

Book Beat attracts nationally-known children's book authors

BY ALICE RHEIM
CORRESPONDENT

This week will be a busy one for the Book Beat in Oak Park. Having celebrated its 20th anniversary earlier this month, the independent bookstore owner by Colleen Kammer and Cary Loren is sponsoring several children's book authors and illustrators in what Kammer refers to as her "link in the chain."

"I love bringing readers together with the authors and artists. When children have a book signed to them, it creates a strong connection, and it's a self-esteem thing knowing that a special person signed it," said Kammer.

"Two-time Newbery Award winner Lois Lowry says that at 65, she's ready to slow down on her speaking engagements, but when it comes to places like the Book Beat she said, "They are passionate about the same things that I am and it's a pleasure to be with them."

Lowry, whose most recent book, *Gooney Bird Greene*, introduces young readers to the elements of storytelling, will speak at the Berkley High Theater from 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28. Lowry's books, which include *Summer to Die* and *The Giver*, are geared to older children, but her latest is about a very precocious 2nd grader.

"I skipped second grade, and have

always envied the second grade experience," said Lowry.

On Friday, Sept. 27, Kammer is bringing California author Pam Munoz Ryan to speak and autograph books at the Detroit Main Library from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Scholastic Books just published Ryan's book *When Marian Sang*, the true story of Marian Anderson, the African-American singer who in 1939, drew an integrated crowd of more than 75,000 people to the Lincoln Memorial.

"Since it's on a Friday, classes can attend," said Kammer, who often has to encourage publishers to allow authors to visit this area. "It's always New York and the West Coast, but we're not a flyover. I'm connecting with the community and trying to say, 'We support this. Don't ignore us.'"

Caldecott Award winning illustrator David Small certainly hasn't ignored the area. Growing up in



Greenfield Village. "I remember those field trips and looking at that huge Allegany Railroad train. It was a thrill to have a chance to put it in the book," says Small, who used the black iron behemoth to illustrate the "real McCoy," a lubricant invented by Elijah McCoy that could be used while a train engine was running.

Small has also illustrated three of wife Sarah Stewart's books, and she will accompany him at an in-store book signing at the Book Beat from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 3. The duo will also be featured at a luncheon that day at the Birmingham Community House.

Small's latest book features humorous two-page spreads that cover the well-known inventions of Ben Franklin and Thomas Edison to the more obscure work of Georges de Mestral (inventor of Velcro) and movie star Hedy Lamarr, who helped invent a system for guiding torpedoes by radio signals.

With training as an editorial cartoonist, Small is very successful at delivering a punch on each page. "That's my aim," said Small, who now resides on Michigan's west side. "I never want to leave kids out of the joke, and at the same time, I want to have adults be entertained."

Pinkney moved to setting to Morocco where his watercolors feature rich costumes and spectacular African architecture. Pinkney will speak and autograph books at the Oak Park Library 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28.

"I'm a passionate fan," said Kammer, acknowledging her lifelong love of children's books. "I'm more interested in children's literature. It's about possibilities."



And this week, Kammer is making it possible to see and hear from several of this country's most notable children's authors and illustrators.

BOOK BEAT BOOK EVENTS

- Children's author Pam Munoz Ryan will speak and autograph books 9:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 27, at Friends Auditorium at the Main Library in Detroit, 5201 Woodward.
 - Two-time Newbery Award winner Lois Lowry will speak and autograph books 12:30-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at Berkley High School, 2325 Catalpa (east of Coolidge).
 - Book illustrator Jerry Pinkney will speak and autograph books 3:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Oak Park Library, 14200 Oak Park Blvd.
 - Illustrator David Small and author Sarah Stewart will sign books 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, at the Book Beat, 26010 Greenfield, Oak Park. They will also speak at the Birmingham Community House at a Young at Heart luncheon on the same day. Tickets are \$35. For information about the luncheon call (248) 594-6405.
- All events sponsored by Book Beat, 26010 Greenfield, Oak Park, in the Lincoln Center. For more information call (248) 968-1190.



"A NONSTOP THRILL RIDE"
WITH ENOUGH ACTION TO MAKE FOLKS IN THE NEXT THEATER DEAF, ECKS-DELICIOUS!
"SMART, LETHAL AND SEXY... ONE HELL OF A WILD RIDE!"
"ACTION PACKED - A ROLLER COASTER RIDE OF FOLLY."
"VERY ENTERTAINING."

BALLISTIC

AMC FORUM 30	NOW SHOWING!	AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC LIVONIA 20	AMC WONDERLAND	AMC LYNN HALL
SEASON EAST	BIRMINGHAM PREMIERE	CAVEAT
STAR SOUTHGATE 20	SHOW TOWN CTR. 5	PHOENIX AT THE ARTS
SHOWCASE PREMIERE	SHOWCASE PREMIERE	SHOWCASE PREMIERE
SHOWCASE PREMIERE	STAR FAIRLANE 25	STAR GRATIOT
STAR WEST LAKESIDE	STAR JOHN R	STAR LINCOLN PARK
STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR
UA COMMERCIAL	UA WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING

For More Information About This Month's Movie Schedule, Call 248-968-1190

HOWE Mandel

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 • 8 PM

ON SALE NOW

Tickets available at Palatit.net • The Palace Box Office and all ticketmaster locations
Charge at 748 645 6666

HOUSEHOLD PROBLEMS?
Tune-in Bob Allison's *Ask Your Neighbor*
(WZLX 690 AM Mon-Fri, 9 am-11 am)
• How to Cook It
• How to Find It
• Where to Find It
www.askyourneighbor.com

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
THE OSCAR-WINNING FILM BEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME REMASTERED INTO THE REVOLUTIONARY IMAX EXPERIENCE
APOLLO 11
THE IMAX EXPERIENCE
SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT
IMAX HENRY FORD MUSEUM
2000 Woodward Blvd. • Dearborn • 248-271-5500 • www.henryford.org

"The Best Romantic Comedy Of The Year!"
You will fall absolutely in love with Reese Witherspoon.
REESE WITHERSPOON
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
SOMETIMES WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS RIGHT WHERE YOU LEFT IT.
STARTS FRIDAY
AMC FORUM 30
AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC WONDERLAND
AMC LYNN HALL
AMC SOUTHGATE 20
AMC JOHN R
AMC FAIRLANE 25
AMC GRATIOT
AMC LINCOLN PARK
AMC TAYLOR
AMC WEST RIVER
AMC FORD WYOMING

"A ROUSING, PANORAMIC ADVENTURE ON A GRAND SCALE."
"A FASCINATING, BRILLIANTLY FILMED...
★★★★ AN ASTONISHING, UNFORGETTABLE MOTION PICTURE
...with a breathtaking and remarkable premise... It is a phenomenal movie... which you will have to see to believe... and over again."
"IT HAS OSCAR GOLD WRITTEN ALL OVER IT
LOOK FOR THE FOUR FEATHERS TO BE ONE OF THE TOP OSCAR CONTENDERS
THE FOUR FEATHERS IS A SWEEPING EPIC
A CLASSIC OF THE PAST AND A MASTERPIECE OF THE PRESENT
THRILLING ENTERTAINMENT ON A GRAND SCALE
IT PINS YOU TO YOUR SEAT
FROM THE COUNTRY OF PASSION
HEATH LEDGER • WENDY BENTLEY • KATI HUDSON
THE FOUR FEATHERS
MIRAMAX
NOW SHOWING!
AMC FORUM 30
AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHGATE 20
AMC JOHN R
AMC FAIRLANE 25
AMC GRATIOT
AMC LINCOLN PARK
AMC TAYLOR
AMC WEST RIVER
AMC FORD WYOMING