

*file USIA
culture*

THE WHITE HOUSE

November 22, 1994

Honorable Joseph Duffey
Director
United States Information Agency
Washington, D. C. 20547

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your memorandum on
USIA's "Corridors of Culture" program. It
is a very exciting project and I wish you
much success with it.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Hillary
Hillary Rodham Clinton

✓ cc: Melanne Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff

*If I can ever help,
let me know.*

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION





**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 1994**

**CONTACT: Lois Herrmann
PHONE: (202) 619-4365**

**USIA SENDS TOP U.S. WRITERS AND PUBLISHERS TO
ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA**

Washington, D.C. -- Novelist Jane Smiley, poet Yusef Komunyakaa, literary agents Lynn Nesbit and Michael Carlisle, publisher Morgan Entrekin, and book seller Richard Howorth, make up a delegation that will meet with writers and publishers in St. Petersburg, Russia, Oct. 31-Nov. 5. Their program is being sponsored by the Corridors of Culture office at the U.S. Information Agency, which is directed by Caroline Croft.

USIA Director Joseph Duffey, who has lent his personal support to the Corridors program, says of this visit: "USIA is particularly pleased to be sending such eminent representatives of the American literary community to St. Petersburg where literature has always been such an important part of life."

The Corridors of Culture program was created by USIA this year to demonstrate support for writers and other members of the intellectual community in emerging democracies. It also introduces foreign writers to the American publishing business, the role of literary agents, and the practical realities of publishing in the global marketplace.

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While in St. Petersburg, the group will have discussions with Russian writers at the House of Friendship and with publishers at the Association of St. Petersburg Publishers. They will meet with publishers and editors at Stars publishing house. They also will visit The Pushkin House-Museum, the Nabokov estate, and several sites which appear in the novel Crime and Punishment.

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The United States Information Agency, headed by Dr. Joseph Duffey, is an independent foreign affairs agency within the executive branch that explains and supports U.S. foreign policy and national security interests abroad through a wide range of information programs. The agency promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through a series of educational and cultural exchange activities conducted by its Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

USIA's educational and cultural programs include the Fulbright academic program, the International Visitor program, the Citizen Exchanges program, Arts America, book translations, English teaching, and a network of overseas resource and cultural centers. Other programs include the Voice of America, Radio and TV Marti, the WORLDNET satellite television system, the daily Wireless File newswire, the U.S. Speakers Abroad program, and three Foreign Press Centers in the United States. The Agency has more than 210 posts in over 140 countries.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 1994**

**CONTACT: Lois Herrmann
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**USIA SENDS TOP U.S. WRITERS TO
PEN CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE**

Washington, D.C. --Playwright Arthur Miller, poet Yusef Komunyakaa, literary agent Lynn Nesbit, publisher Morgan Entrekin, and book seller Richard Howorth make up a delegation that will meet with writers and publishers, and represent the United States at the PEN Conference in Prague, the Czech Republic, Nov. 6-12. Their program is being sponsored by the Corridors of Culture office at the U.S. Information Agency, which is directed by Caroline Croft.

USIA Director Joseph Duffey, who has lent his personal support to the Corridors program, says of this visit, "USIA is particularly pleased to be sending such eminent representatives of the American literary community to the Czech Republic where literature has always been such an important part of life."

The Corridors of Culture program was created by USIA this year to demonstrate support for writers and other members of the intellectual community in emerging democracies. It also introduces foreign writers to the American publishing business, the role of literary agents, and the practical realities of publishing in the global marketplace.

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While in Prague, the delegation will attend a PEN conference reception and address given by President Vaclav Havel. Lynn Nesbit and Diane Johnson will participate in a conference panel entitled "Women in Literature." The group will also attend the roundtable for playwrights hosted by President Havel in Pilsen on Nov. 11.

The writers in the delegation will read from their works at Charles University. They will attend a staged reading of Arthur Miller's play "The Archbishop's Ceiling" at the Na Zabradli Theater. And the USIA office in Prague will sponsor a discussion with the delegation for Czech publishers entitled "From the Muse to the Marketplace: Writers, Their Publishers and Their Readers in the U.S. Today."

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Corridors of Culture
Russian Federation
Fall 1994

Michael Carlisle is a Vice President of William Morris Agency. He was born in Paris, France, graduated from Yale, and holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School. After briefly practicing law in Paris, he returned to New York where he currently resides. In his 12 years as an agent at William Morris Agency, his international client list includes Pulitzer Prize winning journalists, authors and playwrights. Among the bestsellers he represented are: Chaos; Genius: The Life and Science of Richard Feynman; The Sheltering Sky; Friday Night Lights; Not Without My Daughter; I, Tina and Spartina. He also represents Olympic Gold Medalists Oksana Baiul and Victor Petrenko.

Morgan Entrekin is President and Publisher of Grove/Atlantic. After graduating from Stanford University, he worked at Delacorte Press/Dell followed by Simon & Schuster. In 1984 he started his own imprint at Atlantic Monthly Press, publishing over 40 titles. In 1991 he acquired Atlantic Monthly Press and in 1993 it merged with Grove Press where he is today. During his 16 years in publishing, he has worked with authors such as: P.J. O'Rourke, George Plimpton, Rian Malan, National Book Award winner Ron Chernow, Cynthia Heimel, and Nobel Prize winner Camilo Jose Celo.

Richard Howorth is the owner of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi. He was born in Marks, Mississippi, and has a B.A. in English from the University of Mississippi. He has written several articles about bookselling and the book business for Publishers Weekly, American Bookseller, and Village Voice Literary Supplement. In 1986 he received the Charles S. Haslam Award for Excellence in Bookselling. Since 1989 he has served on the board of directors for the American Booksellers Association and is currently on the executive committee and chair of the publishers relations committee. He is presently teaching a course, "The Book Trade," for the University of Mississippi English Department.

Yosef Komunyakaa is a poet, born and raised in Bogalusa, Louisiana. He has been a Professor of English at Indiana University since 1985, and was the 1992 Holloway Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley. His latest book, Neon Vernacular, was awarded the 1994 Pulitzer Prize and Kingsley Tufts Award. He was recently the recipient of the 1994 William Faulkner Prize. Other works include: Copacetic, I Apologize for the Eyes in my Head winner of the San Francisco Poetry Award, Dien Cai Dau, and Magic City.

Lynn Nesbit is a literary agent and partner of Janklow & Nesbit Associates. She represents both fiction and non-fiction writers and among her distinguished clients are Ann Beattie, Robert A. Caro, President Jimmy Carter, Robin Cook, Michael Crichton, Joan Didion, John Gregory Dunn, Nora Ephron, Robert Hughes, Alfred Kazin, Jonathan Kozol, John le Carre, Anne Rice, Jonathan Schell, Gail Sheehy, Gay Talese, Hunter S. Thompson and Tom Wolfe. Before forming a partnership in 1989 with Morton L. Janklow, she worked for the Sterling Lord Agency in 1960, and in 1965 moved to form and head for 23 years the literary department for what later became International Creative Management.

Jane Smiley has written novels, stories, novellas, and non-fiction. Her novel, A Thousand Acres, received the Pulitzer Prize, the Book Critics Circle Award, and was a bestseller. She is Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Iowa State University, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She lives in Ames, Iowa and Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin.

Caroline Croft is the Director of USIA's Corridors of Culture project. She has served at the Department of State as a Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. From 1983 to 1990 she was the Executive Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, a private, non-profit organization that honors the achievements of journalists, authors and human rights activists. She has also served as the Director of International Relations for the Congressional Human Rights Foundation.



Corridors of Culture Czech Republic Fall 1994

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Diane Johnson is a novelist, scriptwriter, biographer, critic, and short story writer. She was born in Moline, Illinois. She is a Professor of English at the University of California, Davis, and has received many honors including the Guggenheim Fellowship, Rosenthal Award, Strauss Living Award and several Pulitzer Prize nominations. Her works include the biographies, Dashiell Hammett: A Life and Lesser Lives: The True History of the First Mrs. Meredith; screenplay, The Shining; and, the novels Lying Low, Persian Nights, and Health and Happiness, among others.

Yosef Komunyakaa is a poet, born and raised in Bogalusa, Louisiana. He has been a Professor of English at Indiana University since 1985, and was the 1992 Holloway Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley. His latest book, Neon Vernacular, was awarded the 1994 Pulitzer Prize and Kingsley Tufts Award. He was recently the recipient of the 1994 William Faulkner Prize. Other works include: Copacetic, I Apologize for the Eyes in my Head winner of the San Francisco Poetry Award, Dien Cai Dau, and Magic City.

Arthur Miller is a playwright and author. Born in New York City, he has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including: the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, Tony Award, Obie Award, Donaldson Award, Emmy Award, John F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award, and Pulitzer Prize. His works include Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, Incident at Vichy, The Misfits, The Archbishop's Ceiling, Situation Normal, and Timebends: A Life, among others.

Lynn Nesbit is a literary agent and partner of Janklow & Nesbit Associates. She represents both fiction and non-fiction writers and among her distinguished clients are Ann Beattie, Robert A. Caro, President Jimmy Carter, Robin Cook, Michael Crichton, Joan Didion, John Gregory Dunn, Nora Ephron, Robert Hughes, Alfred Kazin, Jonathan Kozol, John le Carre, Anne Rice, Jonathan Schell, Gail Sheehy, Gay Talese, Hunter S. Thompson and Tom Wolfe. Before forming a partnership in 1989 with Morton L. Janklow, she worked for the Sterling Lord Agency in 1960, and in 1965 moved to form and head for 23 years the literary department for what later became International Creative Management.

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November 1, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: The First Lady
Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House

FROM: Joseph Duffey *J.D.*
Director

SUBJECT: The "Corridors of Culture" Program

Over the past year the United States Information Agency (USIA) has inaugurated a "Corridors of Culture" Program. The purpose is to promote mutually beneficial learning experiences between writers and other literary professionals from the United States and the countries of Central Europe and the former Soviet Union.

For many years, literature was one of the few bridges between societies separated by the nearly impenetrable Iron Curtain. Throughout the Soviet era, American writers, in print and, less frequently, in person, made an abiding impression on readers in the profoundly literate cultures of Central Europe and the Soviet Union. American literature was often served up by official literary institutions with a predictable ideology. Readers saw beyond ideology and came to know and appreciate America by reading Hemmingway, Vonnegut, Faulkner, Miller, Styron and others.

Literature in these countries is central to cultural expression and self-definition. In the days when political discourse was monopolized by apparatchiks, literature asked questions, voiced doubt, articulated problematic issues. In times of unsettling social change, people need literature more than ever.

Objectives

"Corridors of Culture" brings delegations of American writers, publishers and literary agents to these countries.

The program provides a venue through which contemporary American writers share substantive experiences with writers in the emerging democracies. This unique educational model benefits individual U.S. writers and expands their world view even as they convey their unique knowledge through their writings, interviews and presentations.

The program enables American literary agents and publishers to meet and establish professional relationships with writers from emerging democracies--with the goals of providing avenues for

publishing their works both in the United States and in their countries. Indeed, many of the writers our delegates met with were probably meeting American writers and publishers for the first time.

"Corridors of Culture" provides a forum where American writers and publishing professionals can share information about the structure of publishing in a free-market economy as well as in the global marketplace. This information is painfully lacking in the countries we are targeting. In response to this need, USIA has put together an exceptional Guide to Publishing, which includes discussion of the roles of editor and literary agent, marketing, contracts, and international publishing rights and copyright protection. We have translated the Guide into Russian and Ukrainian and hope to translate it into other languages, resources permitting. Moreover, discussions about literature and the literary profession serve as a springboard into such relevant issues as the nature of contractual relationships, cultural diversity and tolerance, and tensions between literature and commercial culture.

Achievements

In April 1994, "Corridors of Culture" sent our first delegation to Budapest, Hungary. Delegates included writers Rose Styron, Maxine Hong Kingston and literary agent Lynn Nesbit--led by Caroline Croft, the director of the program. They had an active and visible role in the first annual Budapest International Book Fair. Additionally, they participated in a broad range of events, which included a personal session with the President of Hungary, Arpad Goncz.

The Budapest Book Fair was successful beyond all expectations, attracting nearly 50,000 participants. "Corridors of Culture" received considerable mention in the local press (both Hungarian and English-language). In early June, the organizers of the Fair provided us with their compilation of nearly 50 press items. An interview with Maxine Hong Kingston was featured in the weekly "HVG," Hungary's equivalent of "The Economist." The English-language radio program "Budapest Day and Night" featured discussion with the group.

In the words of the United States Information Service (USIS) Budapest Public Affairs Officer, "Corridors gave us the opportunity to include many of our cultural contacts in a unique set of meetings. By supporting the successful International Book Fair we increased the USIS profile in the regional publishing community." The Fair organizers wrote: "We would like to express our gratitude for the contribution of the USIS "Corridors of Culture" Program to our event. We all appreciate your attachment to this cause from the very beginning."

In September 1994, "Corridors of Culture" sent a delegation including writers Michael Harper, Jamaica Kincaid (who tells how she became an American citizen so she could vote for Bill Clinton) and Susan Richards Shreve, publishers Joseph Fox and Timothy Seldes, and Program Director Caroline Croft to Estonia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

In Tallinn, the delegation met with members of the Writers' and Publishers' Unions, held a series of readings with Estonian writers, and participated in a symposium with students of literature and creative writing at the Estonian Institute of Humanities. The delegates participated in a symposium and shared readings with literature and philology students at Tartu University, the country's intellectual and artistic center. Press coverage included five articles in Tallinn's largest daily newspaper. Our USIS Public Affairs Officer, Victoria Middleton, gave a brief interview in Estonian, which was televised on EGSTI TV's evening nightly news program.

In Kiev, the delegates met with representatives of the Writers' Union, offered workshops on the business of writing, and held a roundtable discussion with translators of American literature. Also, they visited with students and professors at the Academy of Sciences Institute of Literature for readings and discussions of the literary situation in Ukraine. Press coverage included Ukrainian television live and several news stories.

In Almaty, the delegates first met with Kazakhstani Union of Writers. They had a lively exchange of ideas about American publishing and writing. At another roundtable discussion with a group of well-known Kazakhstani writers, much of the dialogue centered on the question of how writers make a living in the United States. In a session with professors and students at the Kazakhstan State University, the group had an animated debate on the world-wide influence of Kazakhstani literature. While at the university, the delegates also conducted a program on publishing for young writers. Press coverage included an interview with Jamaica Kincaid and Susan Richards Shreve shown on the independent television station KTK. A lengthy article was published in the Russian-language weekly. Other press coverage included short articles in the Russian-language, government-owned national daily and in another Russian-language independent newspaper.

In November of 1994, we embark on the third "Corridors of Culture" trip, which will take our delegation to St. Petersburg and then to the 61st World Congress of International P.E.N., held this year in Prague and hosted by the Czech Republic President, Vaclav Havel. Our delegation includes playwright Arthur Miller, writers Jane Smiley and Diane Johnson, poet Yusef Komunyakaa, literary agent Lynn Nesbit, publishers Michael Carlisle and Morgan Entrekin, and bookstore owner Richard Howorth.

Future Plans

In the second year of "Corridors of Culture" we hope to send three more delegations of writers and literary professionals to Central Europe and the New Independent States. The first trip will be to Poland and the Balkans. The second will focus on Bulgaria and Central Asia. The third on the New Independent States and Asia.

With the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women scheduled for Beijing in September 1995, we are exploring the opportunity of assembling a small delegation of women writers to participate.



CORRIDORS OF CULTURE

The Role of Writers in Democracy Building

Context:

In the struggle against communism within the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the eminent dissidents and leading supporters of Western values were often writers, playwrights, and poets. In today's post-Soviet world, writers continue to play a vital role as creative thinkers, political leaders, and activists, shaping public opinion on such difficult issues as economic reform, political diversity, and ethnic tolerance.

Accordingly, the United States would be missing a great opportunity if it were merely to provide financial assistance to the emerging democracies of the former Soviet Union, but failed to reaffirm its focus on the leading intellectual lights of Russia, the New Independent States, and Eastern Europe.

Specifically, the U.S. should support writers in their efforts to live and work in a free society. Such an understanding is essential to democratization in these countries, and to the success of their political and economic reforms. The collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in many benefits, such as greater freedom of expression for artists, writers, and creative intellectuals. It also presented new challenges.

Gone, for example, are the state-controlled writers' unions and similar organs, which provided a certain level of support for emerging talent (as long as its application did not stray too far from the "correct" ideological path). This withdrawal of financial support means that young writers from the former Eastern Bloc now face the same problems as their counterparts in the West, such as getting published and earning a living while practicing their craft. Furthermore, they must deal with these problems in an often deteriorating economic environment.

Consequently, American writers have much to offer and to learn from those functioning in a market economy for the first time. This presents a great opportunity, enhanced by the considerable respect, fame, and prestige afforded contemporary American writers in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

We would focus the seminar and other activities on encouraging the most direct and meaningful interaction among the U.S. and foreign writers. We would tailor much of the programming to address the unique situation of the literary community in each host country. In addition, we would schedule television, radio, and newspaper interviews, as well as speaking engagements before larger audiences.

Schedule and Duration:

Given the potential involvement of many authors in academic communities, as well as weather conditions and transport resources, we are planning the trip for mid-April.

Each trip would last approximately two weeks.

Planning Timeline:

December	• Select and invite a delegation leader • Begin setting travel arrangements • Coordinate posts' meeting planning
January	• Finalize delegation • Complete travel arrangements
February	• Prepare briefing materials for delegation
April	• Departure (Budapest)
September	• Departure (Almaty, Estonia, Kiev)
October	• Departure (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Czech Republic)

Funding:

While funding is yet to be decided, there is convincing rationale for seeking private-sector support for such a program. Indeed, the program provides a perfect opportunity for American business to promote and expand relationships with their counterparts in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. By their generous example, American business leaders can demonstrate their steadfast financial commitment to the arts and subsequent gains in quality of life for their fellow citizens.

Proposal:

We propose sending a delegation of five to six leading American writers, playwrights, editors and publishers to Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Hungary to meet with their counterparts and conduct discussions on the writers' craft in a free society.

Objectives:

- Demonstrate support for the writers and other creative forces of society in these countries and foster their critical role in advancing reform;
- Highlight the role of the independent creative artists, poets, and writers in sustaining democracy;
- Encourage writers to organize self-support systems; and
- Educate young writers in new democracies about the business of writing, i.e., publishing, marketing literature, and securing copyright protection

Participants:

The delegation would consist of a variety of fiction writers, at least one publisher, an expert on copyright protection, translators, and trip coordinators.

All of the participants would share a commitment to assisting independent writers in emerging democracies. In addition, some speakers would be selected who have a familiarity with other relevant issues, such as copyright law.

Itinerary and Activities:

The Corridors of Culture delegation would visit Moscow, St. Petersburg, Almaty, Estonia, Kiev and Budapest, remaining two or three days in each city to allow for a broad range of programming, including a set of seminars, one-on-one meetings, and media activities. Host venues would include literature faculties at universities; writers' organizations; and American centers, USIS offices, or ambassadorial residences.

The seminar would be the major event built around each destination. Participants would conduct such seminars with groups of writers on the most important issues related to their craft in a free society. They would also hold meetings with leading writers to explore creative issues and share readings.

Followup:

The trip will be highly instructive in demonstrating avenues for building networks with and lending support to writers in the former communist world. Hence, we will be prepared to analyze our results, and follow up on the trip with further USIS programming aimed at bolstering and replicating our achievements. Both American and host-country participants in the seminars could become the subject of future USIA programs.

Tasking:

The Corridors of Culture program is coordinated by Caroline Croft, Global Affairs, with the assistance of USIA Bureaus of Education and Cultural Affairs, West European and Canadian Affairs, and East European and NIS Affairs.



CORRIDORS OF CULTURE/Budapest
The Role of Writers in Democracy Building
April 21-26, 1994

BACKGROUND

In the struggle against totalitarianism within the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe, the dissidents and supporters of democratic values were often eminent writers, poets and playwrights. In today's post-Cold War world, the same writers continue to play a vital role as thinkers, political leaders, and activists, shaping public opinion on such issues as economic reform, political diversity, and ethnic tolerance.

USIA's Corridors of Culture Program was created in 1993 as a way to encourage and support writers in emerging democracies in their efforts to live and work in free societies. The program sends delegations of American writers, editors and literary agents to meet with their counterparts, and share insights and practical information about the writer's craft in a free society.

FIRST CORRIDORS PROGRAM: BUDAPEST

The first Corridors of Culture Program sent poet Rose Styron, novelist Maxine Hong Kingston and literary agent Lynn Nesbit to Budapest, Hungary, April 21-26, 1994. They participated in the first Budapest International Book Festival and in several USIA-arranged meetings with Hungarian writers. U.S. Ambassador Donald Blinken joined in parts of their program.

Lynn Nesbit spoke at a Book Festival seminar on book publishing and contract law. She discussed the American publishing business, the role of literary agents, and the practical realities of publishing in the global marketplace. Ms. Nesbit was in high demand for meetings with Hungarian publishers.

At the Festival's "Literary Salon Afternoon," Maxine Hong Kingston and Rose Styron spoke about cultural diversity in American literature. Mrs. Styron also represented her husband, the author William Styron, at a press conference launching the Hungarian translation of his book "Tidewater Mornings."

Maxine Hong Kingston was unknown to Budapest audiences, but by the time she left, there was serious talk of translating her works. She was joined on the trip by her husband, actor/writer Earll Kingston, who presented his one-man show on the environmentalist, John Wesley Powell, at the American International School of Budapest.

The visiting Americans had a luncheon meeting with leading Hungarian writers and publishers as well as a discussion on "The Role and Status of the Writer in a Changing Hungary" with a group of younger writers. They also exchanged views with Hungary's most famous living author, Gyorgy Konrad, and two members of the delegation met with Hungary's President, Arpad Gonz.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Similar Corridors of Culture programs are planned for the Baltics and Central Asia in September 1994 and for Russia and the Czech Republic in November 1994.



CORRIDORS OF CULTURE

American writers have much to offer and much to learn from people who are striving to function in a market economy for the first time. This is the guiding principle behind "Corridors of Culture," a new international initiative of the United States Information Agency. With the vital help of private sponsors, the agency is planning to send a delegation of five or six leading American writers, playwrights, editors, and publishers to Budapest in April.

The objectives for this program are:

- (a) to demonstrate support for writers, the artistic community, and the intelligentsia;
- (b) to encourage the creative community to organize support systems that enable artists to survive while enhancing the quality of their work and preserving the integrity of their values;
- (c) to exchange information about how writers and publishers can best work together in a market economy.

As our plans unfold, the three-day program in each city will be built around meetings set-up much like those sponsored by the Aspen Institute. We hope that participants will be more inclined to listen when they know they will be free to say what is on their own minds.

Each morning will feature an informal but structured workshop. The afternoons will include additional workshops and time for people to get to know each other better. We believe that free time may allow them to encounter some unanticipated aspect of their culture or craft that they can share in the next plenary session. The schedule will also include time for meetings between writers who work in the same genre. We will hold one or two evening sessions so that writers can read from their own work -- perhaps some passages that illuminate the concerns that led them to explore their civilization through the written word.

The following writers, literary agents, and publishers invited to participate include: Edward Albee, Maya Angelou, Ann Beattie, Saul Bellow, Paul Bogards, Michael Carlisle, Michael Crichton, Joan Didion, Edgar Doctorow, Rita Dove, Morgan Entrekin, Jules Feiffer, Gary Fisketjon, Irene Fornes, Joseph Fox, William Gass, Nikki Giovanni, Francine Gray, John Guare, Michael Harper, Joseph Heller, Oscar Hijuelos, Richard Howorth, John Irving, Diane Johnson, Jamaica Kincaid, Earl King, Maxine Kingston, Galway Kinnell, Yusef Komunyakaa, Norman Mailer, Terry McMillan, Arthur Miller, Toni Morrison, Gloria Naylor, Lynn Nesbit, Peter Osnos, Timothy Seldes, Susan Shreve, Elizabeth Sifton, Leslie Silko, Jane Smiley, Rose Styron, William Styron, Paul Theroux, John Updike, Alice Walker.



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 1994

Release No. 045-94

CONTACT: Lesley Moore Vossen

PHONE: (202) 619-4364/4355

USIA TO SEND DELEGATION OF WRITERS TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Washington, D.C. - On April 22, the United States Information Agency (USIA) begins a new initiative -- Corridors of Culture -- designed to help build democracy in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe through the arts. Through the program, a delegation consisting of an American novelist, a poet, an actor, and a literary agent will travel to Budapest, Hungary, to attend the International Book Festival and meet with Hungarian writers.

The delegation to Hungary includes poet and human rights activist Rose Styron; novelist Maxine Hong Kingston; actor and director Earl Kingston; literary agent Lynn Nesbit; and Corridors of Culture staff director Caroline Croft.

Corridors of Culture has been designed by USIA to demonstrate support in emerging democracies for writers, artists, and members of the intellectual community.

The delegation will participate in the International Book Festival in Budapest, April 22-26, the largest book fair ever in Hungary, with over 400 exhibitors from 20 countries. The fair has been organized by the National Association of Hungarian Book Publishers and Booksellers in cooperation with the Directorate of the Frankfurt Book Fair. Plans for the Budapest fair began four years ago and the organizers hope to make it an annual event. Hundreds of professionals and tens of thousands of visitors are expected from Hungary and other countries.

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In addition to participating in Book Fair events, members of the Corridors of Culture delegation will take part in a seminar on "Book Publishing and Contract Law" and a debate on "Political Power and Cultural Autonomy." They will also participate in a discussion entitled a "Literary Salon Afternoon" with groups from other countries. The Corridors of Culture delegation will discuss "Cultural Diversity in American Literature." Actor Earl Kingston will present his one-man show on the environment in a performance arranged by the Peace Corps in Hungary.

The Hungarian trip is the pilot project in a program that will continue to send writers and other artists around the globe to encourage creative communities overseas to organize self-support systems, enabling artists to survive while enhancing the quality of their work and preserving the integrity of their values. At the same time, the groups will discuss the business of writing, a relevant consideration in both the United States and in the emerging market economies of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Dr. Joseph Duffey, director of USIA, and the creator of the Corridors of Culture project, said, "American writers have much to offer and much to learn from people who are striving to function in a market economy for the first time. We believe that the Corridors of Culture Program is a promising new avenue of diplomacy."

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CORRIDORS OF CULTURE

April 1994 -- Budapest, Hungary

Rose Styron is a poet, journalist, translator and human rights activist. She was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Her works include *From Summer to Summer* (poetry, 1965); translations for *Poets on Streetcorners: Portraits of Fifteen Russian Poets*, 1971; *Modern Russian Poetry*, 1972; *Thieves' Afternoon*, (poetry, 1973); and *Light from the Vineyard*, (poetry, 1994). She also co-authored the "Amnesty International Report on Torture, 1975," has done literary interviews for *The Paris Review*, and has published numerous articles on human rights issues in Latin America and Eastern Europe over the past two decades.

Maxine Hong Kingston is a novelist and memoirist. She was born in 1940 in Stockton, California. A Chinese-American, her Chinese name is Hong Ting Ting. Her awards include the general nonfiction award, National Book Critics Circle, 1976, for *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*; Anisfield-Wolf Race Relations Award, 1978; the American Book Award for general non-fiction, 1981, for *China Men*. Her other works include *Hawaii One Summer*, 1987; and *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book*, 1988, which won the 1988 PEN USA West Award in Fiction. In 1979, *The Woman Warrior* was named one of the ten top non-fiction works of the decade by "TIME" magazine.

Earl Kingston is an actor and director. He was born in California in 1938. He has performed and directed for the Hawaii Performing Arts Company, taught acting at the University of Hawaii, and appeared in numerous episodes of the television programs "Hawaii 5-0" and "Magnum P.I." In California, he has acted with the Globe Theatre in Hollywood and the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and is a member of "California on Stage," a San Francisco-based group engaged in writing and performing stage and radio works based on California history. He also performs a one-man play titled, *Down the Great Unknown* about the adventures of explorer John Wesley Powell on the Colorado River in 1869.

Lynn Nesbit is a literary agent and partner of Janklow & Nesbit Associates. She represents both fiction and non-fiction writers and among her distinguished clients are Ann Beattie, Robert A. Caro, President Jimmy Carter, Robin Cook, Michael Crichton, Joan Didion, John Gregory Dunn, Nora Ephron, Robert Hughes, Alfred Kazin, Jonathan Kozol, John le Carre, Anne Rice, Jonathan Schell, Gail Sheehy, Gay Talese, Hunter S. Thompson and Tom Wolfe. Before forming a partnership in 1989 with Morton L. Janklow, she worked for the Sterling Lord Agency in 1960, and in 1965 moved to form and head for 23 years the literary department for what later became International Creative Management.

Caroline Croft is the Director of USIA's Office of Global Affairs which oversees the Corridors of Culture project. She has served at the Department of State as a Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. From 1983 to 1990 she was the Executive Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, a private, non-profit organization that honors the achievements of journalists, authors and human rights activists. She has also served as the Director of International Relations for the Congressional Human Rights Foundation.



NEWS RELEASE

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USIA SENDS WRITERS TO ESTONIA, UKRAINE AND KAZAKHSTAN

Washington, D.C. -- Two American novelists, a poet, and two representatives of the U.S. publishing industry will visit Estonia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan, Sept. 9 - 23, to discuss the art and business of writing with writers there.

Novelists Jamaica Kincaid and Susan Richards Shreve, poet Michael Harper, literary agent Timothy Seldes and Random House editor Joseph Fox will participate in this second Corridors of Culture program sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency.

Corridors of Culture was created by USIA this year to demonstrate support for writers and other members of the intellectual community in emerging democracies. It also introduces foreign writers to the American publishing business, the role of literary agents, and the practical realities of publishing in the global marketplace.

While in Tallinn, Estonia, the American writers will meet with members of the Writer's and Publisher's Unions, appear in a series of readings with contemporary Estonian writers, and participate in a symposium with literature and creative writing students at the Estonian Institute of Humanities.

In Kiev, Ukraine, the Americans will meet with the Ukrainian Union of Writers, offer workshops on the business of

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writing, and meet with Ukrainian translators of U.S. fiction.

In Almaty, Kazakhstan, the U.S. group will do a reading of their works for Kazakh university students and a program on the business of publishing for young writers. They also will visit Taldykorgan, the birthplace of two of Kazakhstan's most important writers.

In its enthusiastic letter of welcome to the U.S. writers, the Union of Writers of Kazakhstan, said, "Kazakhstani writers are eager to establish friendly literary and cultural ties with their American colleagues."

The initial Corridors of Culture Program sent novelist Maxine Hong Kingston, poet Rose Styron, and literary agent Lynn Nesbit to Budapest, Hungary, last April. The group participated in the first Budapest International Book Festival and in several meetings with Hungarian writers and publishers.

USIA Director Joseph Duffey, a former university president who has lent his personal support to this program, said: "We are delighted over the new links the Corridors of Culture program is forging between the literary communities of the United States and those of the Newly Independent States and East and Central Europe. We expect the program to help bring some important new voices into the worldwide forum of ideas."

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The United States Information Agency is an independent foreign affairs agency within the executive branch that explains and supports U.S. foreign policy and national security interests abroad through a wide range of information programs. The agency promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through a series of educational and cultural exchange activities.



Corridors of Culture

Estonia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan

September 1994

Joseph Fox is a senior editor at Random House, Inc. publishers. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Earlier in his career, he worked at Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. publishers and at Henry Holt & Co. During his more than 30 years in publishing, he has worked with writers such as: Philip Roth, Mavis Gallant, Anthony Lewis, Peter Matthiessen, Truman Capote, John Irving, Ralph Ellison and Stanley Elkin.

Michael Harper is a poet and professor of English at Brown University. He was the first poet laureate of the state of Rhode Island from 1988 to 1993. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and has taught at Harvard University, Yale University, Reed College and a number of other American colleges and universities. His books include Songlines: Mosaics, Healing Song for the Inner Ear, Images of Kin, Debridement, and Song: I Want A Witness. He also recently has edited an anthology of post-1945 African-American poetry entitled Every Shut Eye Ain't Asleep. He has received the Melville-Cane award from the Poetry Society of America, the Massachusetts Council Creative Writing Award, the Black Academy of Arts and Letters Award, among other honors.

Jamaica Kincaid is a novelist, short story writer and essayist. She was born in St. John's, Antigua, in the West Indies, and now lives in Bennington, Vermont. Ms. Kincaid's stories have appeared in The New Yorker, Rolling Stone and The Paris Review. She has written five novels since 1984, beginning with At the Bottom of the River, which won the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Her next three novels, Annie John, A Small Place and Lucy, were all highly acclaimed, and in 1986, she was nominated for the Ritz Hemmingway Award for Annie John. Her new novel, Autobiography of My Mother, was published in July 1994.

Timothy Seldes is assistant director of the Trade Division of the Macmillan Company publishers. Before taking this position, he served for a year as assistant publisher of The New York Post. Earlier, he was a senior editor at Harcourt, Brace & World publishers and a vice president of the New American Library. He also served as managing editor of the Publishing Division for Doubleday & Company for 16 years.

Susan Richards Shreve is a novelist, short story writer, essayist and writer of children's fiction. She lives in Washington, D.C. and teaches English literature at George Mason University in northern Virginia. She has taught creative writing at Princeton University, Columbia University, and George Washington University. Her novels include A Fortunate Madness, A Woman Like That, Dreaming of Heroes, Queen of Hearts, A Country of Strangers, Daughters of the New World, and The Train Home. Her new novel, The Visiting Physician, will come out this fall. She has received the John Simon Guggenheim Award and a National Endowment for the Arts Award for fiction.

Caroline Croft is the director of USIA's Office of Global Affairs which oversees the Corridors of Culture project. She has served at the Department of State as a senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. From 1983 to 1990, she was the executive director of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, a private, non-profit organization that honors the achievements of journalists, authors and human rights activists. She has also served as the director of International Relations for the Congressional Human Rights Foundation.

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