

March 17, 2008

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site and the  
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum present

# Reading, Writing & History

A Conference for **Teachers of Grades 3 to 8 and School Librarians**

Many students miss out on learning history as schools increasingly emphasize literacy instruction. But as author Joy Hakim points out “. . .when it comes to critical reading, history shines. Hardly anything approaches it in its demand for analysis and thinking. Besides that, history is a natural with children. It’s filled with adventures, battles, heroes and villains; they all just happen to be true.”

Join outstanding authors and educators to discuss how history can engage young readers and provoke them to reach for their pens.

This conference addresses Massachusetts learning standards in English Language Arts and History & Social Science.

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**Marc Aronson** is a distinguished author, publisher, historian and editor. His book, *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for Eldorado* won the first Robert F. Sibert Award honoring the best work of nonfiction. His newest books are *Race: A History Beyond Black and White*; *Robert F. Kennedy: Crusader*; *The World Made New: Why the Age of Exploration Happened and How It Changed the World* (with John W. Glenn); and *Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry* (with Scott R. Nelson). Mr. Aronson writes a monthly column in *School Library Journal*, which also features his “Nonfiction Matters” blog in the on-line edition.



**Katherine Paterson** has a remarkable gift for creating characters that readers care about and for bringing other times and places to life. Her stories explore what it means to be human under challenging circumstances, whether in feudal Japan or a 19th-century New England mill town. Her historical novels include *The Master Puppeteer* (winner of the National Book Award); *Of Nightingales That Weep*; *Jip, His Story*; *Bread and Roses, Too*; *Preacher's Boy*; *Park's Quest*; and *Lyddie*. Katherine Paterson is a recipient of the Hans Christian Andersen Award for her lasting contribution to children's literature.



**Peter Sís** is an internationally acclaimed author, illustrator and filmmaker, and the first children's book artist to be named a MacArthur Fellow. His books about Columbus (*Follow the Dream*), Galileo (*Starry Messenger*) and Darwin (*The Tree of Life*) combine simple narrative with fantastic, richly-detailed imagery that draws the reader's imagination into the world of each historical subject. In Peter Sís's newest book, *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*, he tells the story of growing up in communist Czechoslovakia and the struggle for artistic freedom and personal expression in the face of government censorship.



**Carole Boston Weatherford** is an award-winning poet and author who explores historical themes in books for younger children. “I mine the past,” she writes, “for family stories, fading traditions and forgotten struggles.” Among her recent titles are *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*; *I, Matthew Henson*; and *Jesse Owens: Fastest Man Alive*. In the 2007 Caldecott Honor Book, *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* (illustrated by Kadir Nelson), Carole Weatherford interprets a part of history that is often left out – the inner journey of faith and prayer that inspires a famous person's heroic achievements.

## R E G I S T R A T I O N F O R M

Registrations are accepted in the order in which they are received. Conference space is limited - please register early.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
School/organization \_\_\_\_\_

Please list choices for *Concurrent Session (A, B, C, D or E)*.

1st choice \_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_ 3rd choice \_\_\_\_

Please list choices for *Meet the Authors (1, 2, 3 or 4)*.

1st choice \_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_ 3rd choice \_\_\_\_

Registration fee is \$90 and includes handouts, morning coffee and lunch.

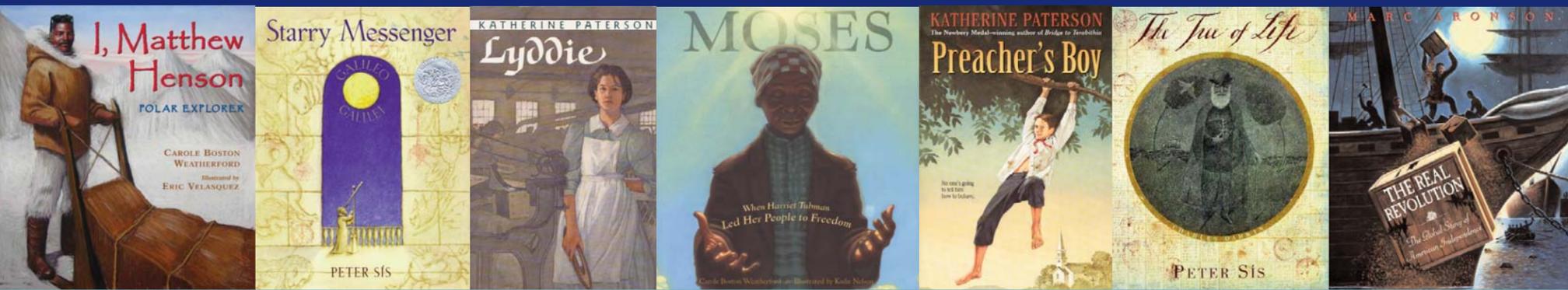
Registration form and payment must be received by **February 8, 2008**. Confirmation and directions will be sent to the first 125 registrants.

Make check payable to **Eastern National**, and mail with completed registration form to:

Liza Stearns  
Kennedy National Historic Site  
83 Beals Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

For information, contact Sam Rubin at (617)514-1650 or Liza Stearns at (617)201-7217.

**Reproduce registration form as needed.**



# Reading, Writing & History

March 17, 2008

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome

9:15 What's So Exciting about History?

How has history shaped the work of a poet, a novelist, a creator of picture books and an author of nonfiction? How do historical subjects expand a writer's thought process and use of language? In what unique ways can history excite the young reader's imagination? **Marc Aronson** leads a wide-ranging discussion with **Katherine Paterson**, **Peter Sís**, **Carole Weatherford** and conference participants.

10:30 Book Browsing and Sales

11:00 Helping Students Make Sense of History

In her recent book, *Making Sense of History*, Myra Zarnowski demonstrates how high-quality children's literature and hands-on experiences can be used to build content knowledge. Dr. Zarnowski, Professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Queens College, presents several engaging writing activities that help students interpret and understand the past.

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Concurrent Sessions *List your first, second and third choices on the registration form.*

**A** *Bringing Great Historical Literature into the Classroom*

This workshop presents examples of outstanding historical literature from different genres – biography, historical fiction and nonfiction, poetry and picture books – along with strategies to encourage students' critical thinking and active engagement. Participants receive guidance on meeting a wide range of reading abilities and interests. Handouts include an annotated bibliography and criteria for evaluating books. *Grades 3–6*  
**Sasha Lauterbach**, Cambridge Friends School; **Marion Reynolds**, Tufts University

**B** *Paving the Way into the Past*

This workshop presents four successful projects that integrate reading, writing and history. Learn how students become guides for Boston's Black History Trail, research the struggle and triumph of women suffragists, unearth the history of their school and preserve their personal stories. *Grades 3–6*  
**Ann O'Halloran**, 2007 Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year, Albert Angier School, Newton

**C** *An Elementary Odyssey: Teaching Ancient Civilization through Story*

In his book, *An Elementary Odyssey*, David Millstone describes how fifth graders immersed in Homer's *Odyssey* become a community of scholars in preparing to retell the story to first graders. After viewing samples of student work, participants explore aspects of this approach that integrates history, literature and the arts. Handouts include a detailed calendar listing three months of activities. *Grades 4–8*  
**David Millstone** (retired), Marion Cross School, Norwich, VT

**D** *Jamming to the Words and Rhythm of the Harlem Renaissance*

By the end of World War I, economic and social circumstances brought an astounding group of talented black artists, writers and thinkers to Harlem. Hear how a middle school English teacher and school librarian collaborate on a unit that invites students into the history of this time using music, visual art, biography and literature. Participants receive lesson plans and curricular resources. *Grades 6–8*  
**Pat McEachen**, Lincoln School, Brookline Public Schools; **Pat Rigley**, Solomon Schechter School, Newton

**E** *Closing the Circle: Creative Ways of Teaching History in the Language Arts Classroom*

Literature circles can be used to engage students in history while building skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Learn about a unit on the Industrial Revolution in which middle school students read novels such as *Lyddie* and *So Far From Home*, and investigate primary sources. *Grades 6–8*  
**Sheila Kirschbaum**, Tsongas Industrial History Center, Lowell National Historical Park; **Deborah Romeo**, E.N. Rogers Middle School, Lowell

1:45 Meet the Authors *List your first, second and third choices on the registration form.*

Our guest authors meet with participants in small groups to discuss their work and conference-related topics.

- 1 Marc Aronson      2 Katherine Paterson      3 Peter Sís      4 Carole Boston Weatherford

2:30 Closing Session

2:45 Book Signing