

**For Immediate Release**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL KINDLING WORDS CARAVAN TO BRING TWENTY-NINE  
CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHORS TO VERMONT INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES**

A caravan of twenty-nine children's book authors and illustrators will visit independent bookstores in Vermont in January in conjunction with the Kindling Words retreat, a 3-day gathering of published children's book authors, illustrators, and editors to be held January 25-28 at the Essex Inn in Essex, Vermont. The authors and illustrators hail from as far away as California and include winners of the National Book Award, Governor General's Award, Golden Kite Award, Tomás Rivera Award, Caldecott Honor, and Michael L. Printz Honor.

The second annual Kindling Words Caravan will kick off at Book Rack and Children's Pages in Essex on Thursday, January 25, at 3:30 p.m. A second leg of the caravan will visit Flying Pig Bookstore in Shelburne on Sunday, January 28 at 2:00 p.m. Both stores are members of the New England Booksellers Association. The caravan was the brainchild of author **Susanna Reich** (*Penelope Bailey Takes the Stage*). "Last year we had twelve authors and illustrators participating in the Kindling Words Caravan," says Reich. "This year we have twenty-nine, some of them from as far away as California. And we're thrilled to be partnering with such fantastic independent bookstores."

Kindling Words was founded in 1994 by Vermont children's book author **Alison James** (*The Drums of Noto Hanto*) and **Mary Lee Donovan**, now Executive Editor at Candlewick. At the retreat, publishing professionals gather together in the depths of winter to talk shop, participate in workshops, recharge, and inspire each other. Kindling Words is known for its frank and open talk about the creative process and the business of publishing. Vermont children's book author **Tanya Lee Stone** (*A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl*) helped James coordinate this year's retreat.

At Kindling Words, presenters and attendees mingle as peers, each with something to learn and something to give. This year's presenters are authors **Tim Wynne-Jones** (*A Thief in the House of Memory*) and **Virginia Euwer Wolff** (*True Believer*), illustrator **Marjorie Priceman** (*Hot Air*:

*The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride*), and **Deborah Noyes Wayshak**, Senior Editor at Candlewick. The retreat is limited to authors, illustrators, and editors whose books have been published by members of the Children's Book Council.

About one-half of the sixty Kindling Words participants return year after year. Some use the retreat as a quiet time to work on a new project, while others meet with their editors or lead spontaneous workshops on topics that arise during the course of the weekend. Editors appreciate the fact that during the weekend, authors and illustrators are not allowed to pitch ideas for new books.

For more information about the Kindling Words retreat, please visit [www.kindlingwords.org](http://www.kindlingwords.org).

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**2007 Kindling Words Caravan Children's Book Author and Illustrator Tour**  
**Thursday, January 25 from 3:30-4:30 pm at Book Rack and Children's Pages, 21 Essex Way, #106, Essex Junction, VT**

**Sunday, January 29 from 2:00-3:00 pm at Flying Pig Bookstore, 5247 Shelburne Road, Shelburne, VT**

**2007 Kindling Words Caravan Participating Authors:**

Jeannine Atkins	Marjorie Priceman
Karen Magnuson Beil	Susanna Reich
Jo Ellen Bogart	Leda Schubert
Elise Broach	Barbara Seuling
Laurie Calkhoven	Janni Lee Simner
Jan Czech	Teri Sloat
Katie Davis	Jennifer J. Stewart
Marguerite W. Davol	Sarah Sullivan
Mary Delaney	Tanya Lee Stone
Nancy Bo Flood	Amy Timberlake
Barbara Garrison	Ellen Wittlinger
Jamie Harper	Ashley Wolff
Marthe Jocelyn	Virginia Euwer Wolff
Sarah Darer Littman	Tim Wynne-Jones
Deborah Noyes	

Please note: not all authors will be visiting Flying Pig Bookstore