

**PUBLIC LIBRARY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN
WINS 2008 “BRIDGE TO UNDERSTANDING AWARD”**

The Public Library of East Lansing is the winner of the 2008 Bridge to Understanding Award sponsored by the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY), for its program, “International Storytime.” The award will be presented on Tuesday, May 6, at the USBBY cosponsored meeting held during the International Reading Association’s annual convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

East Lansing Public Library and teens from East Lansing’s High School’s Cultural Awareness Club joined together to host an “International Storytime.” At stations set up in the library, teens from diverse backgrounds read books from their cultures to younger patrons. The picture books were often read in languages other than English. Translations always followed. Young patrons heard many different languages and learned that children in other countries enjoyed the same stories they did. “International Storytime” is a cultural bridge built between the many cultures of the teens presenting stories and the younger patrons of the library.

The Bridge to Understanding Award carries a monetary prize of \$1,000 and a certificate. This prestigious award was established in memory of Arlene Pillar, an educator who served USBBY as newsletter editor from 1984 until 1990. Organizations eligible for this award include school, libraries, clubs, and scout troops within the United States. The program may be a one-time event or an ongoing series that serves children ranging in age from kindergarten through tenth grade. Applications and criteria for the 2009 award are available at usbby@reading.org, phone: 302 731-1600 Ext. 297. To be considered, the program must occur during the year 2008. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2009.