

Chagrin graphic designer wins illustration award

By Lindsay Betz

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CHAGRIN FALLS — A is for akepa, B is for bluebird, C is for cardinal . . . Z is for zenaïda dove.

Resident Pam Spremulli recently won the GOLD Mom's Choice Award for Distinguished Illustration for her ABC book "Letter Birds."

The colorful children's book features 26 of her bird illustrations, which from A-Z help children learn about different bird species.

Spremulli is a graphic designer by trade, but has al-

ways been an active painter and artist and has always wanted to illustrate a book.

She decided to pursue that dream after drawing the 26 bird species for an art show

and realizing the format would lend itself perfectly to a children's book. Published in January, "Letter Birds" has been selling well and is now in its second print run.



PAM SPREMULLI/SPECIAL TO SUN NEWS

Graphic designer Pam Spremulli is the illustrator of the children's book "Letter Birds," which is an ABC book featuring 26 of her bird illustrations. Her next book "Woof!" in collaboration with resident Neil Markey, will be published in the spring.

"It's been really fun and I'm definitely blessed and humbled that it has done so well, because you just really don't know what people are going to like," Spremulli said. "I'm doing it because I love it. I'm not going to get rich, but right now I'm enjoying the ride."

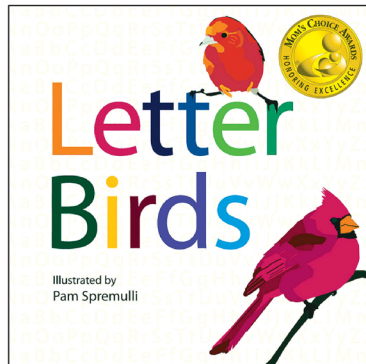
Her illustration style has been described as "color blocking." She uses the computer to make graphic illustrations using simple shapes and solid colors.

"These are simple shapes that I'm finding in the dog or bird or whatever I'm drawing and then I'm just dropping in a solid color," Spremulli said. "There's no shading, it's just the solid colors that create the depth."

It was a style she was interested in experimenting with and did so for the first time several years ago when the village held a flag designing contest.

Spremulli submitted her colorful design almost as a joke, but ended up winning. Her design is now the official flag of Chagrin Falls. The style is also featured on tins sold at the Popcorn Shop, for which she also won a design contest.

After realizing she was not the only one who liked this type of colorful design, she started experimenting by drawing animals, which even-



PAM SPREMULLI/SPECIAL TO SUN NEWS

Chagrin Falls resident Pam Spremulli recently won the GOLD Mom's Choice Award for Distinguished Illustration for her children's book "Letter Birds."

tually led to the bird book and her next book, "Woof!," which will be released this spring.

"Woof!" is a children's book that features dog illustrations and a short rhyme about each one, written by Chagrin Falls resident Neil Markey. Spremulli and Markey are now discussing future book projects.

A pre-publication party and book signing for "Woof!" will be held at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at Chentini Gallery, 22 N. Main St.

Spremulli finds inspiration

in her two children — Ella, 6, and Maizie, 4 — who are always the first to see any of her drawings.

"I always ask them if they like it and if they say 'it looks weird,' then I fix it up," she said. "As long as they think it's kind of cool looking, then maybe other people will too."

She lives in the village with her husband Dave and their kids.

See more Chagrin Falls news at cleveland.com/chagrin-falls.

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