



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES THROUGH READING

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## **CAPITAL BOOKFEST PUBLISHES COFFEE TABLE BOOK FEATURING POETS AND AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**Largo, Md. – September 12, 2007** – More than 70 poets and a handful of award-winning photographers from around the world contributed to the forthcoming Capital BookFest coffee table project *Family Pictures: Celebrating Our Loved Ones Through Poems and Photographs*. The book is one extension of Capital BookFest's commitment to strengthen families through reading. Each year, the festival publishes a book and gives away copies to attendees. The third annual Capital BookFest, presented by *The Washington Post*, returns to the Blvd at the Cap Centre in Largo on Saturday, October 6, 2007.

In previous years, a children's picture book and a collection of poems for young adults were published, with more than 2,000 copies given out. Edited by Kwame Alexander, poet and festival producer, *Family Pictures* captures the essence of family and family life. The book's poems put into words what the memorable black and white photos illustrate by telling the reader about "the wedding day," "the birth of a first child," "the special love of a grandparent," or "the loss of a loved one."

"By far, this is one of the most exciting contributions the Capital BookFest has made during its tenure," said Alexander. "We wanted to offer our audience something memorable and something different from traditional book festivals without straying from our focus on families."

Over 700 poets submitted poems to the anthology, and a selection committee narrowed the field down to a diverse group of emerging and established writers. Several are nationally known like Nikki Giovanni, Lucille Clifton, Susan Rich, and E. Ethelbert Miller. Recognizable photographers include Renee Michelle, Jason Miccolo Johnson, Frank Solomon, Rodney Bailey, and Carol Siegel.

"Working on this project was richly fulfilling, as it brought back fond memories of my childhood, but it also reminded me of the value of family. Sometimes, we get so caught up in our daily woes, that we forget about the wonders of our families," says Angela Turnbull, one of several selection committee members.

Capital BookFest is a *free* event catering to the entire family offering dozens of author readings, cooking demonstrations, writing and publishing workshops, poetry performances and children's storytelling. A limited number of *Family Pictures: Celebrating Our Loved Ones Through Poems and Photographs* will be free to people that arrive early to Capital BookFest. Once these copies are distributed, *Family Pictures* will be available for \$21.95 the day of the event and via the Capital BookFest website at [www.capitalbookfest.org](http://www.capitalbookfest.org).

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The festival celebrates the literary arts while promoting literacy in Prince George's County and the National Capital Area featuring authors representing a variety of genres like actors Victoria Rowell, *The Women Who Raised Me*, and Roscoe Orman ("Gordon" from Sesame Street), *Sesame Street Dad: Evolution of an Actor*; acclaimed novelists Tina McElroy Ansa, *Taking After Mudear*; Marie Arana, *Cellophane*; former NBA player John Amaechi, *Man in the Middle*, and children's book author Jan Spivey Gilchrist, *My Doll*. Along with *Washington Post* journalists Jabari Asim, *The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn't and Why* and Kevin Merida, *Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas*.

Programs are scheduled throughout the event day beginning at 10 a.m. through 7 p.m. Capital BookFest takes place within Borders Books and the parking lot directly behind it. The festival attracts more than 3,500 attendees; themed tents are set up to accommodate participants outside.

More than 100 exhibitors, including self-published authors, literacy groups, and other businesses, will promote and sell their products and services.

To date, sponsors of Capital BookFest include: *The Washington Post*, WKYS 93.9, MAJIC 102.3, Chick-Fil-A Capital Centre, WAVA, The CW Washington, Borders Books & Music, The Book Squad, Greenbelt Marriott, The Prince George's County Maryland Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Prince George's County Arts Council, Housing Authority of Prince George's County, Greenbelt Marriott and the Washington Association of Black Journalists.

For more information and to find out about author, exhibitor, or sponsor participation, call 703/ 371-4325 or visit [www.capitalbookfest.org](http://www.capitalbookfest.org).

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