

BCALANEWS

Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc.



BCALA Founder, the late Dr. E.J. Josey (middle) listens to late civil rights icon Westley Wallace "W.W."

Law (left) while an unidentified man looks on in an undated photo. Unearthed in a Savannah, GA. Archival collection were a collection of correspondences revealing a mutual respect between Josey and Law. W.W. Law project archivist Sauda Mitchell explains more in this issue of BCALA news!



The Best of Contemporary African-American Literature on Audio!

THE FIRE THIS TIME

National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America, *The Fire Next Time*, as a jumping off point for this avant-garde collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time.

★ "Readers in search of conversations about race in America should start here."
— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ "An absolutely indispensable anthology."
— *Booklist* (starred review)

"Timely contributions to an urgent national conversation."
— *Kirkus Reviews*

"Groundbreaking."
— *Library Journal*



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Dear BCALA Members,

The Holiday Season can be a wonderful time of the year. For me it is a special time of traditions and spending time with family. As an organization, it is a time to reflect on those we've lost and the service they rendered to our profession, to celebrate our accomplishments and to recommit our energies to preserving the legacy of BCALA for future generations.

As we look to the future, our goal is to put the strategic plan into action while simultaneously working on our internal infrastructure to strengthen the organization from the inside out. The Executive Board, committee chairs and I have been hard at work, and with your support, we are ready to:

- develop strategies to give the BCALA a stronger voice with a greater presence on the local, state, national and global level,
- engage librarians from every generation and geographic location,
- ensure that recruitment & retention remain top priorities,
- establish and maintain strong lines of communication,
- fortify our governing documents,

- galvanize our financial resources,
- improve our record keeping
- launch unique and sustaining fundraising initiatives,
- polish the public image and perception of the association,
- update the website.

I challenge you to think of ways you can give back to the BCALA to whatever degree you are comfortable. There are many ways to give back, from mentoring to volunteering time, serving on a committee to running for elected office/board member, organizing an affiliate chapter to joining your local affiliate chapter. You'll be amazed at how rewarding your experience will be. Remember, **TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE.**

I am honored to serve as your president and look forward to working with you and for you as we write the next chapter of the BCALA story. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have comments or suggestions at deebmw@yahoo.com

Best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Happiness.



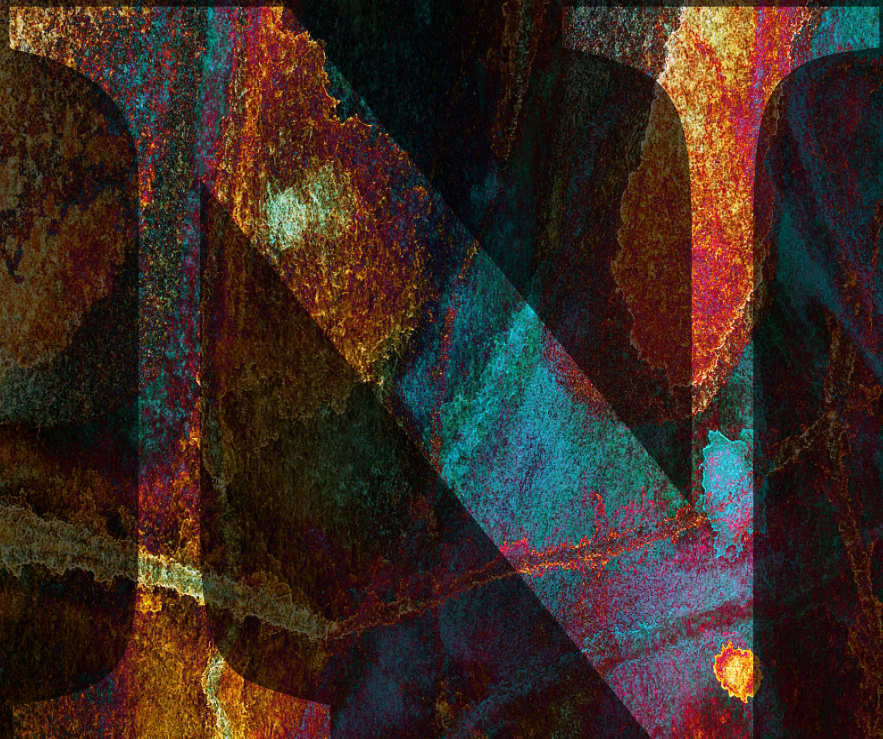
Denyvetta Davis,
President, BCALA
2016 - 2018



TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE MORE.

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N E W S





The Black Caucus of the American Library Association Seeks Best African American Self-Published Authors

(October 26, 2016) Charleston, SC — The Black Caucus of the ALA (BCALA) is proud to announce the second annual contest for the BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Awards. As with last year’s contest, awards will honor the best self-published ebooks in adult fiction and adult poetry by African American authors in the U.S.

More than a writing competition, the BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Awards represent a unique opportunity to recognize diverse authors and books. The contest also encourages indie authors to grow local readerships and to build meaningful partnerships within libraries and communities. Besides being entered to win the contest, every author who submits their writing will have an opportunity to make their ebooks available to library patrons in their state through the SELF-e program.

EACH GENRE PRIZE WINNER WILL RECEIVE:

- \$500 Cash Prize
- Formal recognition at the Black Caucus of the ALA Literary Awards and the ALA Annual Conference
- A book review by Library Journal
- BCALA Literary Award Seal to use in marketing

As an organization that has championed African American librarians and literature for over 45 years, the BCALA is looking forward to a second year of the awards, which serve to highlight diversity among authors as well as their publishing methods. “This year’s EBook competition promises to be just as rewarding as last year’s,” says BCALA president Gladys Smiley Bell. “The BCALA Ebook committee is committed to honoring African American authors who self-publish works of outstanding fiction and poetry. We are proud to be part of the collaboration with BiblioLabs to reward and bring attention to this format of literature.” Chief Operating Officer of Queens Library and past BCALA president Kelvin Watson echoes Bell’s sentiments, saying that, “BCALA is proud to be a leader in bringing more diverse voices into our world.”

The BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Awards submission period will begin in October 2016 and extend until February 17, 2017. Final selections will go to a BCALA-appointed panel, which will then select the winners of the fiction and poetry awards. Winners will be announced in March 2017, then formally recognized at the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Visit <https://bcala.librariescreate.com/bcala2016/> to learn more about the contest.

ABOUT LAST YEAR’S AWARDS:

Last year’s awards, won by L. Penelope and King Shakur for fiction and poetry, respectively, were noteworthy because, in addition to honoring Mother Emanuel Church victim and librarian Cynthia Hurd, they were also the first awards from the Black Caucus to recognize both digital content and self-published work.

“Winning the first BCALA Self-Publishing Ebook Award was an incredible honor,” says Penelope. “All writers seek an audience to resonate with their work, and recognition from a group of librarians is immensely meaningful. My book is now available in hundreds of libraries across the country. New readers are able to discover my work — which is the ultimate goal of any author.” In addition to reaching new readers through SELF-e, Penelope was also able to connect with and offer advice to thousands of indie authors when she was a featured panelist at the inaugural Indie Author Day event on October 8, 2016. She was also a featured presenter at the 2016 Balticon in Maryland, where she resides.

Indiana Librarians Enjoy Professional Development Workshops

Submitted by Connie Scott, Indiana Tech, McMillen Library

IBLN (Indiana Black Librarian Network) is alive and thriving across the state of Indiana. Members and friends attended professional development workshops, learned about IBLN and BCALA. Nichelle Hayes, of Indianapolis Public Library, presented “Genealogy Research-Overcoming Many Common Obstacles by Using Efficient Techniques.” She shared her personal journey of documenting family history. Kimberly Brown Harden, Indiana State Library, gave practical tips on leadership with an interactive program on “Workplace Survivor-Finding Your Inner Strength to Survive Challenging Co-Workers.” Finally, Michele Fenton, Little Known Black Librarian Facts blogger, shared a unique way to participate in conferences with “Hey, You Wanna Be a Showoff? Do a Poster Session!!!” Retired librarian and former president of IBLN, Marcia Smith-Woodard was also present to encourage the group to fully own their diversity of gifts and talents-even in the face of opposition.

It was also a pleasure to have Jamillah Gabriel, Purdue Black Cultural Center, introduce her Black Literature monthly subscription box “Call Number.” Current officers for 2016-18 are Connie Scott, president; Shanika Heyward, vice president; Nichelle M. Hayes, treasurer and Cassaundra Day, secretary. Tiffani Carter is membership chair. Michele Fenton is program chair.





BCALA Atlanta

ALA Midwinter January 20-24, 2017
Westin Peachtree Hotel

Thursday, January 19, 2017

BCALA New Executive Board Members Orientation

1/19/2017 – 3:00 PM-4:00 PM
OMNI-Cottonwood

BCALA Executive Board Retreat

1/19/2017 – 4:30 PM-6:30 PM
OMNI-Cottonwood

Friday, January 20, 2017

BCALA Executive Board Meeting

1/20/2017 – 8:30 AM-1:00 PM
Westin-Ansley Room 1

BCALA Joint Committee Meeting

(Membership, Professional Development/Recruitment and Affiliates Committees)
1/20/2017 – 1:00 PM-2:00 PM
Westin-Ansley Room 4

BCALA Dr. E .J. Josey Scholarship Committee

1/20/2017 – 2:00 PM-3:00 PM
Westin-Ansley Room 3

BCALA International Relations Committee

1/20/2017 – 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM
Westin-Ansley Room 2

BCALA Literacy Awards Committee Meeting

1/20/2017 – 8:00 PM-10:00 PM
Westin-Ansley Room 1

Saturday, January 21, 2017

BCALA Membership Committee Meeting

1/21/2017 – 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Westin-Piedmont Room 8

BCALA Affiliates Committee Meeting

1/21/2017 – 10:30 AM-11:30 AM
Westin-Ansley Room 8

NCAAL X Conference Planning Meeting (BCALA)

1/21/2017 – 1:00 PM-2:30 PM
Westin-Augusta Ballroom E

**The Hospitality Suite will be located in the Westin - Georgia Suite*

Hours:
Thursday - Saturday
9:30pm - 12:00am

Sunday
10:30pm - 12:00am

Available for small group meetings upon request

BCALA Literary Awards Committee Meeting

1/21/2017 – 2:00 PM-5:00 PM
Westin-Ansley Room 6

Sunday, January 22, 2017

BCALA Professional Development or Recruitment Committee Meeting

1/22/2017 – 10:30 AM-11:30 AM
Westin-Piedmont Room 4

BCALA New Members Meet and Greet

1/22/2017 – 6:45 PM-7:15 PM
Westin-Augusta Room 1

BCALA Membership Meeting

1/22/2017 – 7:00 PM-10:30 PM
Westin-Augusta Room 1

Monday, January 23, 2017

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observances and Sunrise Celebration

1/23/2017 – 6:30am - 7:30am
GWCC-B302-B305

Room locations may be subject to change. Please check with BCALA leadership for updates to room assignments. These were accurate as of November 15th, 2016.

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

“Lawyers in Libraries”— FAMU Law Program Report

By Jasmine Simmons, FAMU

During the summer of 2016, the “*Lawyers in Libraries*” program was held at the FAMU College of Law School in Orlando, Florida. “*Lawyers in Libraries*” was a panel discussion designed to encourage law students of color to consider obtaining an MLIS/MLS degree and to pursue careers working in law & academic libraries. This program was created and moderated by Jasmine Simmons, who is a library technical assistant at the FAMU College of Law and a second year MLIS student at the University of

South Florida. The panelists, which three are also employed at the FAMU College of Law, included: Yolanda Jones (*library director*), Sharron Cunningham (*library technical assistant/ second year MLIS student at USF*), Linda Barrette (*acquisitions and digital resources librarian*) and special guest, Andrew Jackson (*Director Emeritus of Queens Library and BCALA past president*).

Eighteen faculty, staff and students attended the program “*in-person*”.

Attendees had the pleasure of listening to four library professionals share their experience as well as offer excellent career advice and insight about alternative juris doctor careers in the L.I.S. field. In addition, attendees were given a folder with informational pamphlets from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the American Association of Law Libraries that provided details on available scholarships for attending library school and membership information. In addition, we provided attendees with a copy of the “*Lawyers in Libraries*” promotional flyer that included a list of links, placed on the back of the flyer, on how to work at a library; types of law libraries, education requirements; law library career information; assistance and additional scholarships.

A particularly interesting aspect of this program was that many of the students who attended actually had a strong interest in learning more about library and information science careers despite their strong interest in law. There were a few





students that attended, whose career interest were in clerkship and becoming a caseworker. Towards the end of the program, several attendees voiced their amazement at the option they have to apply their J.D. degree in the L.I.S. field. Even the professors who attended loved the concept of their students combining knowledge of the law with the knowledge of library science. Furthermore, the panelist presented a very diverse and informative discussion about careers in law librarianship and the audience seemed to have benefited greatly, just based on the amount of questions they asked during the Q&A session. Our hope is that many of them will consider the field of law librarianship as a career choice in the future.



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Grand People Our Children Love

By Roland Barksdale-Hall, Library Director, Quinby Street Resource Center

During the Grandparent’s Day Celebration Roland Barksdale-Hall was the griot at several public housing events. The aim of the programming was to recognize the significant role of Grand Families. Grandparents Day is commemorated in September on the Sunday following Labor Day.

“Do you have any special person you love?” He asked youth.

Playgroup youth took delight taking turns sharing. Their hands went up quickly, followed by a chorus: “Nana, Pop Pop, Pap, Grandma.” They discussed what fun activities they did together with grandparents and what special dishes their grandparents made. Preschoolers enjoyed guessing what the next ingredient was to go into the cake when Barksdale-Hall read “My Pop Pop and Me” by Irene Smalls. The afterschool groups enjoyed a romp with “How To Babysit A Grandpa” by Jean Reagan.

“Would you like to make a special person you love a gift?” Youth all nodded their heads “yes.” Youth enjoyed making heirloom holiday projects.

Tisha Short, a member of the AmeriCorps at the Quinby Street Resource Center Library, was the art teacher. For safety purposes we chose to limit children’s contact with hot glue gun and make the frames. The frames were created two weeks before the program. Youth poured a lot of love and attention into decorating popsicle-stick picture frame houses.

Materials for the lesson on Grand Families included: “How To Babysit A Grandpa” by Jean Reagan; “My Pop Pop and Me” by Irene Smalls; camera; scissors; hot glue gun; Elmer’s glue; box of popsicle sticks; bag of neon feathers; star, circle shapes; 75 chenille stems; 40 tinsel stems; 65 pom poms; 20 wiggle eyes; wacky scented markers; glitter glue; tortillas; salsa.

Children got excited about seeing the final project. We needed to remove the wet frames from children’s reach to dry. The frames youth decorated required a day or two to dry.

“I am going to give this to my Dad.” A youth stuck out his chest.

Youth selected a special person they loved in their family to give a designer heirloom gift.

An open house was scheduled the week of Grandparents Day. Invitations to an Open House Celebrating Grand Families were distributed to families. There the family members received their surprise gifts. A professional photo of each child was taken and added to the picture frame.

The lesson on Grand Families surpassed our wildest dreams. The initial goal was to recognize the role of Grand Families. Our volunteers were touched by what they experienced and noted the significance to family unity of this library outreach project. Grandma, Pop Pop, Mom and Dad were overjoyed with what they witnessed. Youth too, enjoyed a valuable lesson about love and showing appreciation. The special gifts from the heart are found by bedsides and in curios reminding: There is no greater love than when we stand tall and stoop to uplift our children.

YOUTH CORNER: STEAM Storytimes

By Jessica Anne Bratt, Grand Rapids (Mi) Public Library

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(Editor’s note: This is the latest installment in our recurring “Youth Corner” column series)

It is important to me that kids have a good memory of the library and are excited to come back. I have had parents say that their child looks forward to coming each week to learn something new. Our parents and caregivers are invited to bring their preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, to classes featuring literacy-rich activities such as: interactive storytelling using puppets, dramatic play, and

hands-on fun. Related songs, finger-plays, and activities are interspersed between books. Classes end with a fun and creative art activity.

My branch, Yankee Clipper, has a STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math*) focused storytime. Each week we have a different STEAM topic. Some past topics have been: the human body, engineering, simple machines, sound, counting and measuring, and color science. I use multiple resources to craft a storytime. A few guides I use are as follows: STEAM in Libraries <https://steminlibraries.com/> and The Show Me Librarian

<http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/p/all-things-steam.html>. The first resource was a program titled, “52 weeks of STEM” at the 2016 Public Library Association Conference in Denver, Colorado. The second resource was featured in the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) blog.

STEM in Libraries did a great presentation of how they incorporated simple science experiments for all age groups into their library programming. Their website will take you through ideas, costs, storytime songs, and rhymes that are all STEAM-related. The best thing



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about their site is that everything can be modified and tailored to however you plan your storytime. The second resource, *The Show Me Librarian*, featured a wealth of preschool science ideas with hand-outs, feedback, and templates. I feel the best part about these resources are they have all been done before at libraries, including feedback of what went well and what could have gone better.

For example, I took STEM in Libraries Science preschool storytime examples and planned out this fall's STEAM sessions which run from September - November. One of my most popular sessions has been "*The Body*". Featured with this story is a picture of a sensory tub filled with red water beads to showcase red blood cells, white ping pong balls for white blood cells, and small pieces of red coffee tubes cut to resemble platelets. Caregivers got to explain to their children how their

body works, and I even got a doctor's approval! A doctor who attended my storytime with her child came up to me afterward and said she thought this was one of the best science lessons she has attended on the human body. She came back to the next session, explaining that her child went home to talk to her father (*the only Black heart surgeon in my city*) about everything she learned.

Another storytime that was a huge success was observation science. It was based off the idea of *The Show Me Librarian* <http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com/p/all-things-steam.html> and slightly modified. I had a station where children wrote things they observed, an animal print station, and a pond walk. We had magnifying glasses where kids could pick up things from the pond and see if they could notice a difference by viewing the object up close. We also had maps on the table

where caretakers helped kids figure out where they could find these objects. I filled a sensory bin with shells, Michigan rocks, plastic fish, and other pond creatures.

My library is filled with a beautiful blend of refugees and others who have recently come to our nation, first generation Americans all who have small children. Providing them with STEAM opportunities has been great to explore science with their child (*including art*) and make them view the library as a valuable resource in the community. Caretakers have let me know that they do not have sufficient money to take their kids to cultural institutions and pay for these opportunities. One woman remarked that she drives across town to take her kids to these sessions because it was worth it to her to see how much they are learning in an hour. Please let me know if you are using STEAM based activities in your storytime, I would love to see what you are doing! Find me on Twitter [@whimsylibrarian](https://twitter.com/whimsylibrarian).

Cornucopia of Rhode Island

By Ida D. McGhee, Co-Founder Cornucopia of Rhode Island

Cornucopia of Rhode Island: A Library Community of Color (CORI) celebrated their 10th anniversary on Thursday, September 15th at the Community College of Rhode Island. Although it is really 11 years that we have been in existence, CORI did not celebrate their 10th anniversary and therefore decided to do so this year.

I retired in 2003 from the Hartford Public Library (Connecticut) as head of the Library on Wheels department and relocated to Rhode Island. Once settled in, I decided to seek a group such as the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Connecticut Chapter where I was a past co-president. Having been an active member of the Connecticut Library Association, the New England Library Association and the Northeast Chapter of REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, I was anticipating becoming a member of the local Rhode Island BCALA chapter. Having found none, I met with then the dean of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of School of Library and Information



From left to right: Ida D. McGhee, Andrew Jackson, Loida Garcia-Febo

Studies, Dr. Michael Havener and expressed my concerns. Did he know of any local library organizations akin to BCALA or Reforma here in RI? He said no. This was the beginning of CORI.

Dr. Havener, Dr. Donna Gilton, a professor of the GSLIS program and Attorney Denise Dowdell, also a librarian and I met throughout the summer of 2005 to establish Cornucopia of Rhode Island. Guidelines and a mission statement

were formed as well as incorporation with the State of Rhode Island. Potential members were contacted and invited to attend our first meeting.

On a beautiful crisp September 2005 autumn afternoon, the University of Rhode Island GSLIS program hosted the first meeting of CORI and members of BCALA-CT and Reforma Northeast attended, plus librarians throughout the east coast and the national president of BCALA, Andrew

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Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako).

From its beginning CORI has been an active participant in the Rhode Island library community including the following:

Presentations at the annual Rhode Island Library Association:

- Dr. Carla Hayden, past president of ALA, former director of the Enoch Pratt Library and now Librarian of Congress
- Commissioner Deborah A. Gist, Rhode Island Department of Education
- Pamela Goode, associate editor of American Libraries Association
- Keith Stokes, former executive director of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
- Attorney Veronica Hobbs, director of the Domestic Violence Training & Monitoring Unit for the Rhode Island Supreme Court

Cornucopia aimed to present community conferences on the diverse minority groups in Rhode Island. The first conference was entitled “I is not for Indian”. The workshop was led by URI Professor Dr. Naomi Caldwell and Kaye Gabriella, a librarian at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Connecticut. This

workshop was a total success as it enlightened the many librarians of the inadequate portrayal of Native Americans in children’s books and literature. This conference was followed by a workshop on the Chinese language and culture; a combined effort with the University of Rhode Island Confucius Institute. In following years CORI’s Fall Conferences as they became known, included the Cape Verdean community, the Rhode Island Hispanic community, and the African American community. A community conversation on Rhode Island students included guest speakers ALA president elect Barbara Stripling and United States Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

Senator Reed, a prominent advocate for libraries and librarians, could not attend CORI’s 10th anniversary celebration but did send a video presentation where he addressed the accomplishments of CORI and its members. The anniversary celebration in September was an opportunity for CORI members to recognize the retirements of two supporters of CORI, Dr. Cheryl McCarthy, professor emerita, University of Rhode Island school library media coordinator, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and Andrew Jackson (*Sekou*

Molefi Baako) former executive director of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center Queens, New York. Ms. Loida Garcia-Febo, a candidate for the 2018-19 presidency of the American Library Association and a former president of REFORMA was also present and congratulated CORI on their 10th anniversary.

Each summer, the group has met at various members summer beach homes for a cookout, including one summer with the Massachusetts Black Librarians Network, Inc.

Small in numbers, CORI will be meeting this fall with Valerie Karno, the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies director, and Karen Mellor, chief of library services, State of Rhode Island, Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS). Mellor was the guest speaker at CORI’s 10th anniversary in September. Mellor stated that a lot has changed since 2005, including the nation’s first African American president and the first female governor of Rhode Island. Based on statistics from 2014, Rhode Island’s population is 20 percent minorities and minorities comprise 17.5 percent of the state employees. Mellor emphasized that it is imperative that we attract a diverse workforce and

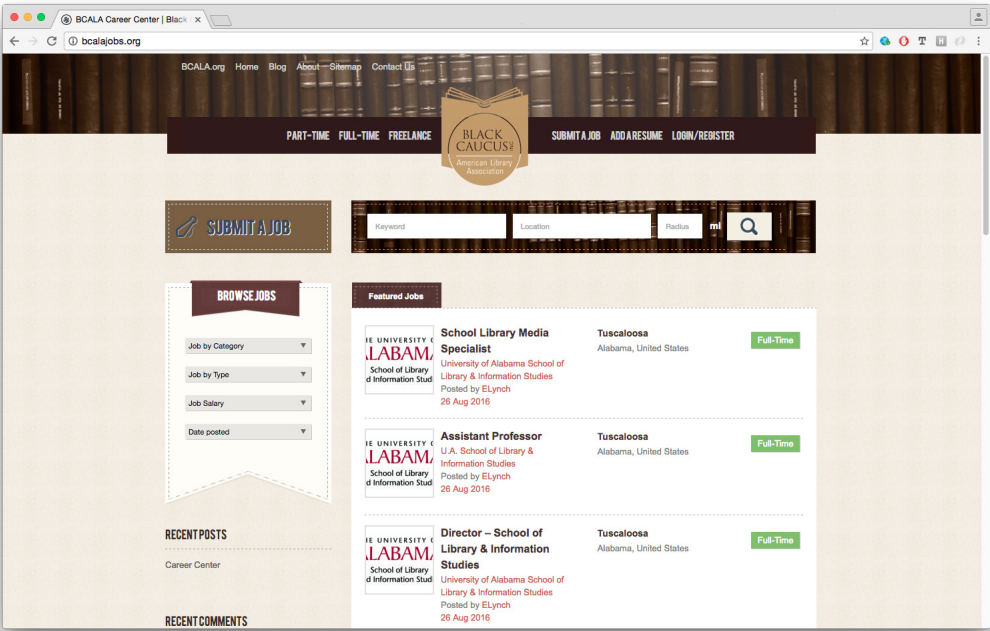
“From its beginning CORI has been an active participant in the Rhode Island library community”

recruit more minorities for state positions. Mellor believes that all changes begins with a conversation and OLIS will begin to work with CORI and URI GLSIS program to ensure that this happens.

The three groups would like to sit and discuss the underrepresentation of people of color in the Rhode Island library profession. It has been a wonderful eleven year journey with a great team of librarians, library support staff and friends. I am delighted that CORI has traversed on and I am looking forward to celebrating the next ten years.

For additional information on Cornucopia of Rhode Island: A Library Community of Color visit our blog at www.cornucopiaofri.blogspot.com.

Please Visit
BCALAJOBS.ORG
For Job Openings And Announcements



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From the Black Archives: ‘DEAR W.W.’ Letters from the Desk of Dr. E.J. Josey

By Sauda Mitchell, W.W. Law Project Archivist

“Dear W.W., Today is Saturday and the day following my birthday. At 43 years of age, I am still searching for a satisfying life. Yet, my happiness really comes from service.”

-DR. E.J. JOSEY, JANUARY 21, 1967.

In today’s digital age it is becoming increasingly rare to learn from the documented interactions of others. The majority of correspondence has long abandoned written word and given way to born-digital communication methods. By observing the communication of individuals through archival correspondence materials, the opportunity arises to experience the importance of human relationships and how those relationships influenced the lives of the individuals over their lifetime. Through archival manuscript materials one can

discover the attitudes, opinions, and feelings of those who have provided a window into their thoughts through their written correspondence.

I joined the City of Savannah, GA as the project archivist for the W.W. Law Collection in February of 2016, where my essential job function is to care for the collection over a two-year period. It was during the processing of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) –Savannah Branch Records, that I had the opportunity to take a glimpse into such an

interaction between Westley Wallace Law (1923-2002); a prominent Civil Rights leader, local historian, and historic preservationist, and Dr. E.J. Josey (1924-2009); pioneer and activist for African American librarians, past American Library Association (ALA) president (1984-85), and founder and first president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA).

For more information about Westley Wallace Law visit (<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/w-w-law-1923-2002>)



July 4, 1997

Dear Mr. Mr.,

I have just returned from San Francisco attending the Annual ALA Conference. I completed my tenure as Chairman of the ALA International Relations Committee. Much to my surprise the whole Assembly of about 700 people gave me a standing ovation. This was gratifying, because of my physical incapacity as a result of my knee. God is good, and I know he provided the recognition.

My grandson is here with me until August 30th. I am unable to drive because the right leg is the driving leg and the doctor does not want me to strain it and especially the knee.

Poor Gus! I don't know why the Church do something about helping him to obtain medical assistance and housing. It is a shame to see him fall through the cracks. Is there a safety net? Is there a safety net?

I would like to visit Savannah during the weekend of the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque. I must purchase my ticket 21 days before the event to get an air ticket bargain. I told my ex student, Dr. Mark Winston of Valdosta State University, and he said that if he knows the date he would join me. Please let me know the date as soon as possible.

Returning to ALA, I was under considerable pressure preparing for the Conference, because I gave a speech on "Leading Through Coalition Building." It went well so I am told.

Well, my dear sir, I must close. Take Care.

Bev B. Love,

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In March of 2014 the W.W. Law Collection was transferred to the City of Savannah by the W.W. Law Foundation, whose purpose is to celebrate and continue the work of W.W. Law. The overall collection initially consisted of 1,019 boxes of both partially processed and unprocessed materials. Presently, as a result of the ongoing efforts of archivists, part time staff and funding from the “Chatham County Georgia Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax” (SPLOST), six record series are now accessible to the public.

Processed collection items from the W.W. Law Collection include: the W.W. Law Photograph Collection (1868-2002, no date); the W.W. Law Art Collection (1849, 1895, 1964-1998, no date); The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Savannah Branch Records (1914-2002, no date); the W.W. Law Awards Collection (1995-2002, no date); the W.W. Law Music Collection (1918-1953, no date); and the W.W. Law Working Files (circa 1970s-1990s, no date).

Within the correspondence subseries of The NAACP-Savannah Branch Records, which also contains correspondence between W.W. Law and national leaders in the Civil

Rights Movement such as Langston Hughes, Roy Wilkinson, Thurgood Marshall and Medgar Evers, are over 50 items of correspondence-related materials spread throughout the subseries. They include letters, articles, greeting cards, flyers, newspaper clippings and post cards to W.W. Law from the desk of Dr. Josey. Included in an unprocessed subseries of the NAACP-Savannah Branch records entitled, “Reference Files”, are two prearranged reference files on the subject of Dr. Josey as well as Roy Wilkins (1901-1981), executive director of the NAACP (1955-1977).

In his book, “The Black Librarian in America”, published in 1970, Josey chronicles his personal experiences and documents his struggle with racial inequalities, beginning with his formative years and progressing throughout his professional library career. Under the heading, ‘The Savannah Movement for Freedom’, Dr. Josey makes reference to his appointment by Mr. Law to report the local NAACP mass meetings in the local African American newspapers to ensure that the 15 month long boycott continued, in an effort to desegregate the Savannah downtown business district.

As the years progress, the correspondence materials document Dr. Josey’s reflections on those moments during the days of student protest. This can be seen in his comparison of the current events in 1999 in light of foreign affairs surrounding NATO. He writes to W.W. Law stating, “As African Americans, we know what ethnic cleansing is for our own people suffered it during slavery, and those of us in my age group suffered Ethnic Cleansing in the terrible period of segregation with segregated schools, segregated communities, segregated libraries, segregated public accommodations including toilets, drinking fountains and segregated public accommodations.”

Many other letters written to W.W. Law provide insight as to how Dr. Josey felt about the country’s culture climate over time. Newspaper clippings are exchanged between both correspondents and serve as evidence of their consistent support as they recognize each other’s career milestones and special projects. Letters of congratulations upon the bestowing of new accolades can be found throughout the correspondence materials, as well as letters seeking advice.

E. J. Josey
June 6, 1999

Dear W. W.:

Today is the 55th Anniversary of D Day. My memories flood back when I was only 20 years of age waking up in a segregated U.S. Army barracks and listening to radio reporting that the Allies had landed and would destroy Hitler.

Fifty-five years later, we have a new Hitler conducting Ethnic Cleansing on a people only because of their religion. I am so glad that President Clinton and the European leaders in NATO took dramatic steps against the terrible tyrant.

As African Americans, we know what Ethnic Cleansing is for our people suffered it during slavery, and those of us in my age group suffered Ethnic Cleansing in the terrible period of segregation with segregated schools, segregated communities, segregated libraries, segregated public accommodations including segregated public toilets, drinking fountains and segregated laws of Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society were passed, we still experience

-2-

discrimination and in the American economy we are still often the last hired and the first fired. In spite of it all our people have given America great writers, great architects, and even some great politicians even a few do get their hands caught taking what is not theirs to take.

When we talked on the telephone last week, you said that you would be sending me a few clippings. I think that my Herald subscription has expired so I will appreciate receiving them. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Peace and Love,
EJ

In a letter written in 1972, Dr. Josey informs W.W. Law of his recent offer to join the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh. He describes the offer as an “agonizing decision to make,” as he bases his decision upon whether his presence will better serve African American librarians on the state level or within the university. From this exchange, we see Dr. Josey’s value in W.W. Law’s opinion as well as his dedication to the advancement of African American librarians within the library profession. Dr. Josey’s correspondence to W.W. Law also provides rare insight into how Dr. Josey felt about being recognized for his many years of service and contributions to the field of library and information science. We see an example of this as he writes W.W. Law in 1997 after returning from the annual American Library Association (ALA) Conference held in San Francisco. He wrote, “*Much to my surprise the whole assembly of about 700 people gave me a standing ovation. This was gratifying, because of my physical incapacity as a result of my knee. God is good, and I know he provided the recognition.*”

As African American librarians, archivists, and information professionals, we all have benefited

greatly from the many contributions of Dr. E.J. Josey. Josey, in turn, was one of many people who attributed their individual betterment as a result of his lifelong friendship with W.W. Law. In response to Jan Skutch’s Nov. 24th article on W.W. Law entitled, “*A lifelong commitment*”, Dr. Josey wrote the editor saying, “*I agree with Mr. Skutch that ‘his legacy has touched lives.’” I know because I was inspired and motivated to fight for discrimination in the library profession. I fell under Mr. Law’s influence and felt that if he could be courageous and fearless in Savannah, certainly I could do the same in my professional association, the American Library Association.*” -Dr. E. J. Josey, Savannah Morning News 12-19- 1996

The correspondence materials between W.W. Law and Dr. E.J. Josey serve as only one example of how archival collection materials provide informational as well as evidential value to records. Through their documented interactions, future generations will have a glimpse into the friendship of two very influential men.

(Editor’s note: This piece is the latest installment of our recurring “From the Black Archives” series)

REFERENCES:

City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

Record Series 1121-102, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Savannah Branch records

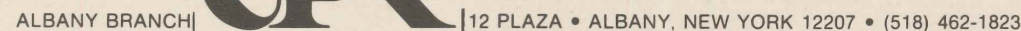
Images Courtesy of the City of Savannah, Research Library and Municipal Archives. Used with permission.

The Black Librarian in America. Ed. Dr. E. J. Josey. Metuchen N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1970.

“W.W. Law Leadership Still Well Remembered.” Savannah Morning News (1996)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

For more information about W.W. Law Collection and links to finding aids and inventories <http://www.savannahga.gov/index.aspx?NID=1909>



Feb 9, 1972

Dear Mr. Mr

Thanks for sending me the clipping on Mercedes. My,
the newspapers of Savannah are finally recognizing the
black community as having humane interests. The article
was very well done.

Enclosed you will find a copy of our branch's local promotion effort.

If you haven't seen the Feb 10th issue of Jest read about the ALA action against the Library of Congress. It is our desire to democratize ALA and libraries or die trying. I have been invited to join the Library of Congress Graduate School.

I have been invited to join the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Library Science faculty as a full professor. It's an agonizing decision to make, for I am not sure whether or not my black presence here at the State level will mean more for black people or in a university where I can attract young blacks to the master's and doctorate programs. I would appreciate advice from you on this matter.

Give my regards to your mother.
Your friend
E. J.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

DR. HARRY HAMILTON, PRESIDENT • JONNYE McCARTY, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT • E. J. JOSEY, TREASURER • LA VERNE HAMILTON, CORR. SECRETARY

Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc

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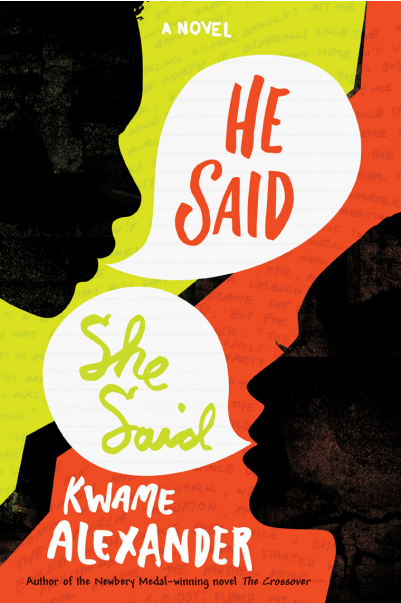
34 *Racial Beachhead*

O P - E D

A Social Revolution

Alexander, Kwame. *He Said, She Said*. Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2013. 330 pages.

Karen Lemmons is a Library Media Specialist at Detroit School of Arts.



A protest, a smart student, a football player, and social media are the ingredients in this story, “*He Said, She Said*”. The protest is about the West Charleston High School principal suspending several afterschool arts related clubs and programs, laying off teachers and staff, and closing the library three days out of the school week. The smart student is Claudia Clarke, straight-A student and school newspaper editor who has much to say about these cuts, violence, teen pregnancy and more. The football player is none other than Omar “T-Diddy” Smalls, the “star” of the foot-

ball team and who has much to say to female students. The social media used to bring awareness to the protest is Facebook and Twitter.

Kwame Alexander’s use of “like” “comment” and “share” from a Facebook post at the beginning of some chapters capitalizes on the power of social media use among young people on a personal level. Alexander expands on that power of both young people and social media to bring about changes at West Charleston High School. What started out as a protest among a few students grew to the entire school population. Furthermore, this harnessing of people and social media power brought attention to the community and the media. As a result of this power, some programs were restored and some teachers were able to return to their teaching positions at the high school.

Told in alternating voices, the reader sees and understands Omar and Claudia’s characters and watches the growth and development of their relationship. Most readers will find Omar and Claudia likeable and believable characters. Most readers will also enjoy reading the posts and com-

ments shared between them and other friends. Other characters, particularly females, will do anything to claim Omar, adding drama and conflict to the story. Other subplots and surprise twists and turns will keep the reader interested in reading to the end. The ending is realistic yet satisfying.

Young people, power, education and social media are the right ingredients for this book!

READ IT!

“A protest, a smart student, a football player, and social media are the ingredients in this story...”

A Powerful Spirit

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Holmes, Ekua, illustrator.

Voice of Freedom Fannie Lou Hamer.

Candlewick Press, 2015. Unpaged.

Karen Lemmons, Detroit School of Arts.

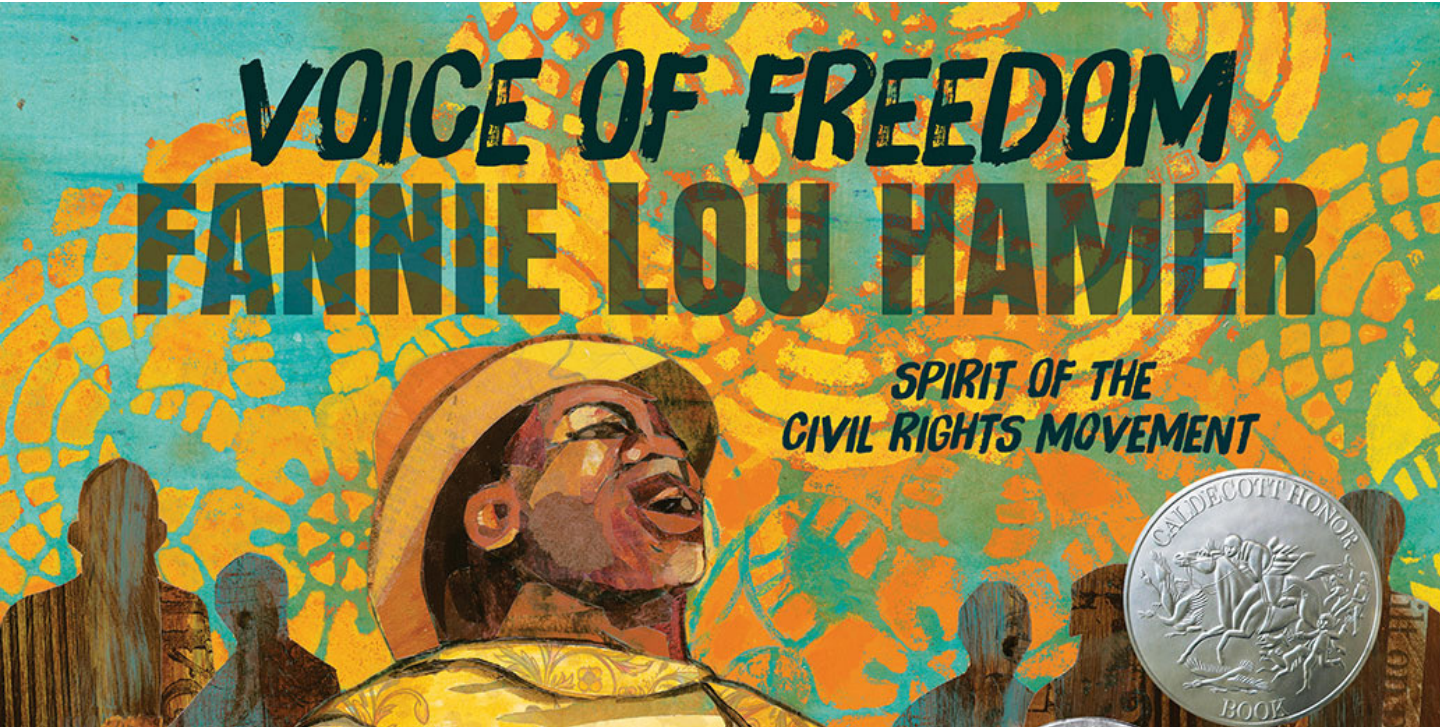
Those of us who know about Fannie Lou Hamer, also know her famous line “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired.” This famous line epitomized Hamer’s activist role in the civil rights movement. A humble woman and servant of God, Ms. Hamer was also a fearless and courageous leader who demanded and fought for the right to vote and to be heard at the 1964 Democratic National Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She worked tirelessly for these rights until she was heard and was able to vote.

In the book, “*Voice of Freedom Fannie Lou Hamer*”, Carole Boston Weatherford honors and celebrates Hamer’s powerful spirit. Effectively writing Hamer’s story in verse, Weatherford uses Hamer’s voice to tell her story about working in the cotton fields, attending school, taking care of her family, and getting involved in the Civil Rights Movement. As one reads the words, one can almost hear Hamer’s voice as she painfully describes injustices, killings, and beatings that she and other civil rights workers received. Describing herself as a plain speaking woman,

Hamer’s voice and story was compelling, inspiring, filled with faith and determination.

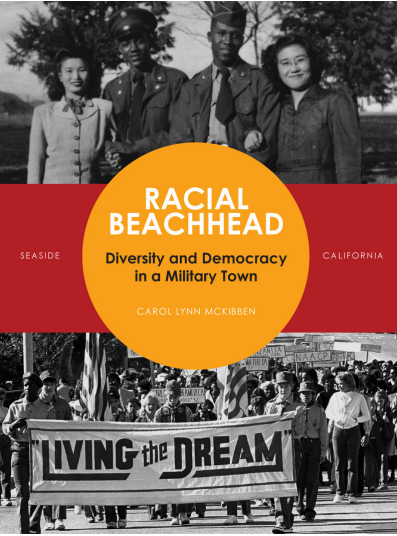
Ekua Holmes brilliantly illustrates and matches Hamer’s story with bright background colors, soft African prints and designs mixed with American landscapes and portraits. Holmes beautiful illustrations symbolize Hamer’s proud heritage, her colorful and powerful spirit that served her well as a leader and worker in the civil rights movement.

This is a must read story for people of all ages.



Racial Beachhead

(The following book review is a guest post from the African American Intellectual History Society, reposted with permission. The original post is here: <http://www.aaahs.org/book-review-racial-beachhead/>)



This is a guest post by LeTrice Donaldson, a historian who specializes in 19th and 20th century African American military history and Women’s and Gender history. She has taught U.S Military and Naval history as well as courses in United States History, the African Diaspora, World History and Medieval European History. She completed a PhD in History at the University of Memphis where she wrote a dissertation entitled “A legacy all their own: African American soldiers fight for citizenship, race, and manhood, 1870-1920.” Dr. Donaldson currently teaches in the Department of History and Philosophy at York College of the City University of New York (CUNY). In

this guest post, she offers a review of Carol Lynn McKibbin’s recent book Racial Beachhead: Diversity and Democracy in A Military Town(Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2011), \$24.95 paper, 334pp. ISBN: 978-0-8047-7699-8 (paper).

Historians over the past few years have begun to expand the historiography of Urban Studies to focus on race relations in military towns in Post-World War II America. Catherine Lutz in her book Homefront and Andrew H. Myers’ Black, White and Olive Drab each focus on the specifics of race relations in a military town after WWII. Carol Lynn McKibbin, the public historian for the city of Seaside, California has set out to go a step further than Lutz and Myers with her book Racial Beachhead: Diversity and Democracy in a Military Town. McKibbin’s goal in Racial Beachhead is to demonstrate how a town that is centered around a military installation found a way to peacefully integrate while the rest of the country reacted violently to racial integration. She asserts, “The story of Seaside, California is entwined in

the history of how World War II and developments in the postwar decades transformed much of California and the West” (p. 2). The author situates Seaside into the larger economic and demographic context of the California coast. The northern California coast was more than just a tourist destination according to McKibbin; it became a testing ground for racial politics in the military and revealed how racial integration on military bases, and in the communities that surround them, would play out in the years after World War II. Ultimately, McKibbin argues that integration in Seaside was a success because of the presence of Fort Ord and the role of the federal government.

The story of Seaside, California becoming a minority-majority military town begins in 1911 when the city’s founder Dr. John L.D. Roberts convinced President Theodore Roosevelt to place Fort Ord in the county of Monterey. The early history of Seaside as discussed in chapter one delves into how this picturesque community of white middle class families rapidly became a multicultural subdivision of a predominately white county after the arrival of Fort Ord. One of the Buffalo Soldier regiments, the Ninth

Cavalry, ended up being stationed at Ft. Ord and once they arrived so did the caravan of African Americans that followed them. The diversity of Seaside in the first part of the twentieth century was similar to the expansion of the black population of Salt Lake City, Utah at the end of the nineteenth century, when two Buffalo Soldier regiments were stationed at Ft. Douglass. The black community of Seaside rapidly expanded with the arrival of black soldiers. However, one of the fascinating aspects of McKibbin’s study is the discussion of how African Americans, Whites, Mexican-Americans, Asians, and other ethnic and racial groups all interacted and joined together in helping to create a multicultural town that built successful political coalitions not based solely on race or ethnicity.

In chapters three and four, the author delves into how the residents of Seaside respond and react to becoming a multiethnic military community. There were major post war developments in Seaside that helped to establish this multicultural coalition and made this community unique compared to the rest of Northern California. McKibbin makes excellent use of the local archives, local newspapers, oral interviews, and census records to help reconstruct and trace the evolution of Seaside. The white community of Monterey county actively participated in the housing discrimination that was prevalent during the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. Almost all minority groups that were deemed non-white who attempted to live in Monterey County were only shown homes in Seaside. This is one of the reasons, according to the

author, that this community was able to peacefully integrate—unlike cities such as San Francisco or San Diego, which also had military bases but more resistance to integration.

Once President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 stating that, “there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin,” Ft. Ord—one of the “country’s largest and most vital training centers in the United States”—was the first to undergo complete integration (pp. 53-58). It is because of the military’s policy of integration in the 1940s that enables the diverse community of Seaside to peacefully integrate. After the city was incorporated in 1954, there were a series of political elections that resulted in the election of the first African American city councilman in 1956. The multiethnic coalition that helped to get Monroe Jones, the first black city councilman, elected included leaders from the black, white, Japanese, and Filipino community. The strongest sections of this study is when the author discusses the intricacies of Seaside’s local politics and explains how the people of this community were truly ahead of their time when dealing with racial politics.

The final two chapters of the book examine the decades of decline for Seaside the 1980s and 1990s. The United States was in a period of crisis, both economically and socially. The rise of crack cocaine affected nearly every community in America and Seaside did not escape its wrath. The rise of violent crimes in Seaside did

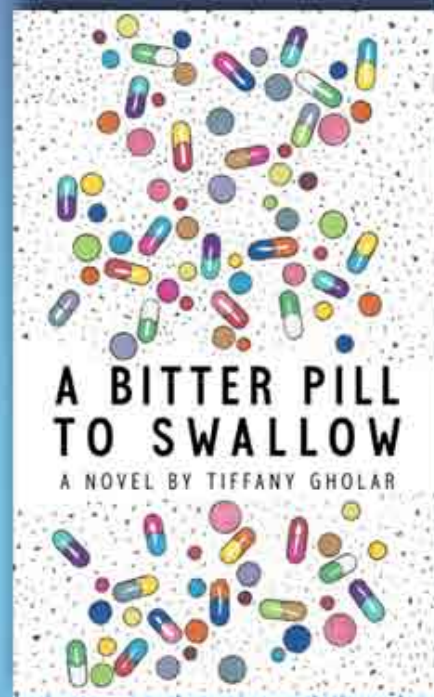
not illicit the same kind of reactions to the crack epidemic in cities such as Chicago or Los Angeles. The community of Seaside did not isolate crack users and criminals in the black community, like they did in Chicago or Los Angeles. Instead, they focused on utilizing their multiethnic coalitions to build community watch groups to help combat the violent crack epidemic. While this community combated one issue they were hit with the loss of the one thing that helped keep this community thriving—the closure of Ft. Ord. This is a crucial part of the book. However, McKibbin’s discussions about the economic impact on Seaside after the base closes could have been more nuanced and less centered on the middle class community.

At times, the author overemphasizes the perspectives of black middle class residents, leaving the reader with questions about how the other half lived in Seaside. Moreover, there is a lack of discussion of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, which was founded not far from Seaside—in Oakland, CA. The author mentions that Mel Mason, an active member of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, was elected to the Seaside city council in 1980 but offers few details on the matter. Despite these minor concerns, this book provides a much-needed analysis of race relations in a military town and sheds light on how the loss of large military and federal installations impact minority-majority communities. Racial Beachhead is a welcome addition to the growing literature in Urban Studies and provides a rare window into a world often ignored by scholars.

SHE LIVES IN A FANTASY WORLD.
HE LIVES IN A NIGHTMARE.
WHEN THEY FIND EACH OTHER,
THEY FIND THEMSELVES.

*“Young teens
will find Janina
and Devante to
be likable and
will cheer for
their happy
endings.”*

—**SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL**



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