



57th Street Children's Book Fair

CONTACT: Keith Romero
(312) 431-0510
romero_keith@sbcglobal.net

Tara Baldrige
(773) 619-8371
57bookfair@gmail.com

For Immediate Release (Photos Available Upon Request)

From Mother Goose to Harry Potter, 57th Street Children's Book Fair Makes Hyde Park the Place to be for Young Book Lovers, Sunday, September 30

Largest independent children's book fair in the Midwest to attract families from across Chicagoland

(CHICAGO, August 27, 2007) –Thousands of families from across Chicagoland will descend on Hyde Park on Sunday, September, 30, from 1-6 p.m., for the 57th Street Children's Book Fair, one the largest independently-run literacy events in the nation for young book lovers.

Now in its 21st year, the fair features storytellers, booksellers, live musical entertainment, dance performances, crafts and refreshments. Upwards of 10,000 people are expected at the event.

“Twenty years ago we started as a small community event, mostly drawing people from the neighborhood,” said Rebecca Janowitz, the fair's founder. “But as the word got out we experienced tremendous growth, drawing families that love to read and want to foster a love of reading in their children from all parts of the city and suburbs.”

In addition to enhancing literacy, the event is designed to stimulate children's imaginations through song, dance and the creative arts. This year's fair continues that tradition with performances, readings and storytelling by:

- Kenwood Academy's Drum Line and Jazz Band
- The Hyde Park School of Ballet
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mexican Folkloric Dance Group
- The Giving Tree Band, playing original acoustic folk music
- The Chocolate Chips Theatre Company, performing excerpts from “*The Tiger that Wore White Gloves,*” adapted from a story by Gwendolyn Brooks
- Griot and drummer Oba William King
- Magician Steve Belliveau
- El Amal North African Music Group

-More-

Children's Book Fair Release, 2 of 2

Other sponsors and participants that will host exhibits and activities include:

- The Field Museum
- The Art Institute of Chicago
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- Hyde Park Art Center
- The Smart Museum of Art
- Chicago Public Library (which will be issuing library cards)
- And the Oriental Institute

According to event coordinator Tara Baldrige, while the focus is on children's literature and activities, the fair also appeals to adults and teens.

"There really is something for everyone at this event," she said. "While the focus is on children's books, that is really only one facet of the fair; parents and older children will be just as entertained and they'll have no trouble finding things to do, and purchase, that interest them as well."

Booksellers at this year's fair include: 57th Street Books, Autumn Leaves Books, The Book Fair, Butterfly Spirits, Ltd., Chicago Rare Book Center, The Homework Mastery Center, Kids Sports Fitness Education, Pennyworth Books, Powell's Bookstore, Usborne Books at Home, among others.

The 57th Street Children's Book Fair kicks off with a parade of classic and contemporary characters from popular children's literature led by Mother Goose and the Kenwood Academy Marching Band Drum Line starting at 57th and Kimbark Avenue. The fair takes place between Kimbark and Dorchester avenues near the University of Chicago.

The 57th Children Book Fair is accessible by public transportation and is free and open to the public. The University of Chicago is also providing free parking for the event.

For more information visit www.57cbf.org or call (773) 619-8371.

About 57th Street Children's Book Fair

Twenty years Hyde Park residents came together to try to save O'Gara & Wilson, one of the many independent booksellers that have long characterized the neighborhood, from losing their lease. Before too long the focus shifted to encompass not only the survival of O'Gara & Wilson but the survival of independent bookstores and the character of the neighborhood.

In the end, neighborhood activists decided to expand on their initial focus by creating a community wide-event showcasing community residents' love of literature as well as their support for small businesses and independent retailers. As a result, the 57th Street Children's Book Fair was born. Today, the 57th Street Book is among the largest community events on the South Side of Chicago and among the largest literacy events for children in the Midwest.