

NEWSLETTER

Third Quarter 2011



**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.

More than 100 Authors, Poets and Illustrators Participate in 11th National Book Festival

Center for the Book Plays Major Role in Event

By Guy Lamolinara

One of the Center for the Book's most important projects relies on its relationships with authors, their publishers and publicists: The Center is charged with inviting and scheduling the authors and other presenters to the annual National Book Festival – a role it has assumed since the first festival in 2001.

"Because of our extensive contacts in the book industry, not only with authors but also with book publishers, the Center for the Book is the logical office within the Library of Congress to handle this task," said John Y. Cole, the Center's director. "This year, we relied on those relationships more than ever in securing over 100 authors, poets and illustrators who participated in our first two-day festival."



Abby Brack/Library of Congress

Clouds threatened but could not keep away the many thousands of book lovers who came to see their favorite authors.

The Sept. 23-24 event on the National Mall in Washington drew large and enthusiastic crowds to hear presentations from the likes of Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison, Pulitzer Prize winner Jennifer Egan, NPR favorite Garrison Keillor and renowned historian David McCullough.

And those were just a few of the star attractions, which included "Today" show host Hoda Kotb, newsman Jim Lehrer, former Poet Laureate Rita Dove and National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Katherine Paterson.

The weekend-long festival meant that Center for the Book staff had to juggle scheduling for about 30 percent more participants than in previous years. But having two days allowed presentations to run for 45 minutes (they were 30 minutes previously) and it allowed many authors who would otherwise been unavailable on Saturday, the 23rd, to be able to participate on Sunday, the 24th.

The most popular attraction at the festival, the Pavilion of the States, is organized

(Story continues on next page)



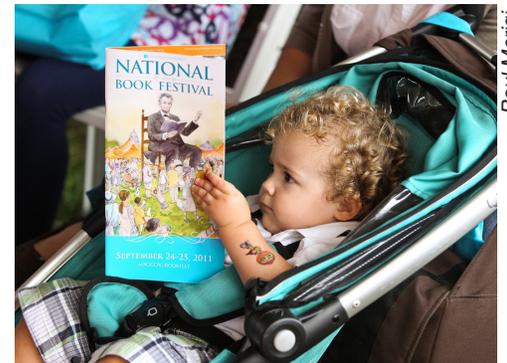
Hundreds of attendees waiting to have their books signed.

by the Center and staffed by representatives from affiliated state Centers for the Book, state libraries, state humanities councils and others who offer information on their state’s literary heritage at one of the 52 tables for the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the pavilion’s major sponsor with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Junior League of Washington offers support wherever needed.

In addition to the usual pavilions – Children, Teens, Contemporary Life, Poetry & Prose, Fiction & Mystery and History & Biography, on Sunday, three mini-pavilions offered presentations in genres not previously represented: Graphic Novels, State Poets Laureate and The Cutting Edge.

“The new pavilions allowed us to test the waters on the level of interest on the part of attendees for these genres,” said Cole. “Some of these will surely return next year.”

The 2011 National Book Festival was made possible through the generous support of National Book Festival Board Co-Chair David M. Rubenstein; Distinguished Corporate Benefactor Target; Charter Sponsors The Washington Post and Wells Fargo; Patrons AT&T, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The James Madison Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and PBS KIDS; Contributors Barnes & Noble, Digital Bookmobile powered by OverDrive, Penguin Group (USA), ReadAloud.org and Scholastic Inc.; and – in the Friends category – the Marshall B. Coyne Foundation Inc.; the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction; The Hay-Adams and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Thanks also to C-SPAN2’s Book TV and the Junior League of Washington.



Paul Morigi

Trying to decide which presentation to go to next.

More Book Festival photos on pages 4-5



“The Exquisite Corpse Adventure” Says Goodbye to the National Book Festival

All photos - Michaela McNichol



Hundreds of schoolchildren came especially for the “Exquisite Corpse” presentation.

For the last time, members of Team Corpse – the writers and illustrators of “The Exquisite Corpse Adventure” – gathered on the stage of the Children’s pavilion, this time to celebrate the publication of “The Exquisite Corpse” in book form from Candlewick Press.

The project was a collaborative effort between the Center for the Book and one of its partners, the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, and began in 2009 as an online serialized story on the Read.gov website. It ran for 27 episodes and concluded in September 2010. Various members of Team Corpse appeared at the past three National Book Festivals to mark the beginning of the story (2009), the end (2010) and the book’s publication (2011).

John Y. Cole, Center for the Book director, presided over the Book Festival program, along with Mary Brigid Barrett, executive director of the NCBLA.

According to Cole, “Projects such as this are excellent examples of how the Center for the Book leverages its outreach and influence through its partnerships with more than 80 other like-minded organizations. ‘The Exquisite Corpse Adventure’ demonstrates how limited resources can be used to have a big impact on reading.”



A celebration dedicated to the publication of “The Exquisite Corpse Adventure” in book form opened the day at the Children’s pavilion on Saturday. Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole (center) presided and was joined by Team Corpse members (from left) Patricia and Fredrick McKissack, Susan Cooper, Gregory Maguire, Katherine Paterson, Jack Gantos, Chris Van Dusen and Calef Brown.

Following their presentation, the team gathered on the Mall in front of the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building with (second from left) Mary Brigid Barrett, executive director of the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, which was the Center for the Book partner in the “Exquisite Corpse” project.





Film star and author of the "Freckleface Strawberry" series for children Julianne Moore, takes a question from her audience.

Around the Book Festival



Michaela McNichol

A young reader steps up to the mic to ask a question of an author.

Nancy Alfaro/Library of Congress



"Tiger Mom" Amy Chua, author of "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," told stories about her children's upbringing.



Barry Wheeler/Library of Congress

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough stops to sign his book for a reader.

Patricia Fisher

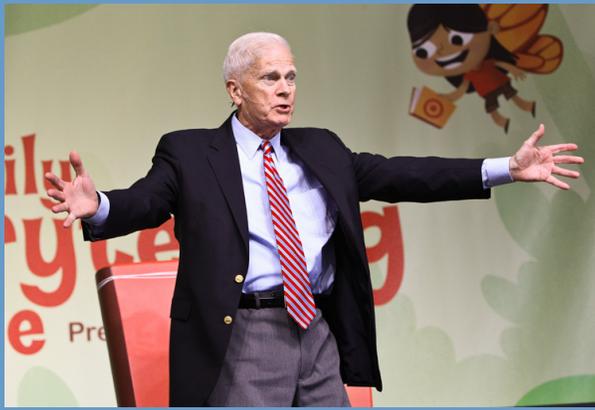


Many National Book Festival authors visit the tables of their home states. "Exquisite Corpse" author Jack Gantos talks to a fan at the Massachusetts table.

Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison received the National Book Festival Creative Achievement Award during her presentation in the Fiction and Mystery pavilion.



Kristina Nixon



Librarian of Congress James H. Billington entertained young readers on the Family Storytelling Stage, sponsored by Target, the festival's distinguished benefactor.

District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Congressional Relations specialist Brynda Harris met up near the State Poets Laureate pavilion.



In the Pavilion of the States, which is organized and sponsored by the Center for the Book, writer Sara Paretsky is fascinated by the appearance of George Washington, courtesy of Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.



The "Today" show's Hoda Kotb drew huge crowds as she discussed her book, "Hoda: How I Survived War Zones, Bad Hair, Cancer and Kathie Lee."



One of "Sesame Street's" Honkers hugs two readers.



The stagecoach from Wells Fargo, a festival charter sponsor, was a popular attraction.



Center for the Book alumnus Pat White (left foreground) was at the Center's table in the Pavilion of the States talking to kids about the Center's programs for young people.

What's Past Is Present:

"Appalachian Spring" Performed in Original Venue

By Guy Lamolinara

Reliving history is often not a good thing. But such was definitely not the case for the lucky attendees of a program in the Coolidge Auditorium on Oct. 4.

About 250 schoolchildren, their teachers and others were treated to an excerpted performance of Martha Graham and Aaron Copland's collaborative masterwork, "Appalachian Spring," part of a program marking the publication of a book for young people about the creation of this work. The Library of Congress commissioned "Appalachian Spring," and it premiered at the Coolidge in 1944.

The recently published "Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring" (Roaring Brook Press) is a lavishly illustrated book that tells the story of how this classic ballet was created for the Library. Its authors, Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, with illustrator Brian Floca, were among those on the program, co-sponsored by the Center for the Book and the Music Division. John Y. Cole, the center's director and Library of Congress historian, emceed the event and provided historical context, while Susan Vita, chief of the Music Division, spoke about the Martha Graham and Aaron Copland collections housed in her division. The circle

of historical repeats was closed when members of the Martha Graham Dance Company – which of course danced the premiere performance – also performed in this presentation, albeit not the entire ballet.

Cole told the audience that "our event today has been made possible by two generous friends, Marcia and Barney Eskin, in honor of their son Jonah." He then offered an illustrated history of how "Appalachian Spring" came to the library through images of Graham and Copland correspondence, sheet music and the premiere performance from 1944.

"To tell you how this book is associated with the Library of Congress," Cole introduced Susan Vita, chief of the Music Division, where the papers of Graham and Copland are housed.

"How does a dance get created?" Vita asked the students. Somebody writes the music and somebody does the choreography and somebody does the music. . . . 'Appalachian Spring' was first performed here because the Library gave the money to Martha Graham and Aaron

(Continued on next page)



Miki Orihara and Tadej Brdnik danced the roles of the Wife and Husbandman.



Susan Vita, chief of the Music Division, which co-sponsored the "Appalachian Spring" event.

(Appalachian Spring, from page 6)

Copland to create this dance.”

“Because Sandra and I have created 11 books together, we are always fascinated by how people work together,” explained author Jan Greenberg, as she told the story of how the idea came to her and co-author Sandra Jordan through a visit to the Isamu Noguchi Museum in Long Island City, N.Y. An exhibit included some of Noguchi’s designs for the sets for “Appalachian Spring.” “And when we left, we knew we would be doing a book about Martha Graham, Aaron Copland and Isamu Noguchi,” Greenberg said.



John Cole spoke about the history of “Appalachian Spring” at the Library of Congress, including the correspondence between its creators, Martha Graham and Aaron Copland.



Authors Sandra Gordon (left) and Jan Greenberg discussed their inspiration for “Ballet for Martha.”

“Martha created a special way that dancers move and I wanted to be as true to that as I could in my drawings,” said illustrator Brian Floca. He then took the students on a visual journey of the creative process that led to his extraordinary watercolor illustrations for “Ballet for Martha.”

Oliver Tobin from the Martha Graham Dance Company introduced characters who would be part of the performance. First: the Husbandman, who, according to a letter that Tobin read from Graham to Copland, should possess “an awkward beauty of bone and ... be possessed of some of the magic of the everyday.” Dancer Tadej Brdnik entered the stage and began to perform the Husbandman as Copland’s music played. Brdnik’s dancing rendered the exuberance of a man on his wedding day. Miki Orihara then entered from the rear of the stage to dance the role of the Wife, which Graham had created for herself (the Husbandman was written for Graham’s husband, Erik Hawkins). They danced a moving duet, and after Brdnik left the stage, Orihara danced a solo that reflected, in Graham’s words, the Wife’s “enthusiasm and hope for the future.”

(Continued on page 8)



Illustrator Brian Floca showed how he studied photographs of dancers to aid in creating his watercolors for the book.

(Appalachian Spring, from page 7)

Graham and Copland were also determined to represent American religion in the Pennsylvania valley where the ballet takes place. A “danced sermon” between the Wife and the Preacher “takes a completely different tone,” said Brdnik, who had assumed the role of narrator for the performance. “This danced sermon clearly contains some old-fashioned Puritan disapproval.” Tobin had by now assumed his role as the preacher, as he spun on the stage, pointing his disapproving finger at an appreciative audience.

After leaving the stage, Tobin returned to introduce the final dance sequence: A duet between the Wife and Husbandman, as “they flirt, show off for each other and consider their future together.”

When Graham described what the music should be like for this scene, she wrote to Copland that it has “a warmth, a hint of sweetness but in no sense is sentimental.” As the Shaker melody “The Simple Gifts” played, the final act of what is now considered an American classic concluded.

At the end, during the question-and-answer period with students, Tobin summed up what was surely on the minds of many who were there: “This dance started right here on this stage 67 years ago, and to know that I am part of something in 2011 that is still being performed and handed down ... is something very inspiring. ... Thank you dearly to Martha Graham, Aaron Copland and the Library of Congress.”



A leaping Oliver Tobin danced the Preacher.



The audience cheered as the dancers took their bows.



The authors and dancers took questions following the performance; the schoolchildren who attended eagerly asked questions.



(Continued on page 9)



The Jonah S. Eskin Memorial Fund supported the event; Marcia and Barney Eskin (center) were joined in the Young Readers Center for a reception by (from left) Floca, Gordon, Greenberg, Lee Eskin, Tobin, Brdnik and Orihara.



Book-Collecting Contest Winners Celebrated at the Library: Center for the Book Co-Sponsors Program

By Guy Lamolinara

Hobbyists in all fields collect things in their areas of interest. Philatelists collect stamps; numismatists, coins. Bibliophiles collect books, and they often do so in areas of particular interest.

The National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest encourages students in higher education to assemble book collections according to their passions. In the past, winners have documented topics as diverse and esoteric as the history of mathematics, 20th century propaganda and the “mythology of Mozart.”

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 jointly assumed leadership of the contest, with major support from the Jay I. Kislak Foundation. An awards ceremony was held at the Library on Oct. 21.

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.

(Continued on next page)

All photos: Abby Brack/Library of Congress



The Washington Post’s Michael Dirda spoke on “The Thrill of the Hunt.”

(Book-Collecting Contest, from page 9)

This year's winners collected books on no less an interesting variety of subjects:

- First Prize: Arthur Mitchell Fraas, Duke University, for his collection "Anglo-American Legal Printing, 1702 to the Present."
- Second Prize: Margaret Murray, Johns Hopkins University, for her collection "Literature of The Little Review: In Which Margaret Anderson Enters an Antiquarian Bookstore."
- Third Prize: Sarah A. McCormick, University of California-Riverside, for her collection "Desert Dreams: The History of California's Coachella Valley."
- Essay Prize: Emily Brodman, Stanford University, for her essay "Sourcing the Sanctuary Movement."



The guest speaker could not have been more appropriate choice: Pulitzer Prize-winning book critic Michael Dirda of The Washington Post, who spoke on "The Thrill of the Hunt: The Serendipitous Pleasures of Book Collecting."

Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special

Collections Division, gave the students a peek inside the Library's collections, many of which stem from book collectors' donations.

Prizes, generously underwritten by the Jay I. Kislak Foundation, will be awarded both to the students and to the libraries of their respective institutions.

Fittingly, the nation's most famous book collector, Thomas Jefferson, sold his personal library to the Library of Congress in 1815, following the burning of the Library, which was then housed in the U.S. Capitol, during the War of 1812. Jefferson's universal collecting philosophy still guides the collecting policy of today's Library of Congress.

Later collectors such as Lessing J. Rosenwald, John Boyd Thacher and Otto H. Vollbehr, among many others, conveyed their book collections to the Library, where

Rare Book and Special Collections Chief Mark Dimunation impressed those gathered in the Rosenwald Room with a discussion of a few of the Library's rare treasures, including a death mask of Abraham Lincoln (below).



Barbra Goering (far left), mother of second-place winner Margaret Murray of Johns Hopkins University (second from left); first-place winner Arthur Mitchell Fraas; Betty Sweren, who sponsored the prize at Johns Hopkins; Susan Fraas, mother of Arthur Fraas; and Mark Dimunation.

(Continued on next page)

(Book-Collecting Contest, from page 10)

they are conserved and made available in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. More recently, the Library received the gift of the Jay I. Kislak Collection of rare books, manuscripts and other early American materials.

The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) is a trade association of more than 450 professionals who specialize in fine and rare books, maps, documents, autographs, illuminated manuscripts, ephemera and prints that span the economic spectrum. Its members are united in their passion for books and related material and are bound by a code of ethics. ABAA sponsors three antiquarian book fairs each year.

The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies is an association of collecting organizations whose mission is to communicate, share and support bibliographic activities, experience and ideas among member clubs for mutual benefit and pleasure.

The Jay I. Kislak Foundation, based in Miami, is engaged in the collection, conservation, research and interpretation of rare books, manuscripts, maps and cultural artifacts.



The Louisiana Book Festival Bounces Back – Higher Than Ever

By John Y. Cole

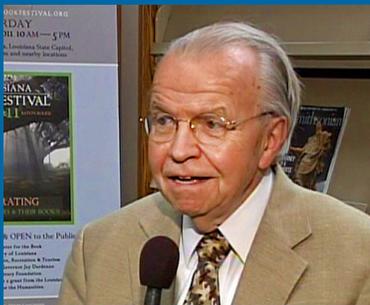
Fiscal problems forced the Louisiana State Library and the Louisiana Center for the Book to cancel plans for the eighth Louisiana Book Festival in 2010. However, with new financial and political support it returned to the beautiful State Capitol grounds in Baton Rouge on Oct. 29.

More than 200 writers, poets, scholars, storytellers and panelists presented, performed and signed their books on this crisp and sunny “great day for reading,” as it was characterized by Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, the festival’s honorary chair and a strong supporter. Knowledgeable observers agreed that the crowd exceeded the estimated 25,000 book lovers who attended in 2009.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress was well-represented. National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Katherine Paterson and her husband, John, discussed their new book, “The Flint Heart.” Author and national Letters About Literature Director Cathy Gourley discussed her latest young adult book, “The Horrors of Andersonville: Life and Death Inside a Civil War Prison.” I introduced



... and Katherine and John Paterson.



The Center for the Book was well represented at the Louisiana Book Festival with appearances by Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole ...



Letters About Literature national program Director Cathy Gourley ...

(Continued on next page)

(Louisiana Book Festival, from page 11)

Katherine and John Paterson's presentation and Cathy Gourley introduced me for my talk about the Library of Congress, the Center for the Book and the revised edition of my book "On These Walls: Inscriptions and Quotations in the Library of Congress."



Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne (right) presents the 2011 Louisiana Writer Award to Jim Wilcox.

As a National Book Festival veteran, I was impressed by the many ways the Louisiana Book Festival drew on – and in certain instances improved upon – the National Book Festival's organization and structure. Similar events included the author readings and signings, the recognition of a single author as the winner of the Louisiana Writer Award, the reliance on private sector partnerships and an exceptionally strong program for young people. State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton emphasized how the many festival activities for children promote an appreciation of reading and also "contribute to a culture of literacy in Louisiana." These activities included a Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award, a Young Readers Pavilion (storytelling, book crafts, writing enrichment projects, face painting) and recognition of the winners of the annual Louisiana Writes! Youth Writing Contest. As part of the Louisiana Writes! Award ceremony, Gourley recognized Louisiana's three Letters About Literature state-level winners.

Jim Davis, director of the Louisiana Center for the Book, introduced another activity not yet part of the National Book Festival: "This year we have added a full day of film screenings that support Louisiana literature, culture, its land and water, its heritage, as well as the joy and rewards of reading itself. The scripts of all of these films had to be written, which brings us back to our celebration of words."



Gateway to Knowledge Truck Visits Dover:

Delaware Center for the Book Coordinates Visit



The Gateway to Knowledge truck arrives at the Delaware Capitol grounds.

On Aug. 8, the people of Dover, Del., welcomed a very special visitor from the Library of Congress. But the visitor was on 16 wheels rather than two legs.

The Library's Gateway to Knowledge traveling exhibition truck stopped in Dover for a two-day visit on the grounds of the state capitol. A crowd of VIPs and others assembled for the morning ribbon-cutting ceremony, which included Delaware Secretary of State Jeff Bullock, State Librarian Annie Norman and Delaware Center for the Book administrator Patty Langley, who coordinated the visit.

Anne Boni and Guy Lamolinara of the national Center for the Book represented the Library of Congress for this event, which was one of the

last stops for the exhibition that has brought the Library's story to more than 90 stops in small towns across the country.

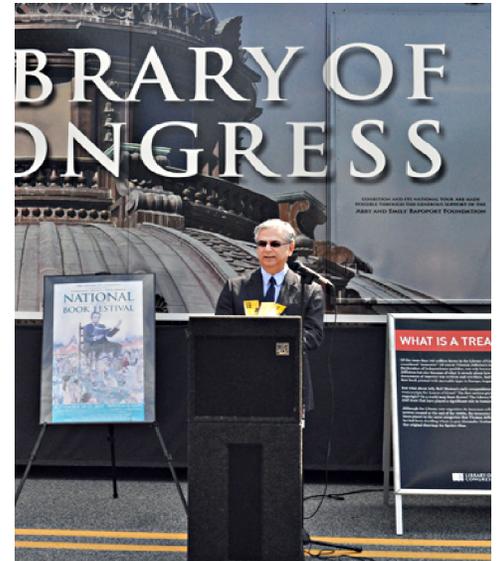
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“The kids now want to go to Washington, D.C.”; “A most informative and educational multimedia presentation. Thank you for sharing this around the country”; and “I never realized how accessible the Library of Congress archive is. This was an eye-opening exhibit” were just a few of the enthusiastic comments from those who viewed the exhibition.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end, and the Gateway to Knowledge made its last stop at the place where it all began: the Library’s National Book Festival on the National Mall on Sept. 23-24. It was a great ride.



A crowd gathered for the opening remarks.



Guy Lamolinara, Center for the Book communications officer, thanked the people of Delaware for hosting the traveling exhibition.



Following remarks, the official ribbon was cut ...

... and the public soon filed into the exhibition.



Join a nation of readers!

The Big Read is now accepting applications for
September 2012 - June 2013



Application submission deadline: Feb. 1, 2012

The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (and a Center for the Book reading-promotion partner) is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations to develop community-wide reading programs between September 2012 and June 2013. The Big Read is a national program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read receive a grant, access to online training resources and opportunities, and educational and promotional materials designed to support widespread community involvement and participation. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected.

To review the Guidelines & Application Instructions visit [The Big Read website](#).

Questions? Call Arts Midwest at (612) 238-8010 or email TheBigRead@artsmidwest.org.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 6 (Tuesday), noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Gail Dickersin Spilsbury will discuss and sign her new book, "A Washington Sketchbook: Drawings by Robert L. Dickinson, 1917-1918" (Chesapeake Book Company, 2011).

DECEMBER 8 (Thursday), noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building

Beverly Brannan and Laura Katzman will discuss and sign their book, "Re-viewing Documentary: The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam" (Penn State University Press, 2011). Co-sponsored with the Prints and Photographs Division.

JANUARY 10 (Tuesday), 11 a.m., LJ 119, Jefferson Building

Announcement ceremony and program for the 2012-2013 National Ambassador for Young Peoples Literature. Co-sponsored with the Children's Book Council.

JANUARY 26 (Thursday) noon, Mumford Room, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Mark Stein will discuss and sign his new book, "How the States Got Their Shapes Too: The People Behind the Borderlines" (Smithsonian Books, 2011).

FEBRUARY 29 (Wednesday), noon, Pickford Theater, Madison Building

Books & Beyond program. Simine Short will discuss and sign her book, "Locomotive to Aeromotive: Octave Chanute and the Transportation Revolution" (University of Illinois Press, 2011). Co-sponsored with the Manuscript Division.



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