

Writers' Group helps fuel the passion

by April Givens

*Are you a writer
or dreamed
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Are you a writer or dreamed of being a writer? Middlebury's library hosts a writers' group the first and third Thursday of the month. This group is for anyone over the age of 18 who has a passion for writing. This group shares common interest and excitement in writing. It is for people who like to write and would like to have their work heard. It is to support each other's writing efforts and describe what has or has not worked. They also share resource material. All genres are welcome.

There is already a variety of different writers who attend the meetings. A prolific writer whose writing has been published, one who is writing her memoirs, a master naturalist who writes articles and a column in the LaGrange and Middlebury newspapers, and one who has always want-

ed to write but never quite knew how to get started. "I told her she has come to the right place, we will help you get started!" Peg Cook stated with a smile.

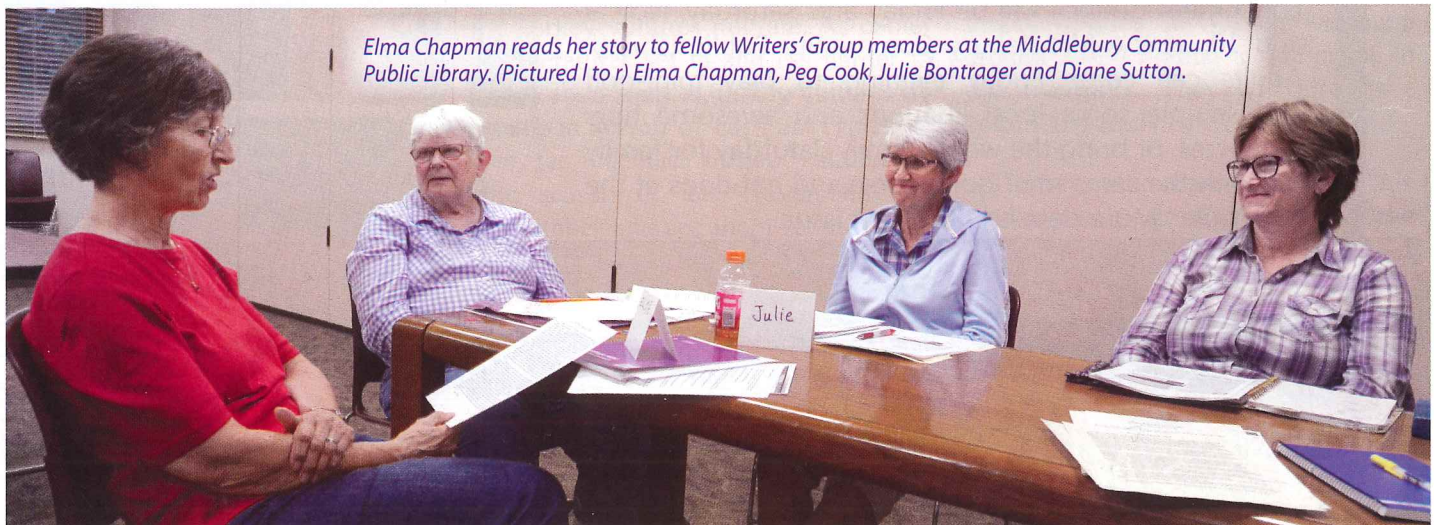
Peg Cook volunteered to start something like this to help writers and inspire beginner writers. Each writers' group starts with a writing challenge which attendees may or may not choose to accept. For instance, one of the challenges is to select one event in your life that changed the way you thought or felt about something important to you. Find a theme or something that will gel and you will know this is the place to begin. And if you're so inclined, feel free to read your work at the group's next meeting.



Peg Cook of Middlebury shares her story as she leads the group.

Cook's accomplishments have been writing a short story, "Treasure on Boxaurie Mountain," that made it to a final round at Screencraft. She also wrote a sonnet on love and entered it in a Garrison Keillor contest that made Top 10 from more than a thousand entries. She also met Johnny Cash at a press conference. She currently belongs to the Stormy Night Writer's Society at the Council on Aging in Cassopolis, Mich.

Stop by the Middlebury Library for the writers' group meetings on October 4 and 18 at 7 p.m.



Elma Chapman reads her story to fellow Writers' Group members at the Middlebury Community Public Library. (Pictured l to r) Elma Chapman, Peg Cook, Julie Bontrager and Diane Sutton.