



January 15, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Literary Awards Committee of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) is now accepting submissions for the annual BCALA Literary Awards. The Committee will present three prizes of \$500.00 each for adult books written by African American authors: a **First Novelist Award**, a **Fiction Award** and a **Nonfiction Award**. The **First Novelist Award** is given to recognize an outstanding work by a first time African American fiction writer. **Honor Book** citations are also awarded in fiction and nonfiction without any accompanying monetary remuneration. Additionally, an **Outstanding Contribution to Publishing** citation is provided to an author and/or publishing company for unique books that offer a positive depiction of African Americans.

First presented at the Second National Conference of African American Librarians in 1994, the BCALA Literary Awards acknowledge outstanding works of fiction and nonfiction for adult audiences by African American authors. Recipients of this award offer outstanding depictions of the cultural, historical or sociopolitical aspects of the Black Diaspora and embody the highest quality of writing style and research methodology, if applicable. Enclosed is a copy of the BCALA Literary Awards Criteria.

Books from small, large and specialty publishers are welcome for review consideration. Titles forwarded for review must be published between January 2010 and December 2010. Sets or multi-volume works are eligible. New editions of previously published works are eligible only if more than 30% of the total content is new or revised material. Inspirational and self-help books are ineligible.

Please send one copy of each title submitted to each member of the Literary Awards Committee as soon as possible after receiving this letter. I have enclosed a list of the members of the Committee and their addresses. Supply all available information regarding the submission, including promotional material, author biography and available news articles and reviews. Only finished, published books should be submitted; galleys (bound or unbound) are unacceptable.

The final submission date to each juror is December 17, 2010. Decisions will be made during the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, CA in January 2011. The awards will be presented in New Orleans, LA during ALA's Annual Conference in June, 2011. Publishers and authors will be advised of the Literary Award Committee's decision in advance of the conference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (919) 560-0114 (email: [jwhite@co.durham.nc.us](mailto:jwhite@co.durham.nc.us))

We extend our sincere thanks in advance for your cooperation in making these awards possible.

Sincerely yours,

Joel White, Chair  
Black Caucus Literary Awards Committee