

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Author Named Award-winning Finalist in USA's National Best Books Award 2008**

**Los Angeles** – *Culturally Speaking: Promoting Cross-Cultural Awareness in a Post-9/11 World* written by Mary Coons was honored October 20, 2008 as a “finalist” in the Multi-Cultural: Non Fiction category of the National Best Books 2008 Awards. Sponsored by USA Book News, this was the fifth annual NBBA. More than 500 winners and book finalists were announced in over 140 categories covering print and audio books. Awards were presented for titles published in 2008 and late 2007.

Coons is currently in Bahrain promoting her book, which was released there last week. The book was released in the U.S. in September.

The main message of the book, says Coons, is to dispel the ignorance that Americans and Bahraini Arabs have of each others' cultures, admitting that Americans are much more ignorant of the Arab culture than vice versa. It then tries to bridge the cultural gap by promoting awareness, understanding, and tolerance of customs, religion, and culture. Former U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Dr. Sam Zakhem wrote the book's foreword.

Through a compilation of interviews with Midwest American Christians and Bahraini Arab Muslims, readers will better understand the important messages this book promotes.

- Dispelling myths of two countries that are ignorant of each other's culture.
- Promoting a healthy culture through understanding, respect, and dialogue.
- Achieving a better understanding about Islam and learning how the Arab culture deeply affects the religion.
- Recognizing the commonalities each share: a desire for world peace, respect, love of family, career and education aspirations, and basic needs of sustenance.
- Citing examples of what each country had done and is doing to bridge the cultural gap.
- Offering ideas of what Americans and Bahraini Arab Muslims as individuals can do to bridge the cultural gap.

*Culturally Speaking* does not promote Islam or Christianity, or endorse one country's opinion over the other; rather, the author provides an open forum of

dialogue that inspires the reader to discover some of the differing perspectives of real issues common to both Bahraini Arab Muslims and Americans.

Earlier this month, the book received its first book review earning 5/5 stars from an independent reviewer. To read that book review, please go to [www.armchairinterviews.com](http://www.armchairinterviews.com) and click on Book Reviews.

Jeff Keen, President and CEO of [USABookNews.com](http://USABookNews.com), said this year's contest yielded an unprecedented number of entries, which were then narrowed down. Entries came from Simon & Schuster, Tarcher/Penguin, HarperCollins, Hyperion, St. Martin's Press, McGraw-Hill, John Wiley & Sons and hundreds of Independent Titles. Beaver's Pond Press in Minneapolis, Minnesota ([www.beaverspondpress.com](http://www.beaverspondpress.com)) is the publisher for Coons' book.

[USABookNews.com](http://USABookNews.com) is an online publication providing coverage for books from mainstream and independent publishers to the world online community. JPX Media, in Los Angeles, California, is the parent company of [USABookNews.com](http://USABookNews.com).

A complete list of the winners and finalists of the [USABookNews.com](http://USABookNews.com) National "Best Books" 2008 Awards are available online at <http://www.USABookNews.com>.

For more information about Coons and her book, go to [www.culturallyspeak.com](http://www.culturallyspeak.com). The book is available online through [www.bookhousefulfillment.com](http://www.bookhousefulfillment.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).