



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

345 Millwood Rd • Chappaqua, NY 10514
914.241.2117 • www.raabassociates.com

Contact: Susan Salzman Raab
sraab@raabassociates.com

**WINTERTHUR'S HONORARY AMBASSADOR FOR LITERACY JANE YOLEN
TELLS TALES OF PIRATE QUEENS AND LIBERTY IN TWO NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

New children's books by acclaimed author Jane Yolen display her mastery of both fiction and nonfiction. Thirteen swashbuckling female pirates leap from the pages of ***Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World***, while the picture book ***Naming Liberty*** interweaves the story of the creation of the Statue of Liberty with the story of an immigrant girl's journey to America.

From ancient Illyria to medieval Brittany, colonial America to nineteenth-century China, *Sea Queens* (Charlesbridge, July) presents real women pirates as only Yolen can—with plenty of gusto and just enough blood and guts to suit young readers ages 9-12. Some went to sea in disguise, others led fleets, and at least one was a cold-blooded murderer who was hanged for her crimes. Courageous and foolhardy, daring and desperate, these women weren't afraid to break rules and take charge in a man's world.

Yolen shares stories of the Persian Admiral-Queen Artemisia; Grania O'Malley, whose power impressed Queen Elizabeth I; Madame Ching, who commanded two thousand ships and seventy thousand men; and many more. Bold black-and-white engravings by Christine Joy Pratt depict each pirate, while spot illustrations provide visual details of ships, weapons, flags, and hideouts. Sidebars give kids juicy details about pirate names, exploits, and codes of behavior, and point out the differences between truth and legend—a tall order when it comes to pirate tales!

Meanwhile, Yolen weaves together fact and fiction in *Naming Liberty* (Philomel, May), for kids ages 6-8. The true story concerns Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and the creation of the Statue of Liberty. The other is the fictional story of Gitl, a young Russian Jewish girl whose family decides to emigrate to the United States. As the two narratives unfold side by side, Yolen creates a rich tapestry depicting both the immigrant experience and the artistic process.

- more -

Yolen sets Bartholdi's dream of creating a tribute to the nation next to Gitl's dream of America, and shows how each dream develops into reality. It takes many years for Bartholdi's statue to stand at the entrance to New York Harbor. Likewise, Gitl's journey to America takes time as her family travels by cart, on foot, by train, and by boat. With consummate skill, Yolen intertwines the two stories so that when Gitl's boat reaches New York and she sees the statue, she knows what her new, American name will be. Yolen's simple, poetic language and Jim Burke's evocative illustrations celebrate one of America's most famous monuments and a beloved symbol of freedom.

Winterthur Museum and Country Estate will host Jane Yolen the weekend of April 19-20 for a series of family-based events held in conjunction with the "K is for Kids" literacy exhibition. Yolen, whom *Newsweek* dubbed "the Hans Christian Andersen of America," is Honorary Ambassador for the exhibition, during which her body of work is being celebrated and many of her books highlighted. Winterthur, one of the world's foremost decorative arts museums, has also been sponsoring a nationwide ABC Book Writing Contest for children. An award ceremony for the winners will be held on Jane Yolen Weekend, along with storytelling, a teacher's workshop, crafts and activities, and book signings. The "K is for Kids" exhibition began in September 2007 and runs through July.

Yolen Yolen is the bestselling author of more than 275 books for children and adults and has been called "a modern equivalent of Aesop" by *The New York Times Book Review*. Her books and stories have been honored with a Caldecott Medal, a Caldecott Honor, two Nebula Awards, the World Fantasy Award, three Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards, two Golden Kite Awards, the Jewish Book Award, and two Christopher Medals. Her body-of-work awards include the Catholic Library Association's Regina Medal and the University of Minnesota's Kerlan Award, and she is the recipient of six honorary doctorates. Visit her on the web at www.janeyolen.com. For information on Winterthur events, visit www.winterthur.org/kids.

#

Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World

Written by Jane Yolen and illustrated by Christine Joy Pratt

Published by Charlesbridge

July 2008 • Ages 9-12 • 112 pages

\$18.95 hardcover • ISBN 13: 978-1-58089-131- 8

Naming Liberty

Written by Jane Yolen and illustrated by Jim Burke

Published by Philomel

May 2008 • Ages 6-8 • 32 pages

\$16.99 Hardcover • ISBN 13: 978-0-399-24250-2