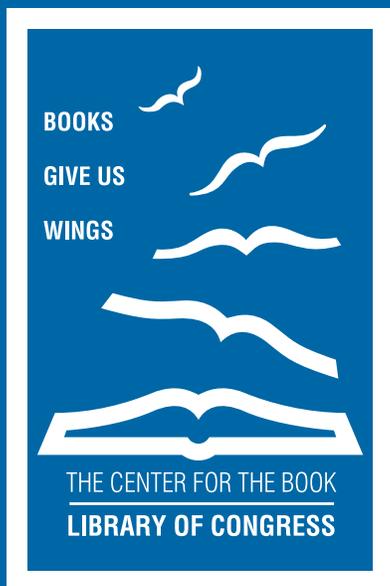


March 2009



## Our New 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 is establishing this monthly 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 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 annual in-person Idea Exchange meeting, which this year will be May 11-12 at the Library of Congress.

Please send your submissions to [glam@loc.gov](mailto:glam@loc.gov).

## Center Sponsors National Treasures "Road Show"

By Guy Lamolinara

"National Treasure" may be the title of a popular series of films that began in 2004, but the Library has been using the expression far longer to describe its more than 138 million items, especially those with iconic status, such as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address or Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence.

So it is only fitting that the Library's educational "road show" be dubbed "National Treasures, Local Treasures: The Library of Congress at Your Fingertips." The Center for the Book organized the tour in association with its state centers for the book in Florida, Colorado, Texas and California. The Office of Strategic Initiatives' Educational Outreach and the Office of Communications also played key roles in planning and participating in the events. Fort Lauderdale, Denver, Dallas, San Francisco and Los Angeles hosted Library staff and local authors and, in some cases, members of Congress.

The idea behind the visits was to call attention to the national treasures that the Library of Congress holds in trust for the nation and makes available online, as well as the local treasures available from the Library online that are especially relevant to citizens of the states visited. The events also demonstrate how the centers for the book in the 50 states and District of Columbia carry out the Library's mission of promoting books, reading and literacy. All the events included workshops with teachers and students to demonstrate how the Library's online collections can be used in students' studies.

The Florida Center for the Book, whose director is Eileen McNally, hosted the first event at the Broward County Public Library in Fort Lauderdale, where it is based, on Sept. 19. John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, welcomed guests and noted that the first event was being held in the first state center for the book, which was established in 1984 and remains one of the most active state centers.

"Each of the state centers did a remarkable job in hosting this important educational program, highlighting national and local treasures available online," said Cole.

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## News from a Reading Promotion Partner

PBS Masterpiece is one of our newer reading promotion partners. Besides broadcasting classic British literature, Masterpiece is also recognized for creating valuable and free educational resources. For the current season, a new guide to teaching Charles Dickens is posted at [pbs.org/masterpiece](http://pbs.org/masterpiece) (under the LEARN tab), as well as a book club guide for reading Dickens and viewing the Masterpiece adaptations of his work. If you would like to receive a PDF flyer about the upcoming Classic season to share with your network, please contact [Gay\\_Mohrbacher@wgbh.org](mailto:Gay_Mohrbacher@wgbh.org).

Emmy Award-winning actress Laura Linney is the new host of the Masterpiece Classic season, The season features all new adaptations of Charles Dickens' most beloved stories, Sundays at 9 on PBS. 



Elizabeth Ridgway, the Library's director of educational outreach, works with students who attended the "National Treasures, Local Treasures" event in Broward County, Fla.



Taking a break during the "National Treasures" event in Denver were: Dianne Lapiere, director of community relations, Denver Public Library; John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; Glenn Jones, chair of the Education Committee, Library of Congress Madison Council; and Wesley A. Brown, former chair of the steering committee, Philip Lee Phillips Society, Library of Congress.

Florida resident Barbara Parker, a New York Times best-selling author and a former prosecutor with the state attorney's office in Dade County, Fla., was a special guest. She is the author of 12 mysteries, including "Suspicion of Malice," which was a finalist for the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best First Novel by an American author.

The Library's Elizabeth Ridgway, director of Educational Outreach, told an eager audience of more than 100 local schoolchildren how they could use the Library's primary online sources in their studies, and their teachers learned how to incorporate these materials in their classrooms. Ridgway and Galloway also demonstrated the interactive Library of Congress Experience ([www.loc.gov/experience/](http://www.loc.gov/experience/)), which marries the Library's unique historical and cultural treasures with cutting-edge interactive technology. Sherrie Galloway and Gail Petri, educational specialists, offered similar presentations (tailored to each city) at the other sites on the tour.

Another feature during each of the five events was a screening of a special feature in the DVD of the 2007 movie "National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets," which filmed much of its action in the Jefferson Building. (This special feature is available only in the two-disc version of the release.) Matt Raymond, director of communications, Jennifer Gavin, senior public affairs specialist, and this writer introduced the film at various venues and spoke about the online collections of the Library.

To conclude each venue's program, Cole presented the libraries with a facsimile of a historic map of their area from the Library's Geography and Map Division, as well as copies of the new edition of Cole's "On These Walls" and the "National Treasure" DVD.

The next stop, on Oct. 27, was Denver, where the Central Library and the Colorado Center for the Book welcomed the Library staff as well as Sen. Wayne Allard (R-Colo.) and Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.).

"I am an ardent enthusiast of history and the library system right here in Colorado and throughout this great nation," said Allard. "I spent many hours here and in other libraries working on my book, and I believe they are priceless institutions. America and the world are at our fingertips in every library. Often, if someone in my D.C. office cannot get a hold of me, I can be found in the reading room at the Library of Congress."

Margaret A. Coval, executive director of Colorado Humanities, introduced two young finalists in the River of Words ([www.riverofwords.org](http://www.riverofwords.org)) environmental art and poetry contest sponsored by the Center for the Book. The students read their prize-winning poems. One of the students, Jack Baker, age 7, from Polaris at Ebert Elementary School in Denver, won first place in the K-2nd grade category for his terse poem written from the point of view of life below the streets, called "Sewer":

*Rats roaming down here.  
Water flowing like music from the oboe.  
Dangerous gasses float in the air  
Down here underground.*

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Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) and Dr. Billington during the evening reception at the Dallas Public Library.



Gail Bialas, director of the Texas Center for the Book; John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; Gail Petri, an educational resource specialist in the Library of Congress; Dr. Billington; and Laurie Evans, director of the Dallas Public Library.



Students take part in an exercise using a printout of one of the Library's online maps during the workshop at the Dianne Feinstein School in San Francisco.

Some members of the audience found humor in the poem while others wondered what would make a 7-year-old choose such a nasty subject.

When Charlie Caplan, a 10th-grader from St. John's School in Houston read his award-winning entry in the Letters About Literature contest during the Dallas event on Nov. 24, the reactions were similarly mixed. The contest asks students to write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed the reader's view of the world or of himself or herself.

"I hate you," began Caplan as he read his letter to author Robert Jordan, who died before completing his "Wheel of Time" science fiction series. Caplan continued: "I can't help it. I know I shouldn't, but hatred cannot be doused with mere logic. You abandoned the world, everyone who reads your books and everyone in your books. But most importantly, you abandoned me. What am I supposed to do? I will never know how the story ends. Should I forget the whole series? Forget 10,000 pages of my life?" (The complete letter is at [www.dallaslibrary.org/TCB/CharlieCaplan.htm](http://www.dallaslibrary.org/TCB/CharlieCaplan.htm).)

Gail Bialas, director of the Texas Center for the Book, thanked the Library of Congress staff for bringing the "National Treasures" tour to the state. She also told attendees that the Library had mounted a special exhibition of local treasures in keeping with the theme of the event.

Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Texas) said it was "a great honor" to be included in the program. "The Library of Congress is one of the great places in the United States. It belongs to the American people and it houses your treasures." During an evening reception at the Dallas library, Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) referred to the Library of Congress as a national treasure, citing its 138 million items and service to Congress. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington joined him during the reception and thanked Sessions and all the members of Congress for being the "greatest supporters of libraries in the history of the world."

In San Francisco, on Dec. 11, Mary Menzel, director of the California Center for the Book, said the mission of the California center is to "help libraries get people reading and to learn about great books."

One of the highlights of the event was a reading by Poet Laureate Kay Ryan, who read poems of a seasonal nature. Ryan's presence was also a highlight for Maggie Gallagher, a sixth-grader who won the 2008 Grand Prize (grades 4-6) in the River of Words contest. Her poem, "To Speak with the Dead," reflected a maturity far beyond Gallagher's years: (Gallagher's complete poem is at [www.catranslation.org/education.html](http://www.catranslation.org/education.html).)

*To speak with the dead  
If you want them to hear you  
You must roll  
Like the crash of thunder  
Or the beat of the drum  
You must whisper  
Like the cry of the wind  
Or the path of an arrow.*

(story continues on page 4)



Sherrie Galloway, an educational resource specialist in the Library of Congress; Tim Coleman, a teacher at the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School and two teachers from the high school during the teachers workshop for Los Angeles-area educators.



Colorado Center for the Book Program Assistant Hae Won Kwon addressed visitors to the Library of Congress booth during the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association.



National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Jon Scieszka and Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole presented a program during the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in Anaheim, Calif., in June 2008.

The following day, Cole, Petri, Galloway, Menzel and this writer concluded the National Treasures tour with an event in Los Angeles. As in the other cities, an appropriate map from the Geography and Map Division was given to the hosting library. But only in this location could this type of map have been so relevant: The Los Angeles Public Library had requested a gift of a map of the stars from 1937. The map is officially called “Hollywood Starland,” and the participants at the event concluded that the only star on the map still living was the child star Shirley Temple among a who’s who of Hollywood stars on the map such as Gable, Grant, Hepburn, Garbo and Dietrich. (The map is online in the American Memory Web site.)

When she saw the map, Los Angeles author Nina Revoyr, who had planned on reading from another of her novels, decided to read from “The Age of Dreaming,” about a Japanese silent film star who has outlived his fame.

Perhaps one of the most moving moments of the entire tour occurred when Francesca Libutti from Pioneer Junior High School in Upland, Calif., read her Letters About Literature missive to Patricia McCormick, author of “Sold.”

“This summer I became a victim,” she began as she told the story of her brother’s death in a car crash. Her poise and powers of description in relating the most painful event in her life stunned everyone in the audience.

When the event concluded many of those in attendance felt they had learned much more than they had been expecting. 

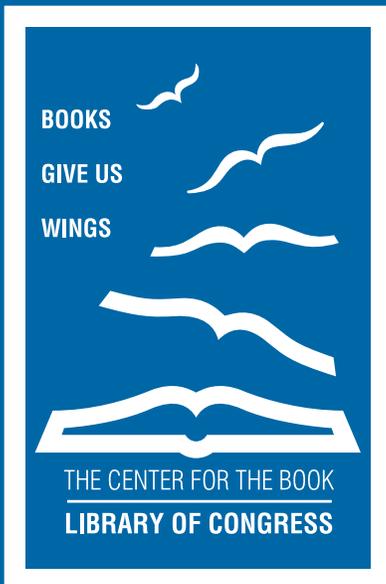
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## Center Travels to Denver for American Library Association Meeting

An excellent way for the Center for the Book to introduce itself to librarians from all parts of the country (and even overseas) is through the presentations its staff members provide in the Library of Congress exhibition booth during the semiannual meetings of the American Library Association.

Most recently, Director John Y. Cole and Communications Officer Guy Lamolinara spoke to attendees of the American Library Association’s Midwinter Meeting in Denver on Jan. 24-26. Cole spoke about the mission and activities of the Center for the Book and its state centers and partners, and Lamolinara made a presentation based on the “National Treasures, Local Treasures” tour organized by the Center last year.

During his presentations, Cole was joined by Margaret Coval, Colorado Humanities and Colorado Center for the Book executive director; and Hae Won Kwon, program assistant. They discussed how the Colorado Center supports the activities of the national Center in Washington through programs such as its participation in national initiatives such as Letters About Literature and River of Words, as well as local programs such as the Rocky Mountain Book Festival and the Colorado Book Awards. 



## Calendar of Events

Throughout the year, the Center for the Book sponsors myriad programs on a wide range of topics. Please note the Partners Meeting on March 9 and the State Centers meeting on May 11-12. We hope to see you at these meetings. 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](http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/cyber-cfb.html).

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

**MARCH 9 (Monday), 8:45 a.m.–2 p.m., Mumford Room, Montpelier Room, Madison**

Reading Promotion Partners “idea exchange” meeting (not open to the public).

**MARCH 17 (Tuesday), noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. Bibi Gaston will discuss and sign her new book, *The Loveliest Woman in America: A Tragic Actress, Her Lost Diaries, and Her Granddaughter's Search For Home* (HarperCollins, 2008). Co-sponsored with the Manuscript Division.

**MARCH 23 (Monday), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. Kirsten Downey will discuss and sign her new book, *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience* (Doubleday, 2009). Co-sponsored with the Manuscript Division.

**APRIL 15 (Wednesday), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. Author Paul Dickson will discuss and sign the third edition of his book *The Dickson Baseball Dictionary* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2009). Co-sponsored with the Humanities and Social Sciences Division.

**APRIL 28 (Tuesday), 3 p.m., Mumford Room, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. David A. Taylor will discuss and sign his new book, *Soul of a People: The WPA Writers' Project Uncovers Depression America* (John Wiley & Sons, 2009). Co-sponsored with the American Folklife Center.

**MAY 11 (Monday), 8:45 a.m.–5 p.m., Mumford Room, Madison Building**

State Center “idea exchange” meeting (not open to the public).

**MAY 12 (Tuesday), 9a.m.-noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building**

State Center project meetings (not open to the public).

**MAY 13 (Wednesday), 10 am–noon, Room 119, Jefferson Building**

Awards ceremony for winners of the 2008-2009 River of Words poetry and art contest for young people. Hosted by Robert Hass, U.S. Poet Laureate 1995-1997.

**MAY 14 (Thursday), 6 p.m., Mumford Room, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. John Hessler, Christine Johnson and Wey Gomez, participants in the Library's international symposium "Exploring Waldseemuller's World," will discuss their books. Co-sponsored with the Geography and Map Division.

**MAY 19 (Tuesday), noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. Ralph Eubanks will discuss and sign his new book, *The House at the End of the Road: A Story of Race, Identity and Memory* (HarperCollins, 2009).

**JUNE 2 (Tuesday), noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. Baltimore Sun film critic Michael Sragow will discuss and sign his new book, *Victor Fleming: An American Movie Master* (Knopf Publishing Group, 2008). Co-sponsored with the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

**SEPTEMBER 16 (Wednesday), 5:30-7:30 p.m., Montpelier Room, Madison Building**

Literacy Leadership Awards program. Co-sponsored with the National Coalition for Literacy

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

National Book Festival.

**OCTOBER 7 (Wednesday), noon, Dining Room A, Madison Building**

Books & Beyond program. Tony 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.

**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. 