

For Immediate Release

The Newburyport Literary Festival

For more information contact:

Skye Wentworth

(978) 462-4453

press@newburyportliteraryfestival.org

Kids' Imaginations to Soar at Festival

Festival Features Well-known Authors of Books for Kids from Preschoolers to Young Adults

Newburyport's 2007 Literary Festival will include an exciting line-up of events and authors for kids from preschoolers to young adults, according to festival director Vicki Hendrickson. "Our diverse offering of fun and magical children's events will help kids' imaginations soar through reading and art."

The 2007 Newburyport Literary Festival will begin Friday, April 27, 2007, and will run through Sunday, April 29. The 2007 children's programming has been expanded to include preschool story times; events for students of all ages who are interested in writing and drawing; a special event specifically for young adults, and a daylong event celebrating Harry Potter. The story-time readings will be for 3–8 year olds (and the big kids who accompany them) and will include participative drawing fun for the audience. Student events will involve the audience of 5–12 year olds in stories and illustrating. The events will be held at two locations in downtown Newburyport. The specific times and locations of the children's events may be found on the festival's web site www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org.

Participating authors include: Grace Lin, Mary Newell DePalma, Wade Zahares, Anna Vojtech, Ed Emberley, and L.A. Meyer, along with musician Peter Stewart.

Grace Lin will be drawing and reading from *Red is a Dragon*, a simple wordbook made memorable with pictures. She will also draw and read from *Robert's Snow* and her newest picture book, *Our Seasons*. Grace will also conduct a middle school event for students ages 9–12, centered around her book *The Year of the Dog*. She will teach

everyone to draw their own dog and to discuss its meaning in Chinese culture and this American girl's life.

Mary Newell DePalma's books engage the imagination and confirm life experiences for children. *My Chair* ends with the surprise package being a welcome gift to the new baby in the community. *A Grand Old Tree* is about the life cycle of a tree, and *The Strange Egg* will have everyone giggling. Her reading and drawing will fascinate young children and engage older students as well. She helps children find a sense of wonder and curiosity about nature and language with her mixed-media art and word poems.

Wade Zahares, a children's book illustrator, will discuss his newest book, *Lucky Jake*, a story of patience, friendship, and luck that takes place during the Gold Rush era. Wade will display original pastel paintings from the book and will lead an art project where participants can draw their own maps for the journey west. He will discuss his other children's books and show some of his favorite pictures from each book. Wade will also sign his other children's books: *Big, Bad and a Little Bit SCARY*, *Liberty Rising*, and *Red Are the Apples*.

Anna Vojtech's event for preschoolers and early elementary children is "Count & Sing, Night & Day, Birds & Bees." She learned about trees and flowers in the woods of Europe with her grandfather and has created books reflecting natural beauty for her own grandchildren. She will read *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *Ten Flashing Fireflies*, and will sing *Over in the Meadow*.

Ed Emberley, who describes himself as "an old grandpa kind of guy," has written around 80 books for children. For years, his books and personal inspiration have been helping children have fun learning how to draw. His step-by-step instructions allow anyone who can draw simple lines and circles to create wonderful drawings. These books are ideal for ages 4–11, but they are fun for kids of all ages. Kids beam with pride and enthusiasm when they see what they've created with these books.

Peter Stewart will invoke the magic of words and storytelling in music. Peter, who has been singing with children for over 35 years, will soon have you grinning ear to ear with his cat tales, puppets, and sing-along fun! The entire family will enjoy Peter's musical celebration of the wonder of words.

On Friday April 27, in a special event for young adults, award-winning author of young adult fiction, L. A. Meyer will spend the afternoon with the middle school students. Each student will receive a copy of Meyer's book *Bloody Jack*, through a generous gift from the Institution for Savings and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank and with the assistance of Jabberwocky Bookshop.

L. A. Meyer, acclaimed author of young adult fiction, has received multiple awards for his *Bloody Jack Adventures*. Before he started writing, L. A. Meyer was an art teacher, an illustrator, a designer, and a naval officer. He has a special rapport with young adults and they always find his discussions about his writing to be fun, exciting, and inspirational.

About the festival

The 2007 Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF) runs from Friday, April 27, through Sunday, April 29. A three-day celebration of reading, writing, and the love of books, this year's festival features more than 70 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.

The vision of the Newburyport Literary Festival is shared by many individuals and organizations. The NLF is especially grateful for the generous support of our founding sponsors, the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation and the Institution for Savings, who have made it possible for the festival to take root and flourish. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Amesbury Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

All festival events are wheelchair accessible and open to the public. All events are free, except for the opening night gala. For complete information about the festival, including event times and venues, please visit: www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org.