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Award-winning Authors to Hold Intensive Workshops at Chelsea Schools

March 17, 2010 | Chelsea, MI | The Chelsea District Library will hold its 2nd Annual Authors in Chelsea event Wednesday, April 13 as part of National Library Week. Authors in Chelsea is a day-long event sponsored by the Chelsea District Library and the Friends of Chelsea District Library bringing three nationally known authors and illustrators to do workshops in Chelsea schools, free of charge. Children and their families are also invited to the Chelsea District Library in the evening to meet the authors and get books signed. This year's line-up includes Gail Carson Levine, author of Newbery Honor book (and motion picture), *Ella Enchanted*, Michigan cartoonist and Chelsea District Library's Artist-in-Residence, Jerzy Drozd and Johanna Hurwitz, author of many books for young readers, including *Class Clown* and *Teacher's Pet*.

Authors in Chelsea provides children close contact with nationally known award-winning authors and illustrators to explore the art and craft of writing and illustrating, in order to encourage students to read and appreciate literature. "Authors in Chelsea will help students see that writing is a viable option for a future : real people write these wonderful books, someday they could too!" says Patrick Little, Principal of Beach Middle School.

Through intensive workshops with the authors, students will work to improve their creative writing, drawing and reading abilities. The library is donating books by each author and illustrator to the participating school classrooms. "The visit to North Creek in March of 2010 by illustrator Mr. Frankenhuyzen was an exciting opportunity for our second graders to meet an expert and learn illustration techniques. Teachers and students alike were appreciative for the Authors in Chelsea Program", says Beth Ingall, First Grade Teacher at North Creek Elementary. This program aims to inspire students to excellence by exposing them to high quality authors and illustrators and perfect for all ages who have a love of children's literature. "Last year the Authors in Chelsea program gave our 2nd graders an up close and personal experience with an experienced illustrator. The students were able to interact, ask questions and create illustrations alongside Mr. Frankenhuyzen," says Beth Newman, 2nd grade teacher.

Each author will be visiting Chelsea schools on April 13 to do writing and drawing workshops in the morning and afternoon with all the classes in 2nd, 4th and 6th grades. The public is invited to the Library's McKune Room in the evening to hear a brief presentation from each author, ask questions and then get book(s) signed from 6:30-8:00pm Wednesday, April 13. Books by each author will be available for purchase at the library, courtesy of Chelsea's Just Imagine bookstore. This is an all ages event and registration is not required.

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About Us: The Chelsea District Library is nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide equal access to quality resources that serve the lifelong cultural, educational and informational needs and interests of all people. The Library currently serves 14,000 residents in the Chelsea district – City of Chelsea plus Dexter, Lima , Lyndon and Sylan townships and more than 20,000 individuals visit the Library each month. The Library's state-of-the-art facility is an access point for information including: books, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, downloadable e-books, subscription databases as well as access to the Internet. In addition to providing dynamic services to complement and support local schools and other important community needs, the Chelsea District Library strives to present timely, interesting and high-quality programs and events to engage and enrich the Chelsea community.

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