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## Kent author draws on Plato's core philosophical theme

BY LYNN MELLIS WORTHINGTON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

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*Kent author Betty Krasne, outside of her home. She recently published a new book, 'The Good Life?' Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American*

Sitting with Betty Krasne on Main Street in Kent is not something one can do privately right now. People constantly stop and chat to congratulate her on her newly published book.

The Kent writer and retired professor from Mercy College is well known for her volunteer activities around town, including serving on the Kent Affordable Housing board of directors and previously on the Kent Memorial Library board. She also is a regular presenter for the library, offering writing classes and leading a spring and fall book discussion.

Her newest book, "The Good Life?," was released at the end of June and is already a hot seller at the local House of Books, according to new owner Peter Vaughn. "I need more books," he told her recently.

The story is a blend of characters who start off as strangers and become connected as the narrative progresses through the 295-page novel. Some of the same characters were explored in "Body Parts, Stories," a collection of short stories. The new novel is set in a fictional Lynnfield in Northwest Connecticut and will feel very familiar to anyone who lives in Northwest Corner towns.

"All my writing has been very influenced by a sense of place," Krasne said in a recent interview. "I'm so attached to place and discomforted with change. I think they probably have to go together. If you're attached to place, you don't want to see it change or leave."

She chose the time period of the 1980s when the area was on the cusp of change. Several of her characters are New York City residents who have weekend homes in her fictional town. It is a life that she

herself led with her late husband, Robert Levine.

"We built the house in 1972 and rebuilt it twice over the years," Krasne said. Now trying to sell the house that is in a bucolic setting with a pond in the backyard surrounded by apple trees, she notes that she's ready to downsize after her husband died six years ago.

Those weekend characters in "The Good Life?" interact with the town's locals, which creates some of the story's conflicts.

The title and theme are about how one experiences life.

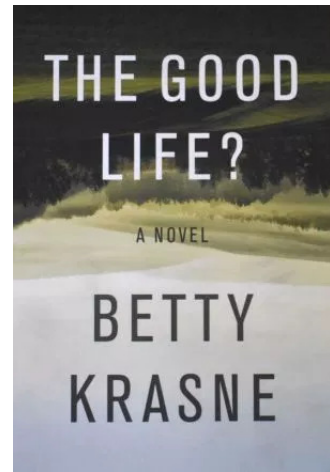
"I think it goes back to the very first thing you do in college, reading Plato, and he's saying 'What is the Good Life?' In the book, these people are able to think about that. A lot of people aren't able to afford to sit back and think about that. But each one comes up with his or her way of assembling what is the good life, but they're all different," she said.

Krasne hopes people will choose to buy her book at local bookstores, such as the House of Books. It is available on Amazon and she begrudgingly admits that to succeed as a writer these days one has to work with the giant online retailer.

She will speak locally about her book, starting in Sherman in August. Her hometown library plans to feature her on Sept. 7.

Krasne looks forward to hearing from readers when they read the story.

"I'm anxious to hear their take on it. In a way I think I'm writing about very privileged people, people who have that ability to design life which most people in the world don't have. Within that comes the ability to think about what is the good life?"



*Kent author Betty Krasne's newly published 'The Good Life?' Lynn Mellis Worthington Republican-American*

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