

## Getting to know

LEONA TURLO BUDILOVSKY Author



Leona Turlo Budilovsky, an author three times over, writes at her desk in her apartment in St. Charles. Staff photo by Sarah Minor

## Never too late to be a writer

By Kristen Kuchar ■ [kkuchar@mysuburbanlife.com](mailto:kkuchar@mysuburbanlife.com)

Starting a successful writing career in your late 80s might seem impossible, but it wasn't for Leona Turlo Budilovsky. What started out as a therapeutic way of dealing with the death of her son and mother and her own health problems, evolved into publishing three books, developing a screenplay and plans to create a whole series of children's books based on her last autobiographical children's book, "This and That on Magnolia Street."

"When my mother died, it was very hard for me," Budilovsky said.

"I did not want to forget any of her life and her stories. I wanted my children to know about their grandmother and what a good person she was."

Budilovsky shared her mother's struggle in Poland during World War I in the book, "Helena." She tells the story of her mother

witnessing horror in the war but then finding the strength to come to America to start a new life.

Budilovsky said family is the inspiration for all of books. And in turn, she has inspired her family to write their own stories.

"We have discovered that every single person, young and old, have incredible stories to tell," said Joan Budilovsky, Leona's daughter. Joan has written several books herself including "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Massage."

Joan said she continues to be influenced by her mom while enjoying motherhood herself.

"Her honesty, integrity, humor, wit, her protective nature, giving me the sense and reality of knowing that I am loved ... I hope I am giving this to my son," Joan said.

### Notable

Leona has three children: John, Joan and Jane and five grandchildren: Benny, John, Josephine, Richard and Rebecca

### Quotable

"I love my family with all of my heart — as my mother did. I think all of my books speak to this."

### Best part about being a writer

"Being read."

### Favorites

**HOLIDAY** Christmas BOOK "Death Does Not Take a Holiday" by her late husband, John A. Budilovsky



# *Book Signings*

## **Join Mother and Daughter Authors,**

**Leona Budilovsky and Joan Budilovsky,**  
as they discuss and sign their new books.

**Leona Budilovsky**, new author of the heartfelt autobiographical novel, "*My Mother, Helena.*"

**Joan Budilovsky** author of many popular books, including the just newly released, "*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Yoga, Illustrated third edition,*" and "*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Meditation, 2nd edition.*"

### **Mother's Day Weekend**

**Saturday, May 10, 4 P.M.**  
Borders Bookstore,  
**Michigan Avenue - Chicago**

**Sunday, May 11, 2 P.M.**  
Borders Bookstore, **Lagrange**

**Sunday, May 25, 2 P.M.**  
Borders Bookstore, **Oak Brook**

**Sunday, June 8, 2 P.M.**  
Borders Bookstore, **Oak Park**

**Sunday, June 22, 4 P.M.**  
Borders Bookstore, **Norridge**



*Joan and Leona Budilóvsky*