

July - August 2009



Center for the Book Newsletter

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 this year in March and May at the Library of Congress.

Please send your submissions to glam@loc.gov.

Center for the Book and National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance Launch 'The Exquisite Corpse Adventure'

By Guy Lamolinara

Do you know what an Exquisite Corpse is?

According to "Dada & Surrealist Art" by William S. Rubin, "Among Surrealist techniques exploiting the mystique of accident was a kind of collective collage of words or images called the *cadavre exquis* (exquisite corpse). Based on an old parlor game, it was played by several people, each of whom would write a phrase on a sheet of paper, fold the paper to conceal part of it and pass it on to the next player for his contribution."

On Sept. 26, the Center for the Book in Library of Congress and the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance will launch "The Exquisite Corpse Adventure" serialized story at 10 a.m. during a special one-hour presentation in the Children's Pavilion at the National Book Festival (www.loc.gov/bookfest). Jon Scieszka, the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (www.childrensbookambassador.com/), is writing the first episode, which he will read during this event, which will be hosted by John Y. Cole, Center for the Book director, and moderated by Mary Brigid Barrett, NCBLA president and executive director. Cole, Barrett and Scieszka will be joined by "Exquisite Corpse" contributors Kate DiCamillo, Nikki Grimes, Shannon Hale, Steven Kellogg and Megan McDonald. They will discuss their own work as well as writing "The Exquisite Corpse."

The extraordinary authors and illustrators participating are:

- M. T. Anderson
- Natalie Babbitt
- Calef Brown
- Susan Cooper
- Kate DiCamillo
- Timothy Basil Ering
- Nikki Grimes
- Shannon Hale
- Daniel Handler aka Lemony Snicket
- Steven Kellogg
- Megan McDonald
- Gregory Maguire
- Fred and Patricia McKissack
- Linda Sue Park
- Katherine Paterson
- James Ransome
- Jon Scieszka
- Chris Van Dusen

Chapters will be released every two weeks and available exclusively at the Library's **Read.gov** website. The 26th and final chapter will be released during the 2010 National Book Festival, and it will be written by the yet-to-be-named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature for 2010-2011. The National Ambassador's program is sponsored by the Center for the Book and the Children's Book Council (www.cbcbooks.org).

This story starts with a train rushing through the night. ... Please use the flyer on the following page to publicize this exciting reading opportunity for young people.





THE EXQUISITE CORPSE

The Library of Congress and
The National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance
Invite You Along on a Riveting Reading Adventure Created by . . .

M.T. ANDERSON • NATALIE BABBITT
CALEF BROWN • SUSAN COOPER • KATE DI CAMILLO
TIMOTHY BASIL ERING • NIKKI GRIMES • SHANNON HALE
DANIEL HANDLER *AKA* LEMONY SNICKET • STEVEN KELLOGG
MEGAN McDONALD • GREGORY MAGOIRE
PATRICIA AND FREDRICK MCKISSACK • LINDA SOE PARK
KATHERINE PATERSON • JAMES RANSOME
JON SCIESZKA • AND CHRIS VAN DUSEN

“This story starts with a train
rushing through the night . . .”

Join us! The journey begins September 26, 2009
at the National Book Festival and on
the Library of Congress READ.GOV website!
For updates see <http://theNCBLA.blogspot.com/>



John Grisham, John Irving, Julia Alvarez, James Patterson Gwen Ifill, Jodi Picoult, Judy Blume Among Authors At 2009 National Book Festival

Best-selling authors David Baldacci, John Grisham, John Irving, Julia Alvarez, Judy Blume, Ken Burns, Gwen Ifill and Jodi Picoult—as well as celebrity chef Paula Deen—will be among scores of authors and illustrators presenting at the 2009 National Book Festival, organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress. Now in its ninth year, this popular event celebrating the joys of reading and lifelong literacy will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 26**, on the National Mall in Washington between 7th and 14th streets from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (rain or shine). The event, for which the honorary chairs are President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, is free and open to the public. More than 120,000 people attended the festival last year.

Each year since the National Book Festival's inception in 2001, the Center for the Book has developed, organized and overseen the selection and participation of the festival's more than 70 guest authors, illustrators and poets. The Center also organizes and manages the popular Pavilion of the States.

The 2009 National Book Festival also will incorporate several new social-networking features, including Twitter (@ **librarycongress**), to more actively engage festival-goers and help them receive the latest festival news, schedules and other information. The poster for the National Book Festival has been illustrated by noted author/artist Charles Santore of Philadelphia. Santore has written and illustrated "The Silk Princess," "The Three Hungry Pigs" and "The Wolf Who Came to Dinner," and has illustrated "The Wizard of Oz" and "Aesop's Fables." His "William the Curious" won a Storytelling World honor in 1999 from Storytelling magazine, and he was awarded a gold medal from the Original Art Show in 2000 for his book "A Stowaway on Noah's Ark." Santore's work is included in the permanent collections of the Brandywine Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.



Authors slated to make presentations at the 2009 National Book Festival include:

- Children's authors Mary Brigid Barrett, Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi, Kate DiCamillo, Shannon Hale, Craig Hatkoff, Lois Lowry, Megan McDonald, Charles Santore, Jon Scieszka and David Shannon, and Mo Willems
- Teens & Children authors Judy Blume, Pat Carman, Sharon Creech, Paula Deen, Carmen Agra Deedy, Liz Kessler, Jeff Kinney, Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah, James Patterson, Rick Riordan, Sharon Robinson and Kadir Nelson, James L. Swanson and Jacqueline Woodson
- History & Biography authors Douglas Brinkley and David A. Taylor, Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, Kirstin Downey, Annette Gordon-Reed, Haynes Johnson and Dan Balz, Gwen Ifill, Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor, Mark Kurlansky, Jon Meacham, Rickey Minor, Simon Schama and Patricia Sullivan


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(National Book Festival Authors from page 3)

- Fiction & Fantasy authors Sabiha Al Khemir, Julia Alvarez, Junot Díaz, John Grisham, John Irving, Katherine Neville, Jodi Picoult, Nicholas Sparks, Jeannette Walls, Colson Whitehead and David Wroblewski
- Mysteries & Thrillers authors David Baldacci, Lee Child, Mary Jane Clark, Margaret Coel, Michael Connelly, Craig Johnson, Walter Mosley, James Patterson, S.J. Rozan, Lisa Scottoline, Daniel Silva
- Poetry & Prose authors Edward Hirsch, Jane Hirshfield, Ana Menendez, Azar Nafisi, Tim O'Brien, student winners in the Poetry Out Loud competition, Marilynne Robinson and Kay Ryan, Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress

Festival-goers can meet and hear firsthand from their favorite authors, purchase books by festival authors, get books signed by authors, have photos taken with PBS storybook characters and participate in a variety of fun learning activities.

C-SPAN plans to broadcast live, over television and radio, from the National Book Festival site on the National Mall, and the C-SPAN Civics Bus will be onsite. Borders will be the official bookseller of the National Book Festival. The Pavilion of the States will represent reading- and literacy-promotion programs and literary events in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. trusts and territories. The popular Let's Read America pavilions will offer reading activities that are fun for the whole family.

The 2009 National Book Festival is made possible through the support of Target, the Distinguished Benefactor; Charter Sponsors PBS Kids Raising Readers and The Washington Post; Patrons AT&T, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The James Madison Council and the National Endowment for the Arts; Contributors Borders, Digital Bookmobile powered by Overdrive, the Library of Congress Federal Credit Union, Penguin Group (USA), ReadAloud.org, Scholastic Inc. and US Airways; and Friends the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Hay-Adams. Thanks also to C-SPAN2's Book TV for providing onsite coverage of the festival and to the Junior League of Washington, D.C., for providing 400 volunteers for the event. 



Wilma Grey, director of the New Public Library, received the New Jersey Center for the Book 2009 Literary Lion Award as Renee Swartz read the award citation.

Center for the Book Attends Letters About Literature Award Ceremonies

The Letters About Literature (www.lettersaboutliterature.org) reading and writing program attracted nearly 60,000 entries last year, inspiring students in grades 4 through 12 to write a letter to an author whose work has had a profound effect on their lives. These students also inspire those who are fortunate to attend the ceremonies in which they are recognized for their contributions.


Guy Lamolinara, communications officer for the Center for the Book, recently attended Letters About Literature events in Connecticut and New Jersey.

The event in Connecticut was held June 7 at the Hartford Public Library, home of the Connecticut Center for the Book. Coordinator Kathleen A. "Kat" Lyons emceed the event.

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On June 11, Lamolinara attended the awards ceremony sponsored by the New Jersey Center for the Book. The event was held at the center's home, Rutgers University, and was organized by Renee Swartz, chairperson of the center.

Additional details, with letters written by students are available at the Connecticut (www.hartfordpl.lib.ct.us/cfb/lal.htm) and New Jersey (njcenterforthebook.org/) websites as well as at the Letters About Literature website. 

Gus Friedrich, dean emeritus of the School of Communication and Information, Rutgers University, addressed the audience and introduced Jorge Schement, current dean and emcee for the ceremony.



The June 11 New Jersey Center for the Book ceremony included (from left) Pat Morris, the state's Letters About Literature coordinator; Joshua Tiprigan, who was a National Award winner for Level 3; Renee Swartz, chair and coordinator of the New Jersey Center for the Book; Guy Lamolinara, communications officer for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; and Joshua's teacher, Brian Hanson-Harding, Northern Highlands Regional High School.



The June 7 Letters About Literature awards ceremony featured these winners and participants:

- Abdullah Colón, Windsor; grade 10, University High School of Science & Engineering, Hartford; 3rd Place, Level 3
- Guy Lamolinara, Communications Officer, Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Jennifer Ky, Hartford; grade 11, University High School of Science & Engineering, Hartford; 1st Place, Level 3
- Kat Lyons, Coordinator, Connecticut Center for the Book at Hartford Public Library
- Danielle Hoffman, Farmington; grade 5, West Woods Upper Elementary School, Farmington; 3rd Place, Level 1
- Jenny Benedict, Interim Co-Director, Hartford Public Library
- Clare Arlington Boyle, Newtown; grade 5, Red Intermediate School, Newtown; 1st Place, Level 1 and one of six National Honorable Mentions
- John Himmelman, author and illustrator from Killingworth
- Blythe Lewis, Westport; grade 8, Coleytown Middle School, Westport; 2nd Place, Level 2
- Fran Keilty, Chair, Connecticut Center for the Book Advisory Council and co-owner of Hickory Stick Bookshop, Washington Depot
- Kayla Brown, Bristol; grade 4, Stafford Elementary School, Bristol; 2nd Place, Level 1

Center for the Book River of Words Award Ceremonies

By Guy Lamolinara

The River of Words (ROW) awards ceremony held at the Library attracted an international group of winners and their families to this annual event. The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress is a co-sponsor of the River of Words environmental poetry and art contest, now in its 14th year.

River of Words is open to young people ages 5-19 anywhere in the world and receives more than 20,000 submissions from almost every state and many foreign countries. ROW co-founders Robert Hass (U.S. Poet Laureate 1995-1997) and Pamela Michael, ROW's director, judge the poems; renowned children's book author and illustrator Thatcher Hurd judges the artwork. ROW, the largest youth poetry and art competition in the world, is conducted by the Berkeley, Calif.-based nonprofit River of Words (www.riverofwords.org) organization.

The ceremony featured young people from across the country and other nations reading their poems and discussing their art about the natural world. Barbara Strasko, from Fulton Elementary School in Lancaster, Pa., was honored as the 2009 Teacher of the Year. The event included an art display of this year's winning landscape art by young people from around the world.

Robert Hass remarked about this year's winners: "It's thrilling to see, year after year, these young writers and artists giving us back the places where we live through their words and images. Through their explorations and reflection on their home grounds, we are all made more aware of the beauty, history and fragility of our natural landscapes."



Robert Hass, River of Words co-founder and former Poet Laureate, presented an award to Anacostia Watershed Prize winner Grace Fitzpatrick.



Pamela Michael presented a ribbon to Sasini Navoda Wickramatunga, an international award winner from Sri Lanka.



John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, emceed the ceremony.



Pamela Michael, River of Words co-founder, congratulated Lee Cain, Anacostia Watershed Society's Environmental Education Program manager (far right) and Maurice Hill, whose artwork was selected as the winning piece for the Anacostia Watershed Society's River of Words contest.

Teacher Barbara Strasko won the Teacher of the Year Award, and her student, Yalonda Lockett, was a Grand Prize winner.



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(Award Ceremonies from page 6)



Pamela Michael, Robert Hass and teacher Barbara Strasko at the Library of Congress with the River of Words award winners.

Following are the 2009 River of Words winners (all poems and art can be seen at the River of Words website).

Teacher of the Year:

Barbara Strasko, Fulton Elementary, Lancaster, Pa.

2009 International Prize:

Atalanta Shi, age 13, Canada

2008 International Prize winner:

Sasini Navoda Wickramatunga from Sri Lanka

Category I Poetry (K-Grade 2): Quinn Whitlow, age 7, St. Louis Park, Minn.

Category II Poetry (Grades 3-6): Yalonda Lockett, age 9, Lancaster, Pa.

Category III Poetry (Grades 7-9): Savannah Fehling, age 14, Sarasota, Fla.

Category IV Poetry (Grades 10-12): Skyler Pham, age 17, Opelousas, La.

Category I Art (K-Grade 2): Jake Barrios, age 7, Watsonville, Calif.

Category II Art (Grades 3-6): Erik Raul Oliva, age 9, Chico, Calif.

Category III Art (Grades 7-9): Scott Styslinger, age 14, Birmingham, Ala.

Category IV Art (Grades 10-12): Eunsil Choi, age 17, Lawrenceville, Ga.

Shasta Bioregion Prize:

(Honoring a student from the San Francisco Bay Area):

Arianna LaChance, age 12, San Anselmo, Calif.

Anacostia Watershed Prize:

(Honoring a student from the Washington, D.C., Area):

Grace Fitzpatrick, age 13, Washington

Monkey's Raincoat Prize:

(Honoring a short poem in the Japanese haiku tradition):

Noah Jordan, age 9, Alna, Maine



Center for the Book Partner Wins Award for International Innovation

By Guy Lamolinara

The Lubuto Library Project (www.lubuto.org/), a Center for the Book partner, has received the American Library Association's Presidential Citation for International Innovation. The Lubuto Library Project is "an innovative development initiative that, in cooperation with governments, creates opportunities for equitable education and poverty reduction through model library services housed in beautiful, indigenously styled buildings."

"The Lubuto Library Project and its dozens of dedicated volunteers are very grateful for this recognition from the ALA that librarians have an important role to play in international development and that the users of those libraries deserve our very best professional efforts," said Jane Meyers, Lubuto's president.

The citation praises Lubuto:

"For founding a professional library development organization that creates indigenously styled, model libraries with excellent collections and programs for Africa's most vulnerable children, giving them literacy skills and opportunities for educational growth, discovery and joy through reading, storytelling, arts and mentoring programs;

"For innovative library services to street children—providing a safe, nurturing space and learning opportunities for children who cannot attend school—providing much more than a room with books;

"For connecting American volunteers and students with their African peers through a community service program that raises awareness of the impact of AIDS in orphaning African children and builds balanced and high-quality 4,000-volume collections and sends them shelf-ready to Zambia;

"For working to preserve Zambia's cultural heritage;

"For partnering with governments and colleagues and establishing a funding network to insure sustainability and growth to develop other Lubuto Libraries;

"For serving as a true hero to vulnerable children in Zambia and a shining example of commitment to first-rate library services for youth around the world."

The Center for the Book is also a partner of another organization that focuses on reading and literacy in Africa, called Africa Access (www.africaaccessreview.org/).



ALA President Jim Rettig presented the award on July 13 to Jane Meyers, Lubuto's president, during the association's Annual Meeting in Chicago.

We Need Your Help

The Center for the Book will launch a newly designed and easier to use website on Sept. 26 (National Book Festival day). We want to include current information on book festivals in your state or local area. We also need to know about state or local "One Book" reading promotion projects. Please send this information as soon as possible to Stacey Sistare at cfbook@loc.gov.



Calendar of Events

Throughout the year, the Center for the Book sponsors myriad programs on a wide range of topics. Most of the Center for the Book's programs are filmed for later Webcasting. We invite you to share this information with libraries, so they may tell their users. Webcasts are available at www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/cyber-cfb.html.

Following is the current Center for the Book calendar for 2009:

SEPTEMBER 9 (Wednesday), 10 a.m., LJ 119, Jefferson Building
International Literacy Day program.

SEPTEMBER 10 (Thursday), 11:30 a.m., LJ 119, Jefferson Building
Jane Goodall will discuss and sign her new book, *Hope for Animals and Their World: How Endangered Species Are Being Rescued from the Brink* (Grand Central Publishing, 2009). Co-sponsored with the Science, Technology and Business Division.

SEPTEMBER 16 (Wednesday), 5:30-7:30 p.m., Montpelier Room, Madison Building
Literacy Leadership Awards program.

SEPTEMBER 26 (Saturday), 10 a.m.-5 p.m., National Mall
National Book Festival.

OCTOBER 17 (Saturday), 10 a.m., Mumford Room, Madison Building
Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature. Co-sponsored by the Hispanic Division and the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs.

OCTOBER 20 (Tuesday), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building
Books & Beyond program. Leonard Marcus will discuss and sign his new book, *Don't Make Me Laugh: Conversations with Writers of Comedy* (Candlewick Press, 2009). National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Jon Scieszka will be a special guest.

OCTOBER 22 (Thursday), noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building
Books & Beyond program. Phyllis Ross will discuss and sign her new book, *Modern Design for Modern Living* (Yale University Press, 2009).

OCTOBER 29 (Thursday), noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building
Books & Beyond program. Patricia Fanning will discuss and sign her new book, *Through an Uncommon Lens: The Life and Photography of F. Holland Day* (Massachusetts University Press, 2009).

NOVEMBER 5 (Thursday), noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building
Books & Beyond program. Toby Lester will discuss and sign his new book, *The Fourth Part of the World: The Race to the Ends of the Earth and the Epic Story of the Map That Gave America Its Name* (Free Press, 2009). Co-sponsored with the Geography and Map Division.

NOVEMBER 17 (Tuesday), noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building
Books & Beyond program. Noralee Frankel will discuss and sign her new book, *Stripping Gypsy: The Life of Gypsy Rose Lee* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

