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South Milwaukee Author, Janet Halfmann, Wins Again! **“Fur and Feathers” Wins Gold in Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards**

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (October 25, 2010) – On October 13, the Moonbeam Awards for Children’s Books announced that **Janet Halfmann’s “Fur and Feathers”** won a Gold Moonbeam Children’s Book Award for best preschool picture book.

“This year’s Moonbeam award winners confirm that books can change children’s lives,” said Moonbeam Awards founder Jerrold Jenkins. This is the fourth annual Moonbeam Awards, which are intended to bring increased recognition to exemplary children’s books and their creators, and to celebrate children’s books and life-long reading.

Each year's entries are judged by expert panels of youth educators, librarians, booksellers, and book reviewers of all ages. This year's awards attracted over 800 entries from throughout North America and the English-speaking world. Medals will go to a diverse group of authors, illustrators and publishers from 34 U.S. states, 5 Canadian provinces, and 2 countries overseas.

“I am so excited about winning this award because it will bring the book to the attention of many more readers,” Halfmann said. “Nothing makes me happier than having a child read and enjoy a book that I have written.”

“Fur and Feathers” is a story of creativity, friendship, and animal coverings. Halfmann, with the help of Laurie Allen Klein’s vibrant illustrations, tells the story of a young girl, Sophia, who dreams that howling winds whisk the fur and feathers right off her animal friends. She offers to share her clothes with them, but her outfits don't work well for the animals. So she comes up with creative ways to help them, thanks to her grandma's huge sewing box.

Janet Halfmann is the award-winning author of more than thirty children’s books, including "Little Skink's Tail," (also from Sylvan Dell Publishing), "Good Night, Little Sea Otter," and "Seven Miles to Freedom: The Robert Smalls Story." Janet is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Before becoming a children’s author, Janet was a daily newspaper reporter, children’s magazine editor, and a creator of coloring and activity books for Golden Books. She is the mother of four and the grandmother of four. When Janet isn’t writing, she enjoys gardening, exploring nature, visiting living-history museums, and spending time with her family. She grew up on a farm in Michigan and now lives in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

About Sylvan Dell Publishing

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 U.S. and Canada, and 55 titles – honored as finalists or winners of more than 70 book awards. Our *Science and*

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