

January - March 2010



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

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.

Katherine Paterson Named Young People's Literature Ambassador *Succeeds Jon Scieszka in Role*

By Erin Allen

"Read for your life!" exclaimed children's author Katherine Paterson as she accepted her medal and new position of National Ambassador for Young People's Literature on Jan. 5 in a special ceremony.

Two-time winner of the National Book Award and Newbery Medal, as well as many other awards, Paterson will serve in the position during 2010 and 2011; she succeeds Jon Scieszka, appointed in 2008, who was the first person to hold the title. Her platform during the next two years will emphasize "reading for knowledge, understanding and delight."

"The telling of stories is the oldest form of communication in the world," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "Stories told in books are one thing that can unify the world because everyone can share stories."

"Our new ambassador is a wonderful storyteller. Her stories change people's lives when they read them."

The Librarian names the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature for a two-year term, based on recommendations from a selection committee representing many segments of the book community. The selection criteria include the candidate's contribution to young people's literature and ability to relate to children. The position was created to raise national awareness of the importance of young people's literature as it relates to lifelong literacy, education and the development and betterment of their lives. The program is sponsored by the Center for the Book, the Children's Book Council (www.cbcbooks.org) and Every Child a Reader, the CBC foundation.

Before passing the torch, Scieszka offered some sage advice to Paterson before offering a round of thanks to those involved in his tenure.

"Don't wear your medal to the airport," he said.

He also warned her to expect crazy gifts and mementos, rattling off a list of such things as gold pants, capes, sashes and his personal favorite, "The Ambassador's Fanfare," played by a group of young students during one of his school appearances.

When Paterson took the podium, she recited a poem she wrote in elementary school that was published in her school's newsletter—along with a note of criticism from a teacher.

"Something must have happened (since then). Even I can tell my work has improved over the last 70 years," she quipped. "I have an answer for that: reading." Paterson's international fame rests not only on her widely acclaimed novels but also on her efforts to promote literacy in the United States and abroad. A two-time winner of the Newbery Medal ("Bridge to Terabithia" and "Jacob Have I Loved") and the National Book Award ("The Great Gilly Hopkins" and "The Master Puppeteer"), she has received many other accolades for her body of work, including the Hans Christian Andersen Medal, the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, given by her home

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(Paterson from page 1)

1) Katherine Paterson, the new National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, received her medal from Librarian of Congress James H. Billington during a Jan. 5 ceremony in the Thomas Jefferson Building.



2) Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole emceed the event. He acknowledged the Center for the Book's partner in the National Ambassador program, the Children's Book Council and Every Child a Reader, the CBC foundation.



3) Paterson told the audience, "The friends I found in books not only helped me understand myself better but also helped me understand and reach out to others."

4) The first National Ambassador, Jon Scieszka, had some sage advice for his successor: "Don't wear your medal to the airport."

5) Before the program began, Dr. Billington and his wife, Marjorie (far left, far right), met with (from left) Katherine Paterson; her husband, John; John Cole; Jon Scieszka; and his wife, Jeri Hansen.



6) Following the program, Paterson signed books for eager fans.



7) Students from local schools had a great time seeing two of their favorite authors.



8) Following the event, Scieszka interviewed Paterson; their conversation is available online in a webcast.



All photos: Abby Brack/Library of Congress

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(Paterson from page 2)

state of Vermont. Paterson was also named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress in 2000.

Paterson is vice president of the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, a nonprofit organization, and longtime reading-promotion partner of the Center for the Book, that informs, promotes, educates and inspires the American public to pursue literacy for young people and to support libraries. She is both an Alida Cutts Lifetime Member of the United States Board on Books for Young People and a Lifetime Member of the International Board on Books for Young People.

Her most recent book is “The Day of the Pelican,” a moving, dramatic story of a refugee family’s flight from war-torn Kosovo to America. It is the 2010 selection for Vermont Reads, a statewide reading program.

“The friends I found in books not only helped me understand myself better but also helped me understand and reach out to others,” she concluded.

Following the program, the floor was opened up to questions from elementary school students from Brent Elementary, Capitol Hill Day School and St. Peter’s Interparish School, who all also received an autographed copy of Paterson’s “Bread and Roses, Too.”

Erin Allen is a public affairs specialist in the Library of Congress’ Office of Communications. 

National Ambasadador Attends Read Across America in New York *Part of ‘Celebration of Learning’*

By Guy Lamolinara

A sea of about 300 oversized red-and-white-striped hats bobbed up and down in the ballroom of the New York Hilton on March 4, congregating so thickly together that it was hard to see what was under them.

Those hats were worn by 300 anxious local schoolchildren who had come to Midtown Manhattan for the Read Across America event. (The New York event was one of many similar events across the country. The Library of Congress hosted such an event with first lady Michelle Obama, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, National Education Association President Dennis Van Roekel and Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.)

The stovepipe hats were immediately recognizable to anyone familiar with one of the most famous children’s book characters of all time: the Cat in the Hat.

“We have authors and we have an ambassador. That is so cool!, said Becky Pringle, secretary-treasurer of the NEA, which sponsors Read Across America.

Pringle then said she would read Dr. Seuss’s “Green Eggs and Ham.” What she really did was act out the story, to the delight of the kids – and adults as well. It turned out that the kids knew the story so well that when Pringle read, “Do you like green eggs and ham? I do not like them, Sam-I-am. I do not like green eggs and ham. Would you like them here or there? I would not like them here or there.

(story continues on page 4)

A website dedicated to the National Ambassador program is available at <http://www.read.gov/cfb/ambassador/index.html>. You can see and hear the Jan. 5 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature ceremony at <http://www.read.gov/cfb/ambassador/multimedia.html>. Also on this page are an interview of Paterson by Jon Scieszka as well as photos from the event.



About 300 kids played like the Cat in the Hat during the Read Across America event in New York City.

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I would not like them . . . ,” 300 voices shouted “anywhere.”

Then another of the red-and-white-striped hats entered the room, this time worn by the Cat in the Hat himself.

The Library’s new National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, Katherine Paterson, faced with the unenviable act of following the Cat in the Hat, did an admirable job of calming the kids down. “I loved meeting the Cat in the Hat,” she exclaimed. Paterson talked directly to the audience and asked them why they liked to read. “I learned to read, so I could read to learn,” said one child.

She then asked the kids to repeat the “Reader’s Oath,” which begins, “I promise to read/Each day and each night./I know it’s the key/To growing up right.”

The kids took the oath enthusiastically and then moved into small groups, where they could meet Paterson and the other authors. Paterson’s National Ambassador medal fascinated many of the schoolchildren; some wanted to try it on. Paterson obliged. Others wanted to know what it meant to be an ambassador.

The National Ambassador spent her afternoon at the Ziegfeld Theater across 54th Street from the Hilton, where she attended the world premiere of “Diary of a Wimpy Kid,” a film based on Jeff

Kinney’s book series of the same name. Paterson is herself no stranger to the film industry: Her “Bridge to Terabithia” was turned into a critically acclaimed hit for Walt Disney in 2007.

The 900 kids in the theater audience cheered wildly when Paterson and Kinney walked onstage following the movie’s conclusion.

“Having a book read to you is the most wonderful way to learn how to read a book,” said Paterson, who has

often noted that reading aloud often stops when a child reaches the fourth grade or so. She thinks the practice should continue well into a child’s high school years. Not only does it encourage a love of books but it creates a bond between parent and child that lasts a lifetime.

“As ambassador I want to encourage people to read for their lives,” she said, paraphrasing her platform, “Read for Your Life.”

One child asked Paterson, “Did you ever think about not killing Leslie?” referring to the character in “Bridge to Terabithia” who dies during the course of the novel. Paterson explained that “I knew she had to die” because the story is based on an incident that happened to her son David’s best friend, an 8-year-old named Lisa Hill, who was struck and killed by lightning. “I wrote the book to try to make sense out of a tragedy that seemed senseless.

“But when I got to that part, I couldn’t finish the book. I cried. I was forced to face my own death. And that was when I finished the book and sent it off” to the publisher.

Then the National Ambassador offered a final piece of advice: “Reading makes you smart. Reading makes you work. You are my co-authors.”



Katherine Paterson dutifully asked attendees on stage and in the audience to take the “Reader’s Oath.”

Paterson met one-on-one with some of her readers.



Meeting Attracts More Than 40 Center for the Book Partners

By Guy Lamolinara

A principal advantage of being a partner of the Center for the Book is the opportunity it provides for networking with other reading-promotion and literacy organizations.

This year was no exception. On March 10, approximately 40 of the Center's partners met at the Library of Congress to exchange ideas and seek new partners to maximize their reading-promotion efforts.

"The wide variety of organizations represented really shows our collective power," said Mitali Chakraborty, outreach director for First Book, an organization that provides new books to children in need. "It makes you truly believe that as a group we are making an impact and a difference in society."

The morning began with a welcome from John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book. "This meeting is an annual highlight for the Center for the Book. It gives us the opportunity to think about what partnership means: how we can work together on old and new projects and partnerships to increase our influence in reading promotion and literacy."

Following self-introductions by the partners who assembled in the Library's Mumford Room, Cole asked representatives Sarah Baldwin and Susan Benne of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America to briefly discuss the association's current project with the Center for the Book.

"It may seem to be at the high end of the losing scale to talk about the National Collegiate Book-Collecting Contest to promote literacy but I think many people are not aware of the great extent to which collectors both enhance and found libraries," said Baldwin. "No better example could be before us than the Library of Congress, which evolved out of the collection of Thomas Jefferson [which he sold to the United States when the original Library of Congress was burned by the British in 1814 during the War of 1812]. ...

"Sixty years ago, no one was collecting African-American material. Collectors led the way. It is very important to show students how exciting and imaginative book-collecting can be."

Established in 2005 by Fine Books & Collections magazine to recognize outstanding book-collecting efforts by college and university students, the program aims to encourage young collectors to become accomplished bibliophiles. The magazine conducted the annual competition program before turning over leadership to the new collaboration of institutional partners. Book collections, for the purposes of this competition, must be based on some unifying principle, such as subject, a single author or group of authors, or place or genre of publication. Collections are judged on their substance and scope, rather than on size, rarity or financial value.

The Center for the Book and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America and the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies have recently assumed leadership of the National Collegiate Book-Collecting Contest, with major support (story continues on page 6)



John Cole, Center for the Book director, makes a point about how Center for the Book partnerships increase the influence of everyone's reading-promotion efforts, while Anne Boni, the Center's program officer, listened.



Book dealer Sarah Baldwin explained how book-collecting contests have influenced the types of materials that libraries add to their collections; she was joined by her colleague, Susan Benne, of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America, to her right.

(CFB Partners from page 5)

from the Jay I. Kislak Foundation. Complete details are at www.loc.gov/today/pr/2010/10-033.html/.



Guy Lamolinara introduced attendees to the new Read.gov website.

Next on the agenda was this writer, who provided an overview of two new CFB websites: Read.gov, as well as the Center for the Book website.

“Read.gov was developed to bring together in one place all the reading and literacy resources on the various Library of Congress websites.” It features pages specifically designed for kids, teens, adults, and parents and teachers.

“The highlight of the site is ‘The Exquisite Corpse Adventure’ episodic story, which has resulted from the Center for the Book’s partnership with the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance ... I am pleased to report that hundreds of thousands of people are reading this story, which offers a new episode every other Friday.” He then introduced Mary Brigid Barrett, executive director and president of the NCBLA, and Geri Eddins, the organization’s program director.

Mary Brigid Barrett (left), president and executive director of the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, and Geri Eddins, the organization’s program director, spoke about their partnership with the Center for the Book on “The Exquisite Corpse Adventure” project.



Barrett, executive director and president of the NCBLA, and Geri Eddins, the organization’s program director.

“The Exquisite Corpse Adventure *is* an adventure,” Barrett said. “It was based on the idea that we all played as a kid, and I think that is why it has been so successful. ... We wanted writers who represented a range of ages and writing styles. ... The authors are doing this with very little time. We wanted to replicate the game as closely as possible. So they are loosely edited.”

Barrett then turned the program over to

Eddins, who discussed the educational resources that accompany the story. “When we were planning the story, we knew we wanted to expand the impact of the story with supporting educational materials. We have created an educational resource center with the Butler Center for Children’s Literature at Dominican University.”

Rachael Walker from WETA’s Reading Rockets talked about how she has developed a series of writing prompts to accompany the episodes, called “The Exquisite Prompt.” The prompts are based on either the author’s life or the author’s episode.” She shared a message she received from a teacher in California: “I assigned students a writing prompt today and the students cheered. Yes, they were that excited. I had just introduced ‘The Exquisite Prompt’ inspired by ‘The Exquisite Corpse Adventure.’”

“They were cheering about *writing*,” Walker said. “Now this is a cool thing. ... We are hearing from teachers that not only are we inspiring kids to write and try new types of writing but also that their writing is improving.”

Following Walker’s presentation several more Center for the Book partners spoke about their activities.

That afternoon, attendees were treated to a special visit from Hilda the Goat, the animated “spokesgoat” for ReadAloud.org. Jennifer Liu Bryan, author of “Hilda, a Very Loyal Goat,” and Bob Robbins represented the organization dedicated to encouraging people of all ages to read aloud to children.

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Rachael Walker of WETA’s Reading Rockets said, “The Exquisite Prompt” writing contest has been great fun for all involved.



Hilda the Goat made an appearance at the meeting as well as at the National Book Festival in 2009, addressing festivalgoers with Jennifer Liu of ReadAloud.org. Hilda will soon travel to the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on April 24 and 25 in Zone B, Booth No. 36.

Robbins demonstrated (using Skype) how kids can interact with the animated figure Hilda. “I’m so nervous. I have never been inside the Library of Congress before. I didn’t know they let goats in there,” Hilda said.

Hilda also met Rachael Walker and Robin Adelson of the Children’s Book Council, which is the Center for the Book’s partner in the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature program. Hilda travels the country talking about the importance of reading.

When the meeting concluded later that day, Cole thanked all the attendees for their contributions to the success of the Center for the Book’s mission. “It is our privilege to host this meeting. Each year I learn more about the terrific programs you have under way. Each year I also reflect on how important our partnership program, which began in 1987, is to promoting books and reading today and tomorrow.”



All photos: Abby Brack/Library of Congress

Announcing the 2010 Michigan Center for the Book Grants

The Michigan Center for the Book had an outstanding response to its 2010 grant program. After reviewing many excellent applications, the Michigan Center for the Book is sponsoring 20 events this year for a total of \$5,561. The events include Big Read programs, author visits for adult and children’s authors, programs highlighting Michigan’s lumbering history and civil rights history, and of course, story hours that teach children and families the wonder of learning to read with classic children’s tales.

“Programs like these help people make a real connection with Michigan’s literature and hopefully inspire them to explore Michigan’s history and authors,” said Michigan Center for the Book Coordinator Karren Reish. “We want to help libraries give Michigan children, teens and adults, from all corners of the state, the opportunity to experience literature in engaging ways like meeting an author, reading and discussing books as a community, celebrating Michigan’s rich literary heritage.”

The Michigan Center for the Book partially funds events or projects that fulfill its goal of promoting an awareness of books, reading, literacy, authors and the state’s rich literary heritage. The events must be free and open to the public; the sponsoring organization must be a Michigan-based nonprofit organization, library or school; and the request for funds must be no more than 50 percent of the total budget or no more than \$500, whichever is less. Funding for the grants comes from dues paid by the affiliate members of the Michigan Center for the Book.

The Michigan Center for the Book is a program of the Library of Michigan and the center’s affiliates. It is also the Michigan affiliate of the national Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. To learn more, visit <http://michigan.gov/mcxfb>.



State Centers for the Book Host Witter Bynner Poetry Events



John Cole; Christina Davis; Jan Turnquist, an educator, actress and historian as well as executive director of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House in Concord, Mass.; and poet Donald Revell a professor at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Davis and Revell read poems during the School of Philosophy event, which was co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Center for the Book.

*Photo: Andrew Dillon Bustin
adbphotos@gmail*

Two State Centers for the Book — Massachusetts and Oregon — hosted fall readings by the Library's annual winners of a Witter Bynner Fellowship. Each winner, a promising young poet, is named by the Poet Laureate, who is currently Kay Ryan.

John Y. Cole, director of the national center, delivered remarks at each event. He described the history of the Library's poetry program and the collaborative effort among several Library offices to promote poetry.

"The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, as part of its national reading-promotion efforts, is pleased to work with our affiliate state centers in these Witter Bynner events celebrating the achievements of these poets."

On Oct. 6, Witter Bynner fellow Mary Szybist presented a reading at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan's other Witter Bynner selection, Christina Davis, gave a reading on Nov. 1 at the Concord Academy in Concord, Mass. Davis and Szybist each will receive a \$10,000 fellowship, provided by the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry in conjunction with the Library of Congress. This is the 12th year the fellowships have been awarded.

When he made the announcement, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said, "These fellowships—to poets whose distinctive talents and craftsmanship merit wider recognition—provide a wonderful way for the Laureate, the Library and the Witter Bynner Foundation to encourage poets and poetry."

Commenting on her selections, Ryan said, "Christina Davis knows when not to know, but simply transmit the compelling illogic of what we really feel. Her poems are filled with room for amazement."

Ryan also said, "Mary Szybist's lovely musical touch is light and exact enough to catch the weight and grind of love. This is a hard paradox to master as she does."

Davis is the author of "Forth a Raven" (2006). Her poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Jubilat*, *New Republic*, *Pleiades*, *Paris Review* and other publications. She is the recipient of residencies from Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony and of several Pushcart Prize nominations. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Oxford, she is curator of poetry at the Woodberry Poetry Room at Harvard University.

The event in Massachusetts was part of "The School of Philosophy: An Afternoon of Poetry & Transcendentalism in Concord," which was held to celebrate Concord's literary heritage.

Szybist is an assistant professor of English at Lewis and Clark College. She also has taught at Kenyon College, the University of Iowa, the Tennessee Governor's School for Humanities, the University of Virginia's Young Writers' Workshop and West High School in Iowa City. She is the author of "Granted" (2003), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

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(Bynner Fellowship from page 8)

Szybist holds degrees from the University of Virginia and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was a teaching-writing fellow. She has been the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Award, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award.

The Witter Bynner fellowships are to be used to support the writing of poetry. Only two things are asked of the fellows: that they organize a reading in their hometown and participate in a reading and recording session at the Library of Congress. Applications are not taken for the fellowships; the Poet Laureate makes the selection.

The Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry was incorporated in 1972 in New Mexico to provide grant support for programs in poetry through nonprofit organizations. Witter Bynner was an influential early-20th century poet and translator of the Chinese classic "Tao Te Ching," which he named "The Way of Life According to Laotzu." He traveled with D.H. and Frieda Lawrence and proposed to Edna St. Vincent Millay (she accepted, but then they changed their minds). He worked at McClure's Magazine, where he published A.E. Housman for the first time in the United States, and was one of O. Henry's early fans.



Mary Szybist read her work in Portland during the Witter Bynner program on Oct. 6.

Photo: Sam Margevicius

For further information on Witter Bynner fellowships and the poetry program at the Library of Congress, visit www.loc.gov/poetry/. 

Library of Congress Collections Help Create Pulitzer Biography

By Kimberly Rieken

"Don't tell stories about me. Keep them until I am dead," Joseph Pulitzer once said. James McGrath Morris discussed his biography, "Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power," on Feb. 16 as part of a Books & Beyond program sponsored by the Center for the Book and the Manuscript Division.

"We are proud to once again feature an author who has relied so heavily on all parts of the Library of Congress," said John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, in his introduction. Morris conducted much of his research in the Manuscript Division, which is home to nearly 60 million primary-source documents of American history and culture. He used several manuscript collections, particularly the Joseph Pulitzer Papers and the Joseph Pulitzer Jr. Papers. Other collections he used included the papers of Carl Schurz, Theodore Roosevelt, Whitelaw Reid, Elihus Washburne, Charles Joseph Bonaparte and Henry Watterson.

Referring to Pulitzer's life, Jeff Flannery, head of the Reference and Reader Services Section of the Manuscript Division, said, "It is not a simple story, and James McGrath Morris brings Pulitzer's career, accomplishments, struggles and life into clearer focus. James's biography has put to good use the 5,500 items in our Pulitzer papers."

The story of Joseph Pulitzer is one of success and hardship. A native of Hungary, he joined the Union Army in 1864 as his free ticket to the New World. After (story continues on page 10)

(Pulitzer Biography from page 9)

serving in the Civil War, Pulitzer went to St. Louis, where he transformed the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and, later in life, to New York and the New York World newspaper.

With an enthusiastic interest in Pulitzer, Morris discussed his detective work when putting together the biography. While in search of Pulitzer's memoirs, Morris discovered his granddaughter living in Paris, who provided Morris with a copy.

The Library's collections and Pulitzer's memoirs guided Morris to two fascinating stories. Shortly after arriving in America, Pulitzer took a gold dollar and had a jeweler drill a hole in it and attach a ring. He then placed a handkerchief through the ring and sent it to his mother in Hungary to prove he had arrived safely. The coin and handkerchief were a tradition of Hungarian women.

Morris discovered an image of the coin while scanning the microfilm edition of the Joseph Pulitzer Jr. Papers. After meticulously examining them, he found that in 1938 the coin was sent to Joseph Pulitzer Jr. from relatives in Hungary who wanted to reconnect and prove they were part of the family. It is rare for the collections in the Manuscript Division to include artifacts, which made the find exciting for Morris.

Another story concerned the Pulitzer Building. In 1889, Pulitzer constructed a new headquarters building for the New York World in New York City. The building was the tallest of its time and displayed a gold dome at the top. The first thing immigrants saw upon entering America was the Statue of Liberty and just beyond was Pulitzer's building with the sun glimmering off the golden dome.

"It's not a monument to corporations, it's not a monument to banking, it's not a monument to manufacturing, it is a monument to the American media, particularly the New York World that they would begin to consume," said Morris.

When the building was torn down in 1955, a copper box was found within the cornerstone that contained copies of the New York World, photographs of Pulitzer and his wife and actual voices of World reporters on a rare voice recording. Journalism enthusiasts can listen to and read the manuscript of these recordings on Morris's website at www.jamesmcgrathmorris.com.

Pulitzer's passion for journalism was very apparent, but, according to Morris, "the most significant prize that he envisioned was a prize for public service. Pulitzer made a fortune in journalism, but he always believed the act was one of public service."

Morris's biography is successful in sharing the extraordinary life of Pulitzer and displaying his use of the Library's collections. "Morris is an exemplar scholar dedicated to the task at hand, experienced, precise about the use of documents and resources and more than willing to share his knowledge and expertise with others," said Flannery.

Morris' past publications include "The Rose Man of Sing Song: A True Tale of Life, Murder and Redemption in the Age of Yellow Journalism" and "Jailhouse Journalism: The Fourth Estate Behind Bars." He is the editor of the monthly Biographer's Craft and one of the founding members of Biographers International Organization.

Kimberly Rieken is an operations assistant in the Library's Office of Communications.



James Mc Grath Morris used many Library of Congress collections in research of his biography of Joseph Pulitzer.

Photo: Abby Brack/Library of Congress



Cole Gives a History Lecture

John Cole, director of the Center for the Book, is also the historian of the Librarian of Congress. He is frequently called on to share his vast knowledge of the institution to groups both inside and outside the Library. Here, he accompanies the Leadership Development Program class to Culpeper, Va., where the Audiovisual Conservation Center is located. Cole spoke about the history of the Library of Congress as well as the development of its audiovisual collections.



Lorenzo de Zavala Building Dedicated A Literary Landmark *Texas Center for the Book Nominated Building*

The Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, the headquarters of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), was dedicated as a national Literary Landmark on Dec. 3, 2009.

The landmark designation was issued by the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF).

“Today’s dedication recognizes the inspiration that this building and the resources it houses have provided for great writers for decades,” said Laura Bush, who made the dedication. “The Zavala building was the first central repository to house and protect Texas’ priceless historical treasures and to support and improve library services in the state.”

Gail Bialas, manager for the Texas Center for the Book, along with Mrs. Bush, presented the designation plaque to Peggy D. Rudd, Texas State Library and Archives Commission director and state librarian. Rudd thanked Mrs. Bush and the Texas Center for the Book for their work in the nomination and designation of the building. The Lorenzo de Zavala building is the fourth structure in Texas to receive the national Literary Landmark designation. Other recipients are the (story continues on page 12)



Laura Bush made the dedication of the Lorenzo de Zavala Building as a national Literary Landmark.

(Texas CFB from page 11)

O. Henry House and Museum in Austin (1999), the Menger Hotel in San Antonio (2000) and the Katherine Anne Porter Home in Kyle (2002).



In the lobby of the Zavala building, the Texas State Archives is exhibiting materials and works used by James Michener, author of “Texas”; Jack “Jaxon” Jackson, author of graphic novels on Texas history; and Walter Prescott Webb, author of “The Texas Rangers.” ALTAFF noted that each author used resources and materials that are now located in the building to create their works.

“Visitors from around the world can appreciate the treasures at the Texas State Library and Archives that have been made available here,” said Mrs. Bush. “From the papers of Stephen F. Austin, the father of Texas, to Travis’s letter from the Alamo, to the Matamoros Battalion flag captured at the battle of San Jacinto, the archives provide a window into Texas history.”

The Texas State Archives and Library includes many treasures of the state’s history.

All photos: Texas State Archives and Library



Gail Bialas, manager of the Texas Center for the Book, was instrumental in seeking Literary Landmark status for the building.

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 2010:

APRIL 12 (Monday), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Harry Katz, Susan Reyburn, Frank Ceresi, Phil Michel and Wilson McBee will discuss their new book, “Baseball Americana: Treasures from the Library of Congress” (Smithsonian Books, 2009). Co-sponsored with the Publishing Office.

APRIL 15 (Thursday), noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. A. Roger Ekirch will discuss and sign his new book, “Birthright: The True Story that Inspired Kidnapped” (W.W. Norton & Co., 2010).

APRIL 22 (Thursday), noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Anita Silvey will discuss and sign her new book, “Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Children’s Book: Life Lessons from Notable People from All Walks of Life” (Roaring Brook Press, 2009).

APRIL 28 (Wednesday), noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Carol M. Johnson, Toby Jurovics and Will Stapp will discuss and sign their new book, “Framing the American West: The (calendar continues on page 13)

(Calendar from page 12)

Survey Photographs of Timothy H. O'Sullivan" (published in association with the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Library of Congress, 2010). Co-sponsored with the Prints and Photographs Division.

MAY 7 (Friday), 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mumford Room, Madison Building

Symposium marking the publication by Penn State University Press of "The First White House Library: A History and Annotated Catalog." Co-sponsored with the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the National First Ladies Library, Penn State University Press and the Bibliographical Society of America.

MAY 19 (Wednesday), 11:30 a.m., Dining Room A, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Timothy M. Gay will discuss and sign his new book, "Satch, Dizzy and Rapid Robert: The Wild Saga of Interracial Baseball Before Jackie Robinson" (Simon & Schuster, 2010).

MAY 21 (Friday), Noon, West Dining Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Jeff Shesol will discuss and sign his new book, "Supreme Power: Franklin Roosevelt vs. the Supreme Court" (W.W. Norton, 2010). Co-sponsored with the Manuscript Division.

JUNE 2 (Wednesday), 12 noon, West Dining Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Rich Remsburg will discuss and sign his new book, "Hard Luck Blues" (University of Illinois Press, 2010). Co-sponsored with the American Folklife Center and the Publishing Office.

JUNE 28 (Monday), 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m., Mumford Room, Dining Room C, Madison Building

State Center Idea Exchange meeting.

JUNE 28 (Monday), 5-6:30 p.m., CFB Library Legislative Day reception, Montpelier Room

JUNE 29 (Tuesday), 9 a.m.-noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building

State Center project meetings.

JUNE 30 (Wednesday), 10 a.m.-noon, Room 119, Jefferson Building

River of Words awards ceremony for winners and finalists of the 2009-2010 environmental art and poetry contest for young people. Hosted by Robert Hass, U.S. Poet Laureate 1995-1997.

JULY 12 (Monday), 12 noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Nadine Cohodas will discuss and sign her new book, "Princess Noire: The Tumultuous Reign of Nina Simone" (Pantheon, 2010). Co-sponsored with the Serial and Government Publications Division.

SEPTEMBER 25 (Saturday), 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., National Mall

2010 National Book Festival

OCTOBER 15 (Friday), noon, West Dining Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Robert Darnton will discuss and sign his new book, "The Case for Books: Past, Present, Future" (Public Affairs, 2010).

OCTOBER 15 (Friday), 5:30 p.m., Mumford Room, Madison Building

National Collegiate Book Collecting symposium. 

