

March 24, 2006

JACKSON CENTER TO HOST PROGRAM FOR AREA SIXTH GRADERS

Jamestown – Officials from the Robert H. Jackson Center have announced a major two-day event scheduled for April 5 and 6.

“We are very pleased that a Newbery Award-winning author will be coming to the Jackson Center in an event focused on sixth grade students,” said Gregory L. Peterson, Jackson Center President. “We also are delighted to present a local resident who will share his unique story about life in Nazi-controlled Norway.”

Lois Lowry, author of the book “Number the Stars,” will speak to approximately 700 students at the Reg Lenna Civic Center at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 6, and to approximately 325 students in the Carl Cappa Auditorium at the Jackson Center at 1 p.m. later that day.

“Number the Stars” is a historical fiction “chapter book” read in middle schools across the country. The book deals with the Danish resistance to the Holocaust as seen through the eyes of a young Danish girl.

Ms. Lowry is also well-known for her book, “The Giver,” and has written at least seven popular young people’s books.

“Teacher reaction to Lois Lowry’s appearance created so much interest in area schools that the Jackson Center rented the Reg Lenna Civic Center to accommodate the classes which wanted to attend,” noted Mr. Peterson. “We also will video conference the event to other area classrooms through the assistance of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).”

“We are thrilled to present an author of such renown,” added Jackson Center Executive Director Rolland E. Kidder, “and we are at full capacity for these programs.”

At an evening program on Tuesday, April 5, the Jackson Center will honor the winners of a statewide and local Book Review Contest about Ms. Lowry’s book. Six statewide winners and three Chautauqua County winners will receive awards for their book reviews about “Number the Stars.”

“The featured speaker for the Tuesday evening event,” explained Mr. Peterson, “is local resident James Sorg. Jim traveled to Norway to visit his grandmother, when the country was overtaken by the Nazis, forcing him and his mother to remain in Norway. His story is unbelievably fascinating. He has agreed to share it with the audience in the Cappa Auditorium at the Jackson Center that evening. The 7 p.m. program is open to the public at no charge and with no reservations required.”

Mr. Kidder said that these events are jointly sponsored by the Jackson Center and the New York State Bar Association’s Law, Youth and Citizenship Program.

“This contest is the third year in a row that we are cooperating with the LYC Program in sponsoring a statewide writing competition,” Mr. Kidder explained. “Previous contests have focused on 11th and 8th graders, but this year we are centering on sixth graders. Six students will travel to Jamestown from throughout the state with their parents. Three Chautauqua County students also submitted winning reviews about Ms. Lowry’s book.”

“Our writing competitions are part of the Jackson Center’s ongoing mission to reach out to elementary, middle and high school students with educational events which are related to the legacy of Robert H. Jackson. In this case, his legacy is that of setting precedent for international law through his efforts at the Nuremberg War Trial,” continued Mr. Kidder. “The state contest was judged throughout the state by volunteers from the New York Bar, while Chautauqua Lake Central School teacher Michael Rohlin chaired the judging of the local contest.”

Anita Sanctuary, Jackson Center volunteer and coordinator of the two-day event, also announced that the program featuring Ms. Lowry on April 6 was offered to all sixth-grade classes within Chautauqua County,

that schools had been accepted on a “first-come/first-serve” basis, that all reservations were fully subscribed and that there would be no room to accommodate the general public.

“We are very pleased with the reaction from students and teachers in coming to hear Ms. Lowry,” said Mrs. Sanctuary. “Despite the fact that there will be no more room available at the programs themselves, the program will be broadcast over the BOCES Distance Learning Network, will be available at Distance Learning rooms in schools throughout the BOCES system and will be linked to a screening room at the Jackson Center.”

The program at the Jackson Center on April 5 will begin with a spaghetti dinner prepared by volunteers from Brigiotta’s Farmland Stores at 6 p.m. The cost is \$7 and reservations are required. Anyone interested in attending the dinner event should call the Jackson Center, 483-6646, for reservations.

At 7 p.m., Mr. Sorg will speak in the auditorium and the public is welcome at no cost. The Book Review Contest winners also will be honored at that time.

Jackson Center officials thank their sponsors for making these events possible, including: Acu-Rite Incorporated, the Judith A. Anderson Family Foundation, the Comfort Inn, Jamestown Savings Bank, the Johnson Foundation, Johnson Mackowiak Moore and Myott Accountants, the Karl Peterson Funds of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, National Fuel Gas, the New York Bar Foundation, the New York Bar Law Youth and Citizenship Program, the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, the Walmart Foundation and Weinberg Financial Group.

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