they came from."

She feels her books have made her more tolerant. "I used to pass judgement a lot. I don't do that as much anymore," she said.

"So many characters in my books aren't nice but I love them."

Ms. Angel doesn't talk about her pseudonym, Fran Arrick. "That's another person. We don't talk about each other's work," she smiles.

She enjoys her new career. "The nice thing about writing is that I don't have to go out of my room."



During a recent visit to Detroit, children's author Judy Angel had a chance to address her readers.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A Regular Meeting of the Farmington City Council was held Monday, November 5, 1979, in the Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Richard L. Tupper.

PRESENT: Mayor R. Tupper, Councilmen A. Bennett, W. Buckler, W. Hartsock and R. Yoder.

ABSENT: None

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager Deadman, Director Earl Billing, LL Santamuro, City Attorney Kelly and Clerk Viane.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Minutes of Other Boards were received and/or filed.

A presentation of the 1978-79 Audit Reports was made by Mr. Thomas D. Doescher, Plante & Moran, Certified Public Accountants for the City.

Council granted a variance to Winston's Old Town Pub to allow use of a temporary sign for a period of sixty days.

Council opposed Substitute Senate Bill 428 as it applies to methods of setting rates for automobile and homeowners insurance.

Council opposed the creation of an Energy Mobilization Board that would permit the board to waive procedural requirements of existing state and local laws.

Council supported Senate Bills 528 and 529.

A proclamation was issued designating November 18-25, 1979 as "BIBLE WEEK".

The following Resolution were adopted:

- Increasing the 47th District Court budget by \$4,207.00.
- Authorizing \$1,680.00 for the City's share to participate in the use of Shiawassee Elementary School as a recreation center.
- Awarding Contract for the Annual Calendar to George Willard, Inc.
- Ordinance No. C-454-79 controlling Tax Exempt properties was introduced.
- Council postponed action on the Cable TV Franchise Ordinance and appointed City Manager Deadman to a Committee to Study Cable TV Proposals.

City Manager Deadman reported on the progress of the proposed Orchard Lake Road improvements.

The following reports were received and filed:

- Dept. Public Services Quarterly Report July 1-Sept. 30, 1979
- Building Department First Quarterly Report
- Financial Report General Fund, 4 mos. ended October 31, 1979
- Financial Report Water & Sewer Fund, Quarter ended 9-30-79
- Financial Report 47th District Court, 4 mos. ended 10-31-79

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

RICHARD L. TUPPER, MAYOR
NEDRA VIANE, CITY CLERK

Published November 15, 1979