

NEWSLETTER

July - September 2010



**CENTER
FOR
THE BOOK**
IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Center for the Book's networks of state centers and reading promotion partners extend the reach of the national center far beyond the programs it sponsors in the Washington area. The national center in the Library of Congress has established this newsletter to serve as a forum for all Center for the Book activities. We want to tell you what we are doing in Washington and around the country to support our mission of promoting books, reading, libraries and literacy.

And we want to hear about all the innovative ways you call attention to the importance of reading. Your updates can serve as year-round "idea exchanges" that augment our two in-person Idea Exchange meetings, held at the Library of Congress.

Please send your submissions to glam@loc.gov.

10th National Book Festival Breaks Record *90-Degree Temperature Does Not Deter Crowd*

By Erin Allen

It's 9:30 a.m. The sun is blazing. Few breezes interrupt the morning heat. Dust stirs on the National Mall as droves of people trample the grounds, converging into towering white tents, scrambling to grab a seat. No, the circus has not come to town. But with the smell of food in the air, excited voices being carried on the wind and young and old alike mixing and mingling, the scene is reminiscent of the big top, replete with costumed characters, fun and games, and amazing feats ... of words, that is.

Setting a new attendance record, an estimated 150,000 book-lovers gathered on the National Mall on Saturday, Sept. 25, for the 10th annual National Book Festival. Celebrating a "Decade of Words and Wonder," nearly 1 million people have attended the event over the course of its lifetime.

Despite 90-degree heat, the swath of land between 3rd and 7th streets remained a steady buzz of activity, with festival-goers ebbing and flowing through the pavilions to hear their favorite authors speak about their work, their inspirations and, most of all, their own love of books. Standing sentinel over it all were the United States Capitol and the Washington Monument – symbolic bookends organizing the people under a common passion.

"Every one of the hundreds of staff and volunteers who worked hard to make the National Book Festival a success this year should feel very proud. We set a new attendance record, despite the unexpectedly hot weather," said Jennifer Gavin, project manager for this year's festival. "And everyone was in a good mood despite the sizzling temperatures! It just goes to show that people really wanted to be there."

Before the festival even started, readers were settling into book-signing lines. Stephen Roberts, Isabel Allende and Orhan Pamuk already had fans waiting, despite the fact that none of the authors were on schedule until after 11 a.m. – Roberts wasn't even scheduled to sign until 1 p.m.

Other big draws at the festival were "Hunger Games" trilogy author Suzanne Collins in the Teens & Children pavilion, New York Times best-selling author Ken Follett in the Fiction & Mystery pavilion, National Book Award winner Jonathan Franzen



Abby Brack/Library of Congress

An estimated 150,000 people attended the 10th annual National Book Festival on Saturday, Sept. 25, on the National Mall.

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Kimberly Powell

The National Mall between 3rd and 7th streets was a buzz of activity all day during the festival.

in the Poetry & Prose pavilion, former first lady Laura Bush in the History & Biography pavilion and “Top Chef” contestant Spike Mendelsohn in the Contemporary Life pavilion.

“You don’t happen to know where the bibliophile anonymous tent is, do you?” Valerie Ziobro asked jokingly while awaiting Isabel Allende’s talk in the Fiction & Mystery pavilion. A Falls Church, Va., resident, Ziobro has been to almost every festival since its inception.

“I didn’t bring my wallet today, though,” she admitted. “If I buy one more book, my apartment will explode.”

A hush went through the crowd as Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, looking excited and energetic in his patterned shirt and dark blazer, took the stage to open the festival.

“Everybody loves a good story, they unify people,” he said, calling attention to the international flavor of this year’s event.

“Young adults who have virtually grown up with the National Book Festival have come back year after year,” he added. “It’s never the same experience.”

In fact, through the Old Dominion Chapter of The Links, 100 students from West Gate Elementary, Godwin Middle School, Stonewall Middle School and Hylton High School – all in Prince William County – attended. This is the fourth time the organization has sponsored area students.

Billington gave special recognition to David Rubenstein for his generous donation of \$5 million to support the festival. “To another five years,” saluted the Librarian to raucous applause and cheers.

Many authors opened their talks with an appreciation for not only the fans braving the heat to attend the festival but also for those who work diligently to promote a love of reading, whether it was festival volunteers, the Library or even teachers and school librarians.

“I know many of you are librarians, and I feel I should say something,” said Elizabeth Kostova. “I love librarians, I love books and I’m thrilled to see such an outpouring on the Mall. It’s a great gift to children to be given books and taken to the library.”

“I can’t believe I’m here, I’m alive and I’m speaking English,” exclaimed Anchee Min. “This is such a wonderful moment – it reminds me of when I first landed in America in 1984 – thank you, America, for giving me a chance.”

“Thank you for coming, for the support you give us as writers, said James McGrath Morris. “When we’re working alone for five years, it’s nice to know you’re out there.”

“It seems like a miracle to me to have people come out to hear an author,” said Jonathan Franzen.

Exclaimed Anita Silvey, “Joie de libre!”

The bustling crowd showed no signs of slowing down as the day wore on, swarming the sidewalks, pitching impromptu picnics on the grass in between author

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(National Book Festival, from page 2)

presentations and keeping the Metro very busy.

“We’ve come here several years now, and we always have a great time,” said Stephanie Zeebars of Spring Castle, Pa. “We love books, we love reading and learning – there are endless opportunities on a day like this.”

“My favorite part about the book festival – I just like the air here and how books are celebrated,” said Nancy Hunt of Westport, N.Y.

“I really get a charge out of seeing all the kids and how excited they are about reading and books – because that is something that will last a whole lifetime,” said Bill Lowenburg of Pennsylvania.

In typical book festival fashion, the question of the day seemed to be “Where can I get one of those bags?” Both C-Span and PBS handed out some 30,000 totes, making the Mall a sea of green and red, as if Christmas had come to town early. Stuffed in those bags were festival programs, posters and a variety of other goodies.

When not attending author presentations, book lovers filled the Pavilion of the States. There, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the United States territories were represented, each featuring information about their literacy- and reading-promotion programs. Kids were on a mission to collect a stamp or sticker from all the places represented, and the sound of a conch shell could be heard over the din, calling to visitors outside the tent like the Pied Piper’s pipe. The Center for the Book organizes the Pavilion of the States and is responsible for the program of authors who attend the festival.

A hub of activity was the Let’s Read America pavilions. Children sang along with PBS KIDS’ SteveSongs, enjoyed read-alouds with Martha from Martha Speaks and posed for pictures with PBS KIDS characters and other favorites such as Curious George, Clifford the Big Red Dog and the Cat in the Hat.

Target, a charter sponsor of the National Book Festival, featured “Mail from the Mall,” where festival-goers had their pictures taken in front of a green screen and had their image incorporated into the book festival poster and put on a postcard.

Tucked away in the pavilions were little alcoves of literary leisure where at any given moment could be found parents reading to their children or festival-goers taking a moment to relax and soak up the bookish atmosphere.

Other highlights of the festival included the launch of “Gateway to Knowledge,” a traveling exhibit on a tractor-trailer that will visit some 60 communities across America, sponsored by the Abby and Emily Rapoport Foundation; and the Digital Bookmobile, which enabled visitors to browse a public library’s website, sample popular e-books, audiobooks, music and video titles, and learn how to download and try out supported mobile devices.

Visitors to the Library of Congress pavilion had the opportunity to learn about the Veterans History Project, genealogy research, preserving personal collections, the World Digital Library and the Library of Congress Experience.

Overheard were two teenage girls discussing the Library’s Twitter archive.

“Did you know they are archiving everything on Twitter?” said one girl.

“Whoa!” said the other.

One tweet that will be preserved in the archive and perhaps best sums up the festival

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(National Book Festival, from page 3)

and the day: “My lips are chapped, I’m sunburned and dying of heat, but I met some of my favorite living authors today and it was totally worth it.”

--Erin Allen is a public affairs specialist in the Office of Communications.



“The Exquisite Corpse” Has Its Last Adventure *Story Concludes at National Book Festival*

By Guy Lamolinara

Ten a.m. in the Children’s pavilion was the place to be for anyone who had been following “The Exquisite Corpse Adventure,” the exclusive episodic story on Read.gov.

The standing-tent-only crowd had come to hear the final episode of the story, which

had launched a year ago, at the 2009 National Book Festival. National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Katherine Paterson wrote the final episode, and her predecessor as ambassador, Jon Scieszka, had written the first episode, which sent this zany story on its unpredictable path across 26 additional episodes, through 16 different authors (and five illustrators), finally landing on Sept. 25, where Episode 27 had been adapted for a “Readers Theater” presentation by three of the Exquisite Corpse authors (Paterson, M.T. Anderson and Linda Sue Park) and two illustrators (Timothy Basil Ering and James Ransome).

A special poster had been designed for the program by Stephen Schneider of Web Services, who took pieces of the 27 illustrations and turned them into a

“weatherbeaten” collage poster that was given away throughout the festival grounds. The entire Web Services team was responsible for the interactive book presentation of the story on Read.gov, which attracted hundreds of thousands of kids (and adults) from across the country and around the world who read the story.

John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, which collaborated with one of its reading promotion partners, the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, on the story project, opened the program by recognizing the schoolchildren from Prince William County Public Schools who had been bussed in just for the occasion. He then turned the program over to Mary Brigid Barrett, president and executive director of the NCBLA, who introduced the Readers Theater cast.

The familiar “Exquisite Corpse” characters were represented: Joe and Nancy Sloppy, Genius Kelly the pig, Hathi the elephant, Pirandello, Angel, Boppo the clown, Sybil Hunch and, of course, Roberta the robot AKA the Exquisite Corpse, and some new ones: the Eggy-Thing Chorus.

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All photos: Patricia Fisher

The cast of “The Exquisite Corpse Adventure” Readers Theater delivered the final episode (No. 27) of the story (from left): Mary Brigid Barrett, James Ransome, Katherine Paterson, Timothy Basil Ering, Linda Sue Park and M. T. Anderson.

(Exquisite Corpse Adventure, from page 4)

But first, the Exquisite Corpse had to be assembled. Barrett tested the authors' knowledge of the story. Each time they answered correctly, another piece of the Corpse was attached to its body, until finally, its heart was added, completing Roberta.

Barrett's executive program director, Geri Eddins, had been recruited to hold up signs for the audience, signaling them when to cheer or hiss. There were more hisses than cheers, however, such as when Hunch asked one of the Eggy Things to "Give us your yolks!" And the Eggy-Thing replied: "Then, the yolk will be on you, old voman!"

The jokes just got better (or worse):

"Knock, Knock!"

"Who's there?"

"Oregon."

"Oregon, who?"

"Ore-e-gonna take over the world?"

More hisses and boos from the audience.

Throughout the tale the twins, Joe and Nancy Sloppy, who had run away from the circus where they were raised, had been searching for their parents, who were trapped in another time dimension. When the Sloppys were finally reunited, the Elephant Clown Party that had begun the story could now resume.

Eventually, the Eggy Things were done in by "their own rotten humor."

And as the narrator of the story concluded: "I won't say it was the end of all their adventures, for Nancy and Joe were an adventurous pair, but it brings to a close 'The Exquisite Corpse Adventure' – evil conquered, family united, and friends who lived, I'm quite sure, happily ever after." And finally, the audience cheered.

Guy Lamolinara is communications officer for the Center for the Book.



Artist Timothy Basil Ering and two of his fans; Ering illustrated several of the story's episodes.



John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, urges audience members to pick up an "Exquisite Corpse" poster, which featured snippets of the art from the 27 original illustrations that accompanied the story.



Jonah S. Eskin Memorial Lecture



National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Katherine Paterson delivered a special presentation in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Thomas Jefferson Building on Sept. 23. She addressed several hundred adoring schoolchildren and told them of the importance of reading in their lives. "Read for your life!" she said.



Also attending were two of Paterson's biggest fans, Sen. and Mrs. Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, Paterson's home state. Behind them is a small display featuring Paterson and her role as National Ambassador.



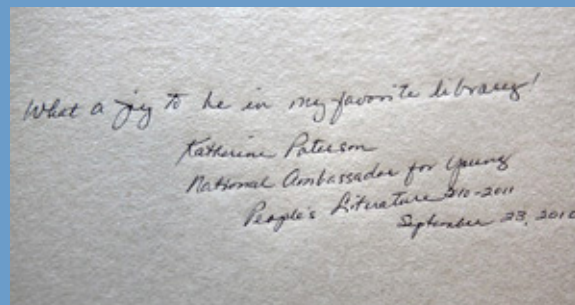
There was no shortage of children who wanted to ask a question of Paterson following her presentation.



Librarian of Congress James H. Billington warmly greeted Paterson in his ceremonial office in the historic Jefferson Building.



The Paterson event was funded through the Jonah S. Eskin Memorial Fund. The event was sponsored by the Center for the Book, whose director, John Y. Cole (far left), was in the ceremonial office before the program, along with Paterson, Marcia Eskin, Dr. Billington and Barnet Eskin.



Paterson signed the Librarian's guest book.

National Book Festival Letters about Literature



During the Book Festival, a special program in the Teens & Children pavilion was held to showcase local kids and their winning entries in the Letters About Literature contest sponsored by Target, a major festival sponsor. Here, Olivia Marcantonio reads the letter she wrote to Jerry Spinelli, author of “Stargirl.” This reading and writing program is co-sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Target for students in grades 4-12. They are asked to write to an author past or present about how their work affected them.

Claire Wang read her very moving and personal letter to Katherine Paterson, author of “Bridge to Terabithia,” who was on stage with writer Michael Buckley.



Paterson gives Wang a hug following her reading.



Associate Librarian for Library Services Deanna Marcum thanks Paterson and Wang for their participation.



All photos: Patricia Fisher



Author Anita Silvey (center) visited the Massachusetts table in the Pavilion of the States; she was greeted by Sharon Shaloo, director of the Mass Center for the Book and Celeste Bruno, communications specialist for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

National Book Festival Pavilion of the States



Dr. Billington made his annual visit to the pavilion to greet attendees; Anne Boni, Center for the Book program specialist, greeted visitors to the Center's table.



Author Pat Mora visited the New Mexico table; she lives in the state.



Oklahoma's chicken was a huge draw.



Mississippi author Natasha Trethewey visited her home state's table to meet her fans.



The Florida Center for the Book, the oldest of the state centers, attracted a big crowd to its table.

Collegiate Book Collecting Awards

Presented at Library of Congress for First Time

The Center for the Book launched a new project on Oct. 15 when it hosted, for the first time, the awards ceremony for the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest. Four young collectors from across America were recognized during a program co-sponsored with the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, the Fellowship of American Bibliographic Societies and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress. The four prizes were generously underwritten by the Jay I. Kislak Foundation.

“College students are a new audience for us,” said John Cole, the center’s director. “I was delighted to learn that more than 30 universities and colleges currently hold book collecting contests, and we hope that this competition will help inspire a new generation of collectors. The contest also enables us to recognize the importance of book collecting in American culture. The Library of Congress, based on Thomas Jefferson’s personal library, is but one example of a public institution that has benefited significantly from private collectors.”



Deanna Marcum, associate librarian for Library Services, introduced the program, which was videotaped for broadcast by C-SPAN and by the Library of Congress. The presentation

The winners of the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest celebrated their victories at a special Library of Congress program. Bailey Pike (from left), Philipp Penka, Andrew Fink and Ryan Julian visited the Rosenwald Room (part of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division).

of the awards was preceded by an illustrated talk by noted collector and bibliophile Carol Fitzgerald, “Collecting Mid-Twentieth-Century America.” She focused on her “Rivers of America” collection, which she and her husband, Jean, donated to the Library of Congress in 2003, and on her new “Series Americana” collection.

Before Cole introduced and congratulated the winners, he thanked Mark Dimunation, chief of the Library’s Rare Book and Special Collections Division, for his late-afternoon show-and-tell book demonstration for the winners and their friends and families in the division’s Lessing J. Rosenwald Room. He also explained that prizes were awarded to both the students and to the libraries of their sponsoring institutions.

Cole asked each of the four winners, when they received their cash award from Arthur Dunkleman of the Kislak Foundation, to say a few words about their collection, their motivation and their future plans.

First prize winner Andrew Fink of the University of Puget Sound described how his collection of 20th century propaganda covered the subject from three perspectives: theory, history (including both primary and secondary sources) and artistic expression. He was especially proud of the ways it illustrated how art can

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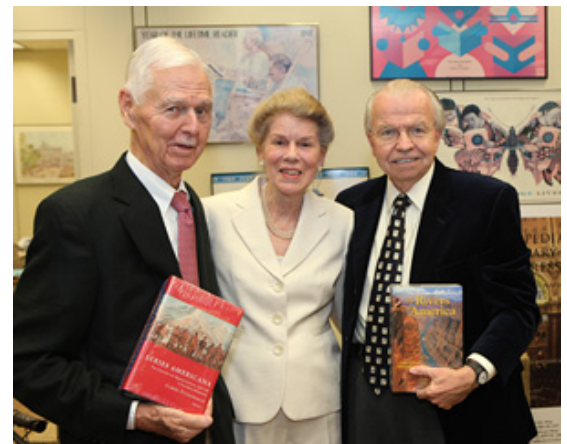
(Collegiate Book Collecting Awards, from previous page)

“both inform and persuade.”

Second prize went to Ryan Julian of the University of Chicago for his collection on the history of mathematics. A future mathematician, he was initially drawn to the subject by the “theoretical beauty” of mathematics, but eventually came to appreciate and emphasize in his collecting the individual stories behind the “human quest for understanding that has motivated mathematicians for centuries and centuries.”

Philipp S. Penka, a Slavist studying at Harvard University, described the special focus of the collection for which was awarded the contest’s third place prize: the print culture of Russian displaced persons in postwar Germany, 1945-1951. He pointed out that very few people had paid attention to these individuals living in camps prior to their emigration elsewhere, let alone the “remarkable publishing enterprises” they developed. Through his collection, which now includes 90 volumes, he is trying to “document” a lost culture.

A special prize for the best essay about a collection went to Bailey N. Pike of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her collection, “The Mythology of Mozart,” is multidimensional and multi-media, including biography and fiction, musical scores and CDs. A music major, library lover and eventually a library school student, she traced her love of collecting back to her “shock,” at the age of 8, to learn that her local library was “discarding” items through a book sale. She immediately purchased some Mozart items, felt a growing sense of stewardship and today is “still rescuing books from library discard sales.”



Guest lecturer Carol Fitzgerald is herself a book collector; she is accompanied by her husband, Jean, and John Cole.

Photos: Patricia Fisher



Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book Division, provided a special presentation of some of the division’s treasures.



Library of Congress Traveling Exhibition Trailer May be Heading Your Way

West Virginia Center for the Book Hosts First Tour Stop

The Library of Congress has launched a traveling exhibition that is bringing facsimiles of many of its top treasures and information about the millions of resources in its unparalleled collections to the heartland of America. “Gateway to Knowledge,” an exhibition that travels in a specially fitted 18-wheel truck, was launched from the site of the National Book Festival on the National Mall on Sept. 25. The next day it was headed to its first stop: the West Virginia Center for the Book in Charleston.

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(Traveling Exhibition, from previous page)

John Y. Cole, director of the national Center for the Book, traveled to Charleston for the opening ceremony. The next day the truck headed for its first stops, which included the West Virginia Center for the Book in Charleston. On Saturday, Oct. 2, at the foot of the state Capitol, Cole joined West Virginia state center coordinator Karen Goff and state librarian J.D. Waggoner for the opening day ribbon-cutting ceremony. Approximately 600 members of the public toured the truck during its two-day stay.

“The Center for the Book was pleased to inaugurate this important outreach program of the Library of Congress,” said Cole.

Ultimately, “Gateway to Knowledge” is expected to visit up to 60 sites in states across the Midwest and South over the next year. You can see the tour itinerary at www.loc.gov/gateway/. Additional tour sites are being added as funds allow.

The exhibition was the idea of Abby and Emily Rapoport, the granddaughters of Audre and Bernie Rapoport, founding members of the Library’s private-sector support organization, the James Madison Council. The “Gateway to Knowledge” exhibition will bring the Library’s riches to areas of the nation – particularly rural areas – that may not be aware of their access to the wealth of information in this publicly funded institution.

“As both a storehouse of world knowledge and primary resource for the U.S. Congress, the Library is energized by the prospects of the Abby and Emily Rapoport traveling exhibition playing an important role in sharing the national collection with the people to whom it belongs,” said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

The exhibit includes programming especially for teachers and students and provides relevant and engaging learning experiences for lifelong learners. The truck, which is staffed and driven by two docents well-versed in the Library and its collections, will be parked at various schools, libraries, community centers and other public venues.

The trailer expands to three times its road width, and visitors enter from a central staircase to find several areas of museum-style exhibits, including a welcoming multimedia display, computer terminals displaying Library of Congress websites including the main site, www.loc.gov, and other Library websites, including the Center for the Book/Literacy Programs site, www.read.gov and sites pertaining to U.S. collections, exhibitions and a special site for use by teachers.

The exhibition will also outline the history of the Library, including Thomas Jefferson’s role in allowing its re-establishment following the burning of the U.S. Capitol in 1814 by providing his personal book collection to the nation. Jefferson’s organization of his books by “Memory, Reason and Imagination” will inform the organization of the exhibition, which will feature facsimiles of such treasures as the 1507 Waldseemüller Map (the first document to use the word “America”); the 1455 Gutenberg Bible; the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, in Thomas Jefferson’s hand with edits by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams; the original 1962 drawings for the comic book that introduced Spider-Man to the world; the handwritten manuscript to jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton’s “Frog-i-More Rag”; and Walt Whitman’s poem “Leaves of Grass.”



State Centers: A Vital Part of Library of Congress Program and National Agenda

Center in Washington Seeks Suggestions from Affiliate Centers

By John Y. Cole

James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress; Deanna Marcum, the associate librarian for Library Services (and my boss) and I are eager to find ways to strengthen ties between the state center network and the Library's larger program and ambitions. This is not a new subject – and yes, the financial situation remains grim—but there also are new opportunities.

I was reminded of both the opportunities and needs in a memorandum I received from Dr. Billington on Oct. 7 (with a copy to Deanna). He would like “to bring the state centers into the work of the Library of Congress” in new and more effective ways. He wants the state centers “to consider themselves a vital link to our broader agenda, and we need to hear their views about the most significant contributions to what we (and a series of congressional instructions) are increasingly describing as the “National Patrimony.”

As most of you know, this spring the Library received a \$5 million pledge from philanthropist David Rubenstein (\$1 million for each year, 2010-2014), and we currently are “rethinking” the festival—which is one topic on which we would appreciate your views. From a state center perspective, how can it be improved? How might it be linked more effectively to the many regional and state book festivals now under way—or should we even make the effort? It seems to me that we should—it certainly is one way the Library of Congress can make an important and lasting contribution to the “National Patrimony.”

Early this year, many state center coordinators responded to requests from the Library for nominations for the new Poet Laureate. To those of you who responded: thank you. However, could you also send a copy of your response to me? Somehow we didn't make a centralized tabulation in the Center for the Book.

Dr. Billington has two more requests for nominations from state centers for the book. For these, please e-mail your response to me (jcole@loc.gov) with a copy to Anne Boni (aboni@loc.gov) and we will forward them to the Librarian's office. We also will try to answer any questions. Here they are:

Two years ago the Library inaugurated an honorary award in Herman Wouk's name for lifetime achievement in the writing of fiction, with the first award going to Herman himself. We seek nominations for a second Wouk award for lifetime achievement in the writing of fiction (and it needs to be a living writer!)

Second, we seek nominations for a new Library of Congress lifetime achievement award for the writing of drama. And again, a living writer.

Finally, and as long as you have your thinking caps on, in January 2012, the Librarian of Congress will be naming a new (and our third) National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Nominations for this position also would be welcome.

Thanks again to all. About one-third of the state centers have received notifications about the need to renew—please contact Anne Boni with any questions. Best wishes.



Young Readers Center Hosts Kids Euro Events

By Jane Gilchrist

The Young Readers Center collaborated with the Embassy of Spain for the third annual Kids Euro Festival, which ran from Oct. 14 through Nov. 10.

Photos: Abby Brack



Young Readers Center Coordinator Jane Gilchrist (right) and Elena Iglesias of the Cultural Office of the Spanish Embassy demonstrated the toy theaters brought into the center just for the occasion.

Since 2008, the Washington embassies of the 27 European Union countries have joined together to bring actors, musicians, dancers, puppeteers and movies from their countries for the enjoyment of local children and their families. This year the festival offered more than 200 free performances and workshops hosted by more than 20 venues throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

The Young Readers Center exhibited four toy theaters that the Embassy of Spain had arranged to be brought to the United States. The theaters were taken from the collection of Lucia Contreras, an avid collector living in Spain. These theaters were produced by Industrias graficas Seix i Barral, a Spanish publishing house that flourished in the early 20th century. Along with the display, visitors were

treated to a digital presentation about the company and these remarkable theaters. Live puppet performances in a specially built theater entertained school groups attending four workshops, thanks in part to the staff of the Architect of the Capitol carpentry shop and paint shop.

As part of the festival, the Young Readers Center also offered two Spanish culture Saturdays. During these days, YRC staff read

children's books popular in Spain that the Embassy of Spain had donated. This selection of current children's and young adult books from Spain, both in Spanish and English, will be added to the YRC's collection and be available to visitors to explore during their visit.



The theaters came to the Library from Spain.

Big Read Offers Free Reading Materials

The Big Read, a national "one-book" program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts – a Center for the Book partner -- is offering educational materials that accompany the program's selected books free of charge to your State Center for the Book. Orders will be fulfilled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If you are interested, complete the order request survey <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BHMG74RVD/> specifying the materials preferred. Your response should be submitted by COB Jan. 31, 2011. Based on responses, the materials will

(Continued on next page)



(Big Read, from previous page)

be sorted and shipped for arrival in late February 2011. Please note, we cannot guarantee you will receive every item requested. We will do our best to fulfill organization's preferences based on availability.

Questions? Contact Sarah Cook, National Endowment for the Arts, (202) 682-5525, cooks@nea.gov.

What educational materials could we receive?

Please see the online survey <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BHMG74RVD/> for a list of available titles. Generally, these materials are available for statewide distribution:

Reader's Guides: 16-page booklets containing an introduction to the book, historical context, and discussion questions.

Audio Guides: 30-minute programs featuring interviews with notable literary and public figures – such as Robert Redford, Colin Powell, Tim O'Brien – about the book for radio and classroom use.

NOTE: Copies of the books themselves are not included.

How many copies should we order?

Consider a broad, statewide distribution. The many library and educational networks in your state may be excited to receive and distribute these free resources. You might contact your Humanities Council, Department of Education, and other state agencies that support literary activities.

How could these items be used?

- Libraries (book clubs, library displays, summer reading programs)
- Schools (classrooms, libraries, after-school programs)
- Library conferences/local festivals
- Military bases, hospitals, or correctional facilities with educational programs

How big are the boxes?

- Reader's Guides: 250/box and weighs 25 lbs. (11" length x 7" height x 9" width)
- Audio Guides: 100/box and weighs 21 lbs. (21" length x 6" height x 10" width)

When and where will my order be shipped?

Materials will arrive in December 2010. Materials can be mailed directly to your State Center for the Book – or another specified location if storage is an issue. Please specify the delivery address on your survey: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BHMG74RVD/>.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this educational resource opportunity.



ReadAloud.org Announces Big Box of Books Initiative

ReadAloud.org, a national literacy promotion program and Center for the Book reading promotion partner, launched the pilot for its Big Box of Books community outreach initiative in Antrim County, Mich., on Dec. 4. This program will not only put books in the hands of dozens of vulnerable families, but it will also bring together local nonprofit organizations, a library and a school to host a dynamic sharing and learning session where children and adults alike will be inspired to make reading aloud a daily part of their lives.

“Each learning and sharing event engages parents and children together, from newborns to age 12, around a knowledge-based theme and includes read-aloud demonstrations, inspiring videos from prominent authors, and ends with a pledge by the families to read aloud together at least 15 minutes everyday,” says Bob Robbins, co-founder of ReadAloud.org and longtime Alden, Mich., resident. “The program is supported with ongoing activities at the participating school and library and a monthly calendar tracking read-aloud success.”

Antrim County nonprofit organizations supporting the program are Communities in Schools of Mancelona, Mancelona

Elementary School, Helena Township Library, Friends of Helena Township Library and Alden Volunteers. Families participating in the learning and sharing program will receive a Big Box of Books containing six books that build knowledge on a core topic. This session’s theme is “What Makes a Hero,” inspired by best-selling author and ReadAloud.org supporter Brad Meltzer’s book “Heroes for My Son” and donated by HarperCollins to each participating family. (Meltzer was a presenter at this year’s National Book Festival.) “The Big Box of Books is designed to build knowledge and ignite a family’s curiosity,” says Robbins. “Most important, it’s meant to provide a stage for bonding, learning and having fun while reading.”

Putting books in families’ hands is crucial, notes Robbins, but “what makes this program unique is that it goes beyond delivering books to children. We bring local nonprofit organizations, a school and a library together, and they all work in tandem to support and stage the twice-yearly learning and sharing events where the Big Boxes of Books are distributed to low-income families.”

Amy Burk, executive director of Communities in Schools of Mancelona, says the Big Box of Books program is a perfect complement to her group’s mentoring and reading initiatives because it brings families together and encourages reading aloud at home. “We know if a child is not reading at grade level in first grade there is an 88 percent probability the child will not be reading at grade level by fourth grade,” Burk says. “We know children are made readers by early exposure to books in the home and reading aloud with their parents or caregivers.”

“If there are no books in the home and no time reading aloud with the family, it is unlikely a child will be ready to read when he or she begins school,” Robbins adds. “And, unfortunately, too many parents were not read to as children so they do not realize how good it feels to read to their child and how necessary it is for their child to learn and grow. “Prior to kindergarten, the range of exposure to reading

(Continued on next page)



Leadership Team for Antrim County's Big Box of Books (left to right): Kim Musselman, Marcie Grabruck, Pami Sprague, Amy Burk, Stacy Knoertzer, Bob Robbins, Nancy Ludwa, Amy Derrer, Sue Riegler).

(Read Aloud, continued from previous page)

aloud can be as little as 25 hours to as much as 1,000 hours,” Robbins notes. “We want to close this gap.”

Retired teacher and Bellaire resident Nancy Ludwa, president of the Helena Township Friends of the Library, says the group’s decision to support the Big Box of Books program financially and with volunteers was unanimous. “Helena Township Library Director Sue Riegler and I are looking forward to our first learning and sharing event in December as an opportunity for our members to demonstrate reading aloud techniques to local families, but also as a way to let the families experience all the resources our amazing little library offers.”

In 2011 the program will be expanded locally in Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties as well as many more communities in southern Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. In addition to the Center for the Book, ReadAloud.org’s national nonprofit partners include First Book and Communities in Schools. ReadAloud.org is working with private foundations, community foundations and service organizations, including Rotary International, Kiwanis, Zonta International and Boys & Girls Clubs in expanding its Big Box of Books program in Michigan and bringing it to Ohio and Pennsylvania in the coming year. ReadAloud.org is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that works to ignite a passion for reading aloud in families nationwide. Its reading program seeks to improve literacy skills, drive knowledge-based learning, and enhance communication across generations while building stronger family bonds. For more information, visit www.ReadAloud.org.



“Masterpiece Mystery!” Features Sherlock Holmes

If you did not catch the new “Masterpiece Mystery!” series in October and December, you can still view it online at www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock/watch.html. Holmes has been reimagined in contemporary London. Although he now has the power of the Internet and a smart phone, he still needs only his formidable powers of deduction to solve a series of “serial suicides.”

MASTERPIECE™
MYSTERY!

Please encourage your network to read Doyle’s “A Study in Scarlet” and then watch the episode (and others). A Masterpiece discussion guide for book and film clubs is at pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/bookclub/index.html.



Calendar of Events

JANUARY 12 (Wednesday), noon, Montpelier Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond Program. Kate Masur will discuss and sign her new book, “An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C.” (University of North Carolina Press, 2009).

FEBRUARY 8 (Tuesday), noon, West Dining Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Kevin Kosar will discuss and sign his new book, “Whiskey: A Global History” (Reaktion, 2010).

FEBRUARY 24 (Thursday), noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Biographer Douglas Waller will discuss and sign his new book, “Wild Bill Donovan: the Spymaster Who Created the OSS and Modern American Espionage” (Free Press, 2011). Co-sponsored with the Manuscript Division.

MARCH 8 (Tuesday), 1:30 pm, West Dining Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Elizabeth L. Eisenstein will discuss and sign her new book, “Divine Art: Infernal Machine: The Reception of Printing in the West from First Impressions to the Sense of an Ending”(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

MARCH 23 (WEDNESDAY), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. “The Washington Haggadah,” a new facsimile edition of an illuminated 15th century Hebrew manuscript (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press) will be discussed. Co-sponsored with the Publishing Office and the Hebraic Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division.

MARCH 24 (Thursday), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Maya Jasanoff will discuss and sign her new book, “Liberty’s Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary War” (Knopf, 2011).

MARCH 30 (Wednesday), 12 noon, Montpelier Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Kristie Miller will discuss and sign her new book, “Ellen and Edith: Woodrow Wilson’s First Ladies” (University Press of Kansas, 2010). Co-sponsored with the Manuscript Division.

APRIL 13 (Wednesday) noon, Montpelier Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Carla L. Peterson will discuss and sign her book, “Black Gotham: A Family History of African Americans in Nineteenth-Century New York City” (Yale University Press, 2011).

APRIL 15 (Friday), noon, Montpelier Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Meryl Secrest will discuss and sign her new biography, “Modigliani: A Life” (Knopf, 2011). Co-sponsored with the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution.



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