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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL AUTHOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS MOM'S CHOICE AWARD Jeanne Walker Harvey's Premiere Children's Picture Book Wins Gold!

Mount Pleasant, S.C. (July 14, 2011) –Jeanne Walker Harvey's debut picture book, *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* has been awarded the Gold Mom's Choice Award, given by the Just For Moms Foundation, and is chosen by a panel of judges that includes Dr. Twila C. Luggett, the founder of Reading Rainbow and Julie Aigner-Clark, the creator of Baby Einstein.

The Mom's Choice Awards is an awards program that recognizes authors, inventors, companies, parents and others for their efforts in creating quality family-friendly media, products and services. It is known for establishing a benchmark of excellence in family-friendly media, products, and services.

Based on the true events of a baby sea lion rescued near San Francisco, *Astro* follows the story of a local Steller sea lion. Only a few days old when found and orphaned, Astro is cared for and raised at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. However, when he is big enough to be released to the wild, Astro 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, caretakers realize that Astro is too accustomed to humans to live in the wild. Based on real events, readers follow Astro through some of his travels that have now taken him from the Bay Area to his current home at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut.

This September, Harvey's biography based picture book, *My Hands Sing the Blues - Romare Bearden's Childhood Journey* (Marshall Cavendish) will be published. September 2, 2011 is the 100th anniversary of the birthdate of the artist, Romare Bearden, who is famous for his vibrant collages, many of which were painted during the Harlem Renaissance.

In addition to writing, Harvey most recently taught Language Arts at Kent Middle School in Kentfield, California. 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. She has two sons in college. She lives in Marin County with her husband and a black Lab who sits at her feet when she writes.

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For more information about Harvey visit <http://www.jeanneharvey.com/>. For more information about *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion* visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/bookpage.php?id=Astro>.

Visuals & Other Requests: For cover art or Harvey's headshot, visit www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm. For all interview requests or media queries, please contact Sylvan Dell's publicist, Ashlee Rowe, at (877) 243-3457 or ashleerowe@sylvandellpublishing.com.

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