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**PRESS CONTACT:**

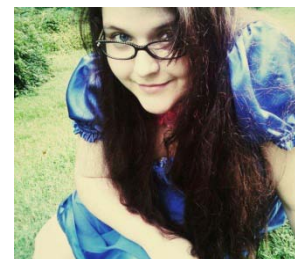
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**Reception to Welcome the Associates of the Boston Public Library's  
2011-2012 Writer-in-Residence, Sarah Winifred Searle**

**Boston MA – October 5, 2011** –The Associates of the Boston Public Library will host a reception on October 19, 2011, from 6 to 8 P.M. to welcome its eighth Children's Writer-in-Residence Fellowship winner, Sarah Winifred Searle. In addition, the reception will celebrate Elaine Dimopoulos' completed 2010-2011 residency year. Both authors will read from their works and discuss their writing and/or illustration processes. The reception is taking place in the Abbey Room at the Boston Public Library's Central Library in Copley Square. It is free to attend, and refreshments will be served. Space is limited, so reservations are required. To RSVP, please contact the Associates office at [Associates@BPL.org](mailto:Associates@BPL.org) or (617) 536-3886.

The Associates' Children's Writer-in-Residence fellowship was created to provide an emerging children's writer with the financial support and privacy needed to complete one literary work within a nine-month period. The fellowship provides each author with a "room of her own" in the Central Library, plus a \$20,000 stipend. The application for the 2012-13 fellowship-year will be posted on the Associates' website after January 2, 2012. The program is funded thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. This year, the call for applications was limited to illustrated picture books. The selection committee unanimously chose Searle as the 2011-2012 fellowship winner in a blind application process that involved more than 60 entries.

Searle, of Danvers, Massachusetts, got her foundation in fine arts at Maine College of Art, graduated from Southern Maine Community College with a degree in New Media, and is currently studying Humanities at Harvard Extension School. She found her professional niche as a game artist, and now she hopes to use her background to create a unique storytelling experience. Her graphic novel, *Under the Apple Tree* is, in short, a ghost story. Set during World War II, a girl must solve the dark mystery that shrouds her home, while handling the trials and tribulations of adolescence during times of great change in American history. Throughout her residency, Searle will be regularly posting new pages on her website, [www.swinsea.com/comic](http://www.swinsea.com/comic), so that eventually the entire book will be available to read online for free. The website will also feature a trans-media appendix to more deeply explore the book's research and themes. Searle is represented by literary agent, Killing the Grizzly.



Elaine Dimopoulos of Winchester, Massachusetts, is a graduate of Yale, Columbia, and, most recently, Simmons College, where she earned an M.F.A. in Writing for Children. She has taught English at a New England boarding school, an all-boys school in New York City, and an all-girls school in Pennsylvania. She is currently an instructor of children's literature at Boston University. In 2008, she received an Emerging Artist Grant from the Saint Botolph Club Foundation. She is also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and writes with a Needham-based SCBWI critique group. During her 2010-2011 residency, Ms. Dimopoulos wrote *Eco-Chic*. In the young-adult novel, children are plucked out of school in the sixth-grade to dictate trends in a youth-obsessed society. Essentially, it is *Brave New World* meets *Project Runway*. Ms. Dimopoulos is represented by literary agent Edward Necarsulmer IV, Director of the Children's Department at McIntosh & Otis. Her website is [www.elainedimopoulos.com](http://www.elainedimopoulos.com)

"The Children's Writer-in-Residence Fellowship is cause for celebration for several reasons," noted Associates Chair, Vivian Spiro. "First, it will provide an exciting new talent with the support and public exposure necessary for success; and second, it marks a promising new stage in the evolution of the

Associates of the Boston Public Library as an organization. Through the Children's Writer-in-Residence Program, the Associates will visibly further its mission of supporting the Boston Public Library and promoting the importance of writers, books and reading in our culture." Ms. Spiro added that to the best of her knowledge, the Associates' stipend is one of the largest of its kind offered in the U.S.

#### **About the ASSOCIATES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Associates of the Boston Public Library is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the Boston Public Library's special collections of rare books, manuscripts, and other items of significant historic interest. The Associates is working to ensure continued public access to these irreplaceable treasures by underwriting their conservation, cataloging, digitization, and exhibition. Through these efforts, the Associates is helping the Boston Public Library to achieve its fundamental mission of providing the highest level of free educational resources to the citizens of the Commonwealth, as well as preserving knowledge, culture, and history for the benefit of all. The Associates oversees the **David McCullough Conservation Fund** and the **William O. Taylor Fund**, both of which are making extraordinary conservation projects possible.

Since its founding in 1972, the Associates has been the creator and underwriter of a wide array of programs, designed to heighten public awareness of the Boston Public Library's vast free, educational resources. These programs have included Literary Lights (an annual black tie dinner honoring outstanding New England authors); Literary Lights for Children (a program at which four distinguished children's authors tell Boston school children why and how they became writers); a hundred year retroactive National Book Award competition; art and architecture tours; readings; lectures; curatorial evenings designed to enhance public awareness of the Library's holdings; exhibitions; musical performances; and discussions of current events featuring key decision makers. To learn more, visit [www.TheAssociates.org](http://www.TheAssociates.org), [www.facebook.com/AssociatesBPL](https://www.facebook.com/AssociatesBPL), and/or [www.twitter.com/AssociatesBPL](https://www.twitter.com/AssociatesBPL).

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