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## **YLC's One Book One New Orleans Announces Dan Baum's *Nine Lives* As Its Seventh Year Reading Selection**

**New Orleans, Louisiana** – One Book One New Orleans, a project of the [Young Leadership Council](#) in partnership with the [Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans](#), is delighted to announce its selection of Dan Baum's [Nine Lives: Mystery, Magic, Life, and Death](#) for its seventh year of One Book programming.

Modeled after community reading initiatives in Seattle, Chicago, and Tampa, One Book One New Orleans creates community and promotes literacy in the Greater New Orleans region by encouraging all New Orleanians ages 16 and above to read the same book at the same time each fall.

Part reportage, part creative non-fiction, and wholly dramatic as only New Orleans can be, *Nine Lives* traces the lives of nine real New Orleanians from every walk of life, interweaving voices and lives of individuals to form a multi-voiced biography of a city and a drama-filled declaration of dedication to its survival.

"*Nine Lives* embodies the essence of what One Book, and the Young Leadership Council itself, are all about: creation of community, celebration of individuality, and passion for our city - that passion which imbues everyone of us who live, love, and learn in New Orleans," said Young Leadership Council President Joseph I. Giarrusso III.

With the generous support of [Shell Oil](#), One Book will donate copies of *Nine Lives* to partnering organizations across New Orleans to foster community around literacy. Partners include the [New Orleans Public Library](#), [Louisiana Books 2 Prisoners](#), and the [Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans](#). Each branch of NOPL will receive multiple copies of *Nine Lives*, and One Book will also donate free copies of the book to the entering freshman class at [Dillard University](#).

Over the course of six weeks, One Book will offer nine unique events and programs to celebrate this year's selection, which will span New Orleans neighborhoods and reach out to community members of all ages and backgrounds. **The season will kick off with festivities at the [New Orleans African American Museum](#) on September 7 from 6-8pm.** Free and open to the public, the kickoff event will feature live music, free food and drinks from local restaurants, the sale of [New Orleans Ork](#) posters to benefit local non-profits, a raffle, and a donation and information table for [Louisiana Books 2 Prisoners](#) and their work encouraging literacy within the Orleans Parish prison system.

Additional events include:

- Nine Lives Children's Art Project at the [International School of Louisiana](#), co-sponsored by [Community Works of Louisiana](#)
- "Faces of New Orleans" Film Night with the [New Orleans Film Society](#) at the [New Orleans Museum of Art](#)
- "Tenth Life" Writing Contest with middle school, high school, and adult prizes of e-readers and book gift certificates
- "Nine Lives Changed by Literacy" panel with the Literacy Alliance of Greater New Orleans
- Author panel with Dan Baum at Dooky Chase
- Finale event featuring work from the Children's Art Projects, the 10<sup>th</sup> Life Writing Contest, free food, honored guests from *Nine Lives*, and musical entertainment.

### **About OBONO**

Now in its seventh year as a project of the Young Leadership Council, One Book One New Orleans strives to create community in New Orleans through the common experience of reading the same book at the same time every fall. By bringing together people from different neighborhoods, backgrounds, and ages, we celebrate one book and its impact on our city, and the commonalities that bind us to each other, and to the place we love and call home, New Orleans. This shared reading experience not only reminds us of our city's unique literary contributions and of the strength of community, but also strengthens the reading community and the importance of literacy in New Orleans, as we explore how the literary world becomes yet another way to connect to one another across all lines.

Past selections of One Book include: *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines, *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America* by John M. Barry, *Coming Out the Door for the Ninth Ward* by Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club, *City of Refuge* by Tom Piazza, *Gumbo Tales: Finding My Place At The New Orleans Table* by Sara Roehen, and *Satchmo* by Louis Armstrong. One Book One New Orleans is presented by the Young Leadership Council in partnership with the Literacy Alliance of New Orleans.

### **About Young Leadership Council**

The [Young Leadership Council](#) (YLC) is a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. Through volunteer-created community projects, the YLC recruits and retains young professionals to New Orleans and has a positive impact on the quality of life in the region. The oldest, independent YPO (young professionals' organization) in the country, the YLC has raised more than \$25 million to support community projects in and around the New Orleans area since 1986.

The YLC has more than 1,300 member-volunteers, and is led by a 25-member board of directors and four staff members.