



For Immediate Release

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“READING FOR RELIEF” AT PLA CONFERENCE RAISES \$4,000 IN SUPPORT
OF LIBRARIES DAMAGED BY RECENT HURRICANES

(Philadelphia, PA) – April 4, 2006 - More than 150 librarians, publishers, and exhibitors enjoyed an evening with eleven authors reading from their works to raise \$4,000 for the American Library Association’s Hurricane Relief Fund. The event, sponsored by Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA), was held Wednesday, March 22, at the Public Library Association’s biennial conference held in Boston, Massachusetts. ReferenceUSA underwrote all the costs associated with the event so that all money from ticket sales could go to the relief fund.

“The evening was magical,” said FOLUSA’s executive director Sally G. Reed. “The authors were terrific – funny, poignant, or thought provoking to a person. It is especially wonderful that such an enjoyable evening will help benefit libraries that were damaged or destroyed by hurricanes.” Books by each author were available following the program and authors stayed behind to sign books and talk to attendees.

“ALA would like to thank FOLUSA for the generous donation from its ‘Reading for Relief’ event,” said Michael Dowling, director of ALA’s Office of Chapter Relations. “Libraries build communities, and these funds will help the libraries along the Gulf Coast rebuild their buildings and collections so that they can again serve in their vital role- helping to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. is a membership organization that provides consulting services and networking opportunities for Friends, Trustees, and Foundations to enhance their work in supporting libraries.

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