**DATE: May 2012**

**NEWS** (Release Immediately)

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**THE STORY OF A STAR**

***Teaching us all how to shine***

Brandylane Publishers has announced the release of *The Story of a Star*, a unique story that sheds a unique light on an old holiday classic and teaches an important lesson to both young and old. Although we may feel different and apart from others, we are never alone, and we all have a special purpose in life.

Complete with stunning pastel illustrations, this unique book tells the tale of a lonely, misfit star that is lost in the universe until it happens upon three men crossing a great desert. Realizing it can light their way, the star discovers its true and divine calling.

Author Ginny Umlauf Banister insists that her desire to share this story was driven from the simple truths she encounters day after day from ordinary, yet extraordinary people. She has an inner passion for communicating to others that we all have purpose that is divinely given and often disguised. By embracing our fears and that which makes us feel different, we ultimately come to know and to understand just why we are here.

Ginny works as a sales and marketing executive and lives in Richmond, Virginia. She is a spiritual director at Richmond Hill, an ecumenical Christian community and retreat center on Church Hill in Richmond.

Illustrator Carla Anne Schaaf’s love of drawing and painting goes back to her early childhood. She was influenced by her father who also loved to draw and paint. From 1969 to 1970, Carla was an avid art student in Virginia Commonwealth University’s Art Foundation Program. She draws and paints custom pet portraits and wrote and illustrated her first book, *In the Company of CATS*, published in 2003.

Brandylane Publishers, Inc. is an independent press located in Richmond, Virginia that has published fiction, non-fiction, and poetry since 1985.

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*The Story of a Star* (paperback with color illustrations, 32 pages, $16.95 retail) is available from fine booksellers, at www.brandylanepublishers.com, by calling 804.644.3090, faxing 804.644.3092, or by writing 5 South First Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

**Requests for review copies should be made to the publisher.**