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CHRONICLE BOOKS WINS PRESTIGIOUS ALA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

Just a Minute, *The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon* Honored by American Library Association

San Francisco, CA (January 20, 2004): San Francisco-based trade publisher Chronicle Books, LLC received two prestigious children's book awards from the American Library Association (ALA), announced during its Midwinter Meeting in San Diego earlier this week. Yuyi Morales, illustrator and author of *Just a Minute*, was named the winner of the 2004 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, which honors Latino authors and illustrators whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in a children's book. *The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon*, by Bea Uusma Schyffert, was chosen as a Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Book, which recognizes the most outstanding children's books originally published in a foreign language and subsequently translated into English for publication in the United States.

Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, ALA awards guide parents, educators, librarians and others in selecting the best materials for youth. Selected by judging committees of librarians and other children's experts, the awards encourage original and creative work.

"These two awards are big news, particularly in the institutional market. These kudos on top of the significant critical attention our children's publishing received in the fall points to the fact that we are succeeding in raising the profile of this important list in the marketplace," said Jack Jensen, President and Publisher of Chronicle Books.

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Morales' *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book* is a spirited tribute to the rich traditions of Mexican culture, with vivacious illustrations and a universal depiction of family celebration. The Pura Belpré Award committee also honored Morales by selecting *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*, illustrated by Morales, written by Kathleen Krull and published by Harcourt, Inc., as an Honor Book for Illustration.

The Belpré awards are administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking.

The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins is the story of Michael Collins, the Apollo 11 astronaut who went all the way to the moon but never walked on its surface. Reminiscent of a scrapbook, this extraordinary book chronicles what Collins did, saw, and thought about in space. The book was originally published in Swedish in 1999, and translated to English by Emi Guner. The Batchelder Award is administered by ALSC.

Chronicle Books launched its children's list in 1988, and has published the best-selling *Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara Joosse and *Hush Little Baby* by Sylvia Long. The list has grown to include not only traditional picture books but affordable paperbacks, board books, novelty merchandise and licensed publishing with Lucas Films, Caterpillar and Nickelodeon. In late 2003 Chronicle Books acquired SeaStar Books. SeaStar titles to be published this Spring by Chronicle Books include *Doors*, an innovative lift-the-flap book by veteran author Roxie Munro; *Pyramids* and *Space Travelers*, and two new titles in Seymour Simon's hit "SeeMore Readers" series.

About Chronicle Books

One of the most admired and respected publishing companies in the U.S., Chronicle Books was founded in 1966 and over the years has developed a reputation for award-winning, innovative books. The company continues to challenge conventional publishing wisdom, setting trends in both subject and format, maintaining a list that includes illustrated titles in design, art, architecture, photography, food, lifestyle and pop culture, as well as much-admired books for children and ancillary products through its gift division. Chronicle Books boasts best-selling titles that include *The Beatles Anthology*, Sylvia Long's *Hush Little Baby*, *The 52-Deck* series, *Olive, the Other Reindeer* and *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* series. Chronicle Books' objective is to create and distribute exceptional publishing that's instantly recognizable for its spirit, creativity, and value. To visit Chronicle Books online, go to www.chroniclebooks.com.

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