

# STORY TIME IN THE PLAZA



**C**elebrating the joy of reading was the focus of a Saturday event that brought popular children's book authors and their characters to Santa Barbara. StoryFaire, which was held in De la Guerra Plaza, was hosted by CALM (Child Abuse Listening and Mediation) and the Storyteller Children's Center.

The event featured 18 children's book authors and illustrators showcasing their work, plus story times, arts and crafts, refreshments and more. This year's StoryFaire headlining author was Valerie Tripp, best known for her American Girl book series.

In addition to Ms. Tripp, several authors appeared on the main stage and read stories throughout the day, as well as signing books. Children also had the opportunity to participate in hands-on art projects, thanks to Art From Scrap and KidzArt.

Chaucer's Books had books for sale at StoryFaire and contributed a percentage of sales to CALM and Storyteller.



MIKE ELIASON / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

At top, Valerie Tripp, best known for her American Girl book series, signs autographs for kids at StoryFaire. At left center, "Chompers" and "Chow," characters from Barbara Jean-Hicks' book, "Monsters Don't Eat Broccoli," greeted young and old alike at the event. At left, "Tinkerbell" (Vanessa Werkheiser) talks with Cynthia Aguilar, 11. Above, author Marni McGee reads "The Silly Goose." Joining her on the stage were Trevor Latham, left, dressed as a wolf that's dressed like a peacock and Sears McGee, dressed as a character from the book, "Winston the Book Wolf."

