



Texas Book Festival

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Director

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May 31, 2001

Scott Gentling
Stuart Gentling
4801 Harley
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Dear Scott and Stuart:

On behalf of Texas Book Festival Honorary Chairman Laura Bush, we are pleased to invite you to be a featured author at this year's Festival November 15-18 at the State Capitol in Austin.

The first five Festivals have been enormously successful, featuring nearly 650 authors in a superb program of readings and panels that attracted capacity crowds. The 2000 Festival drew a crowd of more than 25,000 and featured 80 booksellers and publishers in a book fair outside the Capitol.

These numbers are extraordinary, but our list of featured authors has been even more impressive. Among the past participants are Ai, Rick Bass, Roy Blount Jr., Octavia Butler, Ana Castillo, Sandra Cisneros, Mary Higgins Clark, J. California Cooper, Stanley Crouch, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Linda Ellerbee, Horton Foote, Carlos Fuentes, David Halberstam, Maria Hinojosa, Ted Koppel, Larry L. King, Jim Lehrer, Barry Lopez, Peter Matthiessen, Frank McCourt, Larry McMurtry, Antonya Nelson, Naomi Shihab Nye, Tim O'Brien, George Plimpton, Louis Sachar, Jane Smiley, Liz Smith, Bruce Sterling, Scott Turow, and Mary Willis Walker.

Best of all, the proceeds from the Festival are awarded as grants to public libraries throughout the state. The 2000 Festival presented \$252,000 in awards to 103 libraries, bringing the Festival's five-year total of library grants to over \$1 million to 394 Texas libraries.

As a featured author, you will be asked either to take part in a panel discussion or to present a reading from your most recent book. The readings and panels will take place in the historic Texas Capitol on November 17 and 18. Shortly after your presentation, you will sign copies of your books in the Festival's signing tent. The proceeds from all book sales in that tent will go to the Festival's fund for Texas public libraries. Because this event is a fund-raiser for libraries, the Texas Book Festival does not provide an honorarium or cover expenses.

Please complete the enclosed reply form and return it as soon as possible. If you need any more information, please contact Cyndi Hughes, the Festival's director, at 512/472-3808.

We hope you can join us in supporting literature and libraries at the 2001 Texas Book Festival.

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Farabee
Chairman

Cyndi Hughes
Director