

For Immediate Release
March 9, 2016

For further information
Kathleen Melin (715)646-9339

Classic Home School Book Now on Audio

When *By Heart: A mother's story and children and learning at home* by Kathleen Melin was first published, it came with endorsements from social visionary Eric Utne, radical educator John Taylor Gatto, and Chicago poet Barry Silesky. In the intervening years, it's gained an equally diverse readership – along with home schoolers of many stripes. *By Heart* is now available as an audiobook through Audible, iTunes and Amazon.

Says Melin: “I wanted to write a literary book that would speak to readers across disciplines and through time. It's very gratifying to hear reader's responses as the book continues to resonate in the world.”

With its non-doctrinaire approach, examination of the issues and tensions in society and family, and substantial bibliography, it's a very smart book that is also passionate, moving, and at times funny.

Home schooling has grown steadily since the U.S. Department of Education began tracking data. In 1990, department researcher Patricia M. Lines estimated the number of k-12 home schoolers between 250,000-355,000. The most recent data from 2012 shows 1,773,000 k-12 children learn from home, which is 3.4% of the total number of students.

“I'm not anti-school,” says Melin. “Public schools have a huge task and need all the support they can get. I smile when I hear of learning environments – public or private -- that support children and their families to be healthy and well-bonded. We need more of them, wherever they might be.”

Melin lives in northwestern Wisconsin and is currently writing a series for Young Adult readers.

###