

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summer Events Feature Two Authors with Local Ties

SARANAC LAKE, New York. Friday, June 4, 2010, Historic Saranac Lake announced a line-up of summer events highlighting the life and work of two authors with local ties, Martha Reben and Mark Twain.

On Saturday, July 10, Historic Saranac Lake will celebrate “Martha Reben Day,” commemorating the acclaimed Adirondack author. A tent will be erected on Riverside Park, at the site of the Martha Reben historic marker. Historic Saranac Lake staff and volunteers will provide the public free information about Martha Reben. At 7:00 that evening, the public is invited to a powerpoint presentation of student work on Martha Reben. Lynda Peer’s 8th grade English class studied the author this spring, and created dramatic monologues that will be presented in the John Black Room of the Saranac Laboratory. Martha Reben Day is occurring in conjunction with the Adirondack Rocking Festival and Runabout Rendezvous.

A series of lectures and public events in July and August are planned to commemorate Mark Twain’s local connection and the 100 year anniversary of his death. Historic Saranac Lake, John Brown Lives!, and Paul Smith’s College, have teamed up to produce “Mark Twain in the Adirondacks” to involve North Country residents and visitors in exploring Twain’s surprising connections to the Adirondacks and his most celebrated—and condemned—novel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. National Public Radio is a media sponsor for “Mark Twain in the Adirondacks.”

On August 13, Dr. Charles Alexander, English professor at Paul Smith’s College, will speak on Twain’s regional connections and the essay he wrote while summering on Lower Saranac Lake in 1901, “The United States of Lyncherdom”. This public event will take place in the John Black Room of the Saranac Laboratory Museum.

On Saturday, August 14, scholars will present on Mark Twain at the historic Guggenheim Camp, on the shores of Lower Saranac Lake, near where Twain summered at the turn of the century. Independent scholar Jules Hojnowski, Dr. Margaret Washington, Professor at Cornell University, and acclaimed children’s book author, Steven Kellogg will speak on Twain and *Huckleberry Finn*. Boat tours to the Mark Twain Camp, owned by Jack Drury, are planned in the afternoon.

To help generate regional interest in Twain and Huck Finn and to build an audience for the August lectures, schools, libraries, and book groups from the Champlain Valley to the High Peaks are coming aboard the “North Country Reads Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.” A non-stop, public reading of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn will be held at Keene Valley Library in July.

Photo credits:

#1: Photo of the Martha Reben historical marker, Riverside Park in Saranac Lake.

#2: Photo courtesy of the Mark Twain Camp, Lower Saranac Lake.

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