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Contact: Mary F. Crean, 860.695.6360, [mcrean@hplct.org](mailto:mcrean@hplct.org)

**Connecticut Book Awards Celebrate 10 Years of Connecticut's Notable Authors and Illustrators**

**Hartford, Connecticut (October 11, 2011)** —The Connecticut Book Awards, a program of Hartford Public Library's Connecticut Center for the Book, will celebrate ten years of honoring Connecticut's notable authors and illustrators on Sunday, October 30, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street. The Awards program is free and open to the public. A reception will follow from 3:30-5:30 p.m. with book signings by finalists and winners; tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased at <http://ctbookawards.eventbrite.com>.

The Connecticut Book Awards recognizes and honors Connecticut's stellar literary community: the author, illustrator, or designer must be native-born or have been a legal resident of Connecticut for at least three years, or the book must have a Connecticut setting in order to be considered.

Best-selling author Wally Lamb, who will deliver this year's keynote, said, "Hooray for the CT Book Awards! They validate the efforts of our state's best contemporary writers and alert readers to the pleasures found between the covers of their books. In a state that is rich in literary history, the annual awards celebrate and insure the continuity of that tradition."

Former Coordinator of the Connecticut Center for the Book, Kat Lyons, one of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, said, "I am elated that a Hartford Public Library customer of almost 60 years- and a product of Hartford public schools—will be receiving this prestigious award, even if I'm personally humbled by the decision." Veteran journalist, author, writing mentor and last year's Lifetime Achievement recipient, Lary Bloom, will present the 2011 award for Lifetime Achievement in Service to the Literary Community to Ms. Lyons, as well as to the Founder & President of RJ Julia Independent Booksellers, Roxanne J. Cody.

Roxanne Cody said, "Books change lives, in big ways and small. Reading is a way to live more lives, to experience more worlds, to meet people we care about and want to know more about, to understand others, and develop a compassion for what they confront and endure. I applaud the Connecticut Center for the Book for celebrating the best of Connecticut's authors, and for

supporting those of us who are dedicated to reaching humanity through the written word. I'm honored to receive one of this year's Lifetime Achievement awards."

Winners in each category will be announced at the program.

**Finalists for 2011:**

**Children's Illustrator**

*Chalk*

Marshall Cavendish

Bill Thomson

*The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane*

Charlesbridge Publishing

Andrea Wisnewski

*The Last Train*

MacMillan/Roaring Brook Press

Wendell Minor

**Biography/Memoir**

*Wisnheimer: A Childhood Subject to Debate*

Simon & Schuster

Mark Oppenheimer

*Builder's Apprentice: A Memoir*

Huron River Press

Andrew J. Hoffman

*Mentors in the Garden of Life*

Park Avenue Press, Inc.

Colleen Plimpton

**Non-Fiction**

*Connecticut Needlework: Women, Art, and Family, 1740-1840*

Wesleyan Univ. Press

Susan P. Schoelwer

*Doodlesbury and the Art of G.B. Trudeau*

Yale University Press

Brian Walker

*The Children's Hour: A Life in Child Psychiatry*

Antrim House

Kenneth S. Robson

*War No More: The Antiwar Impulse in American Literature 1861-1914*

LSU Press

Cynthia Wachtell

**Poetry**

*Crave Radiance: New and Selected Poems 1990-2010*

Graywolf Press

Elizabeth Alexander

*Blue for Oceans*

New Haven Review Books

Charles Douthat

*All of Your Messages Have Been Erased*

Louisiana Literature Press

Vivian Shipley

*Walking with Ruskin*

CavanKerry Press

Robert Cording

**Fiction**

*Beautiful Assassin*

HarperCollins

Michael C. White

*True Confections*

Crown Publishers / Shaye Areheart Books / Broadway

Katharine Weber

*Stay with Me*

HarperCollins

Sandra Rodriguez Barron

**Children's Author**

*Doodle Bug: A Novel in Doodles*

Feiwel & Friends

Karen Romano Young

*Drum City*

Random House Children's Books

Thea Guidone

*The Education of Bet*

Houghton Mifflin Books for Children

Lauren Baratz-Logsted

For further information please contact Marian Amodeo, chief public services officer at (860) 695-6296 or by email at [ctbookawards@gmail.com](mailto:ctbookawards@gmail.com).

**About** Connecticut Center for the Book

Connecticut Center for the Book is a program of Hartford Public Library, and is Connecticut's affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Its mission is to celebrate books, writers and readers who engender and sustain the life of the imagination and to highlight authors, illustrators, printers, publishers and the literary heritage of the State of Connecticut.

**About** Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org) and the library's new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org)