

ROYAL OAK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thursday, May 24, 6:30 -8:00 pm

Donut Dolly : An American Red Cross Girl's War in Vietnam.

During World War II, the Korean and Vietnam War teams of female Red Cross volunteers known as Donut Dollies operated clubmobiles equipped with kitchen facilities and donut making machines. In Vietnam especially these Donut Dollies visited combat troops at remote fire bases to give soldiers a taste of home and boost morale. On Thursday, May 24, 6:30:00 -8:00 pm Joann Kotcher will talk about her experiences serving in Vietnam where she shared the same hardships and dangers as the combat troops whose admiration and respect she earned. Her stories vividly recreate the smells, sounds, emotions, fears – and bravery -- during the most vicious years of the war.

Joann Puffer Kotcher is a former math teacher and this is her story of her own baptism into the reality of war. She ducks bullets and mortar shells to bring moments of home to scared GIs. She deftly intertwines her experiences with the grueling life of the ordinary soldier. Those experiences are human exhausting dangerous and inspiring with splashes of romance. She dodges bullets, shells and shrapnel to represent the sister or girl next door to troops under fire. She is “a letter from home”. Kotcher corrects misconceptions about the war bringing a new and fresh look at the much debated conflict

