

Contact: Katherine Miller
(877) 958-2600
KatherineMiller@SylvanDellPublishing.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Picture Books Teach Children about Space during World Astronomy Day**

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (April 6, 2007) – Astronomy Day will be held internationally this Saturday, April 21 and Sylvan Dell Publishing's educational picture books, "*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*" and "*Pieces of Another World*," are one unique way for parents and teachers to excite and interest children in the night sky.

Under the direction of the Astronomical League, Astronomy Day publicizes the subject in the United States and in more than a dozen foreign countries. Each year, thousands of people have an opportunity to observe the phenomena that captivate every amateur and professional astronomer as science museums, observatories, nature centers and other organizations host special events and activities to increase awareness of the subject.

"*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*" is written by children's author Janet Ruth Heller and explains the phases of the moon using Native American folktales. Illustrated by Ben Hodson, "*Moon*" has been vetted for scientific accuracy by the Von Braun Observatory and was selected by Book Sense as a Summer 2006 Children's Pick. The picture book has also been reviewed by the National Space Society.

Children's author Mara Rockliff's book, "*Pieces of Another World*," tells the story of a young girl and her father as they watch a meteor shower. Illustrated by Salima Alikhan, "*Pieces*" has been vetted for scientific accuracy by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and the Columbia University Department of Astronomy. The National Space Society, the American Meteor Association and Sky & Telescope Magazine have reviewed Rockliff's picture book, which was also a nominee for the 2006 Texas Bluebonnet Reading Award.

"Hopefully '*Pieces*' and '*Moon*' will help children learn something new while they spend quality time with their parents and teachers," Rockliff adds. "And at the end of the day, the adults may have learned something too!"

Both books are published by Sylvan Dell Publishing and are part of the Accelerated Reader program used in over 57,000 schools. Like all Sylvan Dell books, they contain a "For Creative Minds" educational section. "*Moon's*" section includes the Native American names for full moons, graphics that explain moon phases and rotation, a lunar calendar and a recipe for moon cookies while "*Pieces*" includes fun facts about meteors, meteoroids and meteorites, "Five Steps to a Fantastic Meteor Watching Party," a recipe for comet cookies and a "Meteor Math" project.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Readers can ask for "Moon," "Pieces" and other Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information about Sylvan Dell, please visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600. Anyone interested in receiving more information about Astronomy Day should contact the Astronomical League, aloffice@earthlink.net or (816) DEEP-SKY.

#
