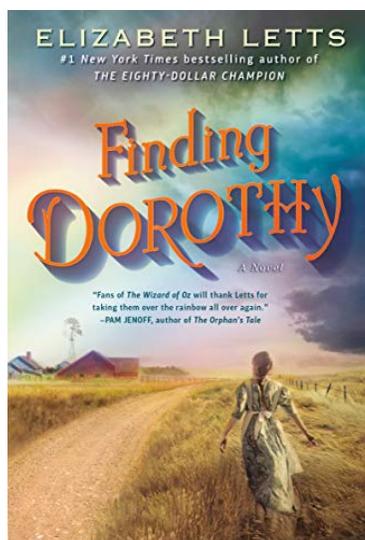


## Two Towns – One Book

### Celebrating our Tenth Community Read

### Finding Dorothy

By Elizabeth Letts



*“Our goal is to bring people in our community together through the shared reading and discussion of a common book. Our choices inspire rich discussion and community activities and encourage younger readers to participate through companion books and related activities.”*

The Two Towns – One Book Steering Committee Announces the 2022 Book of the Year, *Finding Dorothy*, by Elizabeth Letts. This book was a finalist last time and ranked third in votes cast following *Becoming* and *Educated*. After skipping a year of activities due to COVID, programming begins again in January 2022. The type of programming, whether in person or on Zoom, will depend on the virus infection rate and library protocol. We hope to engage the author, Elizabeth Letts, for one of the programs.

*Finding Dorothy* is a richly imagined novel that tells the story behind *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the book that inspired the iconic film, through the eyes of author L. Frank Baum's intrepid wife, Maud--from the family's hardscrabble days in South Dakota to the Hollywood film set where she first meets Judy Garland.

The author, Elizabeth Letts, is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Eighty-Dollar Champion* and *The Perfect Horse*, which won the PEN Center USA Literary Award for research nonfiction, as well as the novel *Finding Dorothy*. She lives in Southern California and Northern Michigan. Elizabeth is an engaging public speaker who is known for connecting with her audiences on a personal level. Her books have been selected for multiple One Book programs, including Pasadena, CA, Grand Rapids, MI, and Syracuse, NY. She has made multiple national and local TV and radio appearances, including The Today Show, and National Public Radio.

#### **\*\*\*KICK OFF \*\*\* Sunday, January 9 at 2:00pm, Library Program Rooms**

We'll celebrate our Tenth Year anniversary of TTOB with our kick off program, the iconic movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. You will also enjoy visiting a display of the Wizard of Oz costumes, displayed throughout the library, provided by the Halfmoon Historical Society. The library is creating an Wizard Scavenger Hunt and prizes will be provided. Reservations are required for all programming and masks must be worn. Families may sit together, but otherwise, social distancing is encouraged. Registration is required. [Register on the library website calendar!](#)

#### **Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00pm, on ZOOM**

**Wizard of Oz Trivia Night** led by Asst. Director, Jim Foster and LouAnn Stuart

Join family and friends for a fun evening of wonderful wizard trivia. You may bring your own refreshments. Prizes will be awarded. Reservations are required. [Register on the library website calendar!](#)

#### **March – Make and Take Wizardly Craft Projects**

Weekly during the month of March, children's and adult make and take projects will be available each Monday - children's projects in the Children's Library and adult projects at the Ask a Librarian Desk, one per person while the supply lasts.

\*\*\* April 2022 - Author Event TBA \*\*\* We will be scheduling an author event in April, bringing Elizabeth Letts to Clifton Park on ZOOM. This will be followed by a live event here in Clifton Park in October. \*\*\*

**Saturday, April 23, 2:00pm, Finding Dorothy Book Discussion on ZOOM.**

Join Librarian, Linda Fox, for a lively book discussion on ZOOM. Registration is required. Your ZOOM invitation will be emailed and a reminder will be sent. Questions to be discussed will be provided in advance and participants may submit questions prior to the event. [Register on the library website calendar!](#)

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, a Bus Trip to Chittenango, NY led by FOL Travel Coordinator, Rhona Koretzky Forman. The bus leaves CPH Library at 8:00am.**

L. Frank Baum was born in Chittenango and raised in the vicinity. His estate operates the **All Things Oz Museum**. We will have a private tour lasting about an hour with some time to browse the collection on our own and visit the gift shop.

Next we will visit the **Matilda Joslyn Gage Center**, about 9 miles away. Gage was a suffragette and the mother of Maud, who married Frank Baum. She is credited with encouraging Frank to write his stories.

Finally we will stop at the **Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum**. This was a dry dock station for boat repairs on the Erie Canal. Frank's father Benjamin Baum had a barrel factory and barrels were shipped along the canal from this location.

So all three locations have a connection with the themes of our book and will give us an additional view into the back-story.

Registration and proof of COVID vaccination are required. Masks will be required at all times except when having lunch. Lunch plans and trip pricing TBA. Registration opens in February. The price of the trip is \$80.00 for FOL members - \$85.00 for non-members. To register, mail your check made payable to Friends of the Library (with May 7<sup>th</sup> Bust Trip on the memo line) to Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065, Attention FOL.

### **Kids Read Too! 2021-2020**

The Junior Companion Book for this year's Community Read, *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts, is *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai for grades prek-2; *Malala: My Story of Standing up for Girls' Rights* by Malala Yousafzai for grades 3-5; and *I am Malala* by Malala Yousarzai for grades 6-8. These books are about Malala's childhood in Pakistan, where she was taught (by her supportive parents) to stand up for what she believes, and describes her story of bravery, determination and finding her inner strengths and talents.

To connect our kids to *Finding Dorothy*, we will encourage our young readers to think about their own inner strengths and talents - to identify how they are wizards like Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and the Scarecrow. We will have a take-away kit with a pencil and blank journal, an **I am a Wiz** creative writing activity to describe and decorate their talent and ability, and an activity sheet and bibliography for more reading on these important ideas and themes - findings one's hidden gifts and sharing one's story.

