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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 Hockessin author Doreen Rathmell Meredith'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," co-written with sister Donna 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 wanted to make an educational story that was still fun," explains Doreen. "Donna and I made sure 'Octavia' would teach more than just colors too—Octavia octopus shows animal camouflage and protection techniques and reinforces how important it is to practice."

"Octavia" is illustrated by Connie McLennan and began arriving in bookstores this May. Educators at the South Carolina Aquarium and SeaWorld vetted the picture book for scientific accuracy and Sylvan Dell included a "For Creative Minds" 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 Teaching Activities and Learning Links.

"Connie's beautiful watercolors really make Octavia come to life," Doreen continues. "It's wonderful to know that Dorie and I did this together—with Connie we made something the three of us would want for our future grandchildren."

"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](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 for more information.