



## WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S READING, DISCUSSION, AND HERITAGE PROGRAM

now in its seventh year

May 13, 2008

- **TOGETHER WE READ WEBSITE:** [www.togetherweweread.com](http://www.togetherweweread.com)
- **"THE READ ON WNC":** [thereadonwnc.ning.com](http://thereadonwnc.ning.com)

### IMMIGRATION ORAL HISTORY

For The Big Read, Rebecca Williams, Oral History Coordinator, produced interviews and programs with WNC immigrants. Other major programs—such as Esther Olavarria and Barbara Bates Smith at UNCA April 18—also made the connection between *My Antonia* and today's stories. **Learn about the May 16 program** at the TWR website. Hear interviews with immigrants at The Read on WNC.

### NOMINATIONS FOR TWR HOMEGROWN

We haven't picked The Big Read book for Jan.-June 2009 yet, but we're already in the process of choosing the July-Dec. 2009 TWR Homegrown book. Why? To better enable schools to plan their year.

### BOONE PROGRAMS STILL DEVELOPING

Keep 'em coming. There's a great line-up ahead. Most recently planned: a Cherokee relations program at Mars Hill College; a Boone re-enactor at Smith-McDowell House and Museum.

### GUESS WHAT?

Tony Earley named Jim Glass of *Jim the Boy* after Jim Burden; and considers *My Antonia* one of the great works of American literature. View him on "The Read."

E-mail the newsletter editor at [RNeufeld@charter.net](mailto:RNeufeld@charter.net) or visit the websites.

### EVENTS!

Junot Diaz at Warren Wilson College Apr. 11 (r.)—thanks, Gary Hawkins and Margaret Osondu; and at West Asheville Library—thanks, Karen Loughmiller. Esther Olavarria & Barbara Bates at UNCA Apr. 18—thanks, Helen Wykle & Mark Gibney. Morgan & Adams—see below. Lee Smith & Ron Rash at WCU. Haywood County Library & A-B Tech hosted immigration panels.

### GREAT THINGS BY & FOR VOLUNTEERS

TWR has created a means by which volunteers can help the reading and region cause. There are a number of exciting and important initiatives. See "TWR Initiatives" on the TWR website.

### MORGAN & ADAMS AT A-B TECH

The great event was videotaped. Robert Morgan and Sheila Kay Adams created a dynamic storytelling/musical presentation of "Early Immigrants in WNC." Plus theatre—thanks to Jan Caldwell's virtuoso performance of scenes from *My Antonia*. Mark Pumphrey, TWR chair, presented Dr. Betty Young, new A-B Tech president, with a portrait of Wilma Dykeman in recognition of the college's charter role in TWR.



Diaz at WWC; photo by Paul Dezendorf

### WHAT'S "THE READ" ON WNC?

Together We Read and the Asheville *Citizen-Times* have created a multi-media website and forum that should be a must-go-to for groups and readers. It is now being heavily promoted. Please let TWR know what it would take to make you a site visitor.

### ON AGATE HILL FOREVER

An 18-minute video of Lee Smith working with Ashe County eighth-graders, professionally produced by Stellar Media and TWR, is available. It becomes part of an impressive TWR archive, which can be used by groups to tap into any book that that TWR has done through the years. Look forward to a catalog of selections.

### BOOK DISCUSSERS

Want to converse with discussed authors; or get special audio? Submit your group contact info, and help determine the features.