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**BCA's Bronx Writers' Center Announces Winners of
2007 Chapter One Competition and Reading Series**

(Bronx, NY – April 17, 2007) The Bronx Writers' Center, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is pleased to announce the 2007 winners of its annual Chapter One Competition and Reading Series, writers Art Blount, David Samuel Levinson, Lynn A. Lurie, and Nora Maynard. The Chapter One Fiction Competition seeks first chapters from unpublished novels and works-in-progress, written by authors residing in the five boroughs of New York City. Four awards are given yearly in the amount of \$1,000. Public readings are scheduled at The New York Public Library's Bronx Library Center. Lynn A. Lurie and Nora Maynard will read on Saturday, June 9th at 1:00pm; and Art Blount and David Samuel Levinson will read on Saturday, June 23rd, at 1:00pm.

Art Blount was born and raised in the Bronx, NY. He studied Music Composition at Mannes College of Music and English Literature at Columbia University. He has worked variously as a teacher's assistant and drama coach, and spent six years with Sony Music Entertainment as a Music Research Archivist. He is currently working on several short stories, as well as a novel entitled *The Verge of Splinter*, the first chapter of which won this competition.

David Samuel Levinson is the author of the story collection, *Most of Us Are Here Against Our Will* (Viking Penguin UK, 2005), the title story of which won an award in *The Atlantic Monthly*. His fiction and book reviews have appeared in numerous magazines and journals. Currently, he's at work on a novella and story collection, *What Makes Harry Gallant*, and a novel, *The Art of Losing*, a portion of which won the Bronx Chapter One Competition. He wrote the winning pages while at Ledig House, an international artist colony in Hudson, NY. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, David teaches at NYU. He can be reached at www.david-levinson.com.

Lynn A. Lurie is an attorney with a Masters in International Affairs and another in Fine Arts. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador (1980-82) and currently volunteers as a translator and administrator on medical trips to South America providing surgery and medical care free of charge to indigent children. *Corner of the Dead* is her first novel and is set in Peru during the 1980s.

Nora Maynard has been awarded fiction fellowships by the Millay Colony for the Arts, the Ucross Foundation, and the Blue Mountain Center, and is the 2007 AEB Fellow for culinary writing at The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow. Her work has appeared/is forthcoming in *The Rambler*, *Mr. Beller's Neighborhood*, *Blood & Aphorisms*, *McGill Street Magazine*, *The Trinity Review*, and *The Business of Food: Encyclopedia of the Food Industry*. Her column on food and drink in film, "The Celluloid Pantry," runs Tuesdays at *Apartment Therapy: The Kitchen* (<http://kitchen.apartmenttherapy.com/>). Nora is a graduate of the University of Toronto. She has worked in publishing in Toronto and New York as a publicist and editor and is a four-time finisher of the NYC Marathon. *Burnt Hill Road*, her Chapter One winning entry, is her first novel. Her web site is at www.noramaynard.com.

About the Bronx Writers' Center: Since 1996, the programs of the Bronx Writers' Center (BWC) have been serving the needs of emerging writers in the Bronx and New York City. Through reading series and open mics, free creative writing workshops, professional development seminars, fellowships, competitions, and the Bronx WritersCorps program, BWC reaches writers of all ages, backgrounds and literary disciplines. Over the years, BWC has presented one of the most diverse and exciting reading series in New York City, featuring emerging talents from the Bronx as well as renowned writers from around the country.

For Current Opportunities and Services: Visit the Bronx Writers' Center's web pages at www.bronxarts.org for information on these programs and to view BWC's current calendar and opportunity listings. You can also contact Laura Napier at the Writers' Center at LauraN@bronxarts.org or 718-409-1265.

The Bronx Writers' Center, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts' Literature Program, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund, Department of Youth & Community Development, Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., and Councilman James Vacca.

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