



Compleat Biographer
Conference 2010

May 15, 2010 8:00AM–6:30PM

Campus Center, University of Massachusetts Boston

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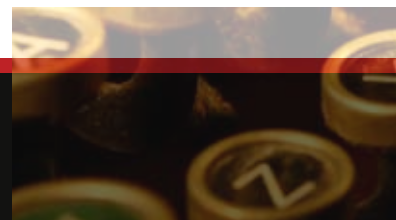
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WELCOME to the first Compleat Biographer Conference and the inaugural meeting of Biographers International Organization (BIO).

In 2008 James McGrath Morris, editor of the *Biographer's Craft* newsletter, published an open call for a new organization that would serve the practical needs of professional biographers. This proposal produced an unexpected outpouring of enthusiasm and excitement, and by the spring of 2009, scores of volunteers were working to put the building blocks of BIO into place. Practicing biographers from all professional paths, including some of the most distinguished writers of our era, devoted their time and talents to the often tedious work of composing by-laws, securing sponsors, arranging facilities, and the thousand other details required to create something of lasting historic significance. Our deepest thanks go to the



many committee members who helped lay this foundation, especially to Jamie Morris, who carried the heaviest administrative load. Special thanks are owed to our superb site committee in Boston led by Ray Anthony Shepard, and to Nigel Hamilton, a Senior Fellow here at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, who served as BIO's ambassador and forged a special relationship between our organization and the University that made it possible for us to hold our conference here.

Now comes the fun part! Today we begin building the vibrant community of professional peers that so many of us have longed for as we've sat alone in our silent studies. Whether we are here to discuss the technical aspects of composition and the strategies of the publishing industry, or just to meet those rare people who also do what we do, this is our opportunity to shape the future of our craft as we want it to be. I hope you will register as a founding member of BIO, and consider donating some of your time and treasure to its success. In your registration material and around the conference you will find donation envelopes and volunteer sign-up sheets. I urge you to use them.

If we are entering a new golden age of biography, as many publishers believe, then we are the vanguard of this renaissance. Thank you for contributing to this historic occasion and to the future success of BIO. Enjoy the conference!

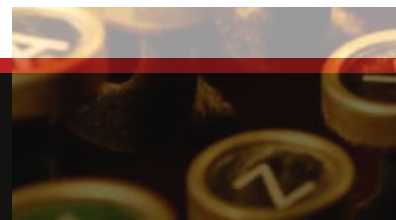
Debby Applegate
Interim President

Schedule

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|-----------------|---|
| 7:30–8:00AM | Registration |
| 8:00–8:50AM | Breakfast Opening: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Ray Anthony Shepard, <i>Chair of Boston Site Committee</i>• Address by Interim President Debby Applegate• Approval of bylaws and election of board |
| 9:00–10:30AM | First round of workshops and panels |
| 10:45AM–12:15PM | Second round of workshops and panels |
| 12:30–1:45PM | Lunch Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by University of Massachusetts Boston Provost Winston Langley• Introduction of speaker by James McGrath Morris• Presentation of BIO Award to Jean Strouse by BIO President• Keynote address by Jean Strouse |
| 2:00–3:30PM | Third round of workshops and panels |
| 3:45–5:15PM | Fourth round of workshops and panels |
| 5:30–6:30PM | Closing reception and book signings |

Agent Roundtable & Speed Dating

- Roundtable from 10:45AM to 12:15PM in the Point Lounge
- Dating from 2:30 to 5:00PM in the Alumni Lounge



Panels and Panelists

Working with Primary Documents: A discussion by archivists and biographers on the challenges and opportunities of working in archives today.

9:00–10:30AM and 10:45AM–12:15PM

Moderator

PHYLLIS E. STEELE is a professional archivist with a doctorate in American history. She worked for over 25 years in government, academic, and corporate archives. She was a fieldworker and contributor for Andrea Hinding, ed., *Women's History Sources Survey* (1979), and is a co-compiler of the *Ohio Municipal Records Manual* (1981) and the *Local Government Records Handbook* (Ohio, 1984). Since taking early retirement as the Company Archivist for New England Financial, she has been working as a consulting archivist and historian. Currently, at the request of the Littleton Historical Society, she is working on a biography of Herbert J. Harwood (1854–1910), a civic leader, businessman, historian, legislator, and farmer from Littleton, MA.

Panelists

KATHRYN ALLAMONG JACOB, a social and cultural historian, is the curator of manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. Prior to joining the Schlesinger staff in 1999, Jacob was the archivist at Johns Hopkins University, assistant historian of the United States Senate, an archivist at the National Archives, a program director at the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and deputy director of the American Jewish Historical Society. Her most recent book, *King of the Lobby: The Life and Times of Sam Ward, Man About Washington in the Gilded Age*, is both a biography of Sam Ward and a history of lobbyists and the lobby in the years after the Civil War.

KAREN V. KUKIL is associate curator of special collections at Smith College, where her primary responsibilities include teaching and reference services in the Mortimer Rare Book Room and the Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History. She is also on the faculty of the Smith Archives Concentration Program. She edited *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*, published by Faber in London and Anchor Books in New York in 2000. In

2003 she co-hosted the Thirteenth International Conference on Virginia Woolf and edited a selection of papers on *Woolf in the Real World* for Clemson University Digital Press. She also serves as a consultant for international digital publishing projects, including *Woolf Online*, *Plath Profiles*, and *Women, Writing, and Mental Illness*.

NANCY MILFORD* is the author of two biographies: *Zelda*, about the life of Zelda Fitzgerald, and *Savage Beauty: The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay*. *Zelda* spent 29 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list in hardcover, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and was translated into twelve languages. Milford is currently writing a biography of Rose Kennedy. She was a founder of the Writers Room in New York City, the first urban writers' colony in the nation, providing workspace for writers year-round. Milford was a Fulbright scholar in Turkey in 1999 and has held a Guggenheim Fellowship. She has taught at Brown University, Vassar College, the University of Michigan, Princeton University, and Hunter College, and is now the Founding Director, Emerita, of the Leon Levy Center for Biography at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York.

SUSAN QUINN is the author of *A Mind of Her Own: The Life of Karen Horney* and *Marie Curie: A Life*. Her most recent book is *Furious Improvisation: How the WPA and a Cast of Thousands Made High Art Out of Desperate Times*, which tells the story of the Federal Theatre Project, led by Hallie Flanagan. Her current project grew out of the last book: its working title is *Harry and Franklin: A Partnership That Saved the Nation*. It will focus on the close relationship of Harry Hopkins with FDR during all the years of his presidency. Quinn is the recipient of Guggenheim and Rockefeller grants. Her biography of Horney received the Winship award. Her biography of Marie Curie was a finalist for the Los Angeles Book Prize and the Fawcett Book Prize and won the Grand Prix des Lectrices de ELLE. *Marie Curie* has been translated into nine languages.

*Second session panel only



Marketing Your Biography: It's one thing to write the darn thing; it's entirely another matter to find readers. 9:00–10:30AM and 10:45AM–12:15PM

Moderator

BERNICE LERNER is author, speaker, and consultant. She is director of adult learning at Hebrew College, and a senior scholar at the Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Boston University's School of Education. She is the author of *The Triumph of Wounded Souls: Seven Holocaust Survivors' Lives* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2004). She is presently working on a dual biography of her mother, a Holocaust survivor, and Brigadier Hugh Llewelyn Glyn Hughes, liberator of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Panelists



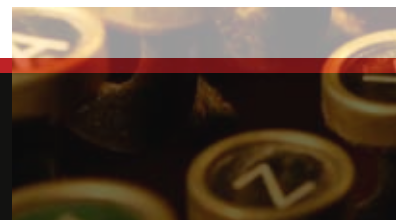
DEBBY APPLGATE is a summa cum laude graduate of Amherst College and was a Sterling Fellow at Yale University, where she received her Ph.D. in American Studies. Her first book, *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*, won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Biography and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and was named one of the best books of 2006 by the *New York Times Book Review*, NPR's *Fresh Air*, *Washington Post*, *Seattle Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *American Heritage Magazine*. Applegate is the interim president of Biographers International Organization.

JAMES BRADLEY is the celebrated author of *New York Times* bestseller *Flags of Our Fathers*, later made into a critically acclaimed film directed by Clint Eastwood. The book is the true story of the six men, including Bradley's father, who raised the flag in 1945 on Iwo Jima, an image made iconic in the most reproduced photograph in history. In addition to *Flags of Our Fathers* he has published the bestseller *Flyboys*, as well as *The Imperial Cruise*, an in-depth exploration of Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy that became an instant *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller.

YEN CHEONG is the Associate Director of Digital Media and Publicity at Viking Penguin, part of the Penguin Group (USA). She writes the Book Publicity Blog and also serves as secretary of the Publishers Publicity Association (PPA). Cheong graduated with a degree in history from Yale University.

ANNE C. HELLER is the author of *Ayn Rand and the World She Made*, named a Notable Book of 2009 by the *New York Times*. She is also a magazine editor who has worked for or contributed to the *Antioch Review*, *Esquire*, *Redbook*, *TriQuarterly*, *Vogue*, *Lear's*, *Mademoiselle*, *Rolling Stone*, and others. Most recently, she was the executive editor of the magazine development group at Condé Nast Publications.

LISSA WARREN has worked at several Boston publishing houses including David R. Godine, Houghton Mifflin, and Perseus Publishing, and is currently Vice President, Senior Director of Publicity and Acquiring Editor at Da Capo Press, where she has worked on biographies of everyone from Shakespeare forger William-Henry Ireland to President James Monroe to comedian George Carlin. She is the author of *The Savvy Author's Guide to Book Publicity* (Carroll & Graf, 2004).



Writing a Winning Proposal: Tips on writing a winning proposal for a biography.

9:00–10:30AM and 10:45AM–12:15PM

Moderator

SALLY DEAN HAMBLÉN HILL is a genealogist who has written articles for the *New England Historic and Genealogical Register*, the *American Genealogist*, and the *Mayflower Descendant*. She is currently working on the abstraction and annotation of the diaries of an 18th-century Boston shopkeeper named Benjamin Walker, researching many of his neighbors and major figures and events of his time period, 1726–1749. The diaries are full of fascinating details and information found nowhere else—and will serve as an excellent source for historians, genealogists, and other students of the colonial period.

Panelists

ROBERT KANIGEL is the author of six books, three of them biographies. *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. *The One Best Way*, about the efficiency expert Frederick Winslow Taylor, got a front-page review in the *New York Times Book Review* and was the basis for a PBS special, *Stopwatch*. He is currently working on a group biography of literary visitors to the Great Blasket, a tiny island off the west coast of Ireland, in the early 20th century. Its provisional title is *The Land of the Young* and it is under contract with Knopf. He is a professor in the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies at MIT, where he helped found its Graduate Program in Science Writing.

SUSAN RABINER has spent most of her adult life in New York publishing. She started at Random House trade and Vintage paperbacks, was a senior editor at the New York office of Oxford University Press, St. Martin's Press, and Pantheon Books, and became editorial director at Basic Books. Among the books she is most proud of having worked on as an editor are three bestsellers: *The Rape of Nanking* by the late Iris Chang, *The Physics of Star Trek* by Professor Lawrence

Krauss, and *Straight on Till Morning: The Biography of Beryl Markham*, by Mary Lovell, as well as the prize-winning books *In the Matter of Color: Race and the American Legal Process* by the late Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., Pulitzer Prize winner *And Their Children After Them* by Dale Maharidge, and *Gay New York* by Professor George Chauncey. In 1997 she started the Susan Rabiner Literary Agency as a boutique agency dedicated to big idea books, the type of books she published as an editor. Together with her husband, she is the co-author of *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction and Get It Published*.

JOHN TAYLOR "IKE" WILLIAMS, a founder of Kneerim & Williams, specializes in biography, history, politics, natural science, and anthropology. He represents Howard Gardner, Joseph J. Ellis, E.O. Wilson, Tim Berners-Lee, Charles Ogletree, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, James MacGregor Burns, Rev. Peter J. Gomes, Richard Wilbur, Drew Gilpin Faust, and Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, among others. He was a member of the NEA Literary Panel, chair of the Boston Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, co-chair of the Fine Arts Work Center, and a director of the Boston Book Festival. He also places dramatic rights, such as the feature film *Public Enemies*, from *The Vendetta* by Alston Purvis, and a History Channel series based on the late Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*.



New Ways to Publish: An overview from digital books to I-Universe. Authors discuss the technology, money, and viability of going it on your own.

9:00–10:30AM and 3:45–5:15PM

Moderator

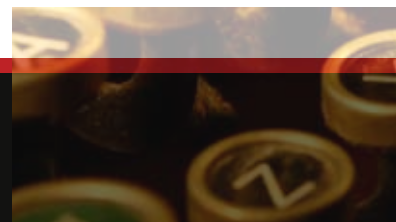
RICHARD LENA is a cofounder of the Brattle Publishing Group, a curriculum developer, and an instructional designer specializing in print and multimedia learning experiences for diverse audiences. For nearly 20 years he has worked in educational publishing, conceptualizing, designing, and managing the development of large-scale educational products and product lines in various media forms including print, software, web-based, video, and audio.

Panelists

TANYA HALL is a seasoned media veteran, recognized in the fields of business development, distribution, and publishing. In her current role, Tanya drives Greenleaf's business development efforts, working with authors to develop their publishing programs and developing strategic partnerships to grow Greenleaf's reputation as a leading independent publisher. Prior to her current role, she built Greenleaf's distribution organization, working directly with retailers and wholesalers to develop one of the fastest-growing distribution businesses in the industry. Before joining the publishing industry, Tanya worked as a television producer for *Extra!* and *E!* Cable Networks.

CARL ROLLYSON, Professor of Journalism at Baruch College, the City University of New York, has published more than 40 books ranging in subject matter from biographies of Marilyn Monroe, Lillian Hellman, Martha Gellhorn, Norman Mailer, Rebecca West, Susan Sontag, and Jill Craigie to studies of American culture, genealogy, children's biography, film, and literary criticism. He has authored more than 500 articles on American and European literature and history. For four years (2003–2007) he wrote a weekly column, "On Biography," for the *New York Sun*, and was President of the Rebecca West Society (2003–2007). He is currently researching a biography of Amy Lowell (awarded a "We the People" NEH grant) as well as a biography of Dana Andrews for University Press of Mississippi.

BILL TRIPPE is a consultant and analyst with more than 20 years of experience in helping publishers solve the most demanding workflow, production, and output problems. Starting out in typesetting, page production, and editorial work, he has watched digital publishing evolve from an afterthought to the core of many publishers' businesses. Clients include major publishers such as McGraw-Hill, Reed Business Information, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Pearson, Scholastic, and Random House. As Vice President and Lead Analyst for the Gilbane Group, he advises clients through all phases of the publishing lifecycle and typically plays an active part in determining how technology will help publishers develop products for print, the Web, and other electronic formats.



Selecting a Subject: Discussion by several biographers about how they selected or rejected subjects for their books. 9:00–10:30AM and 2:00–3:30PM

Moderator

HARRIET REISEN's *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women* (Henry Holt, 2009), was named by the *Wall Street Journal* to its "Ten Standout Books of 2009" list, by *Bookpage* to its list of the Ten Best Nonfiction Books of 2009, by Booklist to its list of the Five Top Adult Nonfiction Books for Young Adult Readers, and as a finalist for the Nonfiction Award of the Massachusetts Center for the Book. Reisen also produced (with Nancy Porter) and wrote the PBS *American Masters* documentary biography of *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*, named by Booklist as Top Video of 2009.

Panelists

CAROL DEBOER-LANGWORTHY teaches in the Nonfiction Writing Program of Brown University. She edited the autobiography and diaries of Neith Boyce (1872–1951) for publication and is now working on a literary biography of this innovative founding member of the Provincetown Players. With a Ph.D. in American Studies, her interests include documentary editing, personal narrative, and autobiography as well as biography.

BEATRICE MOUSLI is the author of numerous books, among them *Intentions, histoire d'une revue littéraire des années vingt* (Ent'revues, 1996), *Les Editions du Sagittaire 1919–1979* (IMEC, 2003), *Valery Larbaud* (Flammarion, 1998, Grand Prix de la Biographie de

l'Académie Française), *Virginia Woolf* (Ed. du Rocher, 2001), *Max Jacob* (Flammarion, 2005, Prix Anna de Noailles de l'Académie Française) and *Philippe Soupault*, published by Flammarion in April 2010. With her husband Guy Bennett she has organized and curated several conferences and exhibits on French and American literary exchanges and on the representations of their two cities, Los Angeles and Paris. She teaches French and French literature at USC. She was named "Knight of the Order of Academic Palms" by the French Minister of Education in 2007.

STEVIE WEINBERG began his professional writing career in 1969 as a newspaper reporter. The word counts couldn't hold him, so he switched to magazine staff writer. The word counts still couldn't hold him, so he began writing books. His first book, a biography, appeared in 1978. Since then, he has published seven other books, including biographies of Armand Hammer (Little, Brown, 1989) and Ida Tarbell (W.W. Norton, 2008), and a book about the craft of biography, *Telling the Untold Story*, published by University of Missouri Press. He lives in Columbia, Missouri, where he served as executive director of Investigative Reporters and Editors, an organization with international membership, and teaches reporting and writing courses at the University of Missouri Journalism School.



Agents' Roundtable: Representing Biographers in a Changing World of Biography. 10:45AM–12:15PM

Moderator

ANDREW LOWNIE is a graduate of the Universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh, and the author of a biography of the writer John Buchan and a forthcoming life of the spy Guy Burgess. He has run his own literary agency since 1988, having previously been a journalist, bookseller, and publisher. In 1997 he founded the Biographers Club, a networking and social club crossed with pressure group for biographers based in Britain, of which he is now President.

Panelists:

ANN COLLETTE spent 15 years as a freelance writer and editor before joining the Helen Rees Literary Agency ten years ago, a background that comes in handy when developing first books. Her fiction list includes literary, horror, mystery, women's fiction, and crime novelists, including Steven Sidor and Vicki Lane. Her non-fiction interests include biography, memoir, pop culture, and military (particularly Vietnam and anything set in the WWII Asian theater).

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JEFF KLEINMAN is a literary agent, intellectual property attorney, and founding partner of Folio Literary Management, LLC, a New York literary agency that works with all of the major U.S. publishers (and, through subagents, with most international publishers). He's a graduate of Case Western Reserve University (J.D.), the University of Chicago (M.A., Italian), and the University of Virginia (B.A. with High Distinction in English). As an agent, Jeff feels privileged to have the chance to learn an incredible variety of new subjects, meet an extraordinary range of people, and feel, at the end of the day, that he's helped to build something—a wonderful book, perhaps, or an author's career. His authors include Charles Shields, the extraordinary biographer of Harper Lee (*Mockingbird* and the YA version, *I Am Scout*), and Heidi Ardizzone, biographer of Belle da Costa Greene (*An Illuminated Life*).

COLLEEN MOHYDE became a partner in the Doe Coover Agency in 1992 after a decade as an editor at Little, Brown & Company. As an agent she represents an eclectic and wide-ranging list of literary fiction, biography, history, politics and current events, popular science, and memoir. Her authors include Pulitzer Prize winners, PEN Award recipients, and *New York Times* bestsellers. The agency's biographies include *Stand Facing the Stove: The Story of the Women Who Gave America the Joy of Cooking* by Anne Mendelson; *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero* by Kate Clifford Larson; and *Make Gentle the Life of This World: The Vision of Robert F. Kennedy* by Matthew Maxwell Taylor Kennedy.

ALAN NEVINS started his book career working for the famed super agent Irving "Swifty" Lazar and later melded the Lazar Agency into Renaissance Literary & Talent. After a three-year stint associated with the Michael Ovitz company, AMG, he then created a literary division at music mogul, The Firm. In 2008 Renaissance became fully independent again and currently represents more than 75 writers, with

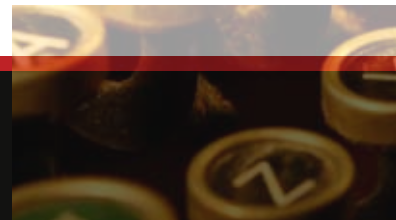
an extensive estate list that includes James Jones, George Axelrod, Elia Kazan, Arthur Rubinstein, and Cornell Woolrich. A major force in biographies and memoirs, among other genres, Nevins has represented Goldie Hawn, illusionist Criss Angel, Don Felder of the Eagles, Tony Curtis, David Eisenhower and his wife, Julie Nixon, Taboo from the Black-Eyed Peas, actress Marlee Matlin, Lauren Bacall (National Book Award), Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre (*I'll Dress You in Mourning*), Kirk Douglas, and the mega-selling *What to Expect When You're Expecting* by Heidi Murkoff.

NINA RYAN is a freelance editor and literary agent with the Cowles-Ryan Agency who has worked in book publishing for twenty years. Formerly an associate editor at Random House, and an agent and director of subsidiary rights at the Palmer & Dodge Agency in Boston (now Kneerim & Williams), she brings substantial experience to the process of evaluating, editing, developing, and marketing books for publication. She has worked closely with many writers to develop book proposals and manuscripts published by houses such as Alfred A. Knopf, Henry Holt, Doubleday, Macmillan, Penguin-Putnam, and other major publishers. She received an M.A. from the Columbia School of Journalism and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

CHRISTINA (KIT) WARD has been an independent literary agent in the Boston area since 1992. She was previously an editor with Little, Brown & Company, where she edited the collected letters of Louisa May Alcott and a biography of John Muir. As an agent, she represents a diverse list of nonfiction and literary fiction, with a keen interest in biography and memoir. Biographies she has represented include *Hiding Man: A Biography of Donald Barthelme* by Tracy Daugherty (a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2009), *Mysteries of Paris: The Search for Morton Fullerton* by Marion Mainwaring, and *Skylark: The Life, Lies, and Inventions of Harry Atwood* by Howard Mansfield.

Reception and Book Signing

- Network with agents, editors, and panelists. Meet members of BIO's Board. Chat with other biographers. 5:30-6:30PM



Trends in Biography: A look at the future of biography.

10:45AM–12:15PM and 2:00–3:30PM

Moderator

D. QUINCY WHITNEY was the primary arts feature writer for the *Boston Sunday Globe New Hampshire Weekly* for 14 years. She also served as Newsletter Editor for the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen and the American Textile History Museum. From 2004 to 2006, she was a research fellow in the Musical Instruments Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, where she completed her research for the biography of internationally renowned female American violinmaker Carleen Maley Hutchins. Her first book, *Hidden History of New Hampshire* (History Press, 2008), was the result of a Smithsonian Institution research project she completed for the 1999 American Folklife Festival when New Hampshire was the featured state. She is currently writing the Hutchins biography.

Panelists

HELEN ATZMA is a Senior Editor at Henry Holt & Company. Her nonfiction authors include Mignon Fogarty (*Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing*, a *New York Times* bestseller), Rhoda Janzen (*Menmonite in a Little Black Dress*, a memoir), Paul Fisher (*House of Wits: An Intimate Portrait of the James Family*), Charles J. Shields (biography on Kurt Vonnegut, forthcoming), and Alex von Tunzelmann (*Red Heat*, a history of the Cold War in the Caribbean, forthcoming). Fiction authors include Catherine O'Flynn (*What Was Lost*, winner of the Costa First Novel Award), Eugenia Kim (*The Calligrapher's Daughter*, winner of the 2009 Borders Original Voices Award), Helen Garner (*The Spare Room*, a B&N Discover selection), and Bo Caldwell (*City of Tranquil Light*, forthcoming).

GAYLE FELDMAN was educated at the Philadelphia High School for Girls, the University of Pennsylvania, and Girton College, Cambridge University, and has lived in the U.K., France, and the People's Republic of China as well as her native U.S. She has worked in book publishing since 1976—as an editor in London, as Book News Editor of *Publishers Weekly*, and currently as U.S. Correspondent for the *Bookseller* of London. She has been awarded a National Arts Journalism Research Fellowship at Columbia University, a Ransom Center Fellowship at the University of Texas, and two Ragdale Foundation residencies. Her cancer memoir, *You Don't Have to Be Your Mother*, was published by W.W. Norton in 1994; her monograph study of prize-winners and bestsellers, *Best and Worst of Times: The Changing Business of Trade Books*, was published by NAJP at the Columbia Journalism School in 2003; and she is under contract to Random House for a biography of its cofounder, Bennett Cerf.

MEGAN MARSHALL is the author of two nonfiction books and has published numerous essays and reviews in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Slate Online*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *London Review of Books*, the *New Republic*, the *Boston Review*, and elsewhere. Her biography *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism* (2005) won the Francis Parkman Prize, awarded by the Society of American Historians; the Mark Lynton History Prize, awarded by the Anthony Lukas Prize Project jointly sponsored by the Columbia School of Journalism and Harvard's Nieman Foundation; the Massachusetts Book Award in nonfiction; and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in biography and memoir. She served as a judge in nonfiction for the 2008 National Book Awards, and was recently elected to the Executive Board of the Society of American Historians.



Dealing with the Family: Veteran biographers discuss issues of permissions, copyright, authorization, and other pitfalls of working with a subject's family or heirs.

10:45AM–12:15PM and 3:45–5:15PM

Moderator

MELISSA NATHANSON is working on a full-scale biography of Harry A. Blackmun, who served as an associate justice on the United States Supreme Court from 1970 to 1994 and is best known as the author of *Roe v. Wade*. A graduate of Barnard College and New York University School of Law, she formerly practiced corporate law on Wall Street. Her current project has been enriched by generous cooperation from Blackmun family members, especially Justice Blackmun's three extraordinary daughters, Nancy, Sally, and Susie. This is her first book.



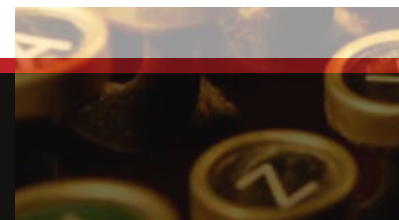
Panelists

KITTY KELLEY's highly anticipated biography of Oprah Winfrey was published last month with a first printing in excess of a half-million copies. Her four previous books, chronicling the lives of the Bush dynasty (*The Family*, 2004); the British royal family (*The Royals*, 1997); Nancy Reagan (*Nancy Reagan: The Unauthorized Biography*, 1991); and Frank Sinatra (*His Way*, 1986), each debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* Hardcover Nonfiction bestseller list. Ms. Kelley's other biographies, *Elizabeth Taylor: The Last Star* (1981) and *Jackie Oh! (1978)*, also were *New York Times* bestsellers. Her books have been published in 36 languages.

NANCY KRIPLEN is the author of two biographies: *Dwight Davis: The Man and the Cup* and *The Eccentric Billionaire: John D. MacArthur—Empire Builder, Reluctant Philanthropist, Relentless Adversary*. She was formerly on the staffs of *Time* magazine and Scripps Howard's *Indianapolis Times*. The biography that originally opened her eyes to the possibilities of this genre was *When the Cheering Stopped*, Gene Smith's book about the last days of Woodrow Wilson.

CHARLES J. SHIELDS resides in Barboursville, Virginia, at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains with his wife, Guadalupe, a former Chicago elementary school principal. He is the author of *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* (2006), *I Am Scout* (2008), as well as biographies and histories for young people. His biography of Kurt Vonnegut will be published by Henry Holt & Co. in the spring of 2011.

WILL SWIFT writes about presidential families. While doing research he has talked with members of the Roosevelt, Kennedy, and Johnson families. His first book, *The Roosevelts and the Royals* (Wiley, 2004) tells the story of two ruling dynasties—the Roosevelts and the British Royal family—and their interactions over a 125-year period. His book *The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm* (Smithsonian, 2008) recounts the Kennedy family's emergence on the world stage during the onslaught of World War II. Will grew up in a suburb of Boston, and has worked in Hyannisport, Massachusetts, where he first met Kennedy family members during the turbulent summer of 1968. He lives in Manhattan and in the historic Nathan Wild House, once visited by FDR, in Valatie, New York.



Self-Editing: Tips on how best to prepare your manuscript for publication in the post-Max Perkins era.

2:00–3:30PM and 3:45–5:15PM

Moderator

NIGEL HAMILTON has published 20 works of biography and history, including *Monty*, the official three-volume biography of World War II leader Field Marshal Montgomery—which won the Whitbread Award for Biography and the Templar Medal for Military History. He is also author of *JFK: Reckless Youth*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller and was dramatized for ABC-TV as a mini-series starring Patrick Dempsey. He has written two volumes of a trilogy on the life of the 42nd President, *Bill Clinton: An American Journey* and *Bill Clinton: Mastering the Presidency*, as well as two works on the history and practice of biography, *Biography: A Brief History*, and *How to Do Biography: A Primer*. His latest work, a historical biography of the last twelve presidents, *American Caesars: Lives of the Presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush*, will be published September 7 (Yale UP). He is a Senior Fellow in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston. Hamilton is the Interim Vice President of Biographers International Organization.

Panelists

DAVID R. SLAVITT, educated at Andover, Yale, and Columbia, is the author of more than 90 books—novels, poetry, reportage, and translations. He was the movie reviewer for *Newsweek* in the 1960s, and was co-editor of the Johns Hopkins Complete Roman Drama as well as the Penn Complete Greek Drama. Among his recent publications: *Boethius' Consolation of Philosophy* (Harvard University Press, 2008), *The Seven*

Deadly Sins (Louisiana State University Press, 2009), *Ludivico Ariosto's Orlando Furioso* (Harvard University Press, 2009), and *George Sanders, Zsa Zsa, and Me: Essays on the Movies* (Northwestern University Press, 2009). A new novel, *The Duke's Man*, will be issued by Northwestern in the fall.

T.J. STILES is the author of *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*, winner of the 2009 National Book Award and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize. His *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War* was winner of the Ambassador Book Award and the Peter Seaborg Award for Civil War Scholarship. He held the Gilder Lehrman Fellowship in American History at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, taught nonfiction creative writing at Columbia University's School of the Arts, and has written for the *New York Times Book Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Smithsonian*, *The Atlantic* online, and other publications. He now lives in San Francisco with his wife and son.

MARIA ASCHER is a Senior Editor at Harvard University Press, and a manuscript editor of wide renown. She holds a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Harvard University. Her research interests include modernism, exile, the theory of translation, and the rhetoric of autobiography. She is the translator of (among other works) Marguerite Yourcenar's three-volume autobiography. The first volume, *Dear Departed*, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, was a finalist for the Scott Moncrieff Prize for translation from the French, sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture and the Arts Council of England.

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New Frontiers in Electronic Research: An overview of the new resources now available, from government documents to newspapers, photographs, and films.

2:00–3:30PM and 3:45–5:15PM

Moderator

ROB VELELLA is an independent scholar with a focus on antebellum American literature. He served as the guest curator for Houghton Library's exhibit "Margaret Fuller: Woman of the Nineteenth Century" in early 2010 and assisted in the curatorial duties of the Boston Public Library exhibit "The Raven and the Frog Pond: Edgar Allan Poe and Boston" beginning in late 2009. His articles have appeared in print and online for *Concord Magazine*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and elsewhere. He holds an M.A. in English and Publishing from Rosemont College, where he specialized in the history of publishing and digital design.

Panelists

HOLLY HENDRICKS has consulted with cultural organizations and historic sites on digital, archival, and genealogical projects. At the Massachusetts Historical Society she developed the XML and XSLT code to create the online version and cumulative index for 45 volumes of the documentary edition of the Adams Papers. She serves as historian of the Arlington Street Church and holds masters degrees in both Computer Science and Library and Information Studies.

MARILYN K. PARR is the Public Service and Collections Access Officer and Head of the Digital Reference Section at the Library of Congress. She currently manages the overall book service functions in the three general collections reading rooms and retrieval services for the millions of items in the

general collections. Also, Dr. Parr directs a staff of digital reference specialists who provide digital reference and chat services for the Library's Ask-a-Librarian program. This same team promotes and explores the ways in which online tools may be used to promote and enhance the Library of Congress's programs and services. Her extended service at the Library includes serving as the American history specialist in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division and experience in the Manuscript, Rare Book, and Music Divisions. She specializes in the Early Republic period, 1789–1860.

JOANNE RILEY is Associate University Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Boston's Joseph P. Healey Library, the director of the Massachusetts Studies Project, director of the Mass. Memories Road Show, and cofounder of the Massachusetts Studies Network. In previous work in the field of ethnomusicology she published an analysis of the life and career of 16th-century musician Tarquinia Molza.

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Funding Your Work: In addition to advances, this panel will look at how to obtain research grants and other means of supporting one's work.

2:00–3:30PM and 3:45–5:15PM

Moderator

MARTIN QUITT is professor emeritus of history at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is completing a biography of Stephen A. Douglas. He has published shorter biographical profiles of early political leaders, a book on family history, another on the Virginia colonial legislature, and articles on American constitutionalism, Anglo–Native American relations, and colonial elite formation. He is a frequent facilitator for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UMass Boston.

Panelists

ANDRÉ BERNARD is Vice President and Secretary of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, which awards fellowships in 78 fields. Fellowships have been granted to biographers since 1926. Before coming to the Foundation he worked in book publishing, serving most recently as Publisher of Harcourt Brace. He is the author of several books about writers and publishing, including *Rotten Rejections* and *Now All We Need Is a Title*. His work has been translated into ten languages, most recently Mandarin Chinese and Finnish. Two more books

are forthcoming, from Pantheon/Vintage and the Library of America.

JAMES MCGRATH MORRIS is the author of *Pulitzer: A Life in Politics, Print, and Power*, which the *New York Times* said “reads like a novel.” His previous book, *The Rose Man of Sing Sing: A True Tale of Life, Murder, and Redemption in the Age of Yellow Journalism*, was selected as a *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year for 2004 and was optioned as a film and released as an audio book. He is also the editor of the monthly *Biographer's Craft* and one of the founding members of Biographers International Organization, now serving as its Interim Secretary.

JIM MORIENSON has worked in various administrative roles at the University of Massachusetts Boston for 17 years. He currently serves as the communications and training manager for research and sponsored programs within the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Strategic Initiatives. One of his responsibilities is to identify federal, state, local, and private funding opportunities to support the university's research clusters, make the necessary multidisciplinary connections, and then disseminate funding opportunities to faculty and research staff. He has a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Professional Writing, both from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

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Jean Strouse Is the 2010 BIO Award Recipient

This year's BIO Award—the first of many, we hope—is being presented to biographer Jean Strouse, Director of the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. Members of Biographers International Organization (BIO) will give the award each year to a colleague who has made a major contribution to advancing the art and craft of biography. “Strouse’s astonishing, masterful, and inspiring work on Alice James and J. Pierpont Morgan has made her a biographer’s biographer,” says Debby Applegate, the Pulitzer Prize–winning biographer who is serving as BIO’s interim president. “As the first recipient of this award, she is setting a high standard for future honorees.” A native of California, Strouse has been a book critic, a prolific writer of magazine articles, and the recipient of fellowships from several foundations, including the MacArthur and John Simon Guggenheim Memorial foundations. Her *Alice James: A Biography* won the Bancroft Prize in 1980, and her second life study, *Morgan: American Financier*, won acclaim for its realistic portrayal of the man and its lucid explanation of his financial work.

Schedule at a Glance

Agent Roundtable & Speed Dating

- Roundtable from 10:45AM to 12:15PM in the Point Lounge
- Dating from 2:30 to 5:00PM in the Alumni Lounge

| Room # | 3540 | 3545 | 2540 | 2545 | 2555B |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9:00–10:30AM | Marketing Your Biography | Working with Primary Documents | New Ways to Publish | Selecting a Subject | The Proposal |
| 10:45AM–12:15PM | Trends in Biography | Working with Primary Documents | The Proposal | Dealing with the Family | Marketing Your Biography |
| 12:30–1:45PM | Lunch | | | | |
| 2:00–3:30PM | Selecting a Subject | Electronic Research | Self-Editing | Funding Your Work | Trends in Biography |
| 3:45–5:15PM | Dealing with the Family | Electronic Research | Funding Your Work | Self-editing | New Ways to Publish |
| 5:30–6:30PM | Reception and Book Signings | | | | |



See you next year
in Washington, D.C.

