

Author Talk Presentation Proposal ~ *The Brass Compass*

Ellen Butler, Author of *The Brass Compass*, Presents:

Women of the OSS ~ Lady Spies of WWII

Program Length: 45-50 minute presentation with 10 minutes for questions.

A/V Needs: A projector, and microphone if the room is large. This is a PowerPoint presentation. Author can bring computer or provide USB drive to the A/V coordinator.

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Overview:

Sabotage, Seduction, and Secret Pockets—just a few of the tough-and-tender ways women approach espionage.

Women of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) were critical to Allied success and audiences have been thrilled by their exploits in novels and on the screen, yet their very real accomplishments have been ignored for generations. This year the OSS, which was the precursor to the CIA, will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Just in time for that celebration *The Brass Compass*, a book set during WWII, places one female spy in the spotlight. The novel reveals the extreme dangers agents faced when Lily St. James parachutes behind enemy lines, destroys rail lines, and infiltrates a high-ranking Nazi household. *The Brass Compass* is the latest story to celebrate the uncompromising intelligence and composure displayed by real operatives, where fiction reflects reality. By allowing women to utilize their natural talents and their specialized training, the OSS preserved freedom worldwide.

Presentation Includes:

- Brief overview of the formation of the OSS and its founder William Donovan
- Highlights of famous female spies, and those local to Washington, D.C.
- The skills the women brought to the OSS
- Their contributions to the Allied Cause
- The weapons and training they received
- The 75th Anniversary and Congressional Gold Medal Act