

# Massachusetts LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

## Awards Ceremony 2010



*“Wisdom, and knowledge, as well as virtue,  
diffused generally among the body of the people,  
being necessary for the preservation of their rights and  
liberties . . . it shall be the duty of legislatures and  
magistrates, in all future periods of this commonwealth,  
to cherish the interests of literature . . . .”*

from The Massachusetts Constitution:  
Chapter V, Section II. *The Encouragement of Literature, etc*

Great Hall, State House  
Boston, Massachusetts

May 11, 2010  
10:30 a.m.

# LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

is a national reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, sponsored in partnership with Target Stores. Target, along with its parent company Target Corporation (NYSE:TGT), gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs. This year, 70,000 students nationwide in Grades 4 through 12 wrote letters to authors whose books made a difference in their lives.



Massachusetts *Letters About Literature* is a program of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, with lead sponsorship from the Calderwood Writing Initiative at the Boston Athenaeum and additional support from the Library of Congress and Target Stores. Our commonwealth ranked fourth in the nation for participation this year, writing nearly 4,200 letters that came in from every region of Massachusetts. Each letter made an eloquent contribution to the national conversation about the continuing importance of books in our lives.



Massachusetts Letters About Literature Judges 2010

Jenny Desai, Director, Calderwood Writing Initiative

Kathy Lowe, Exec Dir., Massachusetts School Library Assn.

Susan McAlister, President, Massachusetts Library Assn &  
Minuteman Library Network

Anthony Rizzitano, Silver Lake Regional High School, Kingston

Nancy Verdolino, Massachusetts Reading Assn & Hopedale School District

Support for Massachusetts Center for the Book comes to us in part from the following sponsors: Boston Athenaeum, Boston Public Library, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences. The Center also receives support from Mass Humanities and Library of Congress

# Massachusetts Letters About Literature Awards Ceremony 2010

*A Celebration of Massachusetts Student Reading & Writing*

## Program

**Breakfast Buffet** 10:00 a.m.

**Awards Ceremony** 10:30 a.m.

### Welcoming Remarks

Robert C. Maier,

Director, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Rep John D. Keenan,

House Co-Chair, Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development

### Presentation of Awards

Level III, Grades 9 to 12

Presented by Kathy Lowe, Anthony Rizzitano &  
Sen. Harriette Chandler

Level II, Grade 7 & 8

Presented by Susan McAlister & Nancy Verdolino

Level I, Grade 4 to 6

Presented by Jenny Desai & Rob Maier

### Closing Remarks

Sharon Shaloo, Massachusetts Center for the Book

Post-Ceremony Reception 11:30 to 12 noon

### Tours of State House

Noon & 12:30 p.m. will leave from Great Hall

*Photography by Merrill S. Shea*



The Massachusetts Center for the Book, the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, supports statewide programming to connect readers with books, to stimulate interest in the past, present, and future of the book and of the book arts in the Bay State, and to foreground the importance of the literary economy of the Commonwealth, emphasizing in all of our work the central and crucial role libraries play in civic and cultural life. We are on the web at [www.massbook.org](http://www.massbook.org).

Members of the Board: Robert Maier, Chair; Kristin O'Connell, Clerk; James Wald, Treasurer; Michele V. Cloonan; David R. Godine; Paula Matthews; Amy Ryan; Sharon Shaloo, *ex officio*

Event Staff: Brooke Bergantzel, Valerie Enriquez, Amy Henderson, Carol Shrewsbury

Thank you to the following elected officials for their support of *Letters About Literature 2010*:

Senate President Therese Murray, Sen. Benjamin Downing, Sen. Steven Panagiotakos, Sen. Patricia Jehlen, Sen. Stan Rosenberg, Sen. Cynthia Creem, Sen. Kenneth Donnelly, Sen. Michael O. Moore, Sen. Karen E. Spilka, Sen. Thomas McGee, Sen. Harriette Chandler, Sen. Michael W. Morrissey, Sen. Richard Moore

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Under the aegis of the Secretary of The Commonwealth, The Hon. William F. Galvin, Doric Dames, Inc., enlists, trains and schedules volunteer guides for State House tours weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., September through June.

The Events Staff of the Bureau of State Office Buildings makes programs such as this one possible at the State House.