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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Octavia Octopus Teaches Children Colors for National Color Day

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (Oct. 13, 2006) –*Chase's Calendar of Events* lists Sunday, Oct. 22, as National Color Day, and Rocklin artist Connie McLennan's latest picture book, "Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud" offers parents, teachers and librarians a fun way to teach young children about primary and secondary colors.

"Octavia," written by Donna and Doreen Rathmell and published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, is the story of a young octopus who plays camouflage games to practice how she would protect herself from hungry creatures. But she can't get her colors right when shooting her purple ink cloud—instead the cloud is yellow, then orange, green, red and blue. The book's exciting ending describes Octavia's encounter with a dangerous shark.

"I painted the illustrations with watercolors to make Octavia and her ink clouds as bright as possible, and I think that adds dimension to the story," explains McLennan, a former student of the San Francisco Academy of Art College. McLennan is also the illustrator for two other Sylvan Dell books: "Water Beds" and "The Rainforest Grew All Around."

"Octavia" began arriving in bookstores this May. Educators at SeaWorld have vetted the picture book for scientific accuracy and Sylvan Dell included a "For Creative Minds" educational section that contains fun facts and information about the sea animals in the story and a craft that uses primary colors to make new colors. Sylvan Dell's website also includes additional educational resources including downloadable Teaching Activities and Learning Links.

"It's very satisfying to see children enjoy the book and learn at the same time," McLennan continues. "Donna and Dorie made it a point to educate children about more than just colors too—'Octavia' shows animal camouflage and protection techniques and reinforces how important it is to practice."

"Octavia" is a Southern California Booksellers Association 2006 Children's Book Award nominee and a 2006 Book Sense Picks nominee. The picture book has also received complimentary reviews from the *Horn Book Guide* and Baker & Taylor *Cat's Meow*, who said, "'Octavia' is highly recommended for all picture book collections."

Individuals are encouraged to purchase "Octavia" and any other Sylvan Dell titles through their favorite neighborhood or online bookstore. Visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 for more information.