

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Third week in March marks National Clutter Awareness Week...And CBC finalist announcement marks success for *Sort It Out!*

**Mount Pleasant, S.C.** (March 12, 2009) – It’s called “Spring Cleaning.” It’s away with the old to make way for the new. It’s not something most people enjoy, but it’s something to be aware of—it’s clutter! The third week of March marks **National Clutter Awareness Week**. Connecticut author Barb Mariconda knows all about organizing clutter, and she has an award-winning children’s book to show for it.

*Sort It Out!* (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2008) by Barb Mariconda and illustrated by Sherry Rogers has just been named one of the Children’s Book Council Children’s Choice Book Award finalists! The Children’s Choice Book Awards winners will be announced live at the Children’s Choice Book Awards gala on May 12 in New York City as part of Children’s Book Week (May 11-17, 2009). *Sort It Out!* has already won the 2008 Moonbeam Gold Award, was a finalist for the 2008 Best Book Award from USA Book News, and was chosen for the 2009 Texas 2x2 Reading List.

*Sort it Out!* is the story of Packy the Packrat. His mother has had enough! It’s time that he sorts through his ever-growing collection of trinkets and puts them away. Told in rhyme, the text leads the reader to participate in the sorting process by categorizing Packy’s piles of things according to like characteristics and attributes. The story promotes and reinforces analogous thinking—a critical thinking skill in math, science, and life.

Barb is quite the collector of clutter herself. “I have always been a collector of many things,” she says. “I have a huge collection of sea glass and worn, soft pottery shards gleaned from the ocean shore. Colorful glass paperweights from Italy, Scotland, and the U.S. make up another favorite collection. All of these collections of mine, artfully sorted and arranged, have served as inspiration for this book.”

So, what’s the difference between piles of clutter and a meaningful collection, you may ask? Barb believes it’s all about awareness, aesthetics, and intentionality. The idea rings true in writing, in our closets, and in our lives. She says, “Focus on the things you like the best, artfully arrange them, and get rid of the rest!”

For more information about Barb, visit her company website at <http://www.empoweringwriters.com/>. For more information about Sylvan Dell Publishing, visit their website at <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com> or contact publicist Sara Dobie at [SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com](mailto:SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com) or 877-958-2600.

### About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell Publishing in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is on a mission to excite children’s imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math, and nature themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell’s family has grown to include more than 55 authors and illustrators, in the U.S. and Canada, and 40 titles – honored as

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finalists or winners of more than 70 book awards. To order Barb Mariconda's *Sort It Out!*, please visit <http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com>.

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