



MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009
Bethesda, Maryland

THE CELEBRATION

To celebrate reading is to spend an incredibly warm and engaging evening with friends and family. Doro Bush Koch and Tricia Reilly Koch bring their families together, including President George H. W. and Barbara Bush, to welcome a great line-up of popular best-selling authors for a moving evening that highlights the importance and joy of family literacy. Held at Bethesda's beautiful Music Center at Strathmore, *A Celebration of Reading* is the annual fundraiser that benefits the Maryland Initiative of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. Best-selling authors give freely of their time to share their works with guests in an entertaining program, filled with spontaneous fun, warmth and emotion. Containing all the hallmarks of a professional production - including musical entertainment, video, and a wonderful set - the *Celebration* allows authors to read their best-selling books to life, leaving guests feeling as if they've attended a real "show," far different from more traditional reading events.

Before the program, Doro and Tricia host the Authors' Reception at the Mansion at Strathmore, where major donors and their guests enjoy the opportunity to visit with each author in a casual mix and mingle atmosphere. The program begins with an inspirational testimonial from a student whose life was transformed after participating in a family literacy program funded by the Initiative. New grantees are announced, and after the program, all guests enjoy a delightful buffet reception and more time to mix and mingle with the authors. Each guest receives a book written by one of the evening's guest authors.

The 2009 Celebration of Reading author line-up will be announced soon.

THE MARYLAND INITIATIVE OF THE BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR FAMILY LITERACY

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy was founded in 1989 by Barbara Bush to fund the development of innovative family literacy projects in which parents and their children learn and read together, and parents develop the skills needed to be their children's "first teachers." To date, the Foundation has awarded over \$31.7 million in grants to more than 700 family literacy programs in all 50 states including the District of Columbia. Millions of adults in our nation, including *more than 20% of Maryland's adults*, lack the literacy skills they need to participate fully in our wonderful democracy as parents, working people, and citizens. This not only limits the quality of their own lives, but can also seriously limit the development of literacy skills in their children. That is why Doro Bush Koch, in partnership with her sister-in-law and good friend, Tricia Reilly Koch, founded the Maryland Initiative of the Barbara Bush Foundation in 2004, to concentrate the good work of the Barbara Bush Foundation in their home state. Thanks to the philanthropic support from the community, and the participation of a large following of individual ticket purchasers, the Maryland Initiative is off to a great start, with grants of nearly \$2 million to 41 programs serving the Maryland community. The Initiative will continue to fund programs that provide reading instruction for parents, pre-reading instruction for children and time for parents and children to read and learn together. Ten more grants will be announced at the May 11, 2009 *Celebration of Reading*.

AUTHOR ALUMNI

James A. Baker III
David Baldacci
Ronde Barber
Tiki Barber
Michael Beschloss
James Bradley
Jill Conner Browne

Marc Brown
Christopher Buckley
Barbara Bush
George H.W. Bush
Carol Higgins Clark
Mary Higgins Clark
Marcus Luttrell
Antwone Fisher

Fannie Flagg
Ron Hall & Denver Moore
Immaculée Ilibagiza
Perri Klass
Sheila Klass
Doro Bush Koch
Jon Meacham
Brad Meltzer

Jim Nantz
Cal Ripken, Jr.
Hugh Sidey
Daniel Silva
Ronan Tynan
Jeannette Walls

THE EVENT

Monday, May 11, 2009

Authors' Reception - 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Program - 7:00 pm

Buffet Reception immediately following the readings

The Music Center at Strathmore

North Bethesda, MD

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are available at various price levels.

For additional information, contact Ms. Muffy Buvens at The Dini Partners at 800-222-5652 or mbuvens@dinipartners.com

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy

1201 15th Street NW, Suite 420

Washington, DC 20005

www.barbarabushfoundation.com