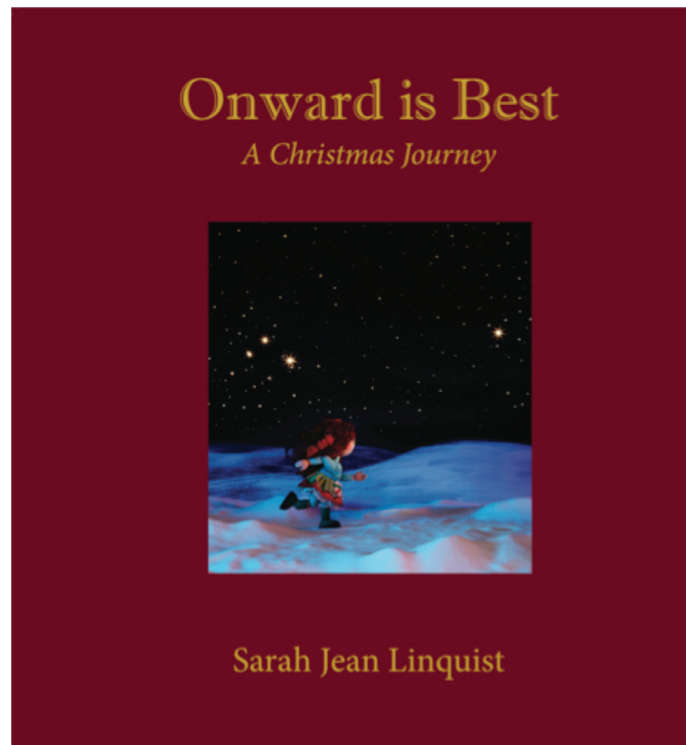


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For Immediate Release

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**Artist's magical, one-of-a-kind Christmas Book, completed by family and friends,  
will benefit Cancer Support Community of Greater St. Louis**



On The Wall Productions, along with family and friends, is pleased to announce the publication of a delightful and compelling new children's book, *Onward is Best, A Christmas Journey*, by the late St. Louis artist Sarah Jean Linquist. Full color illustrations for this read-aloud tale feature a series of meticulously detailed 3-D sets, each a handmade miniature landscape crafted from vintage and found varieties of paper, wood, metal and fabric, as well as popcorn and natural materials.

This limited edition, over-sized cloth bound book will be published November 20, 2011. Pre-publication orders are welcome and come with four holiday greeting cards based on the book, and can be filled through our web site, [www.onwardisbest.com](http://www.onwardisbest.com). A portion of the book proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Support Community of Greater St. Louis ([www.cancersupportstl.org](http://www.cancersupportstl.org)).

After a diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 2006, Ms. Linquist began writing the story and creating the unique, hand-made settings in which it takes place. She worked on her book for four years until her death in 2010. (MORE)

## ADD ONE – Onward Is Best

Over the course of the next year, her husband, Robert Fishbone, her three sisters, her niece, and a circle of friends joined forces to complete and publish the book. This remarkable book is available online at [www.onwardisbest.com](http://www.onwardisbest.com) or at both locations of Left Bank Books in St. Louis, MO, [www.left-bank.com](http://www.left-bank.com).

There will be a book launch celebration on November 20, 2011, from 4 to 7pm at The Eleven, located at 360 North Boyle, St. Louis, MO 63108. For further information or for interviews, please contact Robert Fishbone at [robert@onwardisbest.com](mailto:robert@onwardisbest.com) or visit [www.onwardisbest.com](http://www.onwardisbest.com).

To craft her Yuletide tale, Linquist drew upon her childhood.

“Growing up in Chicago,” she wrote, “I was treated to an annual December trip downtown to see the Christmas windows at Marshall Fields. I have a vivid memory of plastering my face to the cold glass and blocking out all of the world with my hands until I was IN the enchanted, sparkly world the window designer had created.” With *Onward is Best: A Christmas Journey*, Ms. Linquist has created equally enchanting worlds for today’s children to explore.

The book’s main character, Dolly, a small wooden toy doll with wild, red hair, is afraid to go to a strange child’s home on Christmas where she may, or may not be loved. She would rather stay with Santa at the North Pole where she knows she is cared for.

As she is about to be led with the other toys into the Wrapping Room, she escapes into the night where she plans to hide through Christmas. Santa would then certainly allow her to stay. Yet she soon gets lost in the snowy landscape, jumps through a hole in the night and begins a series of adventures with a group of odd, new friends. Her journey takes her from Santa’s Workshop through Paper Land, Popcorn Land, Metal Land, Teddy Bear Land, Wood Land and Desolation Land.

Readers experience Dolly’s foolishness, bravery, loyalty, and risk-taking as she learns to count on others to help her push through the unknown.

Sarah Jean Linquist (1951-2010) grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, the youngest of four artist-writer sisters. With a degree in Fine Arts and Communications from Antioch College, Sarah moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1973, with her husband-to-be, artist and musician Robert Fishbone. Their mural painting company, ON THE WALL PRODUCTIONS, has produced over 150 site-specific artworks in five states.

In 1988 Linquist was hired by the St. Louis Municipal Opera as a scenic painter; she was named director of the scenic Art Department in 1998 and served as The Muny’s Master Scenic Artist for the rest of her life.

(MORE)

ADD TWO – Onward Is Best

Ms. Linquist's whimsical approach, coupled with her exceptional artistic skills, generated high public and private demand for her murals and installations. She exhibited studio work in New York and St. Louis galleries. She also helped to design over 200 art-related products sold in museums and eclectic gift shops in 20 countries, including the iconic Scream inflatable.

To see more of Sarah Jean Linquist's work please go to [www.sarahlinquist.com](http://www.sarahlinquist.com).

**NOTE: Robert Fishbone, Sarah Jean Linquist's husband and artistic partner, is available for media interviews. Contact him at 314-692-2900 or [robert@onwardisbest.com](mailto:robert@onwardisbest.com).**

For more information, including a Press Kit with digital images and sample chapters, please visit [www.onwardisbest.com](http://www.onwardisbest.com).

Cancer Support Community of Greater St. Louis, [www.cancersupportstl.org](http://www.cancersupportstl.org).

Left Bank Books, 314-367-6731 [www.left-bank.com](http://www.left-bank.com).

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