

“A Festival of Authors” Event in Teen Second Life – Feb 2, 2008

The Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County (PLCMC), TeachingBooks.net, and Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries and Information Services are pleased to announce a very special event, **“A Festival of Authors”**, a virtual literary celebration that will take place on Saturday, February 2, from 10 am to 2 pm PST (1 pm – 5 pm EST), in Teen Second Life. This event will showcase selected authors of young adult literature for a teen audience in an exhibition that provides author information and links to podcasts, videoclips, and a wealth of author website links. There will also be avatar author appearances by Marc Aronson (10 am PST/1pm EST), Barry Lyga (11 am PST/2pm EST), and Carol Baldwin (12 pm PST/3pm EST).

Teen Second Life (<http://teen.secondlife.com>) is a 3D virtual world where teens can learn valuable 21st century skills and build a variety of developmental assets as they engage with their peers from all over the world, communicate in multiple media formats, and express their identities through their own virtual appearances.

Teens have helped construct a space for author exhibits with content provided by TeachingBooks.net, including author photos, brief profiles, selected bibliographies, and links to other interesting information about the authors. Teens have helped select the authors they would like showcased. Writing, role playing, and anime/manga groups are just some of the teen-driven, literary-related groups within Teen Second Life. Authors of young adult literature can participate via a display or as an avatar, a digital representation of themselves. To learn more about this event, how to log onto Teen Second Life (13 – 17 year olds), how to visit a companion educator's literary festival (18 years +) and to download a flyer, visit <http://blogs.cuip.net/dlis/festival-of-authors>.

About the event organizers:

Founded in 1903 as a Carnegie Free Library, PLCMC has become one of the premiere libraries in the country with 24 locations, 1.6 million volumes, and 28,000 videos, DVDs and CDs. The library sponsors a variety of community-based programs – from computer- and Internet-education workshops to the award-winning Novello Festival of Reading, a celebration that accentuates the fun of reading and learning. As a public library, we are dedicated to our mission of expanding minds, empowering individuals and enriching our community.

TeachingBooks.net is an online collection of book and author resources for schools, libraries, and home use that brings books to life and generates enthusiasm for reading. Used by 20,000 schools nationwide, it offers easy access from one website to tens of thousands of multimedia resources for all K-12 children's and young adult books, fiction and nonfiction, with original content to introduce the work of popular award-winning authors.

The Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries and Information Services supports our district's schools in developing and improving library programs that are integral to teaching and learning and provides support for effective teaching, curriculum integration, professional development, collection development, library automation, use of online resources, coordination of library technology with other technology in the school, grant applications and implementation, and coordination of school and public library resources and services.

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