



Courtesy photo by The YMCA OF GREATER NASHUA

Earl Prolman of Nashua, a longtime supporter of the YMCA SLLP. He and New York Life have supported SLLP since its inception three years ago.

LETTING LOOSE DR. SEUSS!

The gift of a book can make all the difference

"In these days of tension and confusion, writers are beginning to realize that books for children have a greater potential for good or evil than any other form of literature on earth."
 —Theodor Seuss Geisel, "Dr. Seuss"

There is nothing so powerful as a book in the hands of a child. Surely nothing is more important than to teach a child to read for reading is the key to discovering the world and teaching a child to think. Theodor Seuss Geisel, "Dr. Seuss," born in Springfield, Massachusetts, is one of America's most popular poets, along with Robert Frost and Billy Collins. Because Dr. Seuss wrote in the meter of the limerick, he often does not get the respect his work deserves.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Geisel was editor of the college's humor magazine and went on to study literature at Oxford for just one year, during which he doodled more than he studied. He went on to become a cartoonist and wrote his first children's book in 1937 - And to Think that I Saw It On Mulberry Street.

After receiving 25 rejections, Geisel was ready to discard the manuscript away, when he ran into former classmate who had just been appointed juvenile editor at Vanguard Press. Geisel recalled: "That's one of the reasons I believe in luck. If I'd been going down the other side of Madison Avenue, I would be in the dry cleaning business today!"

Geisel was a passionate proponent of tolerance and freedom. Between April 1941 and January 1943, he began his 21-month career as a political



D. QUINCY WHITNEY

cartoonist, publishing over 400 cartoons for the liberal New York newspaper PM. His cartoons lampooned Hitler and Mussolini, opposed fascism, criticized discrimination against Jews and African-Americans at a time when such discrimination was both legal and common. Geisel wrote Horton Hears a Who! (1953) after a visit to Japan, a tale about the plight of the Whos, inhabitants threatened by annihilation unless others stand up for them. His Yertle the Turtle (1958) chronicled the tale of Hitler - the story of a tyrannical turtle who built an empire on the backs of his suffering citizens.

Dr. Seuss wrote The Cat in the Hat because he was worried that children were not learning to read. Lamenting the boring "Dick and Jane" primers, William Spaulding, then director of Houghton-Mifflin's education division, challenged Geisel to "write me a story that first-graders can't put down!" - with no more than 225 different words.

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Little Free Library locations in Nashua: Nashua Rail Trail; Legacy Playground; Lamprey Healthcare; Adult Learning Center; Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd; Greater Nashua Dental Connection; United Way Office on Broad Street.



“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go. ...”

Theodor Seuss Geisel