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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATES ANNOUNCED FOR THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL NEWBURYPORT LITERARY FESTIVAL**
April 27-28, 2012

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. – The seventh annual Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF), “They Lyrical Voice,” will take place on April 27 and 28, 2012 in various venues throughout downtown Newburyport, Massachusetts. This year the Festival will honor Newburyport’s own, award-winning poet and songwriter Alfred Nicol and will feature a unique blend of authors, poets, songwriters and musical performances.

On Friday April 27, 2012, 6:00 p.m. the NLF Opening Ceremony will be held at the Firehouse Centre for the Arts. WGBH radio personality and recently published author Ron Della Chiesa along with John Lennon biographer Tim Riley will be part of a panel discussion moderated by Alfred Nicol. This enlightening discussion about the voices that shaped American lyrics will be followed by Dinner with the Authors and a Silent Auction to benefit the Festival at Nicholson Hall on Harris Street. Tickets for this event are \$50 and available online at the event website, <http://newburyportliteraryfestival.org/html/donate.html#Dinner> or by sending a check, made out to the Newburyport Literary Association, to the Newburyport Literary Association, Box 268, Newburyport, MA 01950. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the evening of the event.

Saturday April, 28, 2012, the NLF continues with a full day of activities for readers of every genre beginning at 8:30 a.m. with Coffee with the Poets and ending with the Closing Ceremony honoring Alfred Nicol. From former U. S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and jazz musicians Stan Strickland, John Lockwood, and Rakalam Bob Moses performing at the Firehouse to Jeff Kinney reading from the latest of the “Wimpy Kid” adventures, the day will leave you wishing for more hours.

The 2012 NLF will feature more than 70 writers of distinguished fiction and non-fiction – including short story writers, children’s authors, biographers, nature writers, critics, screenwriters, poets, songwriters, musicians, novelists, and journalists – who will read, perform and discuss their work during the two day event. “The Massachusetts Cultural Council is delighted to once again support the Newburyport Literary Festival,” said MCC Executive Director Anita Walker. “This vibrant celebration of the written word reminds us of our incredible literary heritage in Massachusetts, while celebrating the extraordinary range of talented poets, novelists and other creative writers working here today.”

The NLF is made possible through the generosity of our founding sponsors who are the Institution for Savings and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. Additional support is provided by the Provident Bank, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Newburyport, Newbury, West Newbury, Amesbury, and Merrimac Cultural Councils and the Newburyport Rotary Club.

The Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF), organized by the Newburyport Literary Association, annually celebrates reading, and the love of books. For more information about the 2012 NLF, including authors and their work, please visit www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org

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