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## PRESS RELEASE

*Local Small Press and Author final for 2 books*  
*In THE NATIONAL "BEST BOOKS 2007" AWARD*  
**ILORI PRESS and Author DARA GIRARD score**  
**Top Honors for fiction and non-fiction titles in**  
**the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National "Best Books" Awards!**

### LOS ANGELES –

Silver Spring, Maryland-based publisher ILORI Press and their author, Dara Girard, finaled in two categories for fiction and non-fiction in USABookNews.com's NATIONAL BEST BOOKS 2007 AWARDS.

Girard, who lives in Silver Spring, took home the finalist award in the *Romance Fiction* category for her novel, **The Sapphire Pendant** (ISBN:0-977019128) and for her recent non-fiction book, **The Writer Behind The Words: Steps to Success in The Writing Life** (ISBN:987-0-977019151) in the category of *Business: Writing/Publishing*.

USABookNews.com is the premiere online magazine and review website for mainstream and independent publishing houses and they announced the winners and finalists of THE NATIONAL "BEST BOOKS" 2007 AWARDS (BBA) November 1, 2007. Over 500 winners and finalists were announced in over 140 categories covering print, audio books & courses, e-books and interactive CD-ROMs. Awards were presented for titles published in 2007 and late 2006.

Jeffrey Keen, President and CEO of USABookNews.com, said this year's contest yielded an unprecedented number of entries, which were then narrowed down to over 500 winners and finalists.

- Full results listing available online at [www.USABookNews.com](http://www.USABookNews.com)

Keen says of the awards, now in their fourth year, "The 2007 results represent a phenomenal mix of books from a wide array of publishers throughout the United States. As an executive in the publishing PR and marketing industry and president and CEO of JPX Media, I wanted to create an awards competition that recognized books in their publication year, rather than months after the original launch window. With a full publicity and marketing campaign promoting the results of BBA, this year's winners and finalists will gain additional media coverage for the upcoming holiday retail season."

Winners and finalists traversed the publishing landscape: Simon & Schuster, Penguin-Putnam, HarperCollins, Random House, McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin Col, John Wiley & Sons and hundreds of independent titles contributed to this year's outstanding BBA competition. Keen adds, "BBA's success begins with the enthusiastic participation of authors and publishers and continue with our distinguished panel of industry judges who bring to the table their extensive editorial, PR, marketing, and design expertise."

Dara Girard is available for television, radio, and press interviews. Visit [www.daragirard.com](http://www.daragirard.com) and [www.iloripress.com](http://www.iloripress.com). Please call their publicist at 830.981.4723 or email [jo-annpower@powerontheweb.com](mailto:jo-annpower@powerontheweb.com) to book.