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Bestselling local author to speak at Big Book Club Getaway at Mohegan Sun

Amy Newmark, Chicken Soup for the Soul's publisher and author, to discuss positive thinking and the power of storytelling

COS COB, CT – More than 40 bestselling and award-winning authors and presenters will gather at Mohegan Sun resort on February 1-2, 2013 for the first annual Big Book Club Getaway, benefitting The Alzheimer's Association and sponsored by Chicken Soup for the Soul.

Chicken Soup for the Soul's publisher and author Amy Newmark will deliver a keynote speech on Friday, February 1, at 6:30 pm on the power of storytelling, positive thinking, and pursuing your passion, as well as providing some tips for aspiring writers. Chicken Soup for the Soul will provide complimentary books for all attendees. Other speakers include Brad Meltzer, a contributor to Chicken Soup for the Soul, who is the number one bestselling political suspense author and host of the History Channel show Decoded, and Leeza Gibbons, another contributor to Chicken Soup for the Soul, who is the renowned talk show host, author and philanthropist. There will also be a panel of doctors from the Harvard Health Series – including Dr. Jeff Brown, author of two of Chicken Soup for the Soul's books on stress and positive thinking.

"The Big Book Club Getaway moves the book conversation from the living room to a fabulous resort," said Amy Newmark, publisher, editor-in-chief, and author of Chicken Soup for the Soul. "I can't wait to meet my neighbors as we spend two days discussing books and what we love about reading. I look forward to inspiring the audience with some of my favorite Chicken Soup for the Soul stories and discussing what I have learned about life from our books. I also look forward to sharing some writing tips with the talented women in the audience."

The Big Book Club Getaway is produced by La Francois Marketing Consultants and Connecticut independent booknook Essex Books. The event is sponsored by Chicken Soup for the Soul, Mohegan Sun, local bookstores Bank Square Books and RJ Julia and state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, CT Humanities. The Alzheimer's Association will receive a portion of the proceeds from The Big Book Club Getaway.

Visit www.thebigbookclub.org for more information and to register for the event. General admission is \$100 per person if registered and paid by January 31, 2012, and \$125 at the door. Teachers, students and librarians are \$75 with an ID. News and updates will be posted on the event Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thebigbookclubgetaway.

Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, which is distributed through Simon & Schuster, Inc. In 2007, USA Today named Chicken Soup for the Soul one of the five most memorable books in the last quarter century. Since 1993, more than 100 million books in the series have been sold in the United States and Canada alone. Chicken Soup for the Soul titles have been sold in more than 100 additional countries and translated into more than 40 languages. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, including TV shows and a major motion picture, and is also developing a digital presence for life improvement, emotional support, inspiration, and wellness. Chicken Soup for the Soul Foods, a joint venture with Daymon Worldwide Inc., will start rolling out its line of delicious, nutritious comfort foods in early 2013. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous brand to high-quality licensees. For more information visit www.chickensoup.com.

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To request an interview with Amy Newmark or for more information on The Big Book Club Getaway, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 206-0229 or shelby@sheltoninteractive.com