



Suggested Reading List for 2009

The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference, which is hosted by the University of North Texas, will be held July 24-26, 2009 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine, Texas. 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 compiled or written by The Mayborn's 2009 conference speakers:

“Alphabet Juice” and **“Long Time Leaving: Dispatches From Up South”** by Roy Blount Jr.

“The New Kings of Nonfiction,” compiled by Ira Glass as exemplars of the genre.

“American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies,” by Michael Kauffman. The Wall Street Journal recently named *American Brutus* one of the five best books ever published on political violence. February marks the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth.

“Backyard Giants: The Passionate, Heartbreaking, and Glorious Quest to Grow the Biggest Pumpkin Ever,” by Susan Warren, Texas bureau chief for the “Wall Street Journal.”

“The Red Hourglass: Lives of the Predators,” by Gordon Grice.

“Mexican Enough: My Life Between the Borderlines” and **“Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana,”** by Stephanie Elizondo Griest.

“Dancing With Cuba: A Memoir of the Revolution” and **“Samba,”** by Alma Guillermoprieto. “Samba” was nominated for the 1990 National Book Critics Circle Award.

“City on Fire: The Explosion That Devastated a Texas Town and Ignited a Historic Legal Battle” and **“First Son: George W. Bush & The Bush Family Dynasty,”** by Bill Minutaglio, a journalist and author whose work has appeared in “The New York Times,” “Los Angeles Times,” “Esquire” and numerous other publications.

“Ham Biscuits, Hostess Gowns and Other Southern Specialties” and **“The House on First Street, My New Orleans Story,”** by Julia Reed.

“Picture Palace” and **“The Mosquito Coast”** by Paul Theroux. “Picture Palace” is the winner of the 1978 Whitbread Prize, and “The Mosquito Coast” is considered one of the greatest books of the century by many critics.