

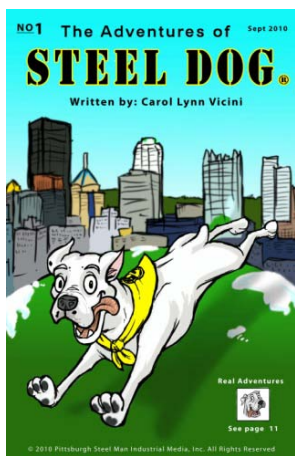
The Write Stuff: Area authors fulfill creative ambitions

By Mary Ann Thomas, FOR THE VALLEY NEWS DISPATCH
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Photos



Carol Lynn Vicini
 Submitted



Many of the self-published books from local authors represent first-time ventures of fledging writers.

Some of the new authors fulfilled their desire to write; others were inspired by life-altering experiences.

Regina Venturella of Springdale received the phone call that is every parents' and grandparents' nightmare: Her granddaughter Lish was involved in a near-fatal auto accident and was in a coma.

A retired nurse, Venturella poured her work experience and love into chronicling Lish's recovery.

"After keeping the journals, I felt compelled to write our story," said Venturella, who self-published "It Only Took a Moment: A True Story of Tragedy, Faith and Triumph Following a Traumatic Brain Injury."

"I believe everyone experiences some type of pain in their lives, and it may be physical, emotional or financial. The only difference is that I wrote it down," Venturella says.

These are some of the latest works by area authors:

"THE ADVENTURES OF STEEL DOG"

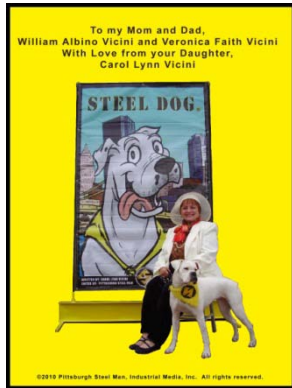
By Carol Lynn Vicini

Available at New Dimensions Comics at Pittsburgh Mills in Frazer and other regional locations, and at www.pittsburghsteelman.com.

Vandergrift native Carol Lynn Vicini is packing a superhero punch with a publishing trifecta: A comic book, coloring book and hardback storybook based on her 7-year-old white boxer, Steel Dog.

A former secretary to the Steelers' Art Rooney and a Whitehall resident, Vicini, 60, penned the Steel Dog media to satisfy her passion for children, animals and writing.

The story follows the family-friendly adventures of Steel Dog, companion to a



third-generation steelworker, Steel Man. The story line aims to spread joy and teach children that dreams do come true if they just believe, Vicini says.

The book features illustrations by Matt Ketchum of Pittsburgh, an Art Institute graduate.

Vicini's first foray into publishing, the Steel Dog books are dedicated to her late parents, William Albino and Veronica Faith Vicini of Vandergrift.

"The books are quite unique," Vicini says; "Steel Dog is a real dog that travels with me to various events."

Vicini has made numerous appearances with Steel Dog, including at the Pittsburgh Comicon and other festivals.

And, she enjoys reading her work to children.

"I love to see their faces and to answer their questions about my books," she says.

Steel Dog is becoming famous: He recently was named the mascot to City of Pittsburgh Mascot Skate at the Schenley Park ice rink.

Vicini is at work on more books for the series, with the ultimate goal of turning the tales into a family feature film.

Original article at:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/living/s_747841.html

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