

# BCALA NEWS

*Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc.*



BCALA's Rose Dawson (right) stands with Librarian of Congress nominee Dr. Carla Hayden. Many of us in LIS are excited about Hayden potentially holding this post.

Read Dawson's reflections about this in this issue of BCALA News!



GLITZY GO-GETTERS  
SHERISE, BILLIE AND  
ERICA AIM HIGH ON  
THE WASHINGTON D.C.  
SOCIAL LADDER,

but even the most powerful women  
can't escape the trials of marriage,  
motherhood, professional rivalry  
and family drama.

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Dear Members,

*As I approach the  
final days of my  
administration, I'd  
like to end as I started.  
First, I want to extend  
a heartfelt thank you  
for all of the support  
given to me personally  
and for your service  
to BCALA.*

I also want to acknowledge and recognize all who have made contributions to BCALA and the positive impact you have had on our profession. Two years ago, I delivered a straightforward and direct vision for our organization. It was my hope to invoke a thoughtful approach, with a vision that was both achievable and measurable.

Let me share with you now some of our achievements. We have successfully increased membership in all categories, executed a profitable 9th National Conference of African American Librarians with the greatest level of fundraising to date, and continued awarding

scholarships. BCALA's literary awards were enhanced by the addition of self-published e-books for fiction and poetry, and new sponsorship and financial support from "Self-e" (a BiblioLabs and Library Journal partnership). BCALA will give the first award during ALA Annual Orlando 2016 in honor of our colleague Cynthia Hurd, who was gunned down with eight other African Americans in a Charleston, SC. church.

Although there have been challenges, I have been steadfast and driven in my efforts to move BCALA forward. Some of the factors I have been impacted by, as BCALA President and in my various roles at Queens Library over the past few years include: living the realities of diversity or the lack thereof in and outside the profession, access to technology, increasing digital literacy, serving our communities, and being empowered to make change. Associated challenges remain.

I am confident that Vice-President/ President Elect Davis will continue to pursue efficiency, creativity and open communication for our organization. I know she shares my commitment for a stronger BCALA. She will continue developing a new



Kelvin Watson, President,  
BCALA 2014 - 2016

strategic plan to strengthen our organization now and in the future. I remain committed to BCALA, our mission, our profession, and to you. Remember change will not come if we wait for others, or the right time. We are the change that we seek and the time is now.

Peace and blessings,



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# BCALA’s Official Letter in Support of the Carla Hayden Nomination

By BCALA Leadership

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*Editor's note: The following is the text of BCALA's letter of support for the nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden. This letter was distributed to several outlets and is public.*

I am writing to ask you to support the nomination of Dr. Carla Hayden to be next Librarian of Congress. On February 24, 2016, President Barack Obama nominated her to serve as the Librarian of Congress. Dr. Hayden is currently the CEO of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland, and was president of the American Library Association (ALA) from 2003 to 2004.

The Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC), Inc., is a member organization that combines the support and resources of North America’s five historic membership organizations that support and advocate for libraries and library services in communities of color. The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, REFORMA, Asian Pacific American Library Association, Chinese American Library Association, and the

American Indian American Library Association, are the five ethnic affiliates to the American Library Association and whose members comprise the JCLC. We advocate for our communities and support those professionals and paraprofessionals who are committed to libraries, serving communities of color, and information literacy.

As a member of The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, I strongly urge you to support her confirmation. Her confirmation is important to our community not only because we have the opportunity to place an excellent librarian in this important position, but as a credentialed librarian, she represents one of a very few opportunities for our community to be present at this level. It is also important to our community, both how it operates and how it is perceived to operate, that individuals who have worked hard, played by the rules, and are qualified, receive a fair chance just like others who may be different from them. Dr. Carla Hayden has done everything it takes to be qualified for the position of Librarian of Congress.

I hope we can count on you to support Dr. Hayden.

Peace and Blessings,

Kelvin Watson, BCALA President  
2014-2016

Denyvetta Davis, BCALA VP/President Elect 2014-2016

Dr. Jerome Offord, Jr. BCALA Immediate Past President 2014-2016, President JCLC



# Resolution of Respect For Valerie Denise Rowe Jackson

*“I have built a monument more lasting than brass, loftier than the royal structures of the Pyramids...”*  
Horace “Exegi Monumentum Aere Perennius,” Book III, Ode XXX

Whereas, God, our loving Father, in the light of His wisdom, and in the magnitude of His power, has removed from our profession and from our Chain of Friendship, a shining link in the name of our dearest sister, **Valerie D. Rowe Jackson**, and added it to the Friendship Chain of His Kingdom; and



Whereas, **Valerie D. Rowe Jackson**, a steadfast worker, friend, mentor, avid supporter, and a valuable member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. (BCALA), whose departure we so deeply feel and whose life has been an example of Christian fortitude to her family, her friends, her community, and her colleagues; and

Whereas, **Valerie D. Rowe Jackson** lent her gifts, for more than thirty-four years to the library profession, and to this nation, including twenty years at the Atlanta Fulton Public Library and thirteen years at the Richland County Public Library System (South Carolina) where she served as the director of customer and library experience, dedicated to providing exemplary library services, building a network of strong partnerships and friendships, promoting literacy and education for all library patrons; and

Whereas, **Valerie D. Rowe Jackson** further lent her professionalism and gifts to the American Library Association, the Public Library Association, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc., the South Carolina Library Association where she served on the Roundtable for African-American Concerns, the National Advisory Council for the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina; and



 Continued from previous page

Whereas, **Valerie D. Rowe Jackson served as an active member** of Turner Memorial A.M.E. Church (West Columbia, SC) where she served as church school superintendent and as a literacy tutor; she further lent her gifts to the Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, the National Association of University Women, as a member of the Board of Directors of Growing Home Southeast, Inc. (providing services to youth and families in South Carolina and southern Alabama), and the NAACP; and

Whereas, the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.**, the entire library profession, and communities throughout South Carolina and Alabama have sustained a great loss in the home going of Valerie D. Rowe Jackson, therefore be it ...

Resolved, that we eulogize her memory by trying to bring into our own lives that excellence and professionalism, coupled with a sustained commitment to serving others that made her life a worthy pattern for our emulation, and that we earnestly try to live as purposely and unselfishly as did Valerie D. Rowe Jackson and be it further

Resolved, that the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.**, expresses its sincere sympathy to the family of Valerie D. Rowe Jackson, that we place a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.**, and that we also send a copy of this resolution to the members of Valerie D. Rowe Jackson’s family and to the Richland County Public Library System in order to show to her loved ones and colleagues the high esteem in which we hold her life and her memory

“One by one the links are severed  
from the golden chain of life;  
One by one our order’s forming  
In the Father’s House above.  
Let our deeds be pure and noble  
May our lives be not in vain  
So that when the links are welded  
Complete again will be the chain.”

Respectfully submitted,

The Officers and Members of The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.

**Kelvin A. Watson**

Kelvin A. Watson, President  
Queens, New York  
April 5, 2016

**Officers:**

Kelvin A. Watson, (Queens Library, Queens, New York), President  
Denyvetta Davis, (Retired, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) Vice President  
Diane Covington, (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), Secretary

Annie Marie Ford, (Retired, Chicago, Illinois), Treasurer  
Jerome Offord, Jr., (Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri), Immediate Past President

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Tiffany A. Duck (Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, Louisa Branch, Louisa, Virginia)  
Michele Fenton (Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana)  
Makiba Foster (Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri)  
Brian Hart, (Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Charlotte, North Carolina)  
Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) (Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center, Queens, New York)  
Sammie Johnson, (Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas)  
Karen Lemmons (Detroit School of Arts, Detroit, Michigan)  
Kirby McCurtis (Multnomah County Library, Portland, Oregon)  
Kim McNeil-Capers, (Queens Library, Queens, New York)  
Eboni Njoku, (District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, District of Columbia)  
Monya Tomlinson (Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center, Atlanta, Georgia)

**History Committee**

Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D. (Library of Congress, Washington, District of Columbia), Chair



# BCALA President Appointed Chief Operating Officer

*By BCALA Publications Committee*

BCALA president Kelvin Watson has been appointed the chief operating officer and senior vice president of Queens Li-brary. Watson, who is preparing to wrap up a two-year term as BCALA president, was previously interim chief operating officer at Queens Library. BCALA congratulates Watson on this achievement. More information about Queens Library is available at [www.queenslibrary.org](http://www.queenslibrary.org).



BCALA Orlando/ALA Annual Meetings  
BCALA Hotel: Embassy Suites by Hilton/Jamaican Court  
June 23 – 28, 2016

Meeting locations: FAMU – Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, HILTON – Hilton Orlando, HYATT – Hyatt Regency Orlando, OCCC – Orange County Convention Center

**BCALA Executive Board Retreat – EMBASSY SUITES Jamaican Court/Panther Room**  
Thursday, June 23, 2016  
3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**BCALA Executive Board Meeting – HYATT/Bayhill 28**  
Friday, June 24, 2016  
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Dr. E. J. Josey Scholarship Committee Meeting – HYATT/Coral Springs I**  
Friday, June 24, 2016  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**BCALA International Relations Committee Meeting – HILTON/Conway Lake**  
Friday, June 24, 2016  
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**BCALA Professional Development/Recruitment Committee Meeting – HYATT/Challenger 38**  
Saturday, June 25, 2016  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Diverse and Inclusive Metadata: Developing Cultural Competencies in Descriptive Practices (ALCTS Program) \*\* - OCCC/W222A**  
Saturday, June 25, 2016  
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**BCALA Affiliates Committee Meeting – HYATT/Celebration 06**  
Saturday, June 25, 2016  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**NCAAL X Conference Planning Committee/Team Meeting – HYATT/Bayhill 20**  
Saturday, June 25, 2016  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
**BCALA Membership Committee Meeting – HYATT/Challenger 42**  
Saturday, June 25, 2016  
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**LITA President’s Program: “Toward Ethic of Social Justice Information” \*\* - OCCC W109B**  
Saturday, June 26, 2016  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Celebrating Diversity: The Brown Bookshelf Salutes Great Books for Kids\* - HYATT/Bayhill 19**  
Saturday, June 25, 2016  
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast\*\* - OCCC WA4**  
Sunday, June 26, 2016  
7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**BCALA Professional Development/Recruitment Committee – HYATT/Celebration 14**  
Sunday, June 26, 2016  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**BCALA President's Program – Legal Resources Libraries/Librarians Need to Support Their Communities\* - HYATT/Barrel Springs I**  
Sunday, June 26, 2016  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**ALA Awards (Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr. Award – President Watson) – OCCC Chapin Theater W320**  
Sunday, June 26, 2016  
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Now Showing @ ALA Film\*\* – (Video Round Table)**  
**“3 ½ Minutes, 10 Bullets”** – Sunday, June 26, 2016, 1:30 p.m. – **OCCC 207C**  
Post Screening Discussion and Q & A – Sunday, June 26, 2016, 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – **OCCC 207B**

**BCALA Literary Awards and General Membership Meeting – HYATT/Barrel Springs I**  
Sunday, June 26, 2016  
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**Jean E. Coleman Memorial Library Outreach Lecture – OCCC W206A**  
Monday, June 27, 2016  
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Lawyers in Libraries: Alternative JD Careers\*\* - FAMU College of Law, Room 263**  
Monday, June 27, 2016  
2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**\*BCALA Sponsored Programs – Members attendance requested**  
**\*\*BCALA Co-Sponsored Programs – Members attendance encouraged**



# Resolution of Respect For Andrew A. Venable Jr.

*“I have built a monument more lasting than brass, loftier than the royal structures of the Pyramids...”*  
Horace “*Exegi Monumentum Aere Perennius,*” Book III, Ode XXX



Whereas, God, our loving Father, in the light of His wisdom, and in the magnitude of His power, has removed from our profession and from our Chain of Friendship, a shining link in the name of our dearest brother, **Andrew A. Venable Jr.** and added it to the Friendship Chain of His Kingdom; and

Whereas, **Andrew A. Venable Jr.**, a visionary leader, a self-described “library evangelist,” an activist library administrator, a beloved colleague, mentor, and friend, and a long time valuable member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. (BCALA) and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., whose departure we so deeply feel and whose life has been an example of Christian fortitude to his family, his friends, his colleagues, and his community; and

Whereas, **Andrew A. Venable Jr.** lent his gifts for more than thirty-eight years to the library profession and to this nation, envisioning the public library as “The People’s University,” including nine years as the first African-American Director of the Cleveland Public Library, two years as its Deputy Director, Deputy Director of the District of Columbia Public Library, Director of the Gary Public Library, and Director of the East Cleveland Public Library; and

Whereas, **Andrew A. Venable Jr.** further lent his professionalism and gifts to the American Library Association, **the Black Caucus of the American Library**

**Association, Inc.**, the Urban Libraries Council, and the Ohio Library Council, and he received many honors such as the 2001 Ohio Librarian of the Year Award, the 2001 Louis Stokes Champion of Literacy Award, and the 2007 Rainey Institute Glissando IV Award for promoting free access to the arts in Cleveland, Ohio; and

Whereas, the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.**, the entire library profession, and communities throughout Ohio, Indiana, the District of Columbia, and his home state of Virginia, have sustained a great loss in the home going of **Andrew A. Venable Jr.**, therefore be it ...

Resolved, that we eulogize his memory by striving to achieve in our own lives that excellence and professionalism, coupled with a sustained commitment to serving others that made this wayshower worthy of our emulation and that we earnestly try to live as purposely and unselfishly as did **Andrew A. Venable Jr.**; and be it further . . .

Resolved, that **the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.**, expresses its sincere sympathy to the family of **Andrew A. Venable Jr.** by placing a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.**, sending a copy of the resolution to the members of the **Andrew A. Venable Jr.** family, and sending a copy to the Cleveland Public Library in order to show to his loved ones and colleagues the

high esteem in which we hold his life and his memory.

“One by one the links are severed  
from the golden chain of life;  
One by one our order’s forming  
In the Father’s House above.  
Let our deeds be pure and noble  
May our lives be not in vain  
So that when the links are welded  
Complete again will be the chain.”

Respectfully submitted,

The Officers and Members of The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.

## Kelvin A. Watson

Kelvin A. Watson, President  
Queens, New York  
May 13, 2016

### Officers:

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Denyvetta Davis, (Retired, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) Vice President  
Diane Covington, (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), Secretary  
Annie Marie Ford, (Retired, Chicago, Illinois), Treasurer  
Jerome Offord, Jr., (Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri), Immediate Past President

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Tiffany A. Duck (Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, Louisa Branch, Louisa, Virginia)  
Michele Fenton (Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana)  
Makiba Foster (Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri)  
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Karen Lemmons (Detroit School of Arts, Detroit, Michigan)  
Kirby McCurtis (Multnomah County Library, Portland, Oregon)  
Kim McNeil-Capers, (Queens Library, Queens, New York)  
Eboni Njoku, (District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, District of Columbia)  
Monya Tomlinson (Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center, Atlanta, Georgia)

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Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D. (Library of Congress, Washington, District of Columbia), Chair



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Selected to Receive 2016 Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grants*



# Dawes to Lead U of Delaware Libraries and Museums

By University of Delaware

Trevor A. Dawes of Washington University in St. Louis has been named May Morris Librarian and vice provost for libraries and museums at the University of Delaware. Dawes, who has been associate university librarian at Washington University since 2013, will take the position effective July 1. This was announced by University of Delaware provost Domenico Grasso.

“Trevor A. Dawes brings a wealth of experience to the University of Delaware,” Grasso said. “He has a distinguished record of professional leadership, service and publication that makes him an excellent choice to shape the future of the university's libraries, museums and press — key assets that lie at the heart of our campus.

"My special thanks go to Sandra Millard for her leadership as interim vice provost and to the search committee, chaired by Dean George Watson, for its work in this national search," Grasso added.

Incoming UD President Dennis Assanis said, "Trevor Dawes has the vision, energy and drive to inspire learning, scholarly inquiry, cultural and artistic interactions and service in an environment dedicated to the open exchange of ideas and information. Under his direction, the University's libraries, museums and press will continue to meet the changing needs and interests of our students, our faculty and our community. I look forward to having him on our leadership team."



“I am absolutely delighted to be joining the University of Delaware family. Everyone with whom I interacted during my campus visit was so warm and welcoming

and made the decision to come to UD an easy one,” Dawes said. “The collections and services that we provide through the libraries, museums and press are designed to inspire and enrich our scholars, and I look forward to working with colleagues from all across campus to ensure the continued success of all our community members.”

Dawes added, “I appreciate very much the University’s deep history of collaboration with the community and welcome the opportunity to further those initiatives through the work of the libraries, museums, and press.”

Dawes will report to the provost and will work closely with administration, faculty and students to provide leadership and resources that enhance research, learning and service at the University.

All of these efforts are aligned in response to the rapidly changing and information-driven academic environment and help promote the global visibility of university programs.

He will oversee the university libraries, including the flagship Morris Library, as well as the University of Delaware Press and University Museums, which includes the Old College and Mechanical Hall art galleries and the Mineralogical Museum in Penny Hall.

At Washington University, Dawes has provided leadership, direction and guidance for scholarly services, diversity and outreach, scholarly

communication, and collections and acquisitions.

Dawes has written and presented extensively on libraries, and is active in library and information services professional organizations. A member of the American Library Association, he was elected a member of the ALA Council, serving through 2018. He is past president of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Dawes is a graduate of Columbia University, with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, and also has master’s degrees from both the Columbia University Teachers College, in educational administration and educational leadership, and Rutgers University, in library sciences.

Dawes was selected following a national search. The search committee was chaired by George Watson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

# Learn About the Coretta Scott King Book Awards

By Dr. Claudette S. McLinn

*Editor's note: The following is an announcement about an ALA 2016 program from a BCALA member. All are encouraged to attend.*

## Everything You Want to Know About the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee: The

Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards are the first and oldest of the ALA awards to recognize/honor diverse books. This session will entail the many accomplishments and resources of the CSK Book Awards Committee. The hour will feature the utilization of CSK websites, study guides, publications, book grant programs, and

award-winning books and will discuss how to be a part of the CSK Book Award jury. Attendees will be invited to share their ideas and experiences.

Saturday, June 25, 2016, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Room: W101A, OCCC (Orange County Convention Center)

# BCALA-FAMU Law program during week of ALA Conference 2016

By Jasmine Simmons, FAMU College of Law Library

Due to the lack of diversity in librarianship, the BCALA Recruitment & Professional Development committee has joined forces with the Florida A&M University College of Law Library in an effort to encourage law students to consider obtaining an MLIS/MLS degree and pursuing careers in law and academic libraries; specifically discussing opportunities in law librarianship. BCALA Recruitment & Professional Development committee’s mission is to educate, and ultimately, recruit minority law students into the field of law librarianship, as they are needed in all parts of the country as well as in many types of law libraries and in different library specialties. Most importantly, this program will spark an alternative career choice for those who do not wish to practice in law but would rather deal with law in a different aspect. We want law students to know that law librarianship can provide them with a comfortable living and it is

definitely a challenging, yet rewarding career path to choose.

**Florida A&M University College of Law Background**

Florida A&M University College of Law (FAMU College of Law) is an ABA-accredited law school in Orlando, FL that was established in 1949. It is part of Florida A&M University, which is located in Tallahassee, FL. Florida A&M University College of Law has a well diverse student body that is 79 percent ethnic minority and 54 percent women. Helping to enrich a law school community where intellectual freedom and self-discovery is indubitably encouraged has made a major impact on 1,000 (and counting) lawyers and leaders since FAMU College of Law reopened its doors in 2002.

In the past five years, FAMU College of Law has produced more African-American lawyers than every other Florida law school combined. Also, just earlier this year, FAMU College of Law ranked fourth

among all Florida law schools for the passage rate on the February 2016 Florida Bar Exam.

**BCALA-FAMU Law Program Details**

The FAMU College of Law library invites all to join library staff and members of BCALA and AALL for a panel discussion on library and information science career opportunities. Discover how you can combine your law degree to accept positions in the more general field of L.I.S. This is a great opportunity for learning and exploring alternative career options that look for candidates with a JD degree. Non- law students are also welcomed to learn more about career options in library and information science.

**Location:** FAMU College of Law, Room #263

**Date:** Monday, June 27th, 2016

**Time:** 2:30-3:30 p.m.

**Speakers:**

**Andrew Jackson**, Executive Director, Queens Library’s Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center and Past President of BCALA



**Yolanda Jones**  
Library Director at FAMU College of Law



**Linda Barrette**  
Acquisitions Librarian/Digital Resources Coordinator at FAMU College of Law



**Sharron Cunningham**  
FAMU College of Law Alum, MLIS Candidate and Library Technical Assistant at FAMU College of Law

**Moderator:**



**Jasmine Simmons**  
MLIS Candidate and Library Technical Assistant at FAMU College of Law

## Andrew Jackson to Deliver Outreach Lecture at ALA

By John L. Amundsen, ALA

Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako), director emeritus of Queens Library’s Langston Hughes Community and Cultural Center, will deliver the 2016 Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture during

ALA’s annual conference in Orlando, FL. The lecture will take place from 8:30 - 10 a.m. on Monday, June 27 in room W206A in the Orange County Convention Center.

Jackson was selected by the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services Advisory Committee in recognition of over 35 years of service and a long record



of commitment to the Queens community as executive director of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center and his leadership in the library profession through many years of active participation in the American Library Association, BCALA, and as an adjunct lecturer at CUNY York College and Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS).

Jackson is a past-president of BCALA and serves as co-chair of ALA's Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration and a member of the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. He also serves as chair of the Queens Borough President's African American Heritage Planning Committee and is a member of the Queens Poet Laureate Committee.

Known for his extensive outreach to schools, libraries, civic organizations, cultural institutions, correctional facilities, churches and colleges, Jackson shares his knowledge and experience as a library consultant/ advisor and mentors graduate students and new librarians across the country. He has received numerous awards and honors for community service, activism, outreach, librarianship, leadership, mentoring, professional achievement and advocacy and is a "distinguished

alumnus" of both of his alma maters, CUNY – Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Science, where he earned his MLS degree, and CUNY-York College, where he received a bachelor of science in business administration.



In recognition of his commitment to Black history and culture, Andrew was given five African names - Sekou-Warrior, Molefi-He Keeps tradition, Baako-first born, Bhekizizwe-Take care of your people, Orbai-Teacher.

A U.S. Air Force veteran (1964-1968), Jackson received The Bronze Star Medal for his service with 4th Air Commando Squadron in Vietnam and was honorably discharged as staff sergeant. He was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.

The lecture series honors Dr. Jean E. Coleman, the first director of the

ALA Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (now the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services) for her leadership in focusing the Association's attention on issues affecting traditionally underserved and underrepresented people in

libraries. For more information, please visit [www.alaannual.org](http://www.alaannual.org).

The Jean E. Coleman Library Outreach Lecture is open to all Annual Conference attendees. This year's event is coordinated by the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee: Mimi Lee, Chair; Nancy L. Baumann, Jane Cronkhite, Heidi M. Daniel, kYmberly Keeton, Sam Leif, Kerri Rosalia, Vikki C. Terrile, Jacqueline Welsh, Lizz Zitron, Amy Laughlin (Intern), and Rebecca Marrall (Intern).

# Sixth Annual James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival

By Kevin Johnson

On Saturday, March 4, 2016 The Friends of the Johnson Branch Community Library Inc., held their sixth annual "James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival". It was held in the park area behind the Enoch Davis Center and James Weldon Johnson Community Library (1059 18th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL). The Library is a part of the City of St. Petersburg Library System, the lead sponsor of the event.



The purpose of the festival is promoting the James Weldon Johnson Community Library and celebrate the life of James Weldon Johnson. He was the first African American to pass the Florida bar exam, and the lyricist who wrote the words to "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The song later became recognized as the "Negro National Anthem." The James Weldon Johnson Festival emphasizes that literacy begins in the family. This event has activi-

ties throughout the day for the whole family. Activities include vendors from businesses and nonprofits, children's book giveaways, inflatables, and a Hulu hoop contest for adults and children.

Government officials such as St. Petersburg deputy mayor Kanika Tomalin, and city council persons Karl Nurse and Steve Kornell were in attendance. A presentation was given on the behalf of Masonic Lodge 109 which is where the library was first housed when it opened in 1947. The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity provided a presentation on the behalf of their late fraternity brother James Weldon Johnson.

Performances were provided by the Lakewood High School jazz ensemble; James Alderman, Frankie Beverly Impersonator; Marques Clark, spoken word poet; St. Petersburg Police Department K - 9 unit; Say La, spoken word poet, and the main library puppeteers provided a puppet show. Shabazz Rogers, Friends member, did a bucket drum circle with the children, and the St. Marks Missionary Baptist Church mimes team performed.

The annual Community Service Award was presented to Kevin W. Johnson, long time vice - president of the Friends, for being one of the founding members and for his willingness to

serve in many capacities, his leadership skills and chairing the literacy festival from its beginning.

The highlight of the day was the "Walk For Reading" annual activity where Friends, parents, children, and community members walk through the neighborhood surrounding the Library to promote literacy in the community.

The Friends of The Johnson Community Library Inc., was formed after a petition drive to save the library in the spring of 1990. Fifteen hundred signatures were collected and the library was saved and remains open. The friends had a larger goal which was the construction of a new library. In 2002 the Friends' dream was realized when a new library was constructed next to the Enoch Davis Center (a local recreation center). The James Weldon Johnson Community Library houses a teen room, computer lab, and meeting rooms. In addition the Friends cosponsor a "Math, Spelling, and a Geography Bee."

For more information about the James Weldon Johnson Literacy

Festival, contact Friends vice - president, BCALA member Mr. Kevin W. Johnson ( Telephone: 727 - 342 - 2235, Email [kevinjohnson5370@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinjohnson5370@yahoo.com), Website [www.fojbl.com](http://www.fojbl.com) )



# Quinby Street Resource Center, Schools and Juvenile Justice Center Selected to Receive 2016 Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grants

By Roland Barksdale-Hall, Quinby Street Resource Center

The Quinby Street Resource Center in Sharon, Penn., the Oklahoma County Juvenile Justice Center in Oklahoma City, OK, Ross Beatty Junior/Senior High School in Cassopolis, MI and the Muncie P3 Program in Muncie, IN have been selected to receive the 2016 Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grants.



Picture from the Things from Our Garden program

Awarded each spring by the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee, the grant program donates books

originally submitted for consideration for the Coretta Scott King Book Awards to organizations and schools in need across the country. The libraries are selected from a field of applicants that demonstrate need and potential benefit from receiving the collection; for this year, the committee split one of the three available awards between two organizations that serve children and young adults respectively. All winners will receive copies of titles submitted to the 2016 Coretta Scott King Book Awards, including a full set of the year’s winner and honor books.

BCALA member Roland Barksdale-Hall is library director of the Quinby Street Resource Center. The Quinby Street Resources Center serves Mercer County Housing Authority residents in Western Pennsylvania, a region hard hit by industrial decline since the 1970s, where two out of ten residents

live below the poverty level. To meet the needs of MCHA residents, Quinby Street’s library collection consists of 4,000 books and 100 multimedia materials along with six computers and a multiservice meeting room. The facility offers community-based programming, including after-school tutoring, teen programming that reaches more than 100 young people a month. The collection supports MCHA Resident Services department’s mission of “Changing Lives Building Brighter Tomorrows.”

The materials from the book donation grant will support the extensive in-house and outreach programming at the Quinby Street Resource Center, which targets youth and their families in the community. Programming highlights include the African American Read-In, nutrition-based Things from Our Garden and Storytelling Extravaganza. During

the 2016 African American Read-In, Gail Muhammad, retired teacher, read football coach Tony Dungy’s inspiration story, “*You Can Do It!*” Youth, who initially thought a zucchini was a large cucumber, were delighted to taste zucchini bread. The youth took zucchini bread recipes home, where parents made this new treat.

Barksdale-Hall dispenses lessons in character development through storytelling. In a recent program he presents to more than 400 youth about their social responsibility at Stambaugh Charter Academy in Youngstown, OH. Young males slap him on his back “well done” upon completion. He discusses the programming and extensive outreach in his chapters, “Collaboration Fits the Bill for Best Practices in Programming to Public Housing Residents” appearing in the anthology, *Library’s Role in Supporting Financial Literacy for Patrons* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016) and “Librarian Writer Supports Courageous Conversation, Critical Multiculturalism and Communal Networks,” in *Library Outreach to Writers and Poets: Interviews and Case Studies* (McFarland and Company, forthcoming).

The Oklahoma County Juvenile Justice Center (OCJJC) is an 80-bed facility in Oklahoma City, OK, used for the short-term secure

placement of delinquent youth in Oklahoma County. OCJJC has made great strides in the development of a library collection to serve the needs of the youth being detained in the OCJJC, but still lacks relevant and current materials that have been selected specifically for the residents of the facility. The residents do not have access to the most relevant and inviting titles that speak to their interests, desires and imaginations. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards donation grant has the potential to reduce the rates of recidivism of the youth in Oklahoma County by providing access to relevant and compelling materials that inspire them to become active and productive members of society.

The book donation grant jury split the remaining award between two school-based programs serving children and young adults.

The Muncie P3 program serves 80 students from kindergarten through third grade who attend Longfellow Elementary School in Muncie, IN. Longfellow serves Muncie’s Whitely community, which is 75 percent African American. Ninety-four percent of Longfellow’s African American students receive free or reduced lunch. Muncie P3 will receive children’s titles through the grant program, which will be made available for students to browse after school, used in daily

read-aloud sessions and weekly tutoring sessions, a civil rights unit and a Read-to-Self program. The titles from the grant will provide Muncie P3 with quality books that reflect the lives and the culture of the students it serves.

The library at Ross Beatty Junior/Senior High School in Cassopolis, MI serves an impoverished, largely rural population. Almost 40 percent of the student body is identified as minority, the majority African-American. While the library is much loved and well-used, school funding issues have prevented the purchase of new materials that are relevant to the community. By receiving young adult titles through the CSK Book Donation Grant, the library will be able to supply Beatty students with stories and characters that they can relate to and identify with.

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are presented annually by the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee of the American Library Association’s Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) to encourage the artistic expression of the African-American experience through literature and the graphic arts. To learn more about the Coretta Scott King Book Donation Grant, please visit [www.ala.org/csk](http://www.ala.org/csk).



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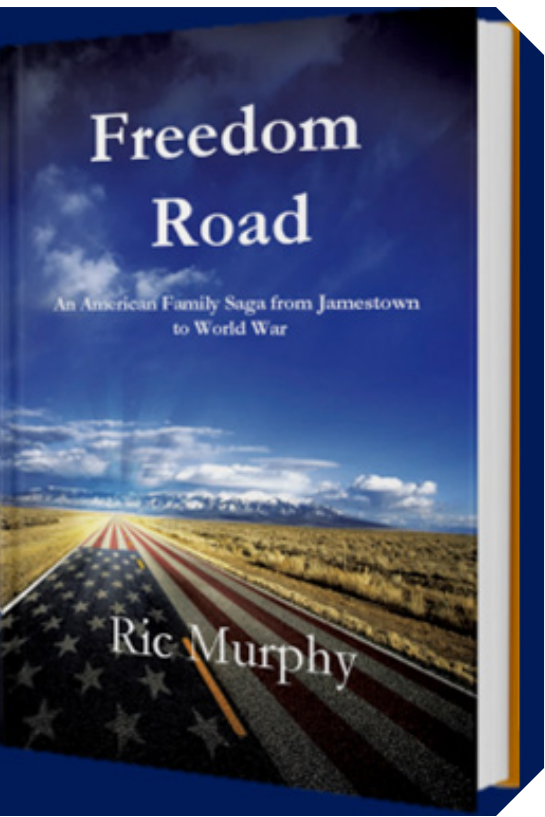
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# Book Review: Freedom Road: An American Family Saga from Jamestown to World War by Ric Murphy

By Michele T. Fenton, Indiana State Library

*Freedom Road: An American Family Saga from Jamestown to World War* by Ric Murphy is an inspiring and well-written historical and genealogical tracing of his ancestors, the Cornwall and Murphy families.



Murphy begins his book with the history of the African slave trade and the colonization of America; and how the Cornwall and Murphy families were a part of this history. He details the Native American, European, and African origins of both families, and the hardships and triumphs they experienced as people of color navigating through life in a land that judged them based on the color of their skin instead of their character and contributions to society which are many.

Reading through several of *Freedom Road's* chapters, one can see two families of strong, courageous people who set their hearts and minds to strive to make life better for themselves and others; to not just settle for the status quo; and to forge ahead despite of the obstacles put before them. Members of the Murphy and Cornwall families were entrepreneurs, inventors, clergymen, educators, landowners, soldiers, sailors, and people of fortitude

and honor. One family member, Lieutenant Colonel Leo Gray, was a Tuskegee Airmen. Another family member, Philip Cornwall, was an inventor who worked with Thomas Edison.

At the end of his book, Murphy provides an extensive bibliography of very valuable and important genealogical and historical sources of information used in researching his ancestral origins including Paul Heinegg's *Free African Americans of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina from the Colonial Period to About 1820* and the *United States Census*. These sources can be of great use to others wishing to research their own families or who just have an interest in genealogy in general.

This is a very well-written, well-documented, and thoroughly researched gem of family history that should be on the shelves of libraries, bookstores, and genealogy researchers everywhere.

# Navigating Around Ideologues in Black Discourse: Takeaways from Speaking to Marc Lamont Hill

By Jason Alston, University of South Carolina

I apologize in advance as this column is going to be largely a collection of jumbled thoughts and not have the polish that I tend to strive for. But this is really a testament to the brilliance and integrity of Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, one of my favorite contemporary Black public intellectuals. I have long observed Hill in the media and on social media, and I also had a chance to speak with him briefly during his visit to the University of South Carolina this past April.

Let me first share my thoughts on why I personally think Hill is so important and such a model for the Black information professional. Hill is one of the people in the Black public discourse that I feel tries to navigate for and shout what he feels is the truth, knowing that sometimes it'll get white people calling him a racist and at other times it'll get Black people calling him a sellout. I believe that if you're a public voice that ticks

everyone off some of the time you're probably doing something right.

This is in sharp contrast to how I feel about two Black public voices that I've seen Hill go up against either on social media or on CNN: Larry Elder and Dr. Boyce Watkins. Elder and Watkins have gone up against Hill from drastically different convictions. Elder is a Black conservative who really seems to be loved and adored by the white Republican audiences he writes for; he's the guy that *Boondocks* creator Aaron McGruder I think accurately describes as the Black man who got rich saying the things white people want Black people to say. Watkins is the polar opposite of Elder, and has made his name off of pro-Black sloganeering and statements about Black empowerment that at times ring hollow, but they play to the base.

It is easy to do Elder and Watkins do. You simply identify the base of

ideologues that you want to cater to and then you avoid departing from the script that you know melts their hearts. It has little to do with being an advocate for the truth and much to do with spinning or omitting information to the point where what you're left with is a whittled perspective that the base appreciates as brave and edgy. Elder never ticks off his loyal base and eagerly awaits another "Attaboy" and pat of his nappy head. Watkins knows that nothing he says will ever get even the most hoteppy, wannabe Black radical to call him a sellout; he wins as long as that's the one criticism that can never be hurled at him (sexist, homophobic or narrow-minded he can recover from).

Hill, as I see it, takes the hard but admirable route, and the route that I hope a lot of us are willing to take as information professionals and, therefore, truth advocates. He doesn't hesitate to challenge white





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conservatives who call him a racist when he declares that systematic racism is an obstacle that Black Americans are still confronting. But he also doesn't back down when Black radicals on Twitter attempt to challenge him on the actual (not legal) innocence or guilt of O.J. Simpson. I believe that when you are standing for truth, you're going to lose some fans or some friends and you're going to alienate some colleagues, possibly in BCALA. But somehow I tend to think that when we make our actual agenda "the truth" as opposed to these more profitable Elder or Watkins-type agendas, we identify real issues and we work to solve them.

**Hill Responds to My Question**

Hill was gracious enough to allow me to ask him a question on record in regards to exchanges that he'd had with Watkins and Elder in the past. One of the first things Hill did when responding to my question about his exchanges with Watkins and Elder was say, "I don't want to presume that because we look at the world differently that they also aren't looking for truth. We can always analyze people's motives, critique them and say 'hey, this feels opportunistic. This feels like you're playing to the cheap seats. This feels like you're trying to get a job...' And there are folks who

say that about me. I would say they're wrong, that's not how I operate. But I'm reluctant to say in general that people are ideologues or are playing to the cheap seats."

I was momentarily stunned by this response, but I needed to be. Hill went on to say that – however naïve it may be – he tends to assume that people operate in good faith. There was a glimmering optimism that came with that system of belief and it caught me off guard since I'm the type of man who sees being realistic as a hopelessly pessimistic position. Hill's approach to traversing Afro-American discourse contained more maturity and less judgment and condemnation than my own. All these years that I have operated with the belief that there are only a few public Black voices interested in telling the truth and confronting and solving problems while everyone else played to a target audience have probably caused me to discard helping hands and positive collaboration from people that I'd written off as playing to some group agenda. And people have assuredly written me off the in the same light. One thing that we as Black people with a vested interest in the success of Black organizations and communities must therefore do is be less inclined to make presumptions on our co-collaborators. And trust, I need to break this habit as

much if not more than anyone else associated with BCALA.

Hill did recall though, a situation where he was discussing an issue on television with someone who made something of a tangential point. After the news segment was over, Hill confronted the person on what they said and the person admitted that they had simply said what they said because they knew Hill would not be able to respond to it. Hill insisted after recalling this situation that he's not doing what he does to win an argument, his motivation is to "promote an idea", a truth, that he feels will make the world better. Hill noted that he does not believe that it is everyone's objective, unfortunately, to spread a truth, but that there are some out there who are merely trying to win a debate and this is frustrating for those who are attempting to promote or discover truths.

Hill also, in answering me, said that he hesitates to call himself a "public intellectual", but said a main challenge as far as being a pundit in the media is the limitations of the space itself. Hill said that spaces for unpacking complicated issues (in the case he was speaking on at the moment, television, but this could apply to columns or Twitter as well) give speakers very limited time to try to tackle a very complicated issue.

Hill's words here clearly illustrate one of the many limits for using television and media-based vehicles for disseminating information regarding complex issues. There's just too much to unpack. There is definitely a feeling among some in society that libraries, museums and cultural heritage institutions are losing, but we can't afford to lose, because we offer the space where these time limitations are minimized. We offer the full length books, the archival papers, the peer-reviewed publications, and the like. We offer the information at its rawest and least-compact form.

Pundits on television are great, but they should serve mostly as the stepping stone in getting people interested and thinking about complex issues. The public should not be allowed to think that the conversation and receipt of information can end there. It can't. The next stop should be our shelves and our resources.

**Other Takeaways from Hill**

Hill spoke to a decent-sized crowd of USC students, staff and faculty during a speech later that day. There were a few takeaways from his general speech to the USC community at large as well that could be of value to BCALA members and to librarians in general.

Perhaps the most pertinent piece for members of BCALA and members of

Black organizations and institutions in general (and I'm a part of a few) was Hill's advice on structure and loyalty to Black organizations. Hill comically talked about how you may get Black organizations on college campuses and there are numerous organizations with thin membership (he jokingly said perhaps just the president and vice-president). With Black organizations specifically, Hill said people seem to like to start organizations versus join organizations, and that people will split Black organizations or leave Black organizations because someone made them mad or their ego was injured.

To say I've seen such happen with my own eyes would be an understatement. Growing up in the Black church, this type of behavior was really something I came to find strange if it was not happening. But I see it within Black Greek Letter Organizations, Black professional organizations, and Black student organizations as well. And it's a touchy subject when discussing BCALA specifically. We are an organization with egos and big personalities. We are an organization with some problems and some things that can be improved. We are an organization that's just flat out stressing sometimes.

And I'm a life member, and have been since age 25, because this is what

we've got. I can be hard to deal with at times, as can probably everyone else in this organization. Many people may have a distaste for me, and that's okay. But I've found a place of contribution within this organization and I stick with it, and if I get mad I don't stay mad. Because if splinter groups for Black librarians form, or people decide that being involved in an organization devoted to Black librarianship is not worth the associated headaches, then we've lost one vehicle to try to affect change for our people as a people. There may be times when people need to take breaks from this or any organization, and there are certainly boundaries that need to be established, lest you lose your health and sanity over something that shouldn't take that from you. But I am still not quite pessimistic enough to not believe that there is a little something for every Black librarian here in this organization. And even if the only contribution that a Black practitioner wants to make to this organization is to say that they'll share our literary award winner list with their institutions and get some titles based on our recommendations for their readers, that's something. And that practitioner has established a boundary that they're willing to work with regarding BCALA and operated within that frame.



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Finally, I think that the course of action that Hill laid out in his speech for social justice minded persons is also the course of action that best serves BCALA if it wants to be an organization of wise action. Hill said that to affect change, people must first listen. After listening, people must discern wisely and ask the right questions. Finally, once the right questions have been asked, people must “act bravely and do something.” I do honestly perceive this three-prong approach as a challenge for this organization for many reasons that we don’t have space to unpack here. But I know

that we lose people in each of these three steps. Have we always listened to one another or were we quick to just advance our own truth, or maybe our own agenda? Did we always ask the right questions before making a move or did we just attempt to “act bravely and do something” before we attempted to gather the right information and analyze the situation we wanted to tackle? And did we always act bravely, or have we at times been scared to rock the boat?

When I look at some other Black professional organizations, I honestly do see more pointed action. The

National Bar Association seemed unafraid of rocking boats when discussing the Michael Brown situation, for instance. And even in the ranks of librarianship, some other organizations are really putting their feet to the fire. The Association of Library Services to Children took a no-holds barred approach when they cancelled their Charlotte conference in response to controversial House Bill 2. This sort of action could be us. I’d say it should be us. But it could only work if our leadership is empowered to follow Hill’s three-prong approach.

to extend the message conveyed by the text, then you have a winner. *Bad Hair Does Not Exist! = iPelo Malo Ne Existe!* by Sulma Arzu-Brown, with illustrations by Isidra Sabio, is certainly a winner!

The reader is first captured by the beautiful and refreshing book cover showing Black girls and women representing diverse professions and recreational activities. The different skin color pigmentation and natural hairstyles of the women and girls in Isidra Sabio’s illustrations delight the eye and the spirit because they unabashedly show the beauty of Black females.

In an article titled “‘Combing’ through representations of Black girls’ hair in African American children’s literature,” Brooks and McNair (2015) contextualize scholarship on how Black hair is theorized in children’s literature by using Black Feminist frameworks to situate their analysis of picturebooks that represent Black hair. They write about the positive impact that “African American children’s literature [can have on] young people, particularly girls, [to] view themselves as beautiful ... through books ... that celebrate and affirm the normalcy of Black hair” (p. 300). *Bad Hair Does Not Exist! = iPelo Malo Ne Existe!* supports this aim to normalize and affirm Black hair.

Each panel features a pair of either girls or women with different hairstyles. In roll call fashion, Arzu-Brown lists the array of hair types: curly, straight, short, long, combed, tousled, red, blond, white, black, afro, Mohawk, loose, braided, deadlocked, wavy. Sabio’s illustrations come to life to communicate more than just hair descriptions. In the pairings we see inter-generational women sharing family knowledge by cooking together, girls in the arts singing, dancing, and creating music, doctors and nurses in pair, mothers and daughters, princesses and superheroines, athletes, and scientists, and girls decked out in Sunday best. Sabio’s use of color, tone and line are visually appealing and draw the reader’s eye to the details of the characters hair, dress, and expressions.

Moreover, the intentionality of embracing Afro-Latinas is communicated in the Spanish-English bilingual pairings of each sentence construction. The bilingual pairing is also right on the mark in its structure so that the Spanish is well translated and not text-heavy as some bilingual picturebook sometimes do.

In reading *Bad Hair Does Not Exist! = iPelo Malo Ne Existe!*, I was reminded of the groundbreaking contributions of The Brownies Book, a children’s magazine that grew from authors and journalist writing in The Crisis, the official magazine of the National



Association for the Advancement of colored People in the early 20th century. W.E.B. DuBois, along with Professor Augustus Granville Dill, and the influential literary editor, Jessie Fauset, had a vision for The Brownies Book to serve as a vehicle for teaching African-American children about their heritage and the rich history of achievements of African-American people, and the accomplishments of everyday African-American youth. The pages in The Brownies Book also served as a mechanism for countering the corrosive effect racism can have on young Black and Brown people by instilling cultural pride and self-love, as well as inscribing messages of resilience in the poetry, stories,

# Book Review: Bad Hair Does Not Exist! = iPelo Malo No Existe!

By Lettycia Terrones, Cal State Fullerton, REFORMA Los Angeles

## Book Information

Title: *Bad Hair Does Not Exist! = Pelo Malo No Existe!*

Author: Sulma Arzu-Brown

Illustrator: Isidra Sabio

ISBN: 9780988824065

Recommended level: PreK-1st grade

Collection: Recommended for public libraries, school district literacy centers, curriculum materials and teacher preparation collections

The old adage of not judging a book by its cover often stands on its head when it comes to children’s literature. Especially when evaluating

picturebooks, attention to illustration and its ability to enhance the narrative is a crucial marker of quality. It can make or break a book. When a picture

book can tell a story primarily through pictures, and when those pictures not only complement the words in the story, but add a deeper dimension





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artwork, biographies, and true stories showing African-American children as knowledge-makers.

In the context of *Bad Hair Does Not Exist!* = *iPelo Malo Ne Existe!*, it is important to note that W.E.B. DuBois is often called the “Father of Pan-Africanism” for his work and commitment to championing Black equality on a global scale. As noted in the introduction to her book, Sulma Arzu-Brown was inspired to write *Bad Hair Does Not Exist!* = *iPelo Malo Ne Existe!* as an act of resistant resilience against the messages of “pelo malo” or “bad hair” to describe the natural

hair texture of Afro-descent girls. She intends this book to be a “tool of empowerment for all little girls who are Black, Afro-descendent, Afro-Latinas and Garifuna ... [to instill] the values of love, beauty, intelligence, empowerment and consideration for the feelings of others.” *Bad Hair Does Not Exist!* = *iPelo Malo Ne Existe!* can be a tool of empowerment for adults as well.

Librarians and educators are increasingly voicing the need for diverse children’s literature. We are inspired by Marley Dias’s list of 1000+ books featuring and affirming the

beauty and value of Black girls. We champion the work of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature. We cite the Children’s Cooperative Book Center annual statistics on multicultural children’s literature to call out the disparity of culturally relevant children’s literature and the production of this literature by artists and writers of color. We can also support the “We Need Diverse Books” movement by reading *Bad Hair Does Not Exist!* = *iPelo Malo Ne Existe!* in our public library storytime programs and in our classrooms.

that, he kept informative notes describing the long and difficult journey from New London to the tiny island of Bence in Sierra Leone. He wrote of his fears, his thoughts and of other ship captains he met. Dudley traded mainly for fresh water, wood and slaves.

Connecticut was a major provider to the British West Indies plantations where slaves worked on sugar cane plantations. Other slave ships traded what they got from Africa to the West Indies and South America. English slave ships traveled to many ports but mainly brought items to countries in Europe and other colonies ruled by England.

Dudley made at least three trips to Sierra Leone. One of the trips he was captured and his ship and cargo were seized. He was very distressed and was worried about his father’s reaction to the news. He was able to send word to his father through another ship captain and months later he finally made it home to give his father full details of the situation. Often the life of a slave ship captain was very hard in dealing with other ship captains from other countries and with African leaders who would sometimes capture the captain and his crew.

The author read the logbooks and visited the island of Bence several times. After each visit she seemed to discover more about the slave trade. She asked local residents of nearby areas near Bence to give her a tour of the tiny island and listen to the accounts from African elders who claimed to know something about the trade from oral accounts. Standing in the ruins of the forts she imagined the many men, women and children who were held captive in tiny cells, denied basic necessities and treated horribly. She imagined the fear the adults felt of not knowing what their future held for them; being surrounded by strange men speaking a strange language; she imagined the fear of children being separated from their parents and other family members and crying out; then the walk from the fort to the canoes then board the waiting ships. Dudley described the holding area on the ships for the captives as being cramped and unsanitary. Captives lay for days in their own excrements and were not allow to exercise, get fresh air or water, and because of these conditions many men, women and children became violently sick and died.

The labor of captive human beings was very important not only in

Connecticut but all over the world. They were part of the fabric of everyday life in the local businesses, in the fields and in the homes, it was necessary and legal. It was not so much about human equality but about labor.

In the early 17th century the lifestyle was very different from what it is now in 21st century America. The interpretation of the legal system during the early period of a very young nation was centered on agriculture and freedom from the reins of England. Oppressing others, benefiting off of others financially and politically, and denying equal opportunities because of the color of your skin is never right. These past acts must hold solutions. Accomplishments and other achievements must be shared with future generations. The history must never be forgotten or hidden. We must be guardians of our past, present and future and document it for others.

# Reflections About Logbooks

Vivian Bordeaux, Bridgeport (Conn.) Public Library

This is not a book review just a sharing of a book I found to be very interesting about historic Connecticut and slave ships. “The Logbooks: Connecticut’s Slave Ships and Human Memory” by Anne Farrow describes what she considers the forgotten history of Connecticut slave ships and comparing that with the forgotten past of her mother’s life. Her mother’s memory loss deeply impacted her and her siblings and the past life they shared and now their future. She writes that memory loss removes all of our pasts

and we cannot remember family members or things that we hold dear. Almost like parts of history that were never written down or talked about by scholars. Forgotten history that affects how society views African Americans and how we view ourselves. Farrow’s account of her mother’s dementia was very compassionate and I believe showed the painful realization of not being recognized by her mother.

The logbooks written in 1757 by Dudley Saltonstall describe

the voyages his father Gurdon Saltonstall, a wealthy New London, Conn. merchant who was involved in the Atlantic slave trade business, commissioned him to make. The Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut harbors had many ships leaving for the west coast of Africa for materials the colonies needed including captive individuals. Wealthy businessmen and political leaders, pillars of society were traders in captive humans. Dudley Saltonstall wanted to protect his father’s investments and, in doing

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# Personal Perspective on the Library of Congress Confirmation Hearings

Rose Timmons Dawson, Alexandria (Va) Library

*“Good for her! She is so deserving of this honor. I am so proud of my President”.* These were my thoughts on February 24, 2016 when emails from ALA Council and BCALA came flying into my inbox concerning President Obama nominating Dr. Carla Hayden as the next Librarian of Congress. While I am normally a person with a “glass half-full” attitude, I did wonder if the Senate would take their time in scheduling the confirmation hearings.

*“I have got to be there!”* This was my initial reaction on April 9, when reading an email that announced Dr. Hayden’s confirmation hearing before the Senate Rules Committee as Wednesday, April 20, at 2:15 p.m. Assuming that I needed to have some clout to gain entry into this process, I quickly went into reference librarian mode. I contacted the offices of Senator Mark Warner, my senator from Virginia. Initially, his staffer expressed surprise that I thought I needed to reserve a seat. He kindly informed me that, while a reservation was not necessary, he did encourage me to arrive 30-40

minutes early. He also offered their office location in case I experienced any difficulties. Now I simply needed to adjust my schedule. Torn between commitments already on my calendar, I debated whether I should reschedule those meetings in order to attend this historic event. Thanks to my staff, this actually involved no decision. They volunteered to represent me at the scheduled meetings, affording me the opportunity to attend the hearings.

*“I’m getting ready to witness the confirmation hearings of the next Librarian of Congress!”* I stood in the hall of the Senate Russell Building outside room 301 where the confirmation hearing was to take place. One gentleman tried to enter but the door appeared to be locked. A minute later, someone walked out of the room and the gentleman was able to open the door widely, allowing me a chance to step through. While I noticed the room had chandeliers, it really was your typical hearing room. It had the dais where the senators would sit; a table in the middle of the room where Dr. Hayden would sit; and approximately 100 chairs behind

the table for audience. Scanning the room, I located Larra Clark from the ALA Washington Office. I made a beeline to where she was sitting. There were approximately 20 people in the room waiting for the hearing to begin. Larra and I discussed Office of Information Technology Policy matters while we waited.

*“Why was I nervous?”* It’s not like I was in the hot seat. But, I wanted this so badly for her...the profession...for us. I made a quick trip to the restroom to kill some time but there were still 25 more minutes before the hearing would begin. Dr. Richard Bradberry posted on the BCALA website the link to watch the hearings. I responded that I was “sitting in the Russell (B) uilding with approximately 30 others waiting for things to begin.” It then occurred to me that despite the official photographers in the room, a few pictures to look back on would not be a bad idea.

*“Excuse me, I’m Rose Dawson from the Alexandria Library and I was wondering if I couldn’t take your picture for the BCALA newsletter?”*

This made what I was doing feel more official. Thanks to several members of the Enoch Pratt Library Board, Pratt staff, and Library of Congress staff, things all began to feel so real. Before I could send the pictures out to the listserv, the moment we all had been waiting for arrived. Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD) walked in greeting people. It came as no surprise that she was going to introduce Carla. She was then followed by Senator Ben Cardin and former senator Paul Sarbanes. At that time, you see Carla’s mom, the woman of the hour, and several other senators. Once the chairman, Senator

Roy Blunt, explains why we are here, I send up a silent prayer that it will all go smoothly.

*“Don’t be nervous”.* This was the telepathic message I was sending Carla. She is so soft-spoken; initially I have trouble hearing her voice. No worries. At this point, her answers carry throughout the room. That’s better. While several senators from the dais ask questions, they don’t appear to be an unfriendly bunch. The primary focus appears to concern technology, Congressional Research Services, and copyright issues. She is definitely prepared.

*“It’s over!”* As I watch Blunt come down from the dais to talk with Carla, I return to reporter mode and move to get a few more pictures. I am fortunate enough to eventually get a hug and photo with Carla and her mom. I am a firm believer that when something is meant to be, it is meant to be. Dr. Carla Hayden as the 14th Librarian of Congress? Without a doubt, definitely meant to be.

*Editor’s note:* the U.S. Senate had not made its decision of whether or not to confirm Hayden by press time.

# Youth Corner: A Booklist You Can't Miss

Kirby McCurtis, Youth Librarian, Multnomah County (OR) Library



Amy Cheney is a librarian and an advocate for underserved youth. She started the “In the Margins” booklist a number of years ago, when she was a librarian at the Alameda County Juvenile Hall in San Leandro, California, based on books that teens serving time loved. The booklist has since evolved into an award, and the 2016 winners were announced in March. Although I don’t work as a librarian in a jail or prison, I am a public librarian, and I often find

myself recommending titles from the booklist and putting in purchase requests to our system selector. These books are about real issues in our community—featuring real people or authentic characters. I interviewed Amy to learn a bit more about the booklist and the award, and what titles she recommends.

**KM:** How did “Into the Margins” booklist get started?  
**AC:** I was working in a lockdown



facility, where, as most everyone of color knows, there are disproportionate numbers of Black and brown youth locked up. “In the Margins” is a booklist - and now award - that began when my teens had read everything on my shelves and were desperate for more books. I’d get boxes of books from the big publishers with the newest titles in them with all the buzz in the library world and there might be one or two books in the box that my teens would read - if I were lucky. “In the Margins” has been an amazing project, most importantly because it’s brought new reading materials to the kids around the country. It’s brought incredibly valuable self published and small press books to the national arena, one that even won the Alex Award! (*Juvenile in Justice by Richard Ross*).

**KM:** What books were the winners this year?

**AC:** The announcement of our top ten and newest list can be found here: [http://www.slj.com/2016/03/books-media/the-2016-in-the-margins-book-awards-are-unveiled/#\\_](http://www.slj.com/2016/03/books-media/the-2016-in-the-margins-book-awards-are-unveiled/#_)

When our top fiction choice for 2016 emerged (Tattooed Teardrops by P.D. Workman), we all laughed and tried to make it not so. Workman is white, but her books touch upon street life and marginalized life in a way that makes these books a top read for kids of all colors in the margins. A prolific writer,

Workman is uneven in her offerings. Some of her books our kids LOVE and others are complete duds. But as most kids who find a writer they like, they read everything she puts forth, the good books and not so good ones a topic of debate among them. What more could a librarian want? Her books are kind of the best and worst of self published titles: they are crammed full of every scenario our kids are involved in and need editing... yet the fact that so much they can relate to is in the book makes them completely relevant. I love our list because the titles that really aren’t so good don’t make it onto our list, but the ones that get the kids going rise to the top.

**KM:** What are your favorite titles?

**AC:** I personally am most proud of the many self published memoirs on the list by people of color. Some of my favorites from this year are: Tewhan Butler’s *America’s Massacre* and Tony Lewis’ *Slugg: A Boy’s Life*. Each offer so much that I haven’t seen written about in a way that is validated by mainstream publishing. From past years, Pacc Butler’s *From God’s Monster to the Devil’s Angel* is terrific, as is Rayshawn Wilson’s *Lionheart: Coming from Where I’m From*.

**K M:** Other great titles that you would recommend?

**AC:** The other day I was walking down a hallway in a San Francisco high school and I saw an older Black

woman carrying Ebony Canion’s book *Left for Dead*. We stopped to chat and the woman was so excited about this book and how fantastic the book was. The librarian at the school purchased all the “In the Margins” award titles - which is why it was available on the shelf for this woman to find. THAT was deeply satisfying.

I was recently at a party and saw Marilyn Jones, the author of *From Crack to College and Vice Versa*. I hope she’ll get out in front of audiences and tell her story, so beautifully written in her memoir. And, for an inside tip, *Being Bad: My Baby Brother and the School-to-Prison Pipeline* by Crystal Laura was a contender for our top award this year.

**KM:** Are you looking for new committee members?

**AC:** “In the Margins” is struggling a bit to find a home, and we love having new committee members to lurk, suggest titles, and take on leadership roles in following years. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Find Amy online at: <https://writetoreadbooks.wordpress.com/>

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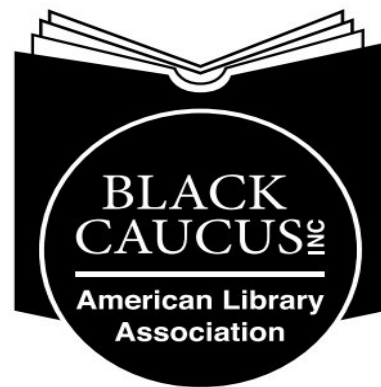
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