



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Literary Community Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Book Awards

**Hartford, Connecticut (November 29, 2011)** — Winners of the 2011 Connecticut Book Awards were announced at a ceremony at Hartford Public Library on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. An enthusiastic audience paid tribute to the state's authors and illustrators in an award ceremony presented by the Connecticut Center for the Book, a program of Hartford Public Library and an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Guests were welcomed by Chief Public Services Officer, Marian Amodeo and Chief Executive Officer, Matthew K. Poland. Wally Lamb, best-selling author and former Connecticut Book Awards Lifetime Achievement winner, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Emeritus of the Connecticut State University System, William Cibes paid tribute to the late Connecticut Poet Laureate, Leo Connellan, whose collection of poems was published this year.

Eighteen judges, distinguished in the fields of writing, librarianship, book arts, academia, journalism and publishing, considered nominations for work published in 2011. The winners, current or former state residents or authors whose work had a Connecticut setting, were chosen in six categories.

Additionally, two individuals were selected for this year's Lifetime Achievement awards: Connecticut Center for the Book founder and 35-year employee of Hartford Public Library, Kathleen "Kat" Lyons, and Founder and President, R.J. Julia Booksellers, Roxanne J. Coady.

The 2011 Connecticut Book Award winners are:

#### **Children's Illustrator (Co-Winners)**

*Chalk*

Illustrated by Bill Thomson (Marshall Cavendish)

*The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane*

Illustrated by **Andrea Wisnewski** (Charlesbridge Publishing)

**Biography/Memoir (Co-Winners)**

*Wisenheimer: A Childhood Subject to Debate*

Written by Mark Oppenheimer (Simon & Schuster)

*Builder's Apprentice: A Memoir*

Written by Andrew J. Hoffman (Huron River Press)

**Non-Fiction**

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

Written by Susan P. Schoelwer (Wesleyan Univ. Press)

**Poetry**

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

Written by Elizabeth Alexander (Graywolf Press)

**Fiction**

*Beautiful Assassin*

Written by Michael C. White (HarperCollins)

**Children's Author**

*Doodle Bug: A Novel in Doodles*

Feiwel & Friends

**Karen Romano Young**

The 2011 Connecticut Book Awards ceremonies will be posted soon at [cfb.hplct.org](http://cfb.hplct.org).

**About Connecticut Center for the Book**

The 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**

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)

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