

## A *BIG!* Success at the Archives

As 2009 marks the National Archives' 75th anniversary, many celebrations have taken place throughout the year to explore the Archives' history, examine the records in its holdings, and educate visitors about the vital importance of this institution. On March 12th, the Foundation was proud to invite special guests to an exclusive evening devoted to the Archives' "biggest" celebration, the opening of its 75th anniversary exhibition, *BIG!*

In thanks for the significant support that makes exhibitions like *BIG!* possible, the Foundation was delighted to welcome Society members and their invited guests to experience this unique display of big records, big ideas, and big events from the Archives' holdings before it opened to the public. Curators were also on hand to answer any questions guests had while exploring items such as the 13-by-13 foot Civil War-era map of the Gettysburg battlefield, a drawing for the refitting of the SS *Leviathan* measuring over 21 feet long, or a 5 foot 7 inch tall spool containing a petition signed by 150,000 people.

By combining historically significant documents such as the original Articles of Confederation and a rare Dunlap Broadside of the Declaration of

Independence with unexpected artifacts such as Shaquille O'Neal's size 22 shoe, the Archives is able to better educate visitors about its wide-ranging role as our nation's official record keeper.

Invitations to exclusive exhibit openings is just one of the many ben-

efits you receive as a member of the Society for the National Archives. Thank you again for your involvement and generosity as a Society member! You can enjoy the *BIG!* exhibit in the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery until January 3rd, 2010. ■

## Society Members Join the Fun at July 4 Celebration

Society members and their families enjoyed the National Archives' Independence Day celebration, which included patriotic music, a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Archives' steps, and free family activities and entertainment.

Kicking off the day with the Promise of America Breakfast, historical re-enactors playing John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Private Ned Hector entertained the crowd, and guests were treated to a special Declaration Tour for a rare opportunity to view the four copies of the Declaration of Independence on display at the Archives.

The event was hosted by Bob Dotson, NBC News correspondent for the *TODAY Show*. Acting Archivist of the United States Adrienne Thomas and Timothy Naftali, director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, also addressed the crowd. This event was sponsored by John Hancock Financial. ■



## Members of the Society for the National Archives

Bess and Tyler Abell  
Honey and Lamar Alexander  
Michael R. Beschloss  
Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Bezos  
Governor James J. Blanchard  
Tom Brokaw\*  
A'Lelia Bundles  
Ken and Julie Burns  
Patrick and Donna Butler  
Eugene Eidenberg  
Richard A. Eliasberg  
Jane Fawcett-Hoover  
Jerry and Nanette Finger Foundation  
Nancy Folger and Sidney Werkman

Cynthia and Ben Guill  
William and Mary Love Harman  
Dr. Fruzsina M. Harsanyi  
Marilynn and John A. Hill  
Mary D. Janney  
Governor Frank Keating  
William K. and Alice S. Konze  
Mary Lynn and Nick Kotz  
Brian P. Lamb\*  
Ken and Pat Lore  
David McCullough\*  
Cappy and Janie McGarr  
David McKean  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. McLarty, III

James McPherson\*  
The Merrill Family Foundation, Inc.  
David W. Mesker  
Molly C. Moynihan  
Katherine Neville and Dr. Karl Pribram  
The Lawrence F. O'Brien Family  
Joel I. and Joan Pickett  
Robert and Wendy Riggs  
Henry Rivera  
Cokie Roberts  
Anna Eleanor Roosevelt  
Howard J. Rubenstein  
Deborah and Michael Salzberg  
Theodore D. Segal

Albert and Shirley Small  
David and Carolyn Stump  
John Fox Sullivan  
Riley K. Temple  
John "Jack" Todd In Memory of  
Lawrence F. O'Brien  
Marvin Weissberg and Judith Morris  
Tom and Carol Wheeler  
John and Diana Zentay  
Jay S. Zimmerman

\*Denotes honorary Society membership

# Society

for The National Archives

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Issue 8

## Foundation Awards Highest Honor to Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author, Historian Annette Gordon-Reed

Distinguished presidential scholar, professor, and author Annette Gordon-Reed will be honored at the Foundation for the National Archives' annual black-tie Gala on September 15 as the recipient of the 2009 Records of Achievement Award.

Gordon-Reed was awarded the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History for her book *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, about President Thomas Jefferson's slave family. She also received the 2008 National Book Award for the book, making her the first African-American woman to win the non-fiction award in its 59-year history.

The Foundation's annual award recognizes an individual who has played a major role in increasing the public's understanding of the National Archives, our nation, and its history. Previous recipients of the award include James McPherson, John Hope Franklin, David McCullough, Tom Brokaw, and Brian Lamb.

"We are very pleased to honor Professor Gordon-Reed," said Foundation President Ken Lore. "Through her research and writing on Thomas Jefferson, Sally Hemings, and their descendents, she teaches us how



integral the African-American experience is to the American story. Like her fellow awardees, she has made history more accessible to the American public through her use of primary documents, including those that are held and preserved by the National Archives."

Gordon-Reed first became interested in Thomas Jefferson as a young girl in still-segregated east Texas when she read a children's biography about him. Then, at age 14, while concealing her status as a minor, she joined a Book-

## Save the Date!

**Event:** "75 Years of Archival Treasures," With Cokie Roberts, Michael Beschloss, Drew Gilpin Faust, and David Grubin

**When:** Monday, September 14

**Where:** William G. McGowan Theater, National Archives Building, Washington, DC

**Event:** Foundation for the National Archives Annual Gala and Records of Achievement Award Ceremony

**When:** Tuesday, September 15

**Where:** National Archives Building, Washington, DC

**Event:** Guggenheim Tribute: 20th Anniversary Screening of *The Johnstown Flood*

**When:** Wednesday, September 23

**Where:** William G. McGowan Theater, National Archives Building, Washington, DC

**Event:** Presidency and the Nuclear Age Presidential Symposium

**When:** Monday, October 12

**Where:** John F. Kennedy Library, Boston

Please contact Caneil McDonald, Director of Special Events, at (202) 357-7361 or [Caneil.McDonald@nara.gov](mailto:Caneil.McDonald@nara.gov) with any questions or to RSVP to an event.

## Foundation President Ken Lore Off to a Running Start

Ken Lore, who became Chairman and President of the Foundation for the National Archives in January, is no stranger to most Society members. A partner and co-chair of global real estate in the law firm Bingham McCutchen, Lore has played an important role on the Foundation's board for the past six and a half years, serving as vice president before taking over the reins from former President Tom Wheeler.

As past chairman of the Foundation's Capital Campaign Committee, Lore understands the great potential of the Boeing Learning Center in educating the public. Creating a "board challenge," he led the way in raising an additional \$1 million to build a cutting-edge ReSource Room and Learning Lab for the Learning Center, which are helping the National Archives improve civics and history education in classrooms nationwide.

Now, as President, Lore has big plans for the future.

"The challenge," he said, "is to maintain existing efforts and simultaneously expand the scope of the *National Archives Experience*. This will require new resources, vision, and tenacity."



During his term as President, Lore hopes to build stronger ties with local communities by expanding educational activities in Washington, on the Web, and through traveling exhibits, including the planned *Discovering the Civil War* exhibition, which will premiere in the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery in 2010.

Lore, who has a passion for history and is dedicated to instilling that passion in young people, also is working

on outreach to high school students, particularly those in underserved communities, in an effort to produce a generation of more informed and involved citizens. Already, he has initiated and facilitated a new partnership between the National Archives and its Boeing Learning Center and the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project of American University Law School.

The Marshall-Brennan Project enables second- and third-year law students to give back to the community by teaching courses on constitutional law and juvenile justice in public high schools in the District of Columbia and Maryland. Beginning this fall, the law school fellows and their high school students will visit the Archives together to view the official Constitution and to participate in the "Constitution-in-Action" lab in the Boeing Learning Center. Students will be introduced to the major themes of the revered document and the role it plays in our daily lives by working with a variety of archival records. ■

## New Faces of the Society



Two of the most recent generous supporters to join the Society for the National Archives are Katherine Neville, best-selling novelist, and Karl Pribram, a neuroscience pioneer and distinguished professor at Georgetown University. As a treat for Karl's 90th birthday, Katherine arranged a tour of the *National Archives Experience* for their family members who were in town for the weekend festivities! ■

*Pictured: Neville/Pribram Family in the Boeing Learning Center, February 2009*

## Michael and Afsaneh Beschloss to Chair Annual Gala

Michael Beschloss serves as vice president of the Foundation for the National Archives, which he has served for ten years, and is also a Society member. He has written nine award-winning books on American Presidents, most recently the *New York Times* best-

seller *Presidential Courage*. *The New York Times Book Review* recently called him "clearly the most widely recognized Presidential historian in the nation." His wife Afsaneh is an economist who served as Treasurer and Chief Investment Officer of the World Bank and is now the CEO of the Rock Creek Group, a Washington, DC-based hedge fund and investment firm.



records that demonstrate just that fact." In addition to being an author and historian, Michael Beschloss serves as the NBC News Presidential Historian and is a regular commentator on PBS's *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. In 2005, he won an Emmy for the Discovery Channel's "Decisions That Shook the World," of which he was host. Besides his work with the National Archives, Beschloss also serves as a trustee of the White House Historical Association and is a former trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello).

This fall, Michael and Afsaneh will serve as co-chairs of the Foundation for the National Archives' annual Gala, honoring Michael's fellow historian – the 2009 Records of Achievement Award recipient Annette Gordon-Reed.

"We are both thrilled to lead the cel-

bration and honor Annette and her work," said Michael. "No one has done a better job of showing how central African-American history is to the American story, and what better place to honor her than the National Archives, since we are the repository of the

Morgan in corporate finance in London and New York, and for Shell International Group Planning in London. She has also taught international trade at Oxford University, from which she holds a Master of Philosophy degree in economics. She is currently trustee of the Ford Foundation and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

The Beschlosses live in Washington, DC, with their two sons, who are both particularly interested in National Archives holdings that pertain to the history of baseball. ■

of-the-Month Club in order to receive Fawn Brodie's biography, *Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate Portrait*. She later pursued her fascination with Jefferson's life while attending Dartmouth College, where she majored in history. A Harvard Law School graduate, she has been a professor of law at New York Law School since 1992. She also teaches history at Rutgers University. She speaks and moderates numerous conferences across the country on history and law-related topics.

Besides her most recent book, she also has authored *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*; *Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir*, co-authored with Vernon Jordan; and *Race on Trial: Law and Justice in American History*.

## Annette Gordon-Reed

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She lives in Manhattan with her husband, daughter, and son. ■