

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ONE BOOK/ONE COMMUNITY BOOK TITLE ANNOUNCED!**

The *One Book/One Community* program, sponsored by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, announces the title of its Spring 2007 book, *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

*One Book/One Community* is a community-wide reading program where people from all walks of life and from age 13 and older are encouraged to read and then discuss important issues raised by a single book. The East Baton Rouge Parish Library and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber have partnered with libraries, school systems, religious and community organizations, and key leaders of industry and commerce throughout the area to implement this comprehensive program, which will strengthen our community and bring our diverse region together.

Reading Discussion Groups will meet at libraries, bookstores, coffee shops and cafes, businesses, churches, schools, clubs, and homes over a concentrated period of time. Reading and Discussion guides will be provided and Discussion Leaders will be trained in November 2006 to guide conversation on key themes of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which was selected for its wide appeal and social relevance.

Book selection included the following criteria: accessibility to a wide audience of readers, teens and up, readable, not too graphic subject matter in language, sex or violence,

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**ADD 1**

enjoyable to readers; social and literary significance with universal issues; topical appeal with some aspect of plot, setting, or characters; availability in multiple formats and low cost for maximum readership.

This program will extend over nine parishes – Ascension Parish, East Feliciana Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, Iberville Parish, Livingston Parish, Pointe Coupee Parish, St. Helena Parish, West Baton Rouge Parish, and West Feliciana Parish, and will include public programs and lively discussions for a wide range of readers and interest, from middle school age students through retirees.

Copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be placed not only in libraries, but in classrooms, churches, clubs, community centers, and businesses throughout the nine-parish region. The book will also be available in multiple formats including print, audio-tapes, and movies, and located at local libraries and bookstores throughout the region.

*One Book/One Community* will kick-off after Martin Luther King Day in January 2007 with programs and discussions scheduled for January through May 2007. Some of the many events scheduled in conjunction with the program include the Film “Gala” at Baton Rouge Community College’s Magnolia Auditorium on Thursday, January 18; *Journey for Justice: The A.P. Tureaud Story* documentary by Dr. Rachel Emanuel of Southern University Law School with guest Carol Tureaud on Monday, January 22; *Oral History Workshop* presented by Jennifer Abraham of Louisiana State University’s Williams Center for Oral History on Saturday, February 24; *Journey for Justice: The A.P. Tureaud Story* documentary by Dr. Rachel Emanuel of SU Law School with guest A.P. Tureaud, Jr. on Monday, February 26; Documentary *Taking a Seat for Justice: The 1960 Baton Rouge Sit-Ins* by Dr. Rachel Emanuel of SU Law School with guest Donald Tibbs, director of SULC’s Civil Rights and Justice Institute on Wednesday, March

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28; Documentary *Taking a Seat for Justice: The 1960 Baton Rouge Sit-Ins* by Dr. Rachel Emanuel of SU Law School and guests Dr. Jewel Prestage, SU Distinguished Professor of Political Science and retired Dean of the SU School Public Policy and SU Law Professor Michelli Ghetti on Thursday, March 29; and Saturday movie showing of the academy award winning film based on *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the BREC Independence Park Theatre with popcorn and panel on Saturday, April 14.

The *One Book/One Community* website, [www.readonebook.org](http://www.readonebook.org), includes a master schedule of events and tool kits for teachers. Resource guides and a generous supply of multiple book sets for participants will be made available to classrooms, organizations, clubs, etc. for class or group use.

Collaborative partners include Ascension Parish Library, *The Advocate* Educational Services, Baton Rouge Community College, Baton Rouge Little Theatre, BREC, City at Peace - Baton Rouge, Catholic Schools Diocese of Baton Rouge, Council on Aging (COA), East Baton Rouge Parish School System, East Feliciana Parish Library , Iberville Parish Library , Livingston Parish Library , Pointe Coupee Parish Library , St. Helena Parish Library, Southern University Law Center, T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, Louisiana State University, West Baton Rouge Parish Library, and West Feliciana Parish Library.

For more information on participating in the program, and for businesses and organizations who wish to partner with the East Baton Rouge Parish Library and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, contact Mary Stein at (225) 231-3700 or [mstein@ebr.lib.la.us](mailto:mstein@ebr.lib.la.us).