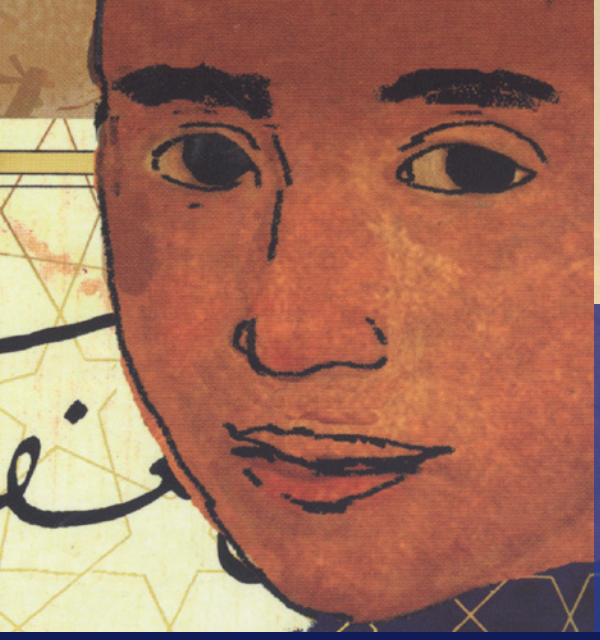

April 7, 2011

Crossing Borders

Through Literature, Poetry & Personal Stories

A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3–8 and School Librarians

Presented by John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site & John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125

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National Historic Site

www.jfklibrary.org

www.nps.gov/jofi

Registration

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

Name .....

Home address .....

City/State ..... Zip code .....

Phone .....

Email address .....

School/organization .....

Grade/position .....

Please list choices for the Concurrent Session (A, B , or C):

1st choice ..... 2nd 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 **March 9, 2011**. Confirmation and directions will be mailed to the first 125 registrants.

Please make check or purchase order payable to **Eastern National**, and mail with completed registration form to:

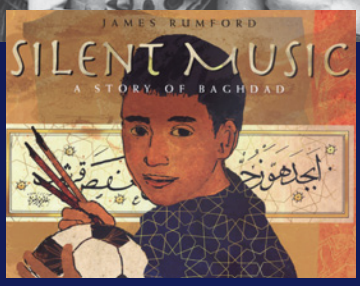
Liza Stearns
Kennedy National Historic Site
c/o 99 Warren Street
Brookline, MA 02445

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

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps in 2011, this conference focuses on how to connect today's students with the world beyond our borders.

President Kennedy's stirring call to service at his inauguration and his launch of the Peace Corps shortly thereafter inspired a new sense of global citizenship on the part of many Americans, especially young people. Join award-winning authors and outstanding educators to discuss how literature, poetry and personal stories can expand students' horizons, deepen their understanding of other people and themselves, and prepare them to become engaged citizens of the world.

John F. Kennedy greets Peace Corps volunteers, 1962. Photograph by Rowland Scherman.



Brochure artwork from *Silent Music* by author/illustrator James Rumford.

Alma Flor Ada was taught to read before she was three by her grandmother, who wrote the names of plants and flowers on the earth with a stick. She has recorded stories of her childhood in Cuba and tales told in her family in *Under the Royal Palms* (winner of the Pura Belpré Medal) and *Where the Flame Trees Bloom*. Among her more than 200 books for children, many in both Spanish and English, are: *The Gold Coin*; *Gathering the Sun*; and *Ten Little Puppies/Diez Perritos* (with F. Isabel Campoy). A new novel, *Dancing Home*, co-authored with her son Gabriel Zubizarreta, is due out in 2011. Alma Flor Ada is also the author of *A Magical Encounter: Latino Children's Literature in the Classroom*.

Naomi Shihab Nye describes herself as a "wandering poet." Drawing on her Palestinian-American heritage, the cultural diversity of her community in Texas, and her experiences traveling in Asia, Europe, Mexico, Central and South America and the Middle East, she uses her writing to attest to our shared humanity. Naomi Shihab Nye is the author and/or editor of more than 25 volumes, including: *This Same Sky*; *What Have You Lost?*; *Honeybee*; *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East* (National Book Award finalist); *Sitti's Secrets* (a picture book); and *Habibi* (a young adult novel). She has also been featured on NPR and PBS programs, including "The Language of Life with Bill Moyers."

Linda Sue Park became a published author at age 9, when a haiku she wrote appeared in a children's magazine. Thirty years later, she published her first novel, *Seesaw Girl*, set in 17th-century Korea. Her research into Korean history and culture was the basis for other acclaimed young adult novels and picture books, including *The Kite Fighters*; *When My Name was Keoko*; *The Firekeeper's Son*; and *A Single Shard*, winner of the 2002 Newbury Medal. Her latest novel, *A Long Walk to Water*, is based on the true story of one of the Sudanese "Lost Boys" airlifted to the U.S. in the 1990s, who would eventually create a foundation that provides deep-water wells to remote villages in Southern Sudan.

James Rumford combines his life-long love of languages, art, calligraphy and alphabets in compelling picture books that carry young readers to faraway places and long-ago times. A Peace Corps volunteer in both Chad and Afghanistan, he also taught in Rwanda and has lived for many years in Hawaii. Among his award-winning books are: *The Cloudmakers*; *Traveling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta, 1325-1354*; *Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Heiroglyphs*; *The Island-below-the-Star*; *Chee-Lin: A Giraffe's Journey*; and *Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad*. His newest book, *Rain School*, was inspired by an experience from the time he was teaching in Chad.

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

Crossing Borders

April 7, 2011

Through Literature, Poetry and Personal Stories

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

8:00 Registration

8:30 Welcome

8:45 At Home in the World

What possibilities are offered by the different genres for transporting young readers far beyond the borders of their everyday lives? How do authors draw on their own globe-traveling experiences and cross-cultural encounters when creating books for children? What kind of research is needed to achieve cultural authenticity, and what part does imagination play? Junko Yokota explores these and other questions in a conversation with Alma Flor Ada, Naomi Shihab Nye, Linda Sue Park, and James Rumford.

Junko Yokota, moderator, is professor of education and director of the Center for Teaching through Children's Books at National-Louis University, and has served as president of the U.S. National Section of the International Board on Books for Young People.

10:00 Book Browsing and Sales

10:30 Overview of Peace Corps Resources for the Classroom

As part of its core mission, the Peace Corps aspires "to promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans." To support this effort, the Peace Corps' World Wise Schools program provides free, innovative classroom resources based on volunteer field experiences. The director of World Wise Schools presents an overview of their program and introduces a variety of multimedia resources, including videos, slideshows, podcasts, and WebQuests.

Marjorie Anctil, World Wise Schools

11:15 Concurrent Sessions | List your first and second choices on the registration form.

Stories from the Field

Learn how to bring the stories and experiences of Peace Corps volunteers into your classroom. Try out an exercise that can help broaden your students' perspectives, promote cultural awareness, and encourage global connections. Discuss strategies for using these and other Peace Corps resources to support learning objectives across the curriculum.

Workshop A, Grades 3–5
Marjorie Anctil, World Wise Schools

Workshop B, Grades 6–8
Lynette Bouchie, World Wise Schools

Books as Passports to the World

Designed for school librarians, this workshop presents examples of high quality books from which children can learn about people and cultures around the world. Participants learn criteria for selecting new materials and evaluating whether books already in the library's collection accurately reflect a particular culture.

Workshop C, Grades 3–8
Sasha Lauterbach, Cambridge Friends School
Marion Reynolds, Tufts University
Junko Yokota, National-Louis University

12:15 Lunch and Book Browsing

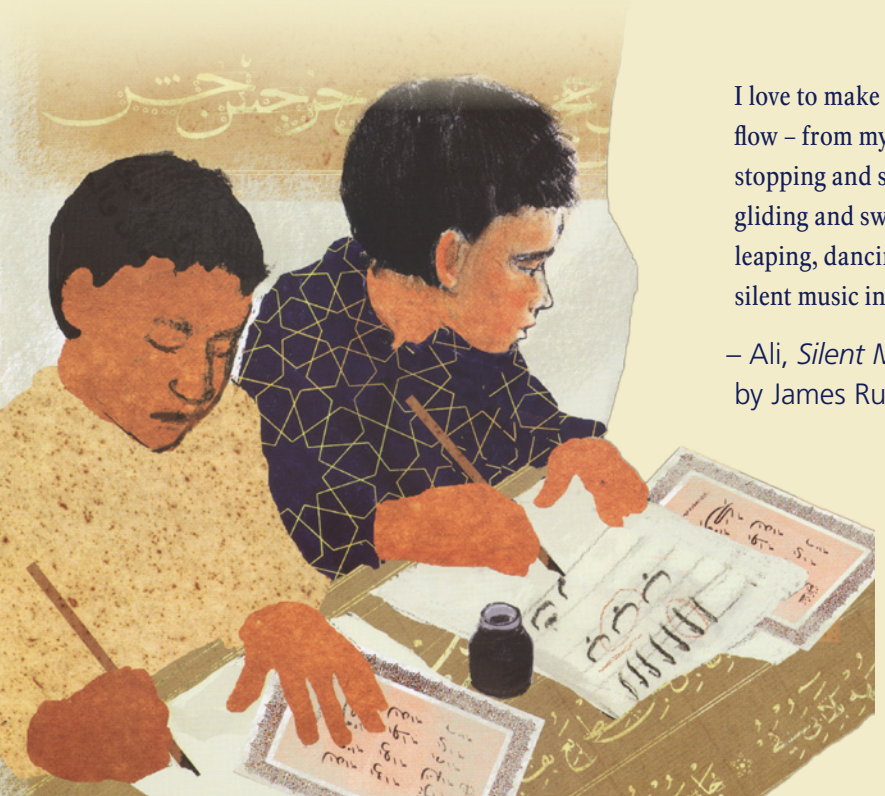
1:20 Meet the Authors | List your first, second and third choices on the registration form.

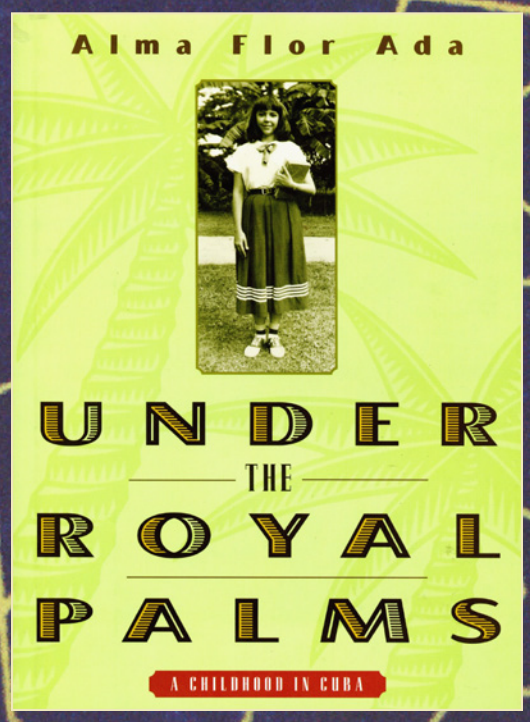
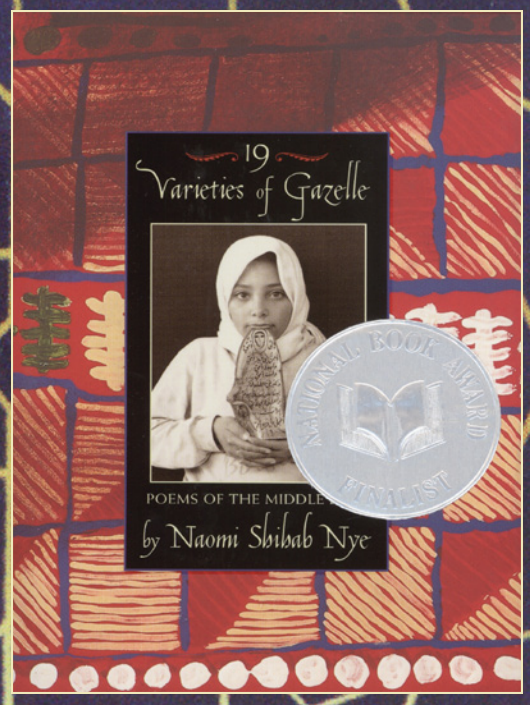
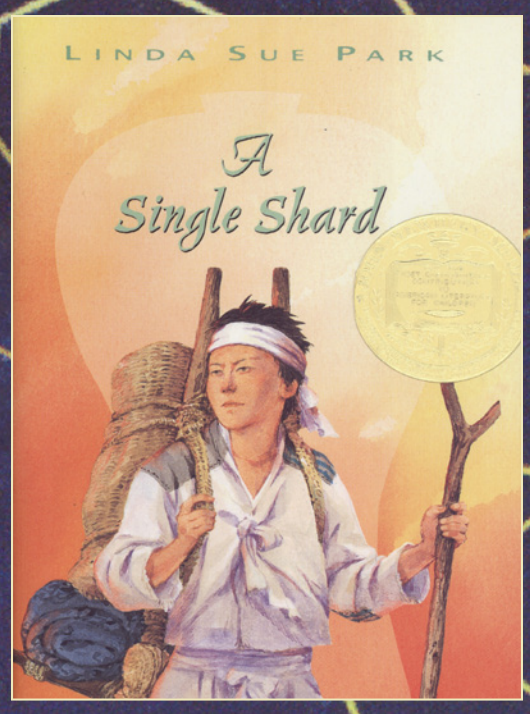
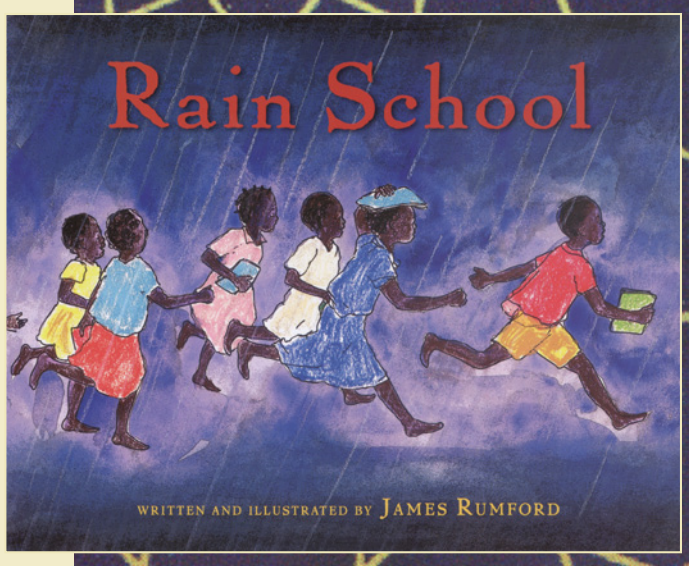
Guest authors meet with participants in small groups to discuss their work and conference-related topics.

1. Alma Flor Ada 2. Naomi Shihab Nye 3. Linda Sue Park 4. James Rumford

2:30 Closing Session

2:45 Book Signing



I love to make the ink
flow – from my pen
stopping and starting,
gliding and sweeping,
leaping, dancing to the
silent music in my head.

– Ali, *Silent Music*
by James Rumford