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DELAWARE BOOK FESTIVAL ATTRACTS BEST-SELLING AUTHORS FOR ALL AGES, SATURDAY, NOV. 1

(Dover, Del.) SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 — In its 3rd year, the Delaware Book Festival again promises to deliver exciting, best-selling and up-and-coming authors to inspire a love of reading in children and give adults the chance to meet favorite authors and discover new ones.

The festival takes place on Saturday, November 1, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the First State Heritage Park in Dover. More than 30 authors and illustrators will talk, answer questions and sign books under tents located on Legislative Mall, while a variety of workshops will take place in the newly refurbished Old State House. A Children's Activity tent will also offer crafts, storybook characters and more.

Highlights of the day include:

- Popular children's authors **Marc Brown**, creator of *Arthur* and author/illustrator of more than 30 books featuring the aardvark and his family; and **Jon Scieszka** author of *The Stinky Cheese Man*, *Squids Will be Squids*, and the *Time-Warp Trio* series, and the first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature bestowed by the Library of Congress.
- Husband and wife **Michael Gear** and **Kathleen O'Neal Gear**, authors of the controversial new book, *The Betrayal: The Lost Life of Jesus*, based on actual documents recovered from archeological sites in the Middle East.
- A "Women in History" writer's panel, featuring **Laurie Halse Anderson**, author of *Chains*, an historical novel of the American Revolution told through the eyes of a slave girl; **Penny Colman** (*Adventurous Women* and *Thanksgiving: The True Story*); and **Catherine Gourley** (*Flappers and the New American Woman: Perceptions of Women from 1918 through the 1920s*).
- Hugely successful fiction writers who have pulled expertise from former careers to craft their stories, including physician/medical thriller author **Tess Gerritsen**, prosecutor/mystery writer **Alafair Burke**, and TV news producer/media thriller author **Mary Jane Clark**.
- Biographical writers **Ariel Sabar** (*My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq*) and **Lily Koppel** (*The Red Leather Diary*).
- Funny female authors **Beth Harbison** (*Secrets of a Shoe Addict*) and **Alison Larkin** (*The English American*).

- A mystery panel featuring **Linda Barnes**, author of two criminal thriller series, and **Chuck Logan**, author of seven novels including *Hunter's Moon*, *Absolute Zero* and *After the Rain*.
- “Book buzz” from the publishing world, including a sneak peak at future best sellers coming out in the next few months according to executives from HarperCollins and MacMillan Publishers.
- An eclectic selection of non-fiction writers including **Gary Ecelbarger** (*The Great Comeback: How Abraham Lincoln Beat the Odds to Win the 1860 Republican Nomination*), **William Cleveland** (*Art and Upheaval: Artists on the World's Frontlines*), and **Michael Gates Gill** (*How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else*).
- A Delaware writer's panel, featuring **Carol Hoffecker** and **Barbara Benson**, co-authors of *The Delaware Adventure*, and **Kathleen Marie Doyle** (*Allies for Justice: How Louis Redding and Collins Seitz Changed the Complexion of America's Schools*).

“We’re very excited about this year’s diverse line-up of award-winning authors and illustrators,” said festival organizer Patty Langley of the Delaware Division of Libraries. “There is truly something for everyone, of every age and every interest. It’s a wonderful opportunity to connect with an author or help your child make a connection that will lead to a lifelong love of reading.”

Workshops for writers and collectors will include “Write Smart: 25 Things You Really Need to Know to Sell Your Book!” presented by national best-selling author Mary Kennedy; “Poetry Writing” with Delaware Poet Laureate JoAnn Balingit; “There’s No Shush about it. Reading is Not Just for Loners,” a workshop for book discussion groups; and “From Paper to Pages,” the art of sewing books led by book artist and UD Professor Martha Carothers.

For more information about the Delaware Book Festival, visit www.debookfestival.lib.de.us

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