



Children's Book Art Silent Auction, May 26, 2015 To Benefit Free Speech in Children's Books



Dear Friends,



Judy Blume is not your average bestselling author. Since the publication of *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* in 1970, Judy has written about subjects that many considered taboo. Her kids books were often among the most challenged books of the year. She has also been a leader in the fight against book censorship, joining booksellers, teachers, librarians, parents and students who are defending the realistic depictions of life that kids need as they struggle to become adults.

It is because Judy Blume is both a truth-teller and a defender of the kids' right to read that the American Booksellers for Free Expression (ABFE), the ABC Children's Group at the American Booksellers Association and Random House Children's Books will honor her during the 21st Annual Silent Auction at BookExpo America on Tuesday, May 26. We are delighted that Judy will join us at the Grand Hyatt Hotel from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Children's Art Auction supports the ongoing defense of the free speech rights of kids. Hundreds of books are challenged in schools and libraries every year. The auction helps fund the Kids' Right to Read Project, founded by ABFE and the National Coalition Against Censorship, and Banned Books Week, the only national celebration of the freedom to read.

I am writing to ask you to defend First Amendment rights for kids by donating a piece of your art. We know that you receive many requests for donations from charitable groups. But you can make a big difference by donating anything from a sketch to a finished piece. Every bit of art will help create an atmosphere in which children can explore books freely.

This year's auction will include a special section of original pieces that honor Judy Blume and her books. In previous auctions, artists have created clever and moving homages to Maurice Sendak and Dr. Seuss.

We are pleased to invite donating artists to be our guests at this wonderful affair. I hope you can be there!

Chris Finan
Director
American Booksellers for Free
Expression

2015 Auction Committee

Becky Anderson
Anderson' Bookshop
Naperville, IL

Erinn Hartman
Alfred A. Knopf
New York, NY

Suzanna Hermans
Oblong Books & Music
Millerton, NY

Valerie Koehler
Blue Willow Books
Houston, TX

Beth Puffer
Formerly of Bank Street Books
New York, NY

