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Splash into August with “Astro: The Steller Sea Lion”

California author Jeanne Walker Harvey launches her fall 2010 title this month

MT. PLEASANT, SC (Aug. 4 , 2010) – California author, Jeanne Walker Harvey, along with illustrator Shennen Bersani tells the real life events of an amazing sea lion named Astro in their new children’s picture book, *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion*. It hits bookshelves nationwide this month.

In celebration of her new release, the independent bookstore, Book Passage, in Corte Madera will host Harvey's launch party on Saturday, Aug. 21 at 2:00 p.m. Harvey will be reading her new release, signing copies and giving away Astro gear. As part of her book launch, she has scheduled bookstore, library, and school visits throughout the year. September events include:

- September 18: Reading , Signing, and Craft Activity at The Reading Bug in San Carlos, Calif. from 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- September 27: Author reading, signing, and craft activity at El Sobrante Library in El Sobrante, Calif. starting at 7:00 p.m.
- September 30: Reading and Craft Activity at the Belvedere-Tiburon Public Library in Tiburon, Calif. at 4:00 p.m.

For more details regarding additional events, visit: <http://sylvandellpublishing.com/events.htm#AstroTheStellerSeaLion>

Only a few days old when found orphaned, Astro is cared for and raised at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, Calif. When big enough to be released in the wild where he needs to be, he has other plans! Just like a lost dog finding his way home, Astro keeps swimming back towards the Center, crossing miles of open ocean water to do so. After several attempts, people realize that Astro is too accustomed to humans and will just keep coming back. Based on real events, *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* takes readers on Astro’s travels that have now taken him across the U.S. to his current home at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut.

Harvey states:

I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to tell Astro's story, and hopefully raise awareness about Eastern Steller sea lions which are listed as a threatened species (and Western Steller sea lions which are listed as endangered). And I'm so pleased to also have the chance to tell children about the amazing work done by The Marine Mammal Center and the Mystic Aquarium Institute for Exploration. I'm donating a portion of my proceeds to these two incredible nonprofits in support of their focus on aquatic animal health and conservation of the marine environment.

Like all other **Sylvan Dell** titles, *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* features a special “For Creative Minds” section at the end of each story. This section provides fun activities and information to enhance the book’s educational value. Additionally, the Sylvan Dell website offers an abundant amount of supporting material including a 30-40 page “Teaching Activities” packet, interactive reading and math Quizzes, the most technologically advanced **eBooks** in the world today, and much more.

Harvey has published numerous magazine articles, including one featuring manta rays. As a credentialed teacher, Jeanne has most recently taught Language Arts and writing workshops at a local public middle school, Kent Middle School in Marin County. She has a degree in English literature and psychology from Stanford University. For many years, she volunteered as a school docent for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Marin Literacy Program. Growing up in Orange County, California, she was always fascinated by the ocean and marine mammals. She lives in Marin County, Calif. with her husband, two teenage sons and a black lab who sits at her feet when she writes.

For more information about her book, visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/Astro.php>.

For more about Jeanne Walker Harvey, go to her website at <http://www.jeannewalkerharvey.com>.

About Sylvan Dell Publishing

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