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**GATHER.COM TO HOST ONE-OF-A-KIND LITERARY-THEMED CRUISE
FEATURING BESTSELLING AUTHORS AND LITERARY GUESTS**

Multiple Publishers Across Many Genres Come Together to “Book It to Bermuda”

BOSTON, MASS., September 12, 2006 – In celebration of its first-year anniversary, Gather.com™, the place to find and share the best user-created content online, today announced it will host a one-of-a-kind, literary-themed cruise. The 5-night cruise will feature numerous literary guests and bestselling authors including Elinor Lipman, Terri Jentz, and Lynnette Khalfani. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Houghton Mifflin, McGraw-Hill, Random House, Simon & Schuster and other publishers representing multiple genres are participating in “Book It to Bermuda.” The Boston-to-Bermuda cruise will take place October 26 – 31 aboard Royal Caribbean’s new *Jewel of the Seas* cruise ship. Although the cruise is open to the public, Gather.com members will have exclusive access to special events and time with the authors. Membership to Gather.com is free.

In addition to the special literary guests, cruise-goers will experience a live cooking demonstration by the ship’s chief chef, featuring recipes from the soon-to-be-released *Joy of Cooking: 75th Anniversary Edition*. The books and authors from the cruise will be specially featured and promoted on Gather.com, and Gather members can enter the “Book it to Bermuda” book review contest, with the winner receiving a stateroom for two on the cruise.

“Celebrating and discussing literature is something that goes on every day on Gather.com,” explains Tom Gerace, Gather.com Founder and CEO (tom.gather.com). “It’s fantastic that we’re able to bring our online community together with luminaries in the literary and publishing community in such a spectacular setting.”

Special literary guests on the “Book It to Bermuda” cruise include:

Authors

Elinor Lipman (Houghton Mifflin) is the author of nine works of fiction, including *The Inn at Lake Devine*, *Then She Found Me* – which begins film production in the fall – and the newest, *My Latest Grievance*. Lipman frequently writes essays and book reviews.

Terri Jentz (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) is a screenwriter and lives in Los Angeles. *Strange Piece of Paradise* is her first book. She works with Equality Now to help end violence against women, and supports The Feminist Majority.

Lynnette Khalfani (McGraw-Hill) is a personal finance expert, former Wall Street Journal reporter, and author of the New York Times bestseller *Zero Debt: The Ultimate Guide to Financial Freedom* and *The Money Coach's Guide to Your First Million*. She offers a free money management newsletter via her website, The Money Coach.

Beryl Singleton Bissell (Counterpoint), Gather member extraordinaire, is a columnist for *Cook County News Herald*. Her work has been published in *Sun Magazine* and *Minnesota Monthly*, *Lake Superior Magazine*, and appears in the anthology *Surviving Ophelia: The Scent of God* is her first book.

Louise Shaffer (Random House) is the author of *The Three Miss Margarets* and *The Ladies of Garrison Gardens*. A graduate of Yale School of Drama, she has written for TV and appeared on Broadway and in daytime dramas, earning an Emmy for her work on *Ryan's Hope*.

Edward Abramson, Ph.D. (McGraw-Hill) is a professor of psychology at California State University and an internationally recognized expert on eating disorders. He’s the author of *Body Intelligence*, which teaches how to lose weight without dieting.

Presenters

Sue Fleming is Vice President and Executive Director Online and Consumer Marketing in the Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group and successfully launched its consumer book club program. **Aimee Boyer** is the Marketing Manager Consumer Marketing at Simon & Schuster. Ms. Boyer hosts several book group symposiums across the country each year.

Helen Rees, a longtime political activist, is founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of The Rees Literary Agency. Her many clients include Michael Abrashoff, James Champy, Alan Dershowitz, Richard Tedlow, and Jack Welch.

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Online at www.prbs.org.

For more information about the “Book It to Bermuda” cruise, call Gather.com’s booking partner Vacation Outlet at 1.800.TAKEOFF (1.800.825.3633), or visit cruising.gather.com.

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