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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM UPDATES RELEASED FOR
4th ANNUAL NEWBURYPORT LITERARY FESTIVAL**

Schedule released with locations of author appearances along with related highlights of Festival

With only a few weeks left until the 4th Annual Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF) on April 24 – 25, 2009, the schedule of author appearances at locations throughout downtown Newburyport, Massachusetts, as well as highlights throughout the duration of the NLF, has recently been released.

For the schedule of author appearances and locations, visit www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org.

Top ten highlights of 4th Annual NLF:

1. **Friday, April 24th is Dottie LaFrance Day - NLF Honoree!** Join us on Friday, April 24th at the Opening Ceremony at Friday 6:00pm at the Firehouse Center to celebrate LaFrance's 30 years of service as head librarian at the Newburyport Public Library.
2. **Opening Ceremony** at Friday 6:00pm at The Firehouse Center ...And so the 4th Annual NLF begins to celebrate reading for a lifetime. This year, award-winning best-selling international author of both adult and young adult fiction, Julia Alvarez, will be in the opening conversation with Jon Peede, Director of Literature for the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). Art from students at the Brown School under the guidance of school librarian Judy Avery and inspired by David McPhail, will be displayed at the Firehouse Center for viewing during the ceremony and for the duration of the NLF.
3. Join us for **Dinner with the Authors on April 24 at 7:30pm** at Nicholson Hall on 7 Harris Street in Newburyport. Tickets are \$50.00 for the opportunity to mingle with NLF authors and to support the NLF. Please respond by April 15, 2009. Ticket price includes buffet and there is a cash bar.
4. A **Silent Auction** will be held in conjunction with the annual Dinner with the Authors on **Friday, April 24 at 7:30pm** to support the NLF. Learn more about the auction items at <http://www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org/NLF-Auction.pdf>

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5. **Saturday, April 25th is David McPhail Day –NLF Honoree!** Join us Saturday 6:30pm at the Firehouse Center as we journey with McPhail through his enormously successful and satisfying life of tapping into and feeding children's imaginations.
6. Join *New York Times* bestselling author **Cheryl Richardson** on Saturday 10:30am at the Firehouse Center as she talks about **The Writer's Life**: how to get started, developing discipline, creating a writing space, finding your voice, discovering your writing rhythm, and using writer's block to your advantage.
7. **Operation Homecoming organized by the NEA** will be held on Saturday 1:00pm at the Firehouse Center. Operation Homecoming was developed in 2004 to help U.S. troops and their families write about their wartime experiences. Presenters at the NLF include Richard Bausch and Marilyn Nelson and moderated by Jon Peede. For details about Operation Homecoming, visit www.OperationHomecoming.gov
8. **The NLF is now on Facebook!** To become a friend and to learn about new NLF updates, search for "Newburyport Literary".
9. Visitors of this year's NLF can easily navigate throughout the city to hear their favorite author by means of **Pedicab**. This is a free service, but tips are appreciated and will help support the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. To learn more, please visit <http://www.newburyportpedicab.com/>
10. **Books by NLF authors** (and prints by NLF illustrators) will be available all day at the venues and at local bookstores.

The Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF), organized by the Newburyport Literary Association, annually celebrates the joy of reading and writing as well as the love of books. The NLF in 2009 features more than 40 writers of distinguished fiction and non-fiction – including short story writers, children's authors, biographers, nature writers, critics, screenwriters, poets, novelists, and journalists – who will read and discuss their work in venues throughout Newburyport's historic downtown.

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For more information about the authors and the highlights mentioned above, please visit www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org