



Date: March 31, 2008

Contact: Katy Mullon, 954-357-7406, kmullon@browardlibrary.org

Broward County Commission Libraries Division Celebrates Día with
Children's BookFest and Moonlight Tales April 26

BROWARD COUNTY, FL – Broward County Library is celebrating children and their books with storytellers, children's authors and entertainers, magic shows, appearances by storybook characters, book giveaways, music and crafts at the Children's BookFest on April 26th at three library locations, plus an evening finale.

The free event is held in recognition of Día de los niños/Día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), a cross-cultural celebration of children and reading (April 30).

Activities are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Regional/BCC Library, 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek; South Regional/BCC Library, 7300 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines; and West Regional Library, 8601 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation. The first 650 children at each location will receive a free book of their choice as part of the Target Big Book Giveaway.

Featured presenters include:

Olga Loya - This nationally recognized Latina teller of tales from San Jose, CA, uses a dramatic mix of Spanish and English to share stories for both adults and children. Loya performs a large repertoire of family and personal stories with the goal of exploring the struggles and complexity of being bicultural—a Mexican–American in the United States.

Bill Harley - A Grammy award-winning artist, Bill Harley uses song and story to paint a vibrant and hilarious picture of growing up, schooling and family life. A prolific author and recording artist, he is also a regular commentator for NPR's "All Things Considered" and featured on PBS. Harley joined the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence in 2001.

Jorge Argueta - Author of several children's books and celebrated Salvadoran poet, Jorge Argueta is a winner of the Americas Award for Latin American Literature, among many other awards. He is the San Francisco Library Poet Laureate. His heartwarming bilingual English-Spanish stories are the favorites of Latin-American children, and of children and adults from all cultures.

Jack Prelutsky – Named the nation's first Children's Poet Laureate in 2006, Jack Prelutsky is author of more than 50 poetry collections. Jack Prelutsky's poetry performance for children, and for grown-ups who want to remember what it's like to be a child, is a combination of humorous poems and songs, accompanied by guitar.

Others – Adding to the BookFest entertainment lineup are bilingual storyteller Carrie Sue Ayvar; Poetry Alive!; Mr. Brian & the Boppets; the Book worm; and Barnabus B. Lemon's Magical Revue.

"Moonlight Tales: Storytelling Under the Stars" will be the grand finale BookFest event from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. This enchanting evening of music and stories for the whole family includes performances by Olga Loya, Bill Harley, Carolyn Martino and Odds Bodkin. Music will be provided by local folksinger/songwriter Grant Livingston.

Children's BookFest is funded through the Broward Public Library Foundation by Target, *The Miami Herald*, the Charles F. and Esther M. Frye Foundation, the Deaver Phoenix Foundation, Comcast, Broward Family Life Magazine, Ch. 2 Kidvision and the Florida Marlins Community Foundation. Moonlight Tales is presented by Broward County Library in conjunction with FAU School of the Arts, S. Florida Storytelling Project, It is funded through the Broward Public Library Foundation, as part of Children's BookFest. For complete details, call 954-357-7406, or visit the library's Web site at www.broward.org/library.

The award-winning Broward County Libraries Division, founded in 1974, provides essential quality-of-life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The Library consists of 37 branches that provide three million items and more than 2,000 computers for public use, and after-school literacy, youth, and teen programs. Its website, www.broward.org/library, includes free online reference and information databases in addition to access about library services, locations, and events that customers access on

average 300,000 times a month. The Broward County Library is the ninth-largest library system in the United States, serving more than nine million walk-in customers annually.

#