

Press Release

February 12, 2007

Ohio Center for the Book at Cleveland Public Library

Announces First Ohio Advocates of Literacy

and the Literary Arts Award Winners

CLEVELAND - Dr. Robert Needlman and the Ohioana Library Association have been awarded the Ohio Center for the Book at Cleveland Public Library's first Ohio Advocates of Literacy and the Literary Arts Awards. The Ohio Center for the Book at Cleveland Public Library (OCB), a national affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, honors grassroots efforts to advocate, promote, and celebrate reading, literacy, and the culture of the book within the State of Ohio.

Dr. Robert Needlman, is the recipient of the 2007 Ohio Advocate of Literacy Award. He is honored for his statewide work with the nonprofit organization Reach Out and Read (ROR). The ROR program promotes the value of early literacy to new parents via education and materials at pediatric medical settings. ROR serves more than 97,000 children annually at 99 sites in Ohio. Needlman is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He serves as Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and is a pediatrician at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

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The Ohioana Library Association is the recipient of the 2007 Ohio Advocate of the Literary Arts Award. It is honored for promoting and preserving Ohio's literary heritage. Founded in 1929 under the direction of Martha Kinney Cooper, then First Lady of Ohio, the association collects, preserves, and promotes Ohio's literary and arts culture. Now an independent nonprofit located in Columbus, Ohio, the collection is comprised of more than 45,000 books, 10,000 pieces of sheet music, and approximately 20,000 biographical files on Ohio writers, musicians, artists, and others of note. The Association also honors statewide cultural contributions via its annual Ohioana Awards and produces the *Ohioana Quarterly*.

For additional information contact: Merce Robinson, Literacy Coordinator, Cleveland Public Library, (216) 623-2831.

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