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Elyria native nourishes literary career with publication of her second children's book

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CLEVELAND—When Julie Goulis was a little girl growing up in Elyria, she loved to use her imagination in her schoolwork and to create adventures.

As an adult, Goulis has channeled that passion and talent to become a budding children's book author. Goulis recently released her second book, "Something Shiny, Something Round" through Bubblegum Books, an independent book publisher run by Brad Hauber, Goulis' husband. The company is located in Tremont near downtown Cleveland.

Hauber, Goulis and illustrator John Ferguson started Bubblegum Books two years ago after Goulis finished her first manuscript, "Things a String Can Be," in 2004 and had trouble finding a publisher.

"Everybody told us no, so we looked at each other and said, 'Why not us?'" Goulis said.

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Julie Goulis

Goulis, 33, attended St. Mary School in Elyria from kindergarten through the eighth grade. Her family then moved to Vermilion where Goulis graduated from Vermilion High School in 1990. Her parents still live in Vermilion.

Goulis earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Bowling Green State University. Her first job out of college was in public relations, which was both good and bad. While she didn't enjoy her job, it was where she

first met Hauber, the man she married.

"We have been friends for a long time," Goulis said. "We've only been married for a few months."

Goulis said it was while working at her current job in advertising for an art agency that she met illustrator Ferguson. The two became friends and started talking about other things besides work and the office. Soon the two started talking about creating a book together.

"John has two young sons and at first he was a little hesitant," Goulis said. "I started looking through the children's books that they had and we began brainstorming ideas. We wanted to create a book that made children turn off the television or the computer and focus on using their imagination."

To show they were serious Goulis and Ferguson dedicated the book to the world of make-believe.

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BOOK

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"Something Shiny, Something Round" is the story of Sam and two of his friends who find a hubcap while out sledding one day. The children take turns coming up with different ideas of what the hubcap could be, such as a Frisbee, saucer, the helm to a ship, a warrior's shield, a cymbal, alien ship, car steering wheel, serving tray or a fancy hat.

At the end of the story, the children realize what the object is when they find a cart missing one of its hubcaps and return it to its rightful owner.

The book concludes with different things to teach children including a way to put different amounts of water in various glasses to make musical sounds, an illustration with information on the planets in our solar system, instructions to make a telescope and a paper hat and a short list on how to say certain things in French that you'd find in a bistro.

All of the activities relate to different objects Sam and his friends think the hubcap could be.

Goulis said Ferguson has been drawing for a long time and that neither one based the characters on anyone in particular. She said Ferguson enjoys using bold colors in his illustrations to make the characters stand out.

Bubblegum Publishing is currently made up of Goulis,

Ferguson and Hauber, although the trio would definitely like to see the company grow in the future. Since the company started in 2004 it has sold more than 5,000

copies of the first two books and has received regional, national and international attention.

Both books by Goulis and Ferguson are available at re-

gional Borders bookstores, Decidedly Different in Vermilion and Mind Fair Books in Oberlin. For more information go to www.bubblegumbooks.com.



SPECIAL TO THE MORNING JOURNAL

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