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BCALA to Honor the Late Cynthia Hurd with Donation & Commemoration

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) will honor the late Cynthia Hurd by making a donation in her honor, as well as dedicating the first awarding of a new BCALA award to her memory.

Hurd, a librarian for Charleston County Public Libraries and the College of Charleston, was one of nine people gunned down by Dylann Roof at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina on June 17, 2015 in a racially motivated shooting. Hurd had served with CCPL for roughly three decades, and the library system recently announced it would name the branch Hurd managed – St. Andrews Regional Library – after her.

BCALA's executive board voted during the American Library Association Annual Conference 2015 to donate \$1,000 to the branch formerly managed by Hurd. Additionally, BCALA, which recently partnered with Charleston-based Bibliolabs to start the "BCALA Self-Publishing (Self-e) Digital Award", will dedicate the awarding of the first BCALA Self-Publishing Digital Award to Hurd's memory. Bibliolabs located close to Emanuel AME. The BCALA Self-Publishing Digital Award recognizes self-published works, which often go unrecognized in literary award recognitions.

"Hurd was part of our professional community," said BCALA president Kelvin Watson. "It seems no matter how much we do, it won't be enough to truly commemorate such a contributor to our profession and her community. But we still feel obligated to do our part, and we hope this conveys our commitment."

BCALA is a nonprofit organization for different areas of librarianship, including school, public, academic, and special, with national and international membership. It also provides game-changing leadership for the recruitment and development of African-American education and information professionals. It is one of five American Library Association ethnic affiliates and advocates for promoting and improving library services to diverse populations and communities of color. In addition, BCALA has sponsored literary awards for African American authors since 1994 and is also a sponsor of the prestigious Coretta Scott King Book Award.

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More information about BCALA is available at www.bcala.org.