

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Miriello
(302) 731-1600, ext. 297

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR 2009 BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING AWARD

The Bridge to Understanding Award sponsored by the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) is seeking applicants for the 2009 award. The award recognizes a program that promotes reading as a way to expand a child's world. It was established in memory of Arlene Pillar, an educator who served USBBY as newsletter editor from 1984 until her untimely death in 1990. The award carries a monetary prize of \$1,000.00 and a certificate.

Any organization (schools, libraries, clubs, scout troops) within the United States that presents a program for children using books and reading as a way of promoting an understanding of one or more cultures of countries outside the United States is eligible to apply. Preference will be given to programs that focus on contemporary life and culture. The targeted cultures should not be those from which the majority of the children participating in the program have come.

The program may be a one-time event or an ongoing series that serves children ranging in age from kindergarten through tenth grade. The selection committee will consider such criteria as the number of children reached by the program and the impact on the community as demonstrated by publicity coverage or anecdotal evidence. To be considered, the program must occur within 2008.

Application forms are available online at www.usbby.org, or from the USBBY Secretariat, 800 Barksdale Road, P.O. Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, e-mail: usbby@reading.org, phone: (302) 731-1600, ext. 297. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2009. The award will be presented in 2009 at a meeting of one of the USBBY patron members.