

2017 Mally Grant Report

Wisconsin's Poet Laureate: Memory Café and Poetry Education Project *presented in partnership with ADAW & Waunakee Senior Center*

Wisconsin Poet Laureate Karla Huston presented a program at the October 5 Memory Café in Waunakee. There were two people in attendance. Those in attendance enjoyed the interactive program of reading poetry and creating their own poetry. The same day (from 2-4 pm) Ms. Huston provided a training to explore the benefits of poetry in activities for people with dementia and their caregivers. There were two people in attendance for this training. The two people in attendance said they found the training to be beneficial.

Wisconsin Poet Laureate Karla Huston presented a program at the October 6 Middleton Memory Café which is hosted at Captain Bill's Restaurant. There were 33 people in attendance. Karla talked a bit about poetry, explained her techniques on how she writes a poem, recited "The Arrow and the Song" by Longfellow. We sang along to Frank Sinatra's version of Autumn Leaves and then together wrote our own fall poem, "Those Autumn Leaves." The participants enjoyed every minute and left smiling.

The Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin (ADAW) handled the payment to Ms. Huston for her programs, lodging, and meal expenses and transportation/mileage reimbursement. ADAW provided matching funds for this program.

*–Submitted by Cindy Mosiman (Waunakee Senior Center Director)
& Pat Wilson (ADAW Family Support Coordinator)*

These Fall Days

by Waunakee Memory Café Attendees
October 5, 2017

In the fall, we smell crackling fires,
and burning leaves, the inside
of an oat bin, nutty and musty.
We smell corn drying, popcorn popping
and cookies baking. We smell apple pies
and pumpkin, cinnamon and cloves.

In the fall, we see colorful leaves falling,
grinning jack-o-lanterns and pine cones.
We see pinecones and flocks of geese,
tractors in the fields. We see children
in costumes, brown garden ground.
We see dead raccoons in the roads.

We hear people walking
through leaves, honking geese
and hooting owls. Train
whistles and football cheers.

In the fall, we love to touch
crunchy leaves and warm
sweaters, and we love to touch
all the fresh vegetables: potatoes
cabbage and squash.

We taste cranberries and chili,
grapes and apples and pumpkin
in everything. The best potato
salad is made in the fall! We taste
hickory and black walnuts, fresh
doughnuts fried in lard.

Those Autumn Leaves

by Captain Bill's Memory Café Attendees
October 6, 2017

Fall sounds like honking geese, hunters
shooting and football cheers. We hear
the howl of the wind, the pattering rain,
and crunching leaves. Owls hoot from
treetops, frogs croak and Sandhill cranes
gurgle across the sky.

Fall smells like burning leaves
and woodpiles, like cider and cinnamon,
and fresh mown hay. We smell
pumpkin spice and fresh baked
doughnuts.

We see leaves turning red and yellow,
school buses on roads and deer running.
We notice the harvest moon and red
sweatshirts, those migrating birds
and long legged cranes,
trucks loaded with corn.

Fall tastes like fresh-baked cookies,
apple and pumpkin pies, chili and corn
bread. It tastes of caramel apples
and hot chocolate, zucchini bread
and walnuts.

When fall comes, we touch wooly bear
caterpillars, the bumps on gourds,
hatted acorns. We shiver to the touch
of ladybugs and the slimy insides
of pumpkins. We are warmed by fuzzy
sweaters and football games.