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Barnes & Noble to Host 2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton in Denton on May 27

Morton to Lead Local High School Students in Poetry Readings Followed by Book Signing

Denton, TX – May 5, 2010 – Barnes & Noble in Denton will host an evening of poetry featuring 2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton (www.kkmorton.com) on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. The event will include poetry readings, a question and answer session and a book signing. It will be held just outside the Barnes and Noble entrance in the Golden Triangle Mall at 2201 South I-35 East.

Six local theatre students from Billy Ryan High School who recently competed in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Poetry Competition will join Morton for a Round Robin of poetry. Morton and the students will take turns reading their selected works. The local students are Bailey Atkinson, Lauren Autrey, Asjha Cooper, Krystal Lasater, Bryce Poirier and Cody Vann.

Morton will be reading from her two latest books, *Redefining Beauty* and *Stirring Goldfish*. *Redefining Beauty* is a poetry collection written during Morton's journey through cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery. *Stirring Goldfish*, which will be released later this month, is an original collection of Sufi poetry that expresses and explores virtually every human emotion.

During the event, Morton will also share her inspiring story of discovering her love of poetry in 5th grade, never giving up on her poetry despite countless rejection letters and finally achieving her dream of becoming the Texas Poet Laureate. Afterward, she will hold a short question and answer session with the audience and then sign books inside the store.

"It's such an incredible opportunity for our community and local students to meet a poet who has made her dreams come to life," said Thom Anderson, Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble, Denton. "It's a rare opportunity to have the Texas Poet Laureate in your own hometown, and we're so grateful for Karla's passion for working with students here and across our state."

During the evening, a student book fair hosted by Barnes & Noble will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a portion of the proceeds going to Billy Ryan High School's theatre department to help underwrite their programming for next year. The book fair will also be available online for an extended period of time

from May 27 through May 31 at bn.com/bookfairs. The checkout code for Billy Ryan High School is 10205003.

About Karla K. Morton

Karla K. Morton, the **2010 Texas Poet Laureate**, is a celebrated poet, author and storyteller. She is the author of *Wee Cowrin' Timorous Beastie* (a North Texas Book Festival Awards Finalist), *Redefining Beauty*, *Stirring Goldfish*, *Becoming Superman* and several upcoming books, including *Names We've Never Known* (Texas Review Press), and a collection of her works as part of the *Poet Laureate* series by the Texas Christian University Press. Ms. Morton's poetry, which spans many subjects and forms, has also been published in a variety of literary journals, including *descant*, (Betsy Colquitt Award Winner), *AmarilloBay*, the *Concho River Review*, the *Southwestern American Literature*, *Oak Bend Review*, *Wichita Falls Literary and Art Review*, *Right Hand Pointing*, *The Langdon Review of the Arts in Texas*, the *Texas Poetry Calendar*, *Illya's Honey*, *Austin International Poetry Anthology*, *New Texas*, *Denton Writer's League Anthology*, and *ARDENT*. An avid photographer, Morton has also had several showings of her black and white artwork across the state, and loves to mix poetry and the arts. Additionally, she serves as a board member of the Greater Denton Arts Council, a founding member of the Denton Poets' Assembly (part of the Poetry Society of Texas) and as a member of the esteemed Western Writers of America, the Writer's League of Texas and the Academy of American Poets. She has been featured on Good Morning Texas, NPR and the Art of Living Gallery (national show on Veria TV). Morton loves to promote poetry, logging thousands of miles across Texas through her ***Little Town, Texas Tour***, reading her work at such venues as schools, universities, bookstores, VA centers, libraries, festivals, fundraising events, conferences, conventions and cancer support groups. Morton was born in Fort Worth, holds a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University and currently resides in Denton, Texas, with her two children and husband. For more information, please visit www.kkmorton.com or www.facebook.com/karlakmorton.

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