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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL AUTHOR WINS SECOND TEACHERS' CHOICE AWARD

Mount Pleasant, S.C. (Oct. 13, 2011) –South Milwaukee author Janet (Kloeckner) Halfmann has been awarded the 2012 *Teachers' Choice Award for Picture Books* for *Fur and Feathers*.

Teachers' Choice Awards have been a part of *Learning Magazine* since 1994. Since that time, the program has grown to become one of the most recognized and prestigious awards in the educational market. It is the only awards program judged exclusively by teachers in the classroom. This year, only ten children's books received the distinction, based on their scores from the evaluations done by a panel of teachers across the country. The winners will receive a spotlight in the magazine's Children's Book Award section, as well as a seal distinguishing them as a Children's Books winner.

When Sophia dreams that howling winds whisk the fur and feathers off her animal friends, she shares her clothes with them. But her clothing doesn't work well for the animals. Seeing their disappointment, she finds her grandma's huge sewing box and offers to sew each animal a new coat. They line up to explain what they need and why. Polar Bear needs white fur to stay warm and hide in the snow. Fish needs scales, but with slime. Snake needs scales too, but dry ones. And how will Sophia make a prickly coat for Porcupine? In *Fur and Feathers*, the award-winning team of Halfmann and illustrator Laurie Allen Klein reunite to bring animal coverings to life in a creative, imaginative tale of caring and friendship.

Halfmann is the award-winning author of more than thirty fiction and nonfiction children's books. Other recent titles include *Star of the Sea: A Day in the Life of a Starfish*; *Good Night, Little Sea Otter*; *Garter Snake at Willow Creek Lane*; and *Seven Miles to Freedom: The Robert Smalls Story*. Halfmann is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. When not writing, she enjoys gardening, exploring nature, visiting living-history museums, and spending time with her family. Halfmann grew up on a farm in Michigan and now lives in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Halfmann previously won the Teachers' Choice Award for Picture Books for *Little Skink's Tail*, her first collaboration with Klein and Sylvan Dell Publishing.

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For more information about Halfmann visit www.janethalfmann.com. For more information about *Fur and Feathers*, *Little Skink's Tail*, or Halfmann's upcoming 2012 Sylvan Dell release *Home in the Cave*, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com.

Visuals & Other Requests: For cover art or Halfmann's headshot, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm. For all interview requests or media queries, please contact Sylvan Dell's publicist, Ashlee Rowe, at (877) 243-3457 or ashleerowe@sylvandellpublishing.com.

Sylvan Dell Publishing's mission is to excite children's imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math and nature-themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 75 authors and illustrators in the United States and Canada, and 65 titles – honored as finalists or winners of over 70 book awards. Our Science and Math Through Literature Program integrates reading, science, math, geography, character skills, and language learning through fun, cross-curricular activities. Sylvan Dell provides more online educator resources than any other publisher in the United States. For more information, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com>.