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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Astoria Federal Launches Major Support for  
*Long Island Reads: One Island, One Book Program*  
Celebrating John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*  
and National Library Week April 10-16, 2005**

***Friends of John Steinbeck Event April 12 at Nassau Community College***

(Lake Success, New York, April 8, 2005)—Astoria Federal Savings today announced major support for the ***Long Island Reads: One Island, One Book*** program, an island-wide initiative conducted throughout the month of April to promote reading and celebrate National Library Week, April 10-16, 2005.

"Each spring, Long Islanders come together to read and discuss the meaning of one specific book. This year readers will share John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley: In Search of America* and have the chance to participate in book group discussions and other related events at public libraries throughout the region," said Astoria Federal Savings Senior Vice President and Director of Marketing Brian Edwards. "We're proud to sponsor this important community program through our Education First initiative, which promotes lifelong learning for people of all ages."

*Travels with Charley: In Search of America* was written by Steinbeck, a Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winning author who lived in Sag Harbor, Long Island for many years. He set out on a journey from Sag Harbor and traveled across the United States with his standard poodle, Charley, capturing many moments of his travels.

This year's Long Island Reads Committee is co-chaired by Elizabeth Olesh of the Nassau Library System and Deborah Clark Cunningham of Harborfields Public Library, and includes a diverse group of librarians from across Long Island including Donna Ballard of the East Meadow Public Library, Mona Bergman of the Cold Spring Harbor Public Library, Judith Corso of the Huntington Public Library, Christina Crocker of the East Meadow Public Library, Donna Diamond of the Independent Book Discussion Leader, Diane Eidelman of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Kathleen Horan of the South Country Public Library, Karen Jaffe of the Comsewogue Public Library, Jessica Ley of the

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Port Washington Public Library, Catherine Nashak of the Deer Park Public Library, Grace O'Connor of the West Islip Public Library, Michelle Peppers of the Huntington Public Library, Rhea Pollack of the Brentwood Public Library, Janis Schoen of the Elmont Public Library, and Stacey Smith-Brown of the Uniondale Public Library.

To enhance this year's program, a series of *Friends of Steinbeck* lectures will be held on Tuesday, April 12, at the Nassau Community College Center Building 252/253 from 10 am to 2:15 pm. Included among the presenters are David and Joanna Lee of Sag Harbor, who knew Steinbeck while he lived on Long Island. The lectures are free and open to the public. For more details, please call 516-572-7413 or e-mail [bellafk@ncc.edu](mailto:bellafk@ncc.edu). The lectures are sponsored by the National Library Week Committee of Nassau Community College and the Long Island Reads Committee. To learn how you can participate in Long Island Reads, visit [www.longislandreads.org](http://www.longislandreads.org) or contact your local library.



### **PHOTO CAPTION:**

(pictured left to right) **Launching Long Island Reads:** Deborah Clark Cunningham of Harborfields Public Library, Astoria Federal Community Relations Marketing Manager Carolyn Fostel and Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library Head of Reference and Adult Services Dorothy More join Elizabeth Olesh of the Nassau Library System to kick off the 2005 Long Island Reads program.

### **About Astoria Federal Savings**

Astoria Federal Savings and Loan Association is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Astoria Financial Corporation (NYSE:AF). With assets of \$23.4 billion, Astoria Financial Corp. is the fifth largest thrift institution in the United States. Established in 1888, Astoria Federal is the largest thrift depository headquartered in New York with deposits of \$12.3 billion and embraces its philosophy of *Putting people first* by providing the customers and local communities it serves with quality financial products and services through 86 convenient banking office locations and multiple delivery channels, including its website, [www.astoriafederal.com](http://www.astoriafederal.com). Astoria commands the fourth largest deposit market share in the attractive Long Island market, which includes Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties with a population exceeding that of 39 individual states. Astoria originates mortgage loans through its banking offices and loan production offices in New York, an extensive broker network in 24 states, primarily the East Coast, and through correspondent relationships in 44 states.

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