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E-news

June/July 2009

Greetings from Arnie & Debra Cardillo

Ahh, summer! The sun is shining, the sprinklers are running, and the farmers' markets are buzzing. The classrooms and school libraries are just about cleaned out, which only means crazy time at the public libraries. The cycle goes on!

Of course our favorite part of the summer is being able to sit back and enjoy a good book. Better yet, spread the blanket, lie under the sun, put on the headphones, and listen to a good book. Joy!

We're moving - but only next door.

ALL contact info will remain the same except for our physical address: as of July 20th we're moving from 2775 Church Street to 2773 Church Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567.

Our mailing address and phone & fax numbers will all remain the same:

PO Box 652, Pine Plains, NY 12567
518-398-1010 phone; 518-398-1070 fax
Toll free 800-788-1121 phone; 866-398-1070 fax

New Summer Titles

We are pleased to release two of the titles in the critically acclaimed *Winnie* series -- *Winnie Dancing On Her Own* and *Truly Winnie* -- written by Jennifer Richard Jacobson, illustrated by Alissa Imre Geis, and narrated by Laura Hamilton.

In *Winnie Dancing On Her Own*, eight-year-old Winnie tries to dance like her friends and discovers the mysteries and joys of friendship. The book was a Junior Library Guild selection and named by *Booklist* as a "Top 10 first novel".



In *Truly Winnie*, chosen by *School Library Journal* for their annual Children's Curriculum, Winnie goes to camp and learns that an innocent lie can only lead to bigger trouble.

Q & A With Narrator Laura Hamilton

Laura Hamilton not only narrated the *Winnie* books, but also many books by Kevin Henkes, including *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, *Chester's Way* and *Julius, the Baby of the World* from Live Oak Media. She has also narrated books by Judy Blume. We ask Laura about her approach.

Live Oak Media: How do you prepare for your reading?

Laura Hamilton: I read the book first to get the big picture and full story. My second, third and fourth readings (or however many are needed) are strictly for the characters. I mine out all the clues I can find that tell me more about each character so I can find the right voice for them. Once I have character voices in my head (and scribbled notes everywhere), I start reading the book out loud for familiarity, pacing and flow. I often look like a total crazy lady in various public places (like parks and soccer games) talking to myself in a variety of voices. I'm sure people wonder why I can't try "silent" reading as an option.

LOM: How did you go about creating the voice for Winnie?

LH: When something is written well, it is easy to hear the character's voice in your head because all the clues are on the page and the dialogue has a rhythm that is true to that particular person. Winnie's feelings and fears are so universal and recognizable that my own "younger" self found her easily.

LOM: What are the biggest challenges in narrating?

LH: I think making all the various characters distinct enough while keeping them realistic can be a challenge. And the more characters there are, the more there is to keep track of. It can turn your mind into psychotic scrambled eggs if you let it.

LOM: Do you have a favorite story to share about narrating?

LH: My first reading came about when Judy Blume lost her voice and reluctantly agreed to let me read her piece from **Deenie** while she stood next me at Steppenwolf in Chicago. She also mentioned that she really enjoyed reading her stuff HERSELF. I nervously asked her if she would like me to read it so she could direct me and she politely said no. What a bunch of jitters that was but it started my career in the biz! Then there was the time I showed up for a narration job having had food poisoning ALL NIGHT - dehydrated and sipping ginger ale, occasionally burping!!

LOM: Any tips for parents or librarians reading a book during story time?

LH: Well, being a bit dramatic already, I tend to believe in fully investing yourself in any story. It's fun, it's engaging for others and it's what I imagine the author would like us to do.

LOM: How do kids react when they know you're the voice of Lilly or Chester?

LH: A second grade boy I saw the other day told me he listened to **Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse** with his family. He said it was REALLY cool and they loved the whole recording. And though it's nice to feel the admiration from a young person, I think kids like discovering even more that a regular person can do something rather wondrous and that in turn makes them think about their own ability to interpret and perform a story they love, or perhaps try something else they had not considered before.

If you have more questions for Laura or our other narrators, [email us](#).

Come see us at ALA - Booth 2034!

Need relief from the stresses of life's great adventures? Come visit us at booth 2034 and see what a chicken can do for you! Just mention that you receive our email newsletter, or bring a friend to sign up and receive a free gift!



We'll have many of our new 2009 titles on display, including **Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken**, by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Harry Bliss and narrated by Barbara Rosenblat (who was just named *Booklist's* second annual "Voice of Choice" - congratulations Barbara!)

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To make sure our newsletters are delivered to your inbox, please add debra@liveoalmedia.com to your email Address Book.

Questions or comments?

Please write us at info@liveoakmedia.com or call us at (800) 788-1121.

Debra and Arnie Cardillo
Live Oak Media

Live Oak Media has a 29-year tradition of producing distinctive readalong recordings of classic and award-winning children's literature for ages 3-12. As a small, family-owned company, we are dedicated to providing our young listeners with meaningful reading and listening experiences.

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