



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Baltimore-Based Publisher Produces Nature-Themed,
Environmentally Friendly Children's Books**

Baltimore, MD, May 14, 2007- Baltimore-based publisher Solar Publishing is leading the movement toward a greener world with their nature-themed children's picture books. Solar Publishing, whose mission is to "enlighten the lives of others through media that instills a sense of connection to nature and to humanity," has released two books and has plans for two more this coming fall.

"Parents are looking for books that address holistic living and environmental awareness in a way that doesn't harm the environment any further," says Robyn Ringgold, company president. Starting with their fall releases, Solar books will be printed on wood-free or recycled paper, and through a partnership with the organization Trees for the Future (www.treesftf.org), a tree will be planted for every book sold.

Solar Publishing believes in the importance of giving back to the community not only through books, but also by contributing time to and assisting with fundraising for multiple causes. Solar donated books to the Gary Comer Youth Center in Chicago, IL, where they led workshops on dance and environmental awareness. Additionally, they recently held a fundraiser for a Maasai bore well project in Kenya (www.maraborehole.org/). Proceeds helped to provide a Maasai village, impacted by Global Warming, with access to clean drinking water.

Solar's publications are *My Mom Hugs Trees* by Robyn Ringgold and *Mbutu's Mangos* by Zaccai Free. Both books are illustrated by Vidya Vasudevan. Fall releases include *My Mom Eats Tofu* by Robyn Ringgold and *Mbutu Makes it Rain* by Zaccai Free.

For additional information, visit www.solarpub.com or contact Robyn Ringgold.



Solar Publishing's Current Titles

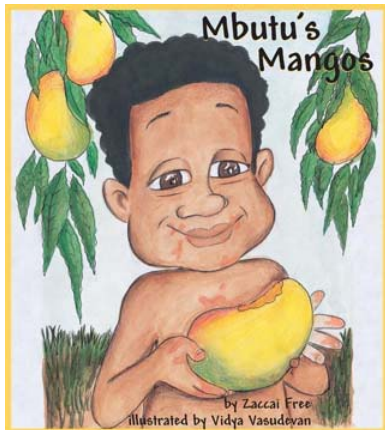


My Mom Hugs Trees

Do you think your Mom does strange things? Well, my Mom hugs trees, rescues bugs, sings with birds, and talks to flowers. Come meet my Mom. You might end up doing strange things too!

Delightful illustrations and poetic text hold the attention of young readers and make *My Mom Hugs Trees* a perfect "read-to-me" book. The story reflects a love and enjoyment of life. Mom, with her strange habits, will foster children's connection to nature.

ISBN #	0-9785326-1-9
Publication Date	September 2006
Age Range	5-8 years
# of Pages/Size	20 pages/8.25 x 11.75



Mbutu's Mangos

Have you ever had a mango? It is so good, juicy, and sweet. Hi, I'm Mbutu. Mango season is my favorite time of year.

Mbutu's Mangos is all about my adventures during mango season. Watch how I save the mangos from falling on the ground and rotting. Come with me and learn about nature's cycles.

Enjoy *Mbutu's Mangos*. It's fresh and colorful just like a ripe mango!

ISBN #	0-9785326-0-0
Publication Date	May 2006
Age Range	5 years and up
# of Pages/Size	24 pages/8x9 w/ companion cd

Ordering

Orders can be placed through www.solarpub.com, Baker & Taylor or Afrikan World Distributors.



Customer Reviews of *My Mom Hugs Trees*

“My Mom Hugs Trees is a joyful children’s book with a finely illustrated and significant message—everything is connected. I was fortunate to grow up in a situation where I had an old apple orchard behind my house. I spent many happy hours climbing, sitting in and communing with those apple trees. My father taught me to love life. He talked to nearly every person and creature that came his way. He had learned the interconnectedness of all things from his Irish mother and I learned from him.”

“Like the mother in *My Mom Hugs Trees*, I’m a tree-hugger from way back and I talk to practically everyone and everything—people on the street, the birds that come to my feeder and bird baths, the squirrels and raccoons that live in the maple trees in my backyard; spiders, crickets, praying mantises and all the many critters I meet in my daily life. Helping children learn to respect and discover their place in the natural world provides a priceless gift. *My Mom Hugs Trees* is a fun and helpful stop along that journey.”

S. Covahey
Baltimore, Maryland

“I bought your book for my kids at the Chicago Green Festival. They loved it and the local moms loved it too. Delaney's mom is a real 'tree hugger' and I know that their whole family will enjoy your story. Keep up the good work!”

S. Takash
LaGrange Park, Illinois

Thank you, Robyn, for your book has changed my inner being. *My Mom Hugs Trees* is a book that is physically soft, beautiful, and flexible, like the minds of our children. Robyn Ringgold plants the seed of difference and tolerance in a book about the environment and family understanding. Outstanding!

Cindy Katz
CEO of Plant a Tree USA
www.plantatreeusa.com



About Solar Publishing's Authors and Illustrator

Robyn Ringgold, President of Solar Publishing and author of *My Mom Hugs Trees*, has over fifteen years of publishing experience, including serving as Art Director for an international trade magazine and writing and editing for numerous publications. She currently works as a Business Analyst Consultant for various government and private organizations.

Robyn's books have been influenced by her travels to Africa and India. She also writes poetry, which has been published in the *New Breezes* anthology, several local and national magazines, a compilation with Zaccai Free titled *Irie Sunshine*, and a personal collection entitled *Mwangaza: Light from the Earth*. She is dedicated to introducing holistic living and cultural awareness to underexposed populations through her writing.

Zaccai Free, Vice-President of Solar Publishing and author of *Mbutu's Mangos*, works for the International Association for Human Values, where he facilitates youth leadership programs. He directs and writes programming for the variety talk show *The Verge*, as well as produces film projects for the nonprofit organization One Common Unity, Inc.

Zaccai spent four years in Belize studying rainforest agriculture and survival skills. The relationships he built there inspired him to write *Mbutu's Mangos*. His other creative works include a compilation with Robyn Ringgold titled *Irie Sunshine*, contributions to *21st Century Hustle Magazine*, *The Movement* online newsletter, *The Metropolitan Review*, and original music and spoken word recordings with the band Photon.

Vidya Vasudevan, illustrator of *My Mom Hugs Trees* and *Mbutu's Mangos*, is a freelance graphic designer and illustrator. She previously worked as a layout artist for an animation company in India. She spent her childhood years in Mozambique and Uganda. She currently resides in the United States and is currently writing her own children's book.