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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Machaela M. Hoxtor, Vice President, Red Room Omnimedia Corporation
415.518.7938 Direct / 415.822.1922 Main /Email machaelahoxtor@redroom.com

Barack Obama Becomes a Red Room Author

Senator Obama Joins New Social Networking Site for Writers and Readers

San Francisco, CA – February 12, 2008 – Today, U.S. Senator, presidential candidate, and author Barack Obama joins a group of many of the world’s most successful and interesting writers at redroom.com, dubbed “a literary MySpace” by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

“Serious candidates on the national stage are usually authors as well as politicians,” said Ivory Madison, CEO and founder of redroom.com. The audiobook editions of Senator Obama’s published works *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* (Crown) and *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream* (Crown) earned the 2006 and 2008 Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album, respectively.

“Throughout history, politicians have published books of collected speeches and prescriptions for their societies—and many of those books have transformed societies,” said Madison. Redroom.com was actually named in part after the literary tradition of the “Red Room” of the White House. When Franklin Roosevelt wouldn’t allow female reporters at his press conferences, Eleanor Roosevelt held her own press conferences at the same time for the women. The conferences were so popular, that the male reporters started attending, and the President had no choice but to integrate his press conferences in order to get any attention. A tradition of civilized revolution on behalf of disenfranchised writers is carried on in the modern-day redroom.com.

“Our community is lucky to be hosting some of the most entertaining and [interesting blog entries](#) I’ve seen about the presidential race in general, and they are from a variety of perspectives, but we noticed that a remarkable number of authors on our site are supporting Senator Obama,” said Madison.

So, Madison asked Red Room author Ayelet Waldman, who is married to novelist Michael Chabon, to write an [exclusive account](#) of why she supports Obama. Waldman and Chabon joined other redroom.com authors including Tobias Wolff, Daniel Handler, Andrew Sean Greer, and Lisa Brown at a recent fundraising event where the literary icons discussed why Obama inspires them. “Barack Obama is not only our future president, but he’s also one of the finest writers I’ve had the pleasure of reading,” said Waldman. “His prose style is as accomplished as his grasp of policy, and as inspiring as his vision. It’s only right that he should be included in Red Room’s virtual community.”

Of the current candidates, Senator Barack Obama, Senator Hillary Clinton, Mike Gravel, Senator John McCain, Mike Huckabee, and Alan Keyes are all [published authors](#) (as well as those who have dropped out, including Rudolph Giuliani and John Edwards). Obama is the first of the candidates to join redroom.com, and it remains to be seen when the other political candidates will.

“We welcome polite, intelligent debate from all perspectives,” said Madison. “Authors from a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, and professions are encouraged to join our community.” Redroom.com does not endorse, promote, or oppose political parties, candidates, or platforms. For more information about Senator Obama and other Red Room authors, visit [www.redroom.com](#).

ABOUT THE RED ROOM – Red Room is the online home of many of the world’s greatest writers. Through original, author-generated content, redroom.com offers a trustworthy and creative social network unlike any other. In the Red Room, you can connect with your favorite authors, access current news, and comment on features and blogs. By showcasing writers, redroom.com fosters true community between authors and readers and inspires the next generation.

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