

A bookworm's delight By Jamie Schmidt, Times Staff Writer  
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Hundreds of visitors spoke with authors, bought books and warmed themselves indoors at the seventh annual Random House Book Fair at Carroll Community College on Saturday.

In the center of the college's Great Hall, children's author J.C. Greenburg spoke to rows of children wearing newspaper hats about, "Andrew Lost," - her series about a curious boy's adventures.

Alan Bogage, the library director at the college, said that the fair had a bigger turnout than last year. Bogage said he was most interested in catching a poetry reading by Grace Cavalieri, an Annapolis author of 13 books of poems.

**In a student center, Jennifer Gilbert, Allyson Moody and Beth Schroeder took a break from working concession stands for the Children's Chorus of Carroll County. The 11- and 12-year-olds were raising money for their chorus trip to Estonia, Finland and Sweden. Schroeder said that it was good to see such a large crowd of people interested in books.**

"So many people prefer reading to TV," Schroeder commented.

Sister and Brother Bear from the Berenstain Bears and other storybook characters walked through the college's Great Hall, causing a stir and stopping to give children hugs as families wended their way around authors manning their tables of books, and a selection of new books sold at a 20 percent discount. Afternoon activities included a student writing contest and Meet the Authors session.

Bruce Waldron, author and Carroll County development review coordinator at the county office building, sat at a table full of his poetry and a novel about a Vietnam veteran returning home, titled, "Teaching Pigs to Dance."

County commissioner Julia Gouge, who works with Waldron, walked by and stopped in her tracks.

"Have you been keeping this a secret?" she asked.

Waldron, who has been writing for a decade, said a lot of people he works with are still surprised when they find out about his books.

As the visitors kept coming, CCC President Faye Pappalardo thanked Random House for partnering with the college in presenting the fair, which benefits the college's Foundation. The Foundation funds scholarships and faculty development.

"If Random House ever decided they could not do this anymore, we know there would not be a book fair," Pappalardo said.

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