



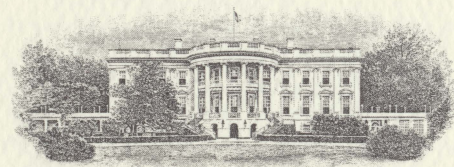
LAURA BUSH

welcomes you to

THE WHITE HOUSE SYMPOSIUM
ON THE WRITERS OF THE
HARLEM RENAISSANCE

The second in a series

THE WHITE HOUSE SALUTE TO
AMERICA'S AUTHORS



Wednesday, March 13, 2002

I, too, sing America.

*I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.*

*Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.*

*Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—*

I, too, am America.

—Langston Hughes (1925)
"I, Too, Sing America"

THE WRITERS OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

The second in the White House Salute to America's Authors series, this program will focus on the diverse writers of the Harlem Renaissance and will be highlighted by Pulitzer Prize winning author, David Levering Lewis' keynote address followed by a panel discussion of nationally recognized experts on the significant and lasting effects of this rich literary era, as well as a panel of contemporary African-American writers.

The first panel will focus on the historical and literary importance of the era and will include: Langston Hughes biographer, Arnold Rampersad of Stanford University; Cheryl Wall, chair of the Department of English at Rutgers; and Thadious Davis, the Gertrude Conaway Professor in the Department of English at Vanderbilt University.

The second panel will focus on the literary legacy of these early 20th Century authors and artists and their place in contemporary fiction. Marie Arana, book editor for *The Washington Post*, will moderate the panel, which includes authors James McBride, Walter Dean Myers, and Colson Whitehead.

The program will also include period music from the Harlem Renaissance era and photographs and significant documents from this era from the Library of Congress' collections will be on display in the Grand Foyer.

As a librarian and book aficionado, Laura Bush is using this series to celebrate some of America's greatest literary figures. Engaging Americans, particularly children, in reading great works is also a key aspect of this effort and students will comprise a portion of the audience, as they did at the first author symposium on Mark Twain held last November.

THE WHITE HOUSE SYMPOSIUM ON THE
WRITERS OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE



CALVIN COOLIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

ARPHELIUS GATLING, *Director*

Accompanied by EARNEST HARGROVE

Remarks by

LAURA BUSH

VOICES OF THE RENAISSANCE

Moderator and Keynote Speaker

DAVID LEVERING LEWIS

Martin Luther King, Jr. University Professor
Rutgers University

THADIOUS M. DAVIS

Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English
Vanderbilt University
New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers Fellow

ARNOLD RAMPERSAD

Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities
Stanford University

CHERYL A. WALL

Chair, Department of English
Rutgers University



CALVIN COOLIDGE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE AND CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN WRITERS

Moderator

MARIE ARANA

Book Editor

The Washington Post

JAMES MCBRIDE

Author, Miracle at St. Anna

WALTER DEAN MYERS

Author, Harlem: A Poem

COLSON WHITEHEAD

Author, John Henry Days

Remarks by

LAURA BUSH



PRESENTERS

Marie Arana is Book Editor of *The Washington Post*. She has spent a career in books, having served as Vice President and Senior Editor with two publishers: Simon & Schuster, Inc. and Harcourt Brace. She is a graduate of Northwestern University, Yale University in China, and the British University of Hong Kong. Born in Lima, Peru, she came to the United States at the age of nine, a voyage she recounts in her recently published memoir, *American Chica: Two Worlds, One Childhood* (Dial Press, 2001), a 2002 National Book Award finalist.

Thadious M. Davis is Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. Currently a fellow at the New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers, she was recently the R. Stanton Avery Distinguished Fellow at the Huntington Library, where she completed her new book, *Games of Property: Race, Gender, Law, and Faulkner's Go Down Moses* (Duke University Press, 2002). A former editor of *The Langston Hughes Review*, she is coeditor of the Gender and American Culture Series, University of North Carolina Press. She is the author of *Nella Larsen, Novelist of the Harlem Renaissance* (1994) and *Faulkner's "Negro": Art and the Southern Context* (1982), and the editor of numerous reference texts.

David Levering Lewis won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for biography for his book *W.E.B. Du Bois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century, 1919-1963* (Henry Holt and Co., 2000) and the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for *W.E.B. Du Bois: Biography of A Race, 1868-1919* (1993). He is Martin Luther King, Jr., University Professor at Rutgers University and winner of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship (1999). His other works include *W.E.B. Du Bois: A Reader* (1995), *The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader* (1994), and *When Harlem Was in Vogue* (1981).

James McBride is an award-winning writer and composer. His critically acclaimed memoir, *The Color of Water*, won the 1997 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Literary Excellence and was an ALA Notable Book of the Year. McBride's new book, *Miracle at St. Anna* marks the author's debut as a novelist. McBride is a former staff writer for *The Washington Post*, *People Magazine*, and *The Boston Globe*. His work has also appeared in *Essence*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New York Times*. He is a graduate of New York City public schools, studied composition at The Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio, and received a masters in journalism from Columbia University. He lives in Pennsylvania.

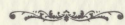
Walter Dean Myers' ideas for more than 70 books for young readers come largely from his own experience and interests. He is the author of the Caldecott Honor Book, *Harlem: A Poem* (1996), and *Monster*, which was the 2000 Michael Printz winner, a 2000 Coretta Scott King Honor Book, and received the 1999 Boston Horn Book Fiction Honor. In addition, he won two Newbery Honor Book Awards for *Scorpions* (1988) and *Somewhere in the Darkness* (1992). He is also a two-time recipient of the Coretta Scott King award for *Now is Your Time!* (1991) and *Fallen Angels* (1988). He also received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for his contribution to young adult literature. Recent publications include: *At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England* (1999), *Blues of Flats Brown* (2000), and *Journal of Biddy Owens, the Negro Leagues* (2001). He resides in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Arnold Rampersad, Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities at Stanford University, is the author and editor of more than a dozen books and essays on Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, and W.E.B. Du Bois, including *The Life of Langston Hughes, vol. 1, 1902-1941: I, Too, Sing America* (Oxford University Press, 1986); *The Life of Langston Hughes, vol. II, 1941-1967: I Dream a World* (Oxford University Press, 1988); edited with Deborah McDowell, *Slavery and the Literary Imagination* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989); edited *Collected Poems of Langston Hughes* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1993); and edited *Richard Wright: A Collection of Critical Essays* (Prentice Hall, 1995). His essays have appeared in *American Literature*, the *Yale Review*, *The New Republic*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Raritan*, the *Southern Review*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. He was a MacArthur Foundation Fellow from 1991-1996.

Cheryl A. Wall teaches African American and American literature at Rutgers University, where she is professor and chair of the Department of English. The author of *Women of the Harlem Renaissance* (Indiana University Press, 1995), she is editor of five additional volumes including *Changing Our Own Words: Essays on Criticism, Theory, and Writing by Black Women* (Rutgers University Press, 1989), *Zora Neale Hurston: Folklore, Memoirs and Other Writings* and *Zora Neale Hurston: Novels and Short Stories*. The Library of America published the latter two volumes in 1995; the fiction volume was nominated for the 1996 NAACP Image Award as "Outstanding Literary Work." Professor Wall has also published essays on the poets Lucille Clifton and Langston Hughes as well as numerous articles and reviews.

Colson Whitehead was born in New York City. His latest novel is *John Henry Days* (Doubleday, 2001), which is a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, the Young Lions Fiction Award, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. His first novel, *The Intuitionist* (Doubleday, 2000), won the QPB New Voices Award and was an Ernest Hemingway/PEN Award for First Fiction finalist in 1999. He is also the recipient of a 2000 Whiting Writers Award. His journalism has appeared in *Salon*, *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, and *The Village Voice*, where he was a television columnist. A graduate of Harvard College, he lives in Brooklyn, New York.

The Library of Congress, established in 1800, is America's oldest cultural institution. It is the largest repository of recorded knowledge in the world with more than 120 million items in more than 450 different languages. The Library's mission is to make its resources available to Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations.



*The historical objects on display in the Grand Foyer are on generous loan
from the Library of Congress Manuscript, Prints and Photographs,
Music, Rare Book and Special Collections Divisions.*

*"I, Too, Sing America" by Langston Hughes
Printed by permission of Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.*