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For Immediate Release:

## **Amy B. Simon Sworn in to New Jersey State Council on the Arts July 24, 2007 at Annual Meeting**

On July 24, 2007, West Orange resident Amy B. Simon was sworn in as one of two new members to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The mission of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts is to improve the quality of life of New Jersey by helping the arts to flourish.

Ms. Simon began her career as an actor and writer in NYC appearing in theater, television, commercials and film and writing for theater, radio and comedy troupes. “I feel like I am coming home” said Amy Simon after her first NJAC meeting. “It will be an honor to work with such a distinguished council of colleagues who have to date achieved so much for the state of the arts in New Jersey. I thank Governor Jon Corzine for this great privilege.”

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting, at the Trenton War Memorial, included the awarding of \$21,535,237 in grants to support over 800 arts organizations, programs and projects across the state, highlighted its work over the past year and paid tribute to three former members, Lillian Levy and Alex Menza both of whom passed away earlier this year and Dr. Arthur Factor whose tenure on the Council ended in June after 15 years of service.

Amy B. Simon is the President of *A Simon Says, LLC* a Public and Community Relations and Public Information firm based in West Orange, New Jersey specializing in proactive and reactive information services and media and presentation training for business, government, education, entertainment and the arts. She holds a Bachelors of Arts Degree from the State University of New York and an advanced education degree from the National Shakespeare Company Conservatory. Ms. Simon has also earned numerous certificates in crisis and emergency information management. Her affiliations include Public Relations Association of America, the National Information Officers Association, Women in Communications, 3CMA - city-county communications and marketing association, New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the West Orange Chamber of Commerce and the Screen Actor's Guild. She is a published author, editorial writer, radio host and, television producer. She currently serves as Communications Director for the Township of West Orange and is founder of the NJ Arts Incubator, opening in the fall of 2008, which will be located on Valley Road in West Orange.

“Artistic expression is what defines us as human, binds us as a community, instructs us about new ideas and propels us outside of our own comfort zone” said Simon, “and last year alone the arts brought an additional 1.5 billion dollars in revenue to New Jersey. I am thrilled to be contributing to my state as a member of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. It’s great to be home again.”