



News Release

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2nd Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival Set for May 19 through 22 *This year's Festival to build on success of inaugural 2004 event*

Ann Arbor, MI, March 15, 2005- The 2nd Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival features some favorites from the first Festival held last April and also offers a few new elements. The Festival kicks off with a "Bookstore Crawl", a new feature that incorporates many of the fine bookstore establishments in town. The "Crawl" takes place from Sat., May 14-Sat., May 21; participants visit the stores and have a passport stamped and learn more about their neighborhood resources in the process. Those participants who visit a majority of the stores will be eligible for a Grand Prize to be drawn on Sat., May 21 at the conclusion of the day.

Festival events take place at the same place as last year: on North University Avenue and State St., where the Univ. of Michigan campus meets downtown Ann Arbor, as well as a few venues near this spot. The overriding theme of this year's Festival is the history of the state of Michigan; 2005 marks the 200th anniversary of the declaration of the territory of Michigan. Many of the invited authors live in Michigan, write about Michigan, or have a tie to the state. Gov. Granholm has declared Saturday, May 21, "Michigan Reads" Day and a proclamation of such will be presented at the opening ceremony, with Ann Arbor Mayor John Heifjte, a representative from the Governor's office, and University dignitaries present.

Book lovers of all ages will find many diverse activities to explore, including author readings and panels with a variety of genres such as First Fiction, Mystery, Poetry, Youth Authors and Children's Authors, Non-Fiction, Women's Literature, Memoirs, and writing and publishing aspects. Pavilions will focus on Literacy, Libraries, Comics and Graphic Novels, Children's Activities, Body/Mind/Spirit, an International Pavilion, Poetry, and Lifestyles featuring cooking and decorating.

On Thursday, May 19, the Literacy Symposium will be held again at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District building on Wagner Rd., with noted Writing expert, Ruth Culham, focusing on improving writing skills for K-12 students. Friday, May 20 will feature a Book Tour at Malloy, Inc., where attendees can view the process of bookmaking up close. Friday evening there will be an Author Reception at which attendees can meet some of the featured authors in a casual setting and see the winners of the 2004 “Michigan Notable Books”.

Featured authors include Jacquelyn Mitchard, Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward P. Jones, National Book Award winner Kevin Boyle, Judith Guest, “Trading Spaces” carpenter/author Amy Wynn Pastor, poet Thomas Lynch, Elizabeth Kostova, Steve Roberts, Alexandra Flinn, among many others. A Thursday night panel will feature Michigan writers and books about Michigan, including Dave Enders (“Baghdad Bulletin”), Laura Ashlee (“Traveling through Time”), and Phyllis Vine (“One Man’s Castle”, Great Lakes Book Award winner).

Additionally, mention must be made of the return of the popular Celebrity Spelling Bee and book characters such as “The Cat in the Hat” will find their way to the Festival to enchant and entertain children of all ages!

Check the website often at www.aabookfestival.org for frequent updates about the Festival. Visitors to the site can learn about other aspects of the Festival such as a writing contest for local youth and how to submit to the “Books Change Lives”, another continuing feature from last year.

The Ann Arbor Book Festival was created in 2003 to promote reading, writing, and literacy and it showcases the rich culture of the written word in Michigan and beyond. It is presented in association with the Michigan Humanities Council, Borders, Inc., FlintInk, Michigan Radio/TV, WEMU89.1, Shaman Drum Bookshop, The Ann Arbor News, Malloy, Inc., Edwards Brothers, and The State Street Area Association.

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