Media Release

For immediate release: July, 2005

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Leap Year for Book Awards:
Sydney Taylor Book Award Changes Dating System

As of January, 2006, the Sydney Taylor Book Award will change the dating system of its yearly winners. The most recent winners of the Award, published during 2004, are described as receiving the "2004 Sydney Taylor Book Award." Selections published during 2005, however, will be described as winners of the "2006 Sydney Taylor Book Award."

The change will bring the Sydney Taylor Book Award's dating system in line with that used by other prominent book awards, including the Newbery and Caldecott Medals. By coordinating with the year in which the winners are announced, rather than with copyright dates, news of the newest Sydney Taylor Book Award winners will remain fresh and marketable for a longer period of time.

"We are not 'skipping' a year," says Heidi Estrin, Chair of the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee. "Books published during 2005 will be honored. We are simply relabeling the way we describe our winners."

The Sydney Taylor Book Award is presented to the best children's books of Jewish content each year. Winners are announced each January, and the authors receive their awards at the Association of Jewish Libraries annual convention in June. Gold medals are awarded in the Younger and Older Readers categories, and Honor Books may also be named. The Award memorializes Sydney Taylor, author of the classic All-of-a-Kind Family series, and has been presented annually by the Association of Jewish Libraries since 1968.

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