

St. Louis County Library **News Release: February 12, 2008**
Contact: Jennifer McBride, 314-994-9411 x332 or jmcbride@slcl.org

SLCL Hosts Panel Discussion featuring New Voices of St. Louis Immigrants

The St. Louis County Library Foundation is pleased to present a panel discussion on the Missouri Historical Society's newly published anthology of writings from recent immigrants living in St. Louis. The discussion will be led by editors Janet Morey and Gail Schafers and will feature several contributors to the book. The event will be held on Wednesday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Author's Nook of Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

The program is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Left Bank Books will provide copies of "Stories from Before" for purchase at the program.

In more than 40 collected stories, immigrants living in St. Louis recount their stories of transition, struggle, and survival: a Liberian tells of inheriting the role of chief witch doctor from his uncle at the age of nine. A Bosnian tells of being rescued by a fishing boat from drowning in the Adriatic Sea. A Russian vividly remembers the smell of fresh bread and cold milk after returning from the siege of Leningrad. The anthology gives voice to these new neighbors and offers other St. Louisans a way to connect with our ever evolving community.

Janet Morey and Gail Schafers have over fifty years combined experience teaching English as a Second Language to immigrants attempting to make a new home in St. Louis. Morey teaches ESL at St. Louis Community College. Schafers is director of ESL at Fontbonne University. In 2001, they co-authored the text book "Write for You."

Morey and Schafers will be joined by three students featured in "Stories from Before": Tania Taranda from Belarus, Ekapong Tangsaksathid from Thailand, and Pao-Chiang "Caesar" Huang from Taiwan.

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Contact St. Louis County Library by phone 314-994-3300, (TDD\TTY) 314-994-9255 or visit www.slcl.org.

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