

Beczak Environmental Education Center
on the Hudson River at 35 Alexander Street, Yonkers, NY 10701
(914) 377-1900, www.beczak.org

HIGH RES PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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“I LOVE BOOKS” Valentine’s Day Book Fair
featuring books that develop kids’ natural wonder
plus free demonstrations by local authors
February 11, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
at Beczak Environmental Education Center

Celebrate Valentine’s Day with Sid the Science Kid, Interactive Drawing, and People Who Create Kids’ Books

Yonkers, N.Y. (January 20, 2012) – Celebrate Valentine’s Day at **I LOVE BOOKS**, a book fair for all ages featuring books that explore nature, encourage kids’ curiosity, and are bestselling great reads. Free demonstrations and readings all afternoon including the team behind the PBS series *Sid the Science Kid* who help children **make a worm bin**, Caldecott Award winner Jerry Pinkney who **draws with the audience’s help**, and Hudson Talbott, author of *River of Dreams*, who takes children **behind the scenes in creating a picture book**. Hosted by Beczak Environmental Education Center and Galapagos Books; sponsored by Kumon of Yonkers with Valentine’s Day refreshments from La Pinata Bakery of Yonkers, NY. **Saturday, February 11, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, all ages, FREE.** Information at weekends@beczak.org / (914) 377-1900 ext. 13. Beczak Environmental Education Center, 35 Alexander Street, Yonkers, NY 10701. www.beczak.org

I Love Books is a Valentine’s Day assortment of rivertown treasures, weaving together four local organizations and half dozen Hudson Valley authors.

- **I Love Books** is held at the riverfront space of *Beczak Environmental Education Center* in Yonkers, NY.

- The book fair is hosted by **Galapagos Books**, a Hastings shop that *Westchester Magazine* calls a “cozy little independent antidote to the major chains . . . where special emphasis is paid to the readers-of-tomorrow.”
- Cupcakes and heart-shaped cookies for sale are provided by **La Pinata Bakery**, a family-owned business in the heart of Yonkers, NY.
- The sponsor is **Kumon of Yonkers**, an eighteen-year-old franchise that “Gives your children the tools to write their own success stories.”

SCHEDULE

Browse through books from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

1:30 PM – “The Dirt on Dirt.” The team behind the popular PBS series *Sid the Science Kid* explores the hidden world of dirt and helps kids use worms to bring backyards back to life!

Kids of all ages love this popular television series created by the Jim Henson Company for PBS KIDS. Join the people behind the scenes who use comedy to encourage kids’ natural curiosity about the world around them. LOVE BOOKS features their hands-on program about dirt—what’s in it, what happens to it when live worms are added to it, and how to build a worm bin at home. Sid motivates “children to . . . observe! Compare! Contrast! Describe!”

2:00 PM – Drawing with Jerry Pinkney. Caldecott-winner Jerry Pinkney, resident of Croton-on-Hudson and master of the American picture book, joins I LOVE BOOKS to show how he fleshes out his characters visually. A Jerry Pinkney original will take shape before your eyes!

Jerry Pinkney is the illustrator of more than a hundred books for children including *The Ugly Duckling*, *John Henry*, and *Noah's Ark*, and a five-time winner of both the Caldecott Honor and the Coretta Scott King Award. His show *Witness: The Art of Jerry Pinkney*, will be traveling to the Hudson River Museum in September 2012. His message to young people: “Learn from mistakes. Everything that happens to you will frame who you are, and who you will become. Your path to success will follow.”

2:30 PM – Behind the Scenes with *River of Dreams*

How do you think up the idea for a book? How do you write and illustrate it? Find out from acclaimed author and illustrator Hudson Talbott, of Catskill, NY, who takes kids behind the scenes of one of his most popular books, *River of Dreams*, a book that pays homage to the mighty Hudson River,

Hudson Talbott is the author of over a dozen beautifully illustrated picture books including *United Tweets of America*, *Show Way* (Newbery Honor Book), and *Leonardo's Horse*. He says, “I love showing young people that what I am doing today is no different than what I did when I was their age—telling stories through the pictures I drew. I love to leave them with the inspiration that if I could do it so could they.”

Other Hudson Valley authors at I LOVE BOOKS include

- Artie Bennett (*The Butt Book*, *The Knee Book*)
- Dan Greenburg (*The Zack Files*)

- J. C. Greenburg (*Andrew Lost*)

HUDSON RIVER VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE (HRVEEI)

Hudson River Valley Environmental Education Institute, with classrooms and beach access in Yonkers, NY, and Sleepy Hollow, NY, is the lower Hudson's hub for river education. It offers many programs that involve all ages in learning about nature and enjoying the outdoors. *Where you learn to love your river!*

HRVEEI staff work with approximately 20,000 children and families each year through river-based programming for students during the week and weekend public programs including *River Explorers* and *Fish Tales* for children, *RiverTalks* lectures and *Urban H₂O* concerts for adults, *Lunchtime Learning* for seniors, *Summer Adventures* camp, and professional development for educators.

Beczak Environmental Education Center

HRVEEI's flagship site is Beczak Environmental Education Center, located on the banks of the Hudson in the City of Yonkers. It celebrated its 20th anniversary of incorporation in 2010. This spacious interpretive center, named after Yonkers environmentalist Joe Beczak, is an adaptive reuse of the former social club for Habirshaw Cable & Wire Co. Its two-acre park features a welcoming riverfront lawn, an easily accessible tidal marsh and a beach used for river exploration.

Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center

HRVEEI offers river education at the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Sleepy Hollow, NY, which opened in 2011. Scenic Hudson spearheaded the renovation of the historic 1926 Kingsland Point Park bathhouse into a center for river-based education and recreation, named for philanthropist Kathryn W. Davis. This facility features a sandy beach used for river exploration and indoor/outdoor classroom space.

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