

# BOOKSELLING **THIS** Week

AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

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## BEA Set for Big Opening in New York City

May 01, 2002 -- Thursday, May 2, will mark the beginning of a very busy New York City visit for independent booksellers and others in the book publishing industry as BookExpo America opens at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. Set to run from May 2 - May 5, the show will feature full days of networking, educational panels, meetings with publishers on the busy trade floor, and lots of opportunities to hear authors discuss their latest works.

*Bookselling This Week* will be providing readers with daily updates throughout the show at <http://news.bookweb.org/><sup>1</sup> and via e-mail. (To sign up for a free e-mail subscription to *BTW*, click here<sup>2</sup>.)

As the final items are being crossed off the pre-show to-do list, here's a quick review of some BEA highlights for independent booksellers.

### Education and Professional Development

There will be a full day of ABA educational programming for booksellers on Thursday, May 2, at the Javits Center. The program will feature panels on marketing, bookstore finances, and inventory management; special programming for children's booksellers; a Large Store Roundtable; and more. For more on the day's "Marketing Strategy Session," click here<sup>3</sup>.

### A Special Focus on Independents and Book Sense

On Friday, May 3, independent bookselling will take center stage at the Celebration of Bookselling, which will be held from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Special Events Hall at Javits. All BEA attendees are invited to greet and visit with colleagues and to hear the announcements, for the first time, of the 2002 Book Sense Book of the Year Award winners. Distinguished historian and writer Doris Kearns Goodwin will host the event. The doors of the hall will open at 5:00 p.m. to give attendees a chance to participate in the fifth annual Secret Garden Silent Auction to benefit the Association of Booksellers for Children. (Admission to the Celebration is free and open to all BEA attendees. The event is co-sponsored by *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Smithsonian* magazines.)

There will be a wide variety of ways to learn more about BookSense.com<sup>4</sup> -- including a special session for publishers on Thursday, May 2, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Javits. Booksellers can see demonstrations of the product and have discussions with BookSense.com staff in the Book Sense Lounge (Room 1E02-03) at Javits beginning on May 2 and throughout the show. On Saturday, May 4, from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., there will be three Book Sense Bookseller-to-Bookseller Roundtables that will concentrate on ways to get the full benefit from Book Sense and BookSense.com, especially for those looking for increased sales, and for stores looking to sign-up for the first time. Admission is free, and the roundtables are open to all ABA members. There will be two roundtables on getting started with Book Sense, and one roundtable on getting started with BookSense.com.

The Book Sense Lounge opens on May 2, and it will offer ABA members a place to meet with ABA Board members and staff, to log onto computers, plug in laptops, and check e-mail. The lounge is a comfortable, convenient place to relax off the busy exhibit floor with other booksellers and to enjoy some complimentary refreshments. Phones are available for credit card calls. The lounge will be open all four days of the show. At the ABA/Book Sense Booth (#718), booksellers will find a wide range of key information, and, for the first time this year, a chance to meet the authors of some of their favorite Book Sense picks. There will be live demonstrations of the new *ABA Book Buyer's Handbook Online*, the new enhanced printing options for *BTW*, and the improved electronic reporting options to the Book Sense Bestseller lists.

There will be a special Book Sense panel for publishers on Thursday, May 2, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Javits in Room 1E17K, where they can learn more about the Book Sense Bestseller lists and the Book Sense 76 program, BookSense.com, the Local Marketing Intelligence program, and the *ABA Book Buyer's Handbook Online*. Admission is open to all BEA exhibiting publishers.

### An Opportunity to Communicate With ABA

At the ABA Town Hall, on Friday, May 3, from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Room 1E12), ABA members can voice opinions and share ideas with ABA Board members and staff in a less formal setting than at the ABA Annual Membership meeting. The annual meeting will follow the town hall, from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., and it will

update membership on the past year and look ahead to future association projects. Voting cards will be available outside the meeting room two hours prior to the meeting. Members will also have a chance to provide input to the development of the new strategic plan at BEA. There will be three ABA strategic planning sessions on Friday, from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (Room 1E12), from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. (Room 1E13), and from 11:00 a.m. - noon (Room 1E13).

### Author! Author!

The Book & Author Breakfasts on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will feature a wide range of authors, and on Friday, May 3, the AudioBook Tea is set for 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. There will also be a Sunday Literary Luncheon, from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. on May 5.

This year marks the return of The Rock Bottom Remainders, who will be performing from 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, at Greenwich Village's historic Webster Hall. Tickets can still be purchased at [www.abffe.com](http://www.abffe.com)<sup>5</sup> and picked up at the ABFFE Booth in the Crystal Palace at the Javits Center. They can also be purchased at the on-site registration area at Javits.

And don't forget the author autographings at the ABA/Book Sense Booth on the trade floor, set for Friday and Saturday of the show. On both days, the signings will start at 10:00 a.m., and the last signing session will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The authors signing on Friday are: Paulette Jiles ( *Enemy Women* , Morrow); Joseph Kanon ( *The Good German* , Picador USA); Jennifer Watson and Dave Marx ( *PassPorter Walt Disney World 2002* , PassPorter Travel Press); Kate Jennings ( *Moral Hazard* , 4th Estate); Patty Lovell and David Catrow ( *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* , Putnam); John Griesemer ( *No One Thinks of Greenland* , Picador USA); Carlo Lucarelli ( *Almost Blue* , City Lights Publishers); and Andrew Miller ( *Oxygen* , Harcourt).

The authors signing on Saturday are: Leif Enger ( *Peace Like a River* , Atlantic Monthly Press); Reed Farrel Coleman ( *Walking the Perfect Square* , The Permanent Press); Sharon Randall ( *Birdbaths and Paper Cranes: A Family Tale* , Sleeping Bear Press); Karin Slaughter ( *Kisscut* , Morrow); Joe Queenan ( *Balsamic Dreams* , Picador USA); John Scott Shepherd ( *Henry's List of Wrongs* , Rugged Land Books); Marnie Mueller ( *My Mother's Island* , Curbstone Press); Michael Malone ( *Handling Sin* , Sourcebooks Landmark); Dominique Raccah ( *Poetry Speaks* , Sourcebooks MediaFusion); Ross King ( *Brunelleschi's Dome* , Walker); and Craig Childs ( *Desert Cries* , Arizona Highways).

In addition, The Reading Room (Room 1E12) will feature Paul Auster, Kate DiCamillo, Louise Erdrich, and Michael Malone, all reading from their works in a relaxed, intimate environment on Saturday, May 4, from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (The Reading Room is open to all badged attendees.)

### Important Panels

The American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (ABFFE) is co-sponsoring a special free speech panel ("9/11: Civil Liberties in a Time of Crisis") on Friday, May 3, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in Room 1E12. The panel will feature filmmaker Michael Moore, author of the bestselling *Stupid White Men* ; novelist Barbara Kingsolver; distinguished journalist Nat Hentoff; Yolanda King, author and daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; John MacArthur, publisher of *Harper's* magazine; and Alan Dershowitz, author and Harvard law school professor.

There will be two other key panels on Saturday. The first -- from

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in Room 1E04 -- looks at the topic of succession planning. A number of key questions and topics will be addressed by professionals with experience in valuing and selling businesses, including insights from booksellers and industry professionals who have been involved in the process of exiting various-sized businesses. The session will be moderated by Ivan Barkhorn, formerly a partner at McKinsey & Company and a consultant to ABA on strategic matters. On the session's panel will be Frank Kerrigan, CFO of Ingram Book Company, Nashville, Tennessee, and Ned Densmore, former owner of Village Book Store in Littleton, New Hampshire.

Later that day -- from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in Room 1E12 -- attendees can learn the latest on how community-based retailers are working to more effectively advocate on important political issues in their cities and towns. This special one-hour panel on "Main Street/Alliances/Political Advocacy" will feature Utah Senator Orrin G. Hatch (author of the upcoming book *Square Peg* from Basic Books) and two booksellers with extensive experience in civic affairs, outgoing ABA President Neal Coonerty of Book Shop Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz, California, and former ABA President Richard Howorth of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi. Coonerty served as mayor of Santa Cruz from 1992 to 1993, and Howorth is currently serving as mayor of Oxford. The panel will be moderated by ABA COO Oren Teicher. All of these panels are open to all badged BEA attendees.

### Great Value and Great Fun

The annual ABFFE Silent Auction will run from Friday, May 3, to noon on Sunday, May 5, in the Crystal Palace at Javits (main lobby). In addition, ABFFE will run a weeklong online auction on its Web site, [www.abffe.com](http://www.abffe.com)<sup>6</sup>.

And the BookSense.com Kentucky Derby Party is set for Saturday, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in Room 1E04, featuring Mint Juleps, a beer/wine bar, and the most exciting two minutes in sports.

## ABC Selects New Executive Director

May 01, 2002 -- Anne Irish, longtime bookseller and the interim executive director of the Association of Booksellers for Children (ABC), has now been named the association's executive director, following the work of a search committee headed by Dennis Ronberg of Linden Tree Children's Recordings and Books in Los Altos, California.

In the mid-1970s, Irish founded Pooh Corner in Madison, Wisconsin; 20 years later she sold the business but continued working for the new owners. In January 2001, she left the company.

Irish had been active in ABC for many years and, as she told *BTW* , she was pleased to be selected for "a job that would keep me in the world of children's bookselling. I brought a lot of experience with ABC to the job."

ABC has been fine-tuning some of its activities and procedures, always aware of changing membership needs and preferences. At the association's annual meeting last year, the new ABC logo was introduced. At this year's board meeting, held in Dallas, ABC decided to launch a new publication, *ABC Choices for Children* .

According to Irish, the publication will include member favorites from 2001 as well as a selection of frontlist titles from 2002. Irish said that *ABC Choices for Children* was scheduled to be in the stores by fall for use by the holidays. In addition, in a change of the

association's bylaws, the vice president will automatically move to the presidency and the past president's post will be phased out.

Irish is enthusiastic about ABC's future. To expand the association's base, general bookstores with strong children's departments will be included in the association's ongoing marketing efforts.

ABC can be reached at (800) 421-1665.

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## SEBA Announces the Winner of the 2002 Charles S. Haslam Award

*May 01, 2002* -- At this year's BookExpo America, the Southeast Booksellers Association (SEBA) will honor Becky Anderson Wilkins, co-owner of Anderson's Bookshops in Naperville, Illinois, with the 2002 Charles S. Haslam Award for Excellence in Bookselling. The annual award is given to a bookseller who "has achieved excellence in the field," and includes a \$1,000 cash prize and plaque. Incoming ABA President Ann Christopherson will present the Haslam Award at the ABA Celebration of Bookselling, held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Friday, May 3, in the Special Events Hall at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York.

Not surprisingly, Wilkins said that she's thrilled with the award. "It's incredible," she told *BTW*. "I didn't expect this. It's a wonderful thing for my family. I know this was an award for me individually, but I don't consider it that way. It's a huge validation for everything we do [at Anderson's]. It's a great way to celebrate our [being an independent bookstore]."

Wanda Jewell, executive director of SEBA, said that Wilkins beat some stiff competition to get this year's Haslam Award, the winner of which is culled from approximately nine applicants. "The judges said that this was the strongest pool of applicants they ever had," she said. The Haslam is sponsored annually by SEBA, and underwritten by Ingram Book Company in the name of "esteemed bookman" Charles Haslam.

In terms of awards, it's been a good year for Wilkins, who was also named by the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) as the 2002 winner of the Lucile Micheels Pannell Award for a general bookstore. (To read more about the 2002 Pannell Awards, click here <sup>7</sup>).

Wilkins's family has run Anderson's for the past 127 years. The business includes three bookstores, one in Naperville and two in other suburbs, and an independent pharmacy, which was also started by her great, great grandfather. All three are general bookstores, but with an emphasis on children's books and events.

In a press release announcing the award, SEBA noted that Anderson's Bookshops have "a strong commitment and interaction with the communities where they live and do business." It also cited Wilkins's "'Marketing and Focus Group' that includes all of the managers, the school partnership manager, publicity head, co-op person, and any others with new ideas who are encouraged to attend. [Wilkins] approves all expenditures for advertising and promotion. Since the store has a most talented and creative staff with amazing ideas, they are able to produce all their own in-house advertising. The Anderson's Bookshops' mission statement reads 'to share a knowledge and passion for books to create lifelong readers.'"

For more information about SEBA and the Haslam Award, go to [www.sebaweb.org](http://www.sebaweb.org) <sup>8</sup>; for more on ABA programming at BookExpo America, click here <sup>9</sup>.

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## ABA Names David Walker as Industry Relations Consultant

*May 01, 2002* -- ABA has announced that David Walker of Washington, D.C., an independent consultant in the book industry, will be working with the association on matters relating to industry relations.

Walker has been an independent consultant for the past five years. During that time, he worked with ABA on a number of projects, including the processing of claims relating to the Penguin lawsuit settlement.

Prior to becoming an industry consultant, Walker was general manager of Olsson's Books in Washington, D.C. He worked at Olsson's for 11 years.

Booksellers with trade practice complaints should contact Kristen Gilligan, ABA trade relations manager, who will be working with Walker on these issues. Gilligan can be reached by phone at (800) 637-0037, ext. 1286 or e-mail at [kristen@bookweb.org](mailto:kristen@bookweb.org) <sup>10</sup>.

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## New Boston Area Bookstore to Open May 4

*May 01, 2002* -- On Saturday, May 4, while booksellers attending BookExpo America at New York City's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center are visiting publishers, grabbing advance readers' copies, and networking, Annie Bauman will be lading Kool-Aid at the grand opening of Village Books in Roslindale, Massachusetts. The 900-square-foot store is opening in a resolutely independent community midway through its renaissance.

Roslindale is an ethnically diverse outer borough of Boston proper but geographically isolated. Bauman told *BTW*, "It has seven ethnic bakeries and many independent businesses. The only chain business is a Fleet Bank." She noted that "the nearest chain bookstore is hard to get to. People in this community are passionate about shopping their own backyard." Bauman noted, too, that her own backyard and house are within "spitting distance" of the new store. She said that the community has been extremely supportive of her plans: "Nobody ever says 'Oh damn, another bookstore.'"

Bauman came to bookselling indirectly. She was "a casualty of the dot-coms. I was laid off from my job in sales and marketing at the digital *New York Times*. I wanted to move into business ownership. After working in the Internet field, I saw money burned-through recklessly. There was not enough heart and soul. I went to work selling books to find that."

She worked at Newtonville Books in Newton, Massachusetts, with owner Tim Huggins and at Brookline Booksmith in Brookline, Massachusetts, with co-owner/ manager Dana Brigham. "It gave me great experience, and they were both so generous," Bauman said. "There are not many industries where I could get a peek at the financials and learn the whole pulse and rhythm of the business. I'm so glad I did that -- I saw that it was hard work and not always glamorous."

Bauman spent about seven months writing and revising a business plan, which she shared with people inside and outside the industry. She has relied on it consistently and credits it for keeping her on track. She knows that the store can make it without huge crowds, by building a steady business base of local customers. "We [independents] have to exploit what we do best. We're nimble and can hold customers' hands. Customers come in looking for great

recommendations and someone guiding them through book buying," she said.

The store will be actively participating in Book Sense, which Bauman describes as "awesome." It's her belief that "it's not enough to be open for business, we have to work at offering customers more -- they can buy books here or we can get them any book they want in about 48 hours. We have to capitalize on the things we can do that chains and online sellers can't."

For Bauman, "the personality of the store, and its staff makes all the difference," and she said that she hoped customers would quickly come to depend on Village Books' recommendations. In hiring booksellers for the store, she said, "I looked for voracious readers and hired a college student who had been a bookseller and an ex-teacher. Teachers have great organizational abilities and time-management skills. They will be a critical part of our identity."

Village Books, opening May 4, is located at 751 South Street in Roslindale; the store phone number is (617) 325-1994; e-mail [annie@village-books.net](mailto:annie@village-books.net)<sup>11</sup> or [info@village-books.net](mailto:info@village-books.net)<sup>12</sup>. -- Nomi Schwartz<sup>13</sup>

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## Christian Science Monitor Features Poetry 76 Top Ten

May 01, 2002 -- The *Christian Science Monitor* has expanded its coverage of things Book Sense-related with the publication, in its April 25 edition, of the Book Sense Poetry 76 Top Ten. The paper regularly includes the Book Sense Fiction and Nonfiction Bestseller lists in its Books section and has also published select Book Sense Specialty Bestseller lists.

The Poetry Top Ten, as well as past Book Sense Bestseller lists, are featured on the *Christian Science Monitor* Web site at [www.csmonitor.com/books/index.html](http://www.csmonitor.com/books/index.html)<sup>14</sup>.

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## Feedback from Booksellers Makes BookSense.com Even Better

April 30, 2002 -- Based on feedback from many booksellers, BookSense.com<sup>15</sup> has added five new features and has extended the BookSense.com free trial from June 30 to August 16.

The change was prompted by feedback from attendees at recent ABA Bookseller Forums, said Len Vlahos, BookSense.com director. Additionally, since many booksellers will be signing up for the free trial at BookExpo America, "we wanted to make sure that everyone had a chance to use it, and see how good it is," he explained, noting that, with the initial deadline only two months away, "it just made sense to extend it." At present, 90 bookstores have signed up for the free trial.

Booksellers currently accustomed to the advantages of being a BookSense.com store will be happy to find a number of improvements. These enhancements were based on feedback from many BookSense.com stores:

1. **There will be an e-mail acknowledgement as to whether an order is store fulfilled or wholesaler fulfilled.** A code has been added to the bottom of each e-mail, alerting the bookstore to whether an order is targeted for store or wholesaler fulfillment. "STO" will indicate store fulfilled, and "WHR" will indicate wholesaler fulfilled. These codes will help the bookstore know which orders they are supposed to fulfill and which Ingram or Baker & Taylor will fulfill.

2. **Improved linking within local content areas.** In the local content area of a store's site, the bookstore can now link directly from sub-page to sub-page sequentially. For example, if a bookstore uses one of its content areas for a store newsletter, and it contains three sub-pages -- "Newsletter Page One," "Newsletter Page Two," and "Newsletter Page Three" -- the user can now link directly from page one to page two without having to go back to the main page.
3. **Stronger notice that certain titles may not be in stock.** In the checkout process, when customers elect to pick items up in the store, BookSense.com has significantly highlighted the statement that lets the customer know that not all books are in stock at all times.
4. **New shipping defaults.** BookSense.com has changed the default flat fee shipping charges to: \$4.00 for ground; \$9.00 for second day; \$21.00 for next day. Bookstores that had set their own shipping charges will not be affected by this change. The new defaults will more closely match the actual freight charged by wholesalers, though the item handling fees remain unchanged.
5. **New language for special inventory status.** BookSense.com has changed the language for the "Special Order" inventory status. It now reads: "'Special Order' refers to a book that may not be readily available for shipping. While some of these books might be hard to find, others are more easily obtained. Books that are considered rare or collector's items are special orders. In some instances, it may take us longer to locate this book for you than it would for a standard order, and the price is subject to change. We will contact you about the status of any special order you place with us."

In related news, BookSense.com announced the hiring of Ricky Leung for the position of technical lead. Leung has spent the past six months in the role of BookSense.com consultant, doing programming for the site, playing a key role in bringing the BookSense.com enhancements to fruition. Prior to BookSense.com, he worked for iXL, and HotSocket, two Internet companies. "Ricky is so skilled that we made the decision to bring him on full-time," said Vlahos. "We're delighted to have him."

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## L.A. Times Festival of Books a Showcase of Authors, Bookselling, and Great Titles

April 30, 2002 -- Cloudy skies didn't stop a record crowd from thronging to the seventh annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, which was held on April 27 - 28. An estimated 140,000 people (up from last year's 120,000) turned out for the well-publicized two-day event, held in association with, and on the campus of, UCLA.

Some 400 authors, 150 panels and readings, and over 300 exhibitors in tented booths were among the festival's lures. The many writers present included David Halberstam, Anita Diamant, Maya Angelou, Ishmael Reed, Ray Bradbury, Michael Connelly, Steve Martin, Frances Fitzgerald, bell hooks, and Carolyn See.

"In a place that is frequently described as monstrously disconnected," said an enthusiastic D.J. Waldie (author of *Real City: Downtown Los Angeles Inside/Out* and the award-winning

memoir *Holy Land*), "an event like this brings many, many people together for a couple of days of comity, in a setting that encourages that sense of community that Los Angeles so desperately needs."

Waldie, a local-government official in the city of Lakewood who writes occasionally for the *Los Angeles Times Book Review* and the paper's "Opinion" section, was participating in his sixth L.A. *Times* Festival of Books. The annual gathering, he thought, provided an excellent chance for many booksellers to meet patrons from outside their usual base: "People who would never have come to their store, because their store is at the end of the Valley, or at the end of the county, or in Malibu. But they're here, in this pleasant, rather centralized location: readers from all over the county, and in every color, every ethnicity. It is just an astonishing opportunity for those who sell books to encounter new parts of their market in Southern California."

Buyers seeking autographed books from a festival author often had the option either of waiting in line at a signing area after that writer's panel, or of encountering the writer later at an independent bookseller's booth.

Mysterious Galaxy was one such indie holding hourly booth signings throughout the weekend with such authors as Donald E. Westlake.

This was the sixth festival for the San Diego store, said co-owner Jeff Mariotte: "They've all been exceptional. We've never been disappointed in what we've done here; it's always a terrific weekend."

Some of the independents present (which included Book Soup, Dutton's Brentwood, Pathfinder Bookstore, UCLA Bookzone, and The USC Bookstore) informally estimated this would be their best festival yet in terms of sales.

No doubt responsible in part for this year's record turnout was the extensive on-air promotion given the festival by its media sponsors: eight local radio and television stations (including NPR affiliate KPCC-FM and KTLA-TV), some of which did live broadcasts from the campus.

C-SPAN2's *BookTV* devoted hours of live coverage to the festival on both Saturday and Sunday. The network also taped many events for future airing.

The festival's author panels (held in 16 venues around campus) were free, but tickets were required. Many events (including a discussion with John W. Dean, Arianna Huffington, Oliver Stone, and Robert Scheer; and various crime-fiction panels) were "sold out" immediately.

Lines for signed books from popular writers such as Mary Higgins Clark, Ray Bradbury, and Julie Andrews often stretched the equivalent of half a block.

In this its seventh year, the L.A. *Times* Festival of Books still attracted new participants, from authors such as Thomas Keneally (*American Scoundrel: The Life of the Notorious Civil War General Dan Sickles*), who expressed gratitude at his first-ever invitation to speak on a nonfiction panel ("Usually I'm asked to talk about fiction, or the boundaries of same"); to booksellers such as Mitchell Books (whose John Mitchell was so pleased with the event, he said, "Next year I think I'll take two booths"); to literary publications like the *Oxford American* ("The Southern Magazine of Good Writing"), whose public relations director Katharine Walton thought the festival provided a fine opportunity "to introduce the magazine to a whole new region and its readers."

The only festival event to charge admission was Saturday evening's

22nd presentation of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes, in UCLA's Royce Hall.

The ceremony -- emceed by Sandra Tsing Loh (*A Year in Van Nuys*), with opening remarks by Book Prize Director Kenneth Turan (*Sundance to Sarajevo: Film Festivals and the World They Made*), and closing remarks by *Times* Book Editor Steve Wasserman -- awarded prizes in nine categories (see below); with the fiction prize notably going to Mary Robison's *Why Did I Ever*.

This year's Robert Kirsch Award for a distinguished body of work by a writer from or writing about the West was bestowed on 90-year-old Tillie Olsen, who was present to accept with eloquence.

Receiving his Book Prize in the Science and Technology category, English author Richard Hamblyn (*The Invention of Clouds*) paid spontaneous tribute to the well-attended, multi-generational *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, which he called a unique celebration and expression of our culture.

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### Winners of the 22nd *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes:

**Mystery/Thriller:** T. Jefferson Parker, *Silent Joe* (Hyperion)

**Poetry:** Anne Carson, *The Beauty of the Husband: A Fictional Essay in 29 Tangos* (Knopf)

**Current Interest:** Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (Metropolitan/Henry Holt)

**Fiction:** Mary Robison, *Why Did I Ever* (Counterpoint)

**Biography:** Edmund Morris, *Theodore Rex* (Random House)

**The Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction:** Rachel Seiffert, *The Dark Room* (Pantheon)

**History:** Rick Perlstein, *Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus* (Hill and Wang/Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

**Young Adult Fiction:** Mildred D. Taylor, *The Land* (Phyllis Fogelman/Penguin Putnam)

**Science and Technology:** Richard Hamblyn, *The Invention of Clouds: How an Amateur Meteorologist Forged the Language of the Skies* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) -- Tom Nolan <sup>16</sup>

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## On Capitol Hill, Free Expression Groups Question the USA-Patriot Act

April 29, 2002 -- On April 25, at noon, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and other free expression organizations gathered on Capitol Hill in the Senate Hart Office Building to voice their concern over some of the anti-terrorist measures adopted by the federal government following 9/11. The group -- which included Senator Russell D. Feingold (D-WI), Representative Patsy Mink (D-HI), and Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press -- warned that these measures, most notably the USA-Patriot Act, pose a serious threat to free speech.

"We call on our political leaders to resist proposals that unduly and unwisely restrict the very freedoms that we as a nation now collectively seek to preserve," said Chris Finan, president of ABFFE, who chaired the briefing, in his opening remarks. "The hasty measures that were taken in the immediate wake of the attacks of 9/11 should now be reconsidered, and we should reaffirm

the right to free expression."

At the briefing, ABFFE and other members of the Free Expression Network (FEN) -- an alliance of organizations dedicated to protecting the First Amendment, which includes the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Privacy Information Center -- issued a statement marking the six-month anniversary of the passage of the USA-Patriot Act. The anti-terrorism bill was signed into law on October 26.

The statement attacked the law, noting that it "dramatically expanded" the power of the federal government at "the expense of individual rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution." Representative Mink opposed the bill, and Senator Feingold was the only member of the Senate to vote against the USA-Patriot Act.

The FEN statement highlighted that the USA-Patriot Act gives the government greater power to investigate the opinions of individuals suspected of being a terrorist threat. It states that the Act will make Americans fearful about communicating freely over the Internet, buying books, or using libraries to access information. It adds that booksellers, in particular, should be especially concerned by a provision that allows the FBI to secretly request a court order for a list of books purchased by a customer. Furthermore, a "gag order" prevents the seller from even reporting that they have received such a demand.

"After the attacks on our country on September 11, the Congress came under enormous pressure to pass new legislation to fight terrorism within our borders," Senator Feingold said in a statement. "The resulting bill, with an Orwellian title, the USA-Patriot Act, was passed in the Senate only a month later... I was the only senator to vote against that bill. I did so with great reluctance, because I very much wanted to support legislation that would give law enforcement the tools it needs to fight terrorism. But I could not support a bill that I thought infringed crucial constitutional freedoms." Feingold continued, "The need for vigilance against the excesses of unbridled governmental power is greater than ever as the fight against terrorism continues."

Senator Feingold's remarks were followed by a short speech from Representative Mink, who expressed her support of the free expression groups regarding anti-terrorism law. Afterwards, Dalglish discussed threats to press freedom, especially considering that three newspaper editors have lost their jobs for criticizing American policy. Since the USA-Patriot Act allows greater government secrecy, she said, it increased the possibility of a journalist coming under surveillance if their source's communications were already being monitored, as reported in *Communications Daily*.

The following is an excerpt from the FEN statement:

"Historically, in times of crisis in the United States, an understandable desire to protect the nation has led to efforts to curtail civil liberties, particularly the freedom of speech. In hindsight, these efforts have invariably proved to be both unwise and unnecessary.... The USA Patriot Act ... dramatically expanded the investigative powers of the federal government at the expense of Constitutional freedoms. Today ... is an appropriate moment to pause and consider whether the erosion of legal principles and individual rights is justifiable.

"Under the Patriot Act and other recent government actions, there have been many instances where the flow of information to the public about government policies and activities has been restricted, debate on important matters suppressed, dissent chilled, and individuals threatened with legal sanction solely for their views or

associations.

"While the undersigned members of [FEN] support legitimate law enforcement activities designed to bring to justice the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks and to prevent future threats to our security, we oppose doing so in ways that fundamentally threaten democracy, by allowing government broad power to monitor and investigate the personal opinions of its residents, and by restricting the free flow of information beyond the need to protect national security. We also condemn all efforts to demonize or punish dissent."

ABFFE, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the National Coalition Against Censorship, PEN American Center, and People for the American Way, among others, signed the FEN statement. The full text of the statement is available on the FEN Web site, [www.freeexpression.org](http://www.freeexpression.org)<sup>17</sup>. -- David Grogan<sup>18</sup>

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## **Nothing Left Over Chronicles a Life Well Lived**

*April 29, 2002* -- After almost four decades in publishing working to serve writers, Toinette Lippe discovered that a friend's challenge had turned the tables on her.

In April 1999, when Lippe told Joel Fotinos, publisher of the Jeremy P. Tarcher imprint at Penguin Putnam, over dinner at Manhattan's Sarabeth's Kitchen, that she had decided to leave her full-time job at Random House, "his response was immediate, 'Then you can write a book for me,'" Lippe recalled in a recent interview with *BTW*.

Fotinos even had a title -- *Nothing Left Over* -- and he explained that it should be a book about how a person could live a life characterized by growth, service, and the value of experience rather than the mere quest of acquisition. As Lippe writes in *Nothing Left Over: A Plain and Simple Life* (published this month by Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam), "The thought would never have occurred to me on my own."

She told *BTW* that her first reaction was to tell Fotinos that any number of experienced writers could tackle the subject for him. "But he looked at me and said, 'the difference between those other writers and you is that they write about it and you live it,'" she said. Lippe considered the offer for a fortnight, until she finally said to herself, "are you out of your mind, just say yes. So, I finally said yes." As she notes in *Nothing Left Over*, "One of the most practical teachings I have received in my life is 'Go though the door that's open.'"

After making her transition from full-time work for Random House, Lippe began writing *Nothing Left Over*, exploring new dimensions of a familiar enterprise. Initially, she explained, she needed "a trigger," some daily event that would act as a catalyst, "something that floated into my mind to write about." Through her reflections on such daily activities as shopping, visiting with a friend and her two children, or even procrastinating, Lippe began to distill the insights of a full and uncompromising life. The early days of writing were challenging, and she noted, with characteristic honesty, "No, it was not enjoyable to write the book ... but it was enjoyable to read what I had written."

Originally from England, Lippe entered publishing in the early '60s. She left London's André Deutsch to come to the U.S. in 1964 ("for a year," she noted, with a laugh) to work for Bob Gottlieb,

then at Simon & Schuster. Lippe made her life and career in New York City, moving to Alfred A. Knopf, selling subsidiary rights, and, in 1989, founding Bell Tower, part of Random House's Crown Publishing Group (for which she is still acquiring and editing titles).

Lippe is both composed and engaging in person, quite comfortable sitting for a few moments to consider a question before answering, or tossing one back to her questioner. She is decidedly honest in her replies. "I would talk this way with anyone -- I write the way I talk: I don't have anything to hide, so why not share what I know?"

The book's tone reflects that candor, as *Nothing Left Over* considers the implications of a life that questions received wisdom and strives to retain its focus on the present. As she writes, *Nothing Left Over* is, "an exploration of how to live so that supply does not exceed demand or consumption; how to share whatever you may have with everyone else, not holding anything back in a miserly way; and how to trust that the universe will respond to you in the same way that you respond to it."

The book is devoid of saccharine or maxim, though Lippe is not without strong opinion, on everything from good writing, to child rearing, to the best way to pack for a weekend trip. As she writes, "There are certainly times when it is better to say nothing at all, but if you are going to speak, why not say what you mean? Get right to the point."

Further, as she interweaves memory with insight in an often wry, self-deprecating tone, *Nothing Left Over* becomes, too, an effecting memoir.

It is the story of a determined person facing the challenges of love, motherhood, career, divorce, and the illness of loved ones with less a clear-eyed certainty than a commitment to respond to events with awareness and compassion, and to stay committed to "a kind of interior housekeeping." As she writes, "each time you drop an old attitude or habit, it is like spring cleaning: more space becomes available. There is room to move about and examine the situation from a new perspective, and everything feels freer and lighter. If you clarify the mind and relinquish some of the curious ideas that have become lodged there (most of the time we aren't even aware of them), then you will be free to enjoy all the glorious things that are in the physical realm."

Before the conclusion of the interview, Lippe tells of a number of fortuitous turns in the road to publication her book has taken, from

her editor's first suggestion to the art director's choice of Lippe's favorite typeface, Centaur. With a publicity tour and media reviews still ahead, she is expectant but happy, and grateful. Speaking of karma, she notes that "it's true we're always talking about it, but what we seldom say is that it's not so clear who's going to get the result." -- Dan Cullen<sup>19</sup>

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## IACP Announces its 2002 Cookbook Award Winners

April 29, 2002 -- On April 20, the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) announced the winners of its annual 2002 IACP Cookbook Awards. The awards celebrate the year's most outstanding food and beverage publication. Winners were chosen in 11 categories.

The 2002 IACP Cookbook of the Year was awarded to *The Bread Baker's Apprentice: Mastering the Art of Extraordinary Bread* (Ten Speed Press) by Peter Reinhart. Reinhart is the co-founder of the Brother Juniper's Bakery in Sonoma, California, as well as an instructor at the world's largest culinary school. His book also won in the "Bread, Baking, and Other Sweets Category."

The Julia Child Award, which recognizes the first cookbook by a writer who has not previously authored or co-authored a cookbook, was given to *Recipes from Home* (Artisan) by Barbara Shinn and David Page. In the General Category, which awards the best multiple-subject books, all purpose cookbooks, and personal recipe collections, the winner was *A New Way to Cook* (Artisan) by Sally Schneider.

In the Literary Food Writing Category, which celebrates a non-fiction or fiction food or beverage book that is distinguished by the "quality of their prose," the award went to *On Rue Tatin* (Broadway Books) by Susan Hermann Loomis.

For more on the 2002 IACP Cookbook Awards and a full list of nominees and winners, go to <http://www.iacp.com/awards/iacpAwards/cookBookCurrent.html><sup>20</sup>

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