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RETIRED HARTWICK PROFESSOR PUBLISHES BEDTIME STORIES FOR CHILDREN
Birthday party for unusual toy that inspired author is scheduled for March 30 at Huntington Library

ONEONTA, NY – One Easter, Norma Hutman, a collector of antiques and event-appropriate decorations, acquired a plush toy bunny, which she chose for its unusual yellow color. But the bunny — named Cup Cake — took on a life of its own, and thirty years later Dr. Hutman has published a book starring Cup Cake in a collection of inspiring bedtime stories for children. *A Bunny Named Cup Cake: The Complete Cup Cake Stories* will be released at a March 30 book launch event and birthday party.

The event will take place in the third floor meeting room of the Huntington Memorial Library in Oneonta at 3:30 pm. Parents with young children are encouraged to attend, as the author will introduce Cup Cake to her audience and then read one or two of the stories to the children. A 30th birthday party for Cup Cake, who appears on the front cover of the book, will follow, along with a book signing by Dr. Hutman. Square Circle Press, the publishers of the book, will be on hand for sales. Parents can sign their children up for the event by contacting the Huntington Memorial Library at 607-432-1980.

A Bunny Named Cup Cake: The Complete Cup Cake Stories is a delightful collection of stories about Margaret Sue Miller — challenged by braces and crutches, but helped to overcome her handicap by the magic plush bunny. These positive and life-affirming tales will inspire children of all ages, and are perfect when read as bedtime stories. The original story, *A Bunny Named Cup Cake*, first appeared in 2001, and was followed in 2002 by *Cup Cake has Kittens*, a collection of three more stories. These stories, as well as three others, have their beginnings within the original tale. This edition of *The Complete Cupcake Stories* contains all these previous narratives as well as four new ones. Interior illustrations, from the original publications, are by Megan Foley and Rebecca M. Fullerton.

Dr. Norma L. Hutman is a long-time resident who is well-known within the city of Oneonta. She is professor emerita of Comparative Literature at Hartwick College, where she taught for 32 years. She attended D'Youville College, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Madrid, and the University of Pittsburgh. Now retired, Norma directs The Snark & Bandersnatch Players (a reader's theatre) and conducts interviews on "Issues Oneonta" for the Central New York Radio Group station WZOZ. Currently learning Mandarin Chinese, she can also be found online at www.normaonline.net.

After the remaining inventory of the previous two Cup Cake books was destroyed in storage and later learning that the original printer of the books went out of business, Hutman was forced to find another printer. A conversation with a local history organization led her to Square Circle Press. After initial discussions with the independent publishing company, the author agreed that the best way to get the book back in print was to create a new digital version of the manuscript. "Dr. Hutman's situation is not unique," stated Richard Vang, owner of Square Circle Press. "We keep coming across self-published authors who, for whatever reason, no longer have access to their own works after they've gone out of print." Square Circle Press scanned the text, reset the type, and scanned each image individually. Hutman stated, "I was delighted with the quality of the reproduction."

Hutman was quick to add that Square Circle Press was very easy to work with. "From the initial analysis of the project, I was kept informed of every step of the process, and everything was explained in understandable terms. I came to learn that there was more to it than just creating the book. Square Circle Press also brought to my attention the nuances and requirements required for today's complex retailing process. It was a truly holistic approach." Square Circle Press, an independent publisher that focuses primarily on the history of upstate New York and Freemasonry, has added a self-publishing wing to its operations. "With more authors like Dr. Hutman coming to us, we decided that we were uniquely positioned to help these self-publishers achieve their goals."

A Bunny Named Cup Cake is available in paperback and retails for \$13.95 online at www.squarecirclepress.com and through retail bookstores in the Oneonta area. For more information, contact Square Circle Press through the information above.

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