

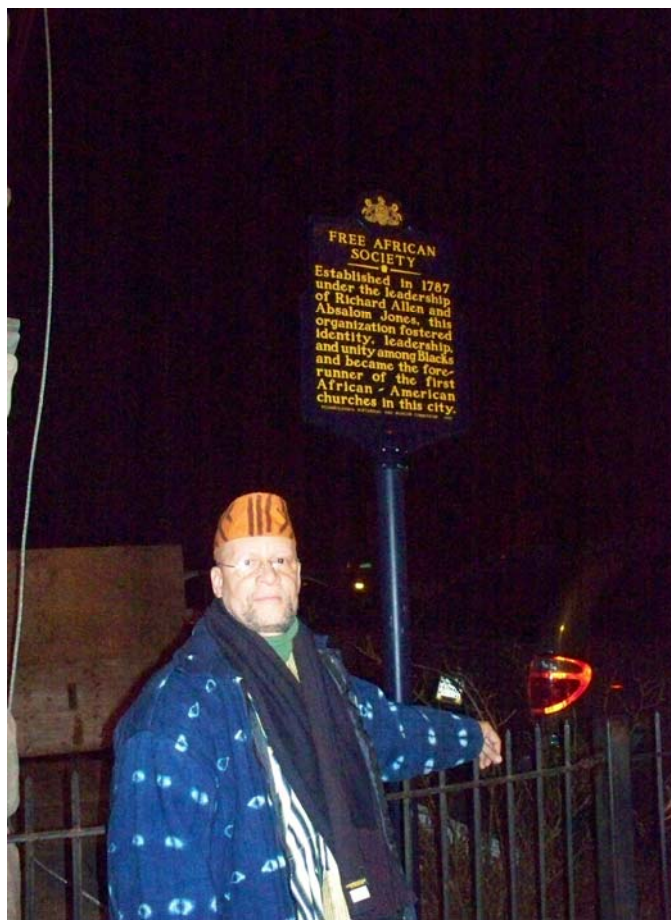
## About BCALA

In the 1960s, Black people across America, including Black librarians, were seriously concerned about the state of the country and its survival as a beacon of democracy. The roots of the Black Caucus extend from that tumultuous period. Founded in 1970, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association serves as an advocate for the development, promotion and improvement of library services and resources to the nation's Black American community; and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of Black American librarians. BCALA holds business and membership meetings in conjunction with ALA, though BCALA sponsors its own national conferences. The heading "Black Caucus" was first indexed in Library Literature in 1970. Listed under that heading were six articles: two on segregation, three on the caucus, and an article about the concern for Black librarians. Today, about one hundred articles can be found within electronic databases and references.

## Call for Submissions

The BCALA Newsletter seeks submissions regarding the American Library Association's 2008 conference. We also seek news from BCALA State Representatives. The deadline for the May/June 2008 issue is April 7, 2008. The deadline for the July/August 2008 issue is June 2, 2008. Please call (203) 299-1226 with questions regarding the Newsletter. Please send electronic submissions and photos to [sdh.newsletter@bcala.org](mailto:sdh.newsletter@bcala.org).

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Andrew P. Jackson/Sekou Molefi Baako, standing near the Free African Society sign during the ALA's 2008 Midwinter conference in Philadelphia. The Free African Society was established in 1787 under the leadership of Richard Allen and Absalom to help African Americans released from slavery. The Society's purpose was "to support one another in sickness and for the benefit of their widows and fatherless children" and played a major role in helping victims of the yellow fever epidemic of Philadelphia in 1793. Philadelphia's Free African Society was part of an effort to organize free blacks that extended across the Mid-Atlantic States into New England.

## BLACK CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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