2010 Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference Suggested Reading List

The 2010 Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, hosted by the University of North Texas, will be held July 23-25 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine. The conference is an opportunity for the public to interact with critically acclaimed authors and storytellers.

George Getschow, conference writer-in-residence, recommends the following books written by the Mayborn’s 2010 conference speakers:

Mary Karr’s “Lit,” the long-awaited sequel to her critically-acclaimed and New York Times best selling memoirs “The Liars’ Club” and “Cherry.”

Mark Bowden’s “Black Hawk Down,” a finalist for the National Book Award, and “Guests of the Ayatollah,” an account of the 1979 Iran hostage crisis, which Newsweek listed last year as one of “The 50 Books for Our Times.”

Gary Smith’s anthologies, “Beyond the Game” and “Going Deep.” Slate Magazine calls Smith not only the best sportswriter in America, but also the best magazine writer in America.

David Grann’s “The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon.” The international best-seller has been nominated by library associations as one of “The Best Science Books” of 2009.

Hampton Sides’ “Blood and Thunder,” an historical narrative about the controversial frontier hero Kit Carson and his role in the conquest of the West. The book was voted one of Time Magazine’s “Ten Best Books” of 2006. Sides’ “Ghost Soldiers: The Epic Account of World War II’s Greatest Rescue Mission” won the 2002 PEN USA award for nonfiction and was the inspiration for the Miramax film, “The Great Raid.”

Bryan Burrough’s most recent book, “The Big Rich: The Rise and Fall of the Greatest Texas Oil Fortunes,” is an unforgettable tale about four swaggering Texas oil tycoons who became Texas version of royalty, living lives that surpassed even the fantastic myths that surrounded them. “Public Enemies: America’s Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI, 1933-34,” is a true-life gangster thriller that trumps most novels for riveting action and drama. The book recently became a major motion picture starring Johnny Depp.

Paula Butturini’s memoir, “Keeping The Feast,” looks at how food saved her life.

Other books by our conference authors that will be in bookstores soon:

S.C. “Sam” Gwynne’s “Empire of the Summer Moon,” a history of the Comanche Indians, will be published by Scribner in May.
Hampton Sides’ “Hellhound On His Trail,” a detailed, fast-paced narrative about the assassination of Martin Luther King and the international manhunt for fugitive James Earl Ray will be released in late March.

David Grann’s anthology of his award-winning magazine work, “The Devil and Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Murder, Madness, and Obsession,” will be released in early March.

Valton Burgin’s memoir, “Islands of the Damned,” about his combat experiences in the Pacific Theater of World War II, was co-authored by Bill Marvel. Burgin was interviewed by filmmaker Stephen Spielberg and actor Tom Hanks for an upcoming TV miniseries expected for release in early March, about the same time as “Islands of the Damned.”

Kalena Cook’s “Birthing a Better Way.” A winner of the 2009 Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Book Writing Contest explores the myths and realities surrounding natural childbirth and shares the inspiring stories of women who consider it “a better way.”