

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2012

New book by Rhonda Johnson
Speaking for the Child: An Autobiography and a Challenge

Speaking for the Child was well received at book signings in New York, Washington, DC and Paris, Texas, where Ms. Johnson resides. Ms. Johnson is looking forward to book signings in the Dallas area and Texarkana.

Rhonda Johnson is an award winning poet (Henri Coulette Memorial Award, of the Academy of American Poets) and a published short story writer. She also publishes a unique online quarterly journal of poetry and prose. Visions with Voices (<http://visionswithvoices.com>) allows you to both read and listen to the various writer's works.

Quotes from Speaking for the Child:

"We all live on the same planet, but we don't all live in the same world."
"Insanity is the only sane response to an insane word."

Brief Synopsis:

What makes this book unique is not just what Rhonda Johnson goes through, but what she comes out of. As the world of hearing and vision slowly fades, she struggles in a world that refuses to acknowledge her disabilities but interprets them as a lack of common sense and attentiveness. As a child, she cannot explain to others what she does not understand herself. Filled with confusion, rage and self-doubt, she finds that there is still something inside her that will not give up. In the end, her experiences culminate in the decision to stand alone, to boldly go where few have gone before and none have returned—to a place called Self. She must ignore what others think is common sense and look inside her Self to remain sane in this insane world.

Speaking for the Child is structured around the more than thirty streets where the author has lived. The people in these houses make up the thread that runs through her life, tying each house to the next to form a single tapestry. All this moving meant that she is never in one place long enough to be known for who she is rather than for what is written and said about her by teachers and peers.

In her teen years, her spiritual world is usurped by the Word of Faith movement when she falls under the influence of a well-known televangelist. They teach her that, according to the Bible, prayer and faith will make God heal her, and then blame her when He does not. Her continued vision and hearing loss lead her to ask questions those around her never ask. Their disappointment in her failure to receive God's healing fills her with rage and a slowly increasing cognitive dissonance.

The year 2000 brings unexpected joy. A device called a cochlear implant restores her hearing after twelve years of profound deafness. Rhonda bursts into the 21st century armed with self-knowledge and understanding. In *Speaking for the Child*, she looks back and speaks for the child who, not knowing or understanding what was happening, could not speak for herself.

For more information, please visit the *Speaking for the Child* website.
<http://speakingforthechild.com>

You may also view a complete media kit:
<http://speakingforthechild.com/media>