BCALA NEWS
Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc.

Students in Lesotho carry books to a high school in Mohale’s Hoek. Lesotho is one of several African nations where The African Library Project is building libraries and improving lives. Learn about The African Library Project and much more in this edition of BCALA News!
Dear BCALA Members,

Advocacy: A BCALA Strategic Direction

Engage more BCALA members to serve as advocates at the local, state, and national levels. The Black Caucus of the American Library Association serves as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation’s African American Community; and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians.

Almost two decades ago, libraries faced serious cuts and closings throughout the country. In response, ALA, BCALA and other library affiliates/organizations galvanized librarians and library users to join forces to launch a major advocacy campaign to halt budget cuts. Fast forward to 2017, our fight for libraries continues due to proposed federal budget cuts. Between LSTA and IAL, $213 million in current federal library funding is at risk. The elimination of IMLS funding for FY2018 would be devastating to libraries across the county, and particularly those serving African-American communities. If you would like to share your story on how funding from IMLS impacts lives in your communities it’s not too late, please send to me at president@bcala.org.

It is not enough to strongly state our opposition to this proposed budget. WE MUST MOBILIZE! We encourage you to join in BCALA’s advocacy efforts. We need every librarian, library worker, and library user to call, visit or email members of Congress to ask them to commit to fighting for federal library funding. Together We Achieve More!

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Denyvetta Davis, President, BCALA 2016 - 2018

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”
- Mahatima Gandhi
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10 Dr. Duchess Harris to Speak to BCALA at ALA Annual
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Hidden Figures tells the unparalleled story of Black women who served their country and worked to help make history. These women mathematicians, whose unique intelligence was far underutilized, are brought into the service of NASA as “human computers.” It was their skill and determination that broke barriers for women generally; Black women in particular, and helped to launch both rockets and eventually astronauts into space. Shetterly is a writer who grew up in Hampton, Virginia, where she knew many of the women in Hidden Figures. She lives in Charlottesville, VA.

HONOR BOOK FOR NONFICTION IS PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS BY MONIQUE MORRIS (THE NEW PRESS).

Pushout describes the forces in our cultural, educational, and legal systems that keep Black girls from meeting their potential. Morris produces a book that highlights true voices and experiences of victims of these systems. Through interviews, she has researched race and gender disparities in our country and put them at the forefront of our minds. Dr. Morris is currently an adjunct associate professor for Saint Mary’s College of California.

THE WINNER FOR BCALA’S BEST POETRY AWARD IS COUNTING DESCENT: POEMS BY CLINT SMITH (WRITE BLOODY PUBLISHING).

Counting Descent is a coming of age story that seeks to complicate our conception of lineage and tradition. He explores belonging to a community that celebrates Black humanity while living in a world that often renders blackness a caricature of fear. He also takes the reader on a powerful journey forcing us to reflect on all that we learn growing up, and all that we seek to unlearn moving forward. Smith was born and raised in New Orleans and is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University.

THE HONOR BOOK FOR BEST POETRY AWARD IS ATTRAVERSiamo (LET’S CROSS OVER) BY MONIQUE FERRELL (NYQ BOOKS).

In Attraversiamo, Monique Ferrell takes her readers on a journey across the landscapes of her poetry. The poems explore life through the lenses of a Black female revisiting local, national, and international tragedies and examining pain, power, and privilege. Ferrell is a professor of English and teaches literature, gender & sexuality studies and composition in New York City.

THE BCALA LITERARY AWARDS COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLISHING CITATION TO OLIO BY TYEHIMBA JESS (WAVE BOOKS).

Olio is the magical and unusual combination of history and poetry that combines fact with fiction to examine the lives of African American performers, writers, and artists before and after the Civil War up to World War I—predating the Harlem Renaissance. Olio’s undertakings are through photos, interviews, facts, fictions, foldouts and poetry. Olio, a miscellaneous collection, cannot be read in one sitting. You need time to digest and reflect upon the meanings of lives and ideas presented. Tyehimba Jess is a Cave Canem and New York University alumni. Jess is an associate professor of English at the College of Staten Island.

Members of the BCALA Literary Awards Jury are: Gladys Smiley Bell (Chair), Hampton University, Hampton, VA; Tiffanji A. Duck, Phoebe Branch, Hampton Public Library, Hampton, VA; Grace M. Jackson-Brown, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO; LeRoy LaFleur, Tufts University, Boston, MA; Dominique Luster, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; Ritchie A. Momon, Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, MO; and John Page, Retired, Washington, D.C.
Resolution of Respect  
For  
Dorothy Jackson Evans

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Philippians 4:8

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, Mrs. Dorothy J. Evans, and added it to the Friendship Chain of His Kingdom; and

Whereas, Dorothy J. Evans, was a steadfast friend, devoted mentor, and advisor to generations of librarians in Chicago and to librarians throughout the United States; whose departure we so deeply feel and whose life has been an example of Christian fortitude to her family, her friends, her community, her colleagues throughout this nation, and the thousands of children whom she guided and served; and

Whereas, Dorothy J. Evans was a beloved and admired children’s librarian who, for fifty-nine (59) years lent her gifts to the library profession, this nation, and to the Chicago Public Library; and

Whereas Dorothy J. Evans worked as library associate/assistant, in the Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library, under the tutelage of the legendary Charlemae Rollins, the Chicago Public Library’s, and one of this nation’s, greatest storytellers and advocates for African American literature; and

Whereas Dorothy J. Evans also served the City of Chicago as the children’s librarian at the South Shore Branch Library for many decades, and later continued as a volunteer following her retirement in 2007; and

Whereas, Dorothy J. Evans contributed her expertise to the library profession through her multiple-term involvement in the American Library Association’s Caldecott, Newberry, and Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committees, and was beloved by children’s authors, illustrators, and the publishers of children’s books; and

Whereas, the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the entire Black Caucus of the American Library Association, library professionals throughout this nation, and the residents of Chicago have sustained a great loss in the home going of Dorothy J. Evans; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we eulogize her memory by trying to bring into our own lives the dedication and professionalism, coupled with warmth, a caring spirit, and sustained vision that made her life a worthy pattern for our emulation, and that we earnestly try to live as purposefully as did Dorothy J. Evans, and be it further

Resolved, that the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association express their sincere sympathy to the family of Dorothy J. Evans, and that we place a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and the Chicago Public Library, and that we also send a copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Dorothy J. Evans in order to show to her loved ones the high esteem in which we hold her life and her memory.

Respectfully submitted,

The Officers and Members of The Chicago Chapter: Black Caucus of the American Library Association

EMILY R. GUSS
Emily Guus, (Chicago, Illinois), President
The Officers and Members of The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.
Denyetta Davis
Denyetta Davis, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), President
April 11, 2017

OFFICERS:
Denyetta Davis, (Retired, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), President
Richard Ashby, (Yeadon Public Library, Yeadon, Pennsylvania), Vice President
Kirby McCurtis (Muhlenhans County Library, Portland, Oregon), Secretary
Wanda K. Brown (Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina), Treasurer
Kelvin A. Watson, (Broward County Public Library, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida), Immediate Past President

EXECUTIVE BOARD:
Jason Alston, Ph.D. (Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina)
Vivian Bordeaus (Bridgeport Public Library, Bridgeport, Connecticut)
Elizabeth Jean Brumfield (Prairie View A&M University, Houston, Texas)
Rudolph Clay (Washington University Libraries, St. Louis, Missouri)
Brian Hart, (EveryLibrary, Riverside, Illinois)
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Andrew P. Jackson (Secou Moleh Banko) (Retired, Langton Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center, Queens, New York)
Sammie Johnson, (Alabama A & M University, Normal, Alabama)
Bradley Kuykendall (Page Library, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri)
Karen Lemmons (Detroi School of Arts, Detroit, Michigan)
Dominique Luster (Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
Fayrene Muhammad (Retired, Rockford Public Library, Rockford, Illinois)
Kim McNeil-Capers, (Queens Library, Queens, New York)
Eboni Njoku, (District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, District of Columbia)

HISTORY COMMITTEE
Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D. (Library of Congress, Washington, District of Columbia), Chair
Dr. Duchess Harris to Speak to BCALA at ALA Annual

From Denyvetta Davis, BCALA President

Dr. Duchess Harris will be the featured speaker for BCALA during ALA Annual. Harris will address BCALA immediately following the BCALA membership meeting on Sunday, June 25. Harris will render the address in the Empire Room of the Palmer Hotel.

Harris is the Chair of the American Studies Department at Macalester College. She is the author of four books. She co-authored "Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA", and "Black Lives Matter" with Sue Bradford Edwards, (Essential Library), authored "Black Feminist Politics from Kennedy to Clinton/Obama" (Palgrave Macmillan), and published an edited volume with Bruce Baum, "Racially Writing the Republic: Racists, Race Rebels, and Transformations of American Identity" (Duke University Press). Harris holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, and also holds a law degree and has an expertise in civil rights law.

African American Library Directors Database Launched

By Denyvetta Davis, BCALA President

I am excited to announce a new collaboration with the creators of the African American Library Directors Database, Reinette Jones and Alonzo Hill. We will add a link to the database on the BCALA website and members can help with updates, corrections, and new editions by sending that information to rjones@uky.edu. Changes can be made in a matter of minutes. Here is the link: http://nkaa.uky.edu/directors.php

BCALA President Co-Authors Library Quarterly Piece

By BCALA Publications Committee

BCALA president Denyvetta Davis co-authored a piece for the new issue of The Library Quarterly along with BCALA past-president Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) and Jason Alston. The piece, entitled "Remotivating the Black Vote: The Effect of Low-Quality Information on Black Voters in the 2016 Presidential Election and How Librarians Can Intervene", discusses tactics that librarians can take in order to engage and motivate Black potential voters in future elections. The piece appears in a special issue of The Library Quarterly themed, "Aftermath: Libraries, Democracy, and the 2016 Presidential Election, Part 1." The abstract to the piece is here: http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/692300. Check your library resources to see if you currently have access to the full text.

Jason Alston Completes Doctoral Studies

By BCALA Publications Committee

BCALA executive board member and publications committee chair Jason K. Alston graduated with his Ph.D. from the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina, also known as "The Real USC." Alston’s dissertation, "CAUSES OF SATISFACTION AND DISATISFACTION FOR DIVERSITY RESIDENT LIBRARIANS – A MIXED METHODS STUDY USING HERZBERG’S MOTIVATION-HYGIENE THEORY", is available online at https://www.academia.edu/31989913/CAUSES_OF_SATISFACTION_AND_DISATISFACTION_FOR_DIVERSITY_RESIDENT_LIBRARIANS_A_MIXED_METHODS STUDY USING HERZBERG’S MOTIVATION-HYGIENE THEORY.

Dr. African American Library Directors Database Launched

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BCALA and BiblioBoard announce the 2017 Self-Publishing Literary Awards winners

BCALA and BiblioBoard proudly announce the winners of the 2017 Self-Publishing Literary Awards. Following the model of the current BCALA Literary Awards, the awards honor the best self-published ebooks in fiction and poetry by an African American author in the U.S. This is the second time BCALA and BiblioBoard have given this innovative award. The recipients will receive awards during the 2017 National Conference of African American Librarians on August 10 in Atlanta, GA, as well as formal recognition at the 2017 Annual Library Association Conference between June 22 and 27, 2017 in Chicago, IL.

FICTION

The fiction category winner is *Book of Addis: Cradled Embers: a Novel* (For the People Press) by Brooke Obie. This is a historical fiction novel of power, resistance, and detail. Addis escapes from her master and embarks on a journey that is raw, breathtaking and inspiring. Obie takes fear and glamorously turns it into fierce action through Addis' love story, hope and revolution. Obie is a writer and editor who lives in Harlem. She is currently working on the sequel to her debut novel *Book of Addis*.

The Honor Book for Fiction is *Melting the Blues* (Gold Fern Press) by Tracy Chiles McGhee. McGhee's debut novel is set in Arkansas in the 1950s, a time when racial tensions were soaring. Augustus, the main character, is so engrossed in his music, but must wrestle with the past in order to move forward with his dreams. Tracy Chiles McGhee currently resides in Washington, D.C. where she works in education.

POETRY

The winner for the BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Poetry Award is *On Life* (Create Space Publishing) by Jacqueline Nicole Harris. This book is made up of a variety of poems with different styles. Harris makes commentary about life, music, society and much more. Each poem, which is meant to be read aloud, gives the book a certain edge and a whole new meaning. Certain poems that stand out include: “The Day ‘I’ took Himself for a Walk”, “On Life”, and “Pride ‘Sestina’”. Harris is a poet, writer, blogger and currently lives in North Chicago, Illinois.

The BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Awards began in 2016 as an initiative to recognize and celebrate two marginalized voices in literature: writers who are African American and those who are independently published. Among the winners of the inaugural awards — which were dedicated to Emanuel AME Church victim and Charleston, S.C. librarian Cynthia Hurd — was L. Penelope, who has secured a traditional publishing contract with St. Martin’s Press. The contract entails that her award-winning book “Song of Blood and Stone: The Earthsinger Chronicles, Book One” will be part a four-book series republished in 2018.
BCALA Chicago-ALA Annual
June 22-27, 2017
Palmer House Hotel

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017
BCALA Executive Board Officers
HILTON - Conference Room 4d
6/22/2017 3:00PM - 4:00PM

BCALA Executive Board Retreat - HILTON - Conference Room
6/22/2017 4:30PM - 6:30PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 23
BCALA Executive Board Meeting - PALMER - Burnham
6/22/2017 8:30AM - 1:00PM

BCALA Joint Committee Meeting - PALMER - Burnham 1
(Membership, Professional Development & Affiliates Committees)
6/23/2017 1:00PM - 2:30PM

BCALA Dr. E. J. Josey Scholarship - PALMER - Clark 01
6/23/2017 2:00PM - 3:00PM

BCALA International Relations - PALMER - Clark 02
6/23/2017 7:00PM - 9:00PM

BCALA Literacy Awards Committee - PALMER - Clark 01
6/23/2017 8:00PM - 10:00PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017
BCALA Recruitment & Professional Development Committee Meeting - PALMER - Indiana
6/24/2017 9:30AM - 10:30AM

BCALA Fundraising Committee - PALMER - Buckingham
6/24/2017 10:00AM - 12:00PM

BCALA Marketing & Public Relations - PALMER - Creshill
6/24/2017 10:30AM - 11:30AM

NCAAL X Conference Planning - PALMER - LaSalle 1
6/24/2017 1:00PM - 2:30PM

BCALA Literary Awards Committee - PALMER - Dearborn 3
6/24/2017 2:00PM - 5:00PM

Inaugural Walter Dean Myers Memorial Lecture (BCALA) - PALMER - State Ballroom – Co-sponsors: AASL, ALSC, CSK Book Award Committee, EMMERT, PLA and YALSA
6/24/2017 3:00PM - 5:00PM

2017 Diversity and Outreach Fair - Convention Center - Exhibits Hall
6/24/2017 3:00PM - 5:00PM

Beta Phi Mu Business Meeting & Member Reception - HYATT - Columbus
6/24/2017 3:30PM - 5:30PM

JCLC Reception - HYATT Regency Chicago – Monarch Suite #3474
6/24/2017 7:00PM - 8:30PM

BCALA Social - TBA
6/24/2017 8:00PM - 10:00PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017
Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast - HILTON - Grand Ball Room
6/25/2017 7:00AM - 9:30AM

BCALA Interest Circles - PALMER - Clark 05
6/25/2017 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Inaugural Walter Dean Myers Memorial Lecture (BCALA) - PALMER - State Ballroom – Co-sponsors: AASL, ALSC, CSK Book Award Committee, EMMERT, PLA and YALSA
6/25/2017 1:00PM - 2:30PM

BCALA New Members Meet & Greet - PALMER - Clark 05
6/25/2017 6:30PM - 7:00PM

BCALA Membership Meeting - PALMER - Empire Room
6/25/2017 7:00PM - 10:00PM -
Speaker: Dorothy Harris, author of Human Computers Sponsor: ABDO Publishing

*The Hospitality Suite - Palmer House
Suite Hours:
Thursday – Friday, 9:30pm – midnight,
Saturday – 10:00am – midnight
Sunday – 10:30pm – midnight

Available for small group meetings upon request

For More Info Visit: BCALA.ORG

Room assignments were accurate as of May 1, 2017 and are subject to change. Check with BCALA leadership for updates.
Conference Highlights

BY NCAAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD PRE-CONFERENCE “Using CSK Books”
Date: Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2017
Time: 9am-3pm
Cost: $50
Location: King Center

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TOUR
Date: Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2017
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Cost: $50

Special Events

OPENING RECEPTION — AUBURN AVENUE RESEARCH LIBRARY ON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY
Date: Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017
Time: 7 – 10pm
Cost included in registration

LUNCHEON PROGRAM — LUNCH WITH THE LEGENDS AND CHILDREN OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Date: Friday, Aug. 11, 2017
Time: 11:30am – 1pm
Cost: $60

EVENING RECEPTION – ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER WOODRUFF LIBRARY
A tribute to the former Atlanta University/Clark Atlanta University Library School and its Graduates.
Date: Friday, Aug. 11, 2017
Time: 7 – 9pm
Sponsored by AUC Woodruff Library Open to all conference attendees

LUNCHEON PROGRAM – LUNCH WITH (Environmental Justice Advocate) MUSTAFA SANTIAGO ALI
Date: Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017
Time 11:30am-1pm
Cost: $60

DESSERT RECEPTION – ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER WOODRUFF LIBRARY
A tribute to the former Atlanta University/Clark Atlanta University Library School and its Graduates.
Date: Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017
Time: 7 – 9pm
Sponsored by AUC Woodruff Library Open to all conference attendees

PRESEIDENTS’ BALL & AWARDS CEREMONY
A red carpet event with special guest speaker Ezra Knight, award winning narrator
Date: Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017
Time: 7pm – 12am
Cost: $65

COFFEE WITH AUTHORS OF WE ARE CHARLESTON: TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH AT MOTHER EMANUEL
Date: Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017
Time: 8 – 9:30am
Cost: $25

CLOSING BRUNCH
Be inspired with an electrifying closing address by Dr. Bernice A. King
Date: Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017
Time: 10am-1pm

Conference Programs
Conference will present effective and innovative library programs, share best practices, and provide valuable information that participants can utilize at their libraries, support collaboration, and be applicable to a broad variety of library institutions.

Author/Illustrator Pavilion
A favorite conference destination showcasing some of the best and the brightest from the literary community. The authors and illustrators will have the opportunity to meet fans, sign books, present a book reading or participate in a panel within the Pavilion.
DON’T SEE YOUR STATE REPRESENTED?

CHARTER/ RE-ACTIVATE OR JOIN AN AFFILIATE IN YOUR STATE TODAY!

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AFFILIATE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED OR VISIT WWW.BCALA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LET’S DESIGN YOURS!

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Like our solutions for BCALA & NCAAL 9 we can "solve your creative needs" call us at 212.904.1925 or email us hello@opusseven.com.

www.opusseven.com
Winners of 2017 Día Awards Hold Events
Black Storytime with Food at Multnomah County Library
Dr. Em Claire Knowles receives 2017 Beta Phi Mu Award
Northwestern University Hires Archivist for the Black Experience
Quinby Street Center Receives 2017 Día Grant
A.P. Marshall Oral History Archive Online
The Black Men of East Orange Public Library Share Thoughts During Library Week
Lincoln University of Missouri Seeks Library Director
Satia Orange to Receive the 2017 EMIERT Distinguished Librarian Award at ALA Annual
Sex Workers, Psychics and Numbers Runners: A Q&A with Author Dr. LaShawn Harris
Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature: African American Grandparents and Grand-Families Themed Books
Kuykendall Wins Travel Awards
The African Diaspora Social Justice Children’s & Young Adult Bibliography
Seventh Annual James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival is a Success
New Journal on Information, Diversity and Inclusion Invites Submissions
The African Library Project is Changing Rural Africa One Library at a Time
Winners of 2017 Dia Awards Hold Events

By Dr. Claudette S. McLinn, CSMCL

Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature (CSMCL) is pleased to announce the winners of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature (CSMCL) 2017 Día Grants with an African American Focus. Alturas International Academy Library in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The Día event theme was: “Beauty in the World: Celebrating Día.” The students spent three weeks researching notable figures, primarily African Americans, whose contributions have made this world a more beautiful place and who inspired them in some way. The culminating Día event was held on April 13, 2017, at 1 p.m. Quinby Street Resource Center Library in Sharon, Pennsylvania. The Día event theme was: “Passing the Baton: The Influence of Frederick and Patricia McKissack’s Children’s Books... a Día Program.” The event was held on April 20, 2017, at 2 p.m. The two winning libraries each were awarded $500 in selected multicultural children’s books. Congratulations!

This is the sixth year the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature (CSMCL) has awarded the Día grant and has been in partnership with the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) and Pat Mora. ALSC is a division of the American Library Association. Pat Mora, author and literacy advocate, is the founder of Children’s Day, Book Day/El día de los niños, El día de los libros; often known as Día.

Black Storytime with Food at Multnomah County Library

By Shaunda Bailey, Multnomah County (OR) Library

Gardening programs in public libraries are growing in popularity throughout the United States. Multnomah County Library (MCL) in Portland recently joined this trend and partnered with Mudbone Grown, a local Black farming organization, to present Black Storytime with Food. This program combines early literacy education with lessons about growing food and nutrition. A plan was developed to present three storytimes, each focusing on a seasonal theme. The program themes developed are: how to start a plant (spring), how to plan a fall crop (summer), and how to put a garden to bed (fall).

Two MCL branches hosted spring storytimes in April, after several months of planning and promotion. Each program began with a youth librarian sharing stories and leading participants in a veggie painting activity. This was followed by a demonstration by Mudbone Grown on proper plant care and starting a garden. Families that attended the event also received a plant starter kit of collard or mustard greens.

Another MCL partner – The Oregon Nutrition Education Program (NEP) – also contributed to Black Storytime with Food. NEP supplied a nutrition educator who attended both storytimes and emphasized the importance of healthy eating to the audience. NEP also provided each family with a reusable grocery bag, a measuring cup, and healthy recipes. Both spring programs were well attended and MCL also scheduled summer storytimes for June.

These are some of the stories which were shared in Black Storytime with Food:

“Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table” by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (author) and Eric-Shabazz Larkin (illustrator)

“Grandma Lena’s Big Ol’ Turnip” by Denia Lewis Hester (author) and Jackie Urbanovic (illustrator)

“Pecan Pie Baby” by Jacqueline Woodson (author) and Sophie Blackall (illustrator)

“Plants Feed Me” by Lizzy Rockwell (author & illustrator)
Dr. Em Claire Knowles receives 2017 Beta Phi Mu Award

By the American Library Association

Arguably, Knowles’ greatest influence on library education — and our profession — has been her unparalleled work surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion. Her publications, speaking engagements and professional activities have resulted in her being known worldwide as an authority on these matters. Thanks to Knowles, library education and librarianship have been challenged and positively influenced through her contributions. Furthermore, Knowles not only writes and speaks extensively, but she also spends countless hours in other service to help diversify our profession. This is exemplified through her unfailing efforts with the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Program, BCALA, and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. In addition to her time, knowledge, and seemingly boundless energy, Knowles has raised thousands of dollars for students through programs like the Spectrum Scholarship Program.

The impact that Knowles has had on library education is vast and lasting. She has helped change the face of the profession, and she has done so in a way that is truly unique to her. As evidenced by the students and colleagues who wrote in support of Knowles’ nomination for this award, her wisdom, warmth, advocacy, passion for student success and uncanny ability to have time for every student who seeks her out are among the characteristics that make her such a quintessential and successful mentor. Today, our profession is filled with individuals who, one way or another, have been guided by Knowles.

The 2017 Beta Phi Mu Award Jury is comprised of Emily A. Bergman, Glendale Community College, Glendale, California; Roberto C. Delgadillo, University of California, Davis; Dr. Karen E. Downing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Dorothy M. Persson, retired librarian, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City, Iowa; and J. Kevin Reynolds, Jury Chair, Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Beta Phi Mu Award will be presented on Sunday, June 25, 2017, at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago.

Northwestern University
Hires Archivist for the Black Experience

By BCALA Publications Committee

Charla Wilson has been named the first “Archivist for the Black Experience” by Northwestern University Libraries. According to a press release from the university, “The creation of the new position is part of a University initiative to document the history of Black students, faculty and organizations at Northwestern. It also reflects the vision of the Northwestern University Black Alumni Association (NUBAA), a key partner with the libraries, both in developing the archivist’s new role and connecting with alumni who might be willing to contribute materials to the expanded archives.”

Northwestern’s press release states that Wilson was most recently employed with the Barona Cultural Center and Museum of California. Prior to that, she was a library, archives and museum collections manager at the Women’s Museum of California. BCALA News congratulates Wilson on this new appointment, and applauds Northwestern for adding this position.
A.P. Marshall Oral History Archive Online

By BCALA Publications Committee

Late historian Albert Prince “A.P.” Marshall, the father of BCALA member Satia Marshall Orange, researched Ypsilanti, Michigan’s historic African-American community while working as director of Eastern Michigan University’s library. An oral history project undertaken by Marshall chronicling the lives of Black Ypsilantians has now been made available online. To visit this project, go to: http://history.ypsilibrary.org/
The Black Men of East Orange Public Library Share Thoughts During Library Week

By Matt Powell, East Orange Public Library

As a community resource, libraries are invaluable. On April 11, 2017, the East Orange Public Library (EOPL) in New Jersey and the American Library Association invited the community of the City of East Orange to show their appreciation for a most-valued resource—library workers—on “National Library Day.” The national event aimed to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries, librarians, and to promote library use and support.

EOPL, nestled within the heart of the vibrant urban City of East Orange, NJ, takes particular pride in its library staff for this event. In honor of their service to the library and community at large, EOPL highlighted an integral contingent of its staff; its male workers of African descent. The current evolution of libraries continue to combat the stigmas of yesterday. Lively programs for all ages replace hushed open spaces. On-demand online databases render archaic print card catalogs obsolete. Even the stereotypical persona of a librarian as a scowling, silence-driven enforcer has evolved into a friendly, inviting, customer service-driven member of the community.

For Rashond Smith, a 20-year library veteran and one of the few African American librarians in the country, his duty as a reference librarian is a position of pride. “I enjoy helping people through providing accurate and relevant information,” said Smith. “Being in an environment with patrons’ minds actively studying and gathering significant information.”

Smith affirms the library is, “more than just books,” as a stereotype perpetuates, but rather, “a trending, vibrant hub that is about providing pertinent information and outstanding service.” As an active participant in community outreach, Smith tours the East Orange School District and its career day programs to promote literacy and inform students of the prospects of being a librarian.

In its vision of outreach, EOPL appointed it new coordinator of public relations and community outreach, and alumnus of the East Orange School District, Matthew Powell, to help guide its image. “It is a privilege to return to East Orange in a professional capacity,” said Powell. “It is interesting to see the advances the library has made since my days as a student.” With unique cultural programs and the immensely-popular annual comic/anime convention, TOSHO-Con, Powell remains eager to promote the library to the community. “There is something for everyone here whether it’s a program or a resource,” said Powell. “We are an all-inclusive entity with excellent customer service as our main driving force.”

Profound customer service is paramount to a library garnering a strong relationship with its patrons and the key focus for dual 11-year staff members, library assistant LaMar Clark and library associate Dwayne Holman. “Having patience and being able to relate to people,” said Clark regarding his strategy in interacting with patrons for over a decade. In his time, Clark notes the diversity of programs as an influencer in bringing people into the library. Holman, a resident of East Orange totaling 40 years, cites the advances the library has made for patrons looking for resources,” said Holman. A personal approach to assisting patrons is especially rewarding for Holman. “I enjoy helping someone with their resume in order to get a job,” said Holman.

The public utilizes EOPL’s abundant supply of over 70 computers to run the spectrum of tasks. From updating social media statuses to updating a resume, EOPL’s technological infrastructure is of huge importance to the community. For system administrator Chris Henry, maintaining the virtual network for his hometown is nothing short of a privilege.

“It’s exciting to work in the city I live in,” said Henry. “I enjoy working with my people.” As an alumni of East Orange Campus High, the dutiful Henry cites the East Orange School District as a contributor in focusing his interest in information technology hopes to give back one day. “It would be a dream doing IT for [The East Orange School District],” said Henry.

Another key influencer to maintaining the library’s IT infrastructure is EOPL’s technical assistant of six years, Kern Roberts. Roberts is an alumni of the historic East Orange High School, the dutiful school which sparked his interest in information technology. For system administrator Kern Roberts, the advances the library has made in his youth.

Continued on page 30
continued with the rich arts and music culture infusing East Orange for decades. In discussion of the future of libraries, Roberts reveals he would like to see a space designed for music enthusiasts to create and learn within his library. A centralized music hub could be a mutual investment between the library and the cultivation of artistic expression among the community’s youth and young adult contingents. “Your greatest resource are the people in the community,” said Roberts. “If you invest in them, they will invest in you.”

Most notably what these men have in common is their dedication to community service. With intimate knowledge of the community and its continued progression, these men continue to tirelessly work towards a future to inspire their community and the young men within.

IN SUMMARY THE NEW DIRECTOR IS EXPECTED TO -

• Develop and articulate a vision and long-term plan for library
• Initiate and strengthen collaborations with faculty and other departments on campus
• Provide inspiring leadership and support to dedicated staff
• Value and advance diversity
• Guide the continuing evolution of academic information services and adoption of new technologies

QUALIFICATIONS

• MLS (or equivalent) from an ALA- accredited program or other appropriate degree required; an additional master’s degree or PhD is preferred
• Five years minimum of progressively responsible library work experience required
• Evidence of effective budget management skills
• Knowledge of assessment tools and use of data to evaluate programs and services
• Strong understanding of the issues of scholarly communication and open access and other challenges facing the 21st century academic library
• Proven involvement and leadership at national and regional levels on academic library issues

Submit Lincoln University employment application, resume/curriculum vita, official transcript of highest degree earned, five letters of recommendation and letter of application to: Human Resource Services, Lincoln University, 101 Young Hall, PO Box 29, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0029 or email: HRS@lincolnu.edu Lincoln University is “An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/ADA Employer.”

CONTACT INFORMATION
Mark Schleer
SchleerM@lincolnu.edu
573-681-5510
CHICAGO — Satia Marshall Orange, former director of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), is the recipient of the 2017 ALA Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) Distinguished Librarian Award. The Distinguished Librarian Award recognizes significant accomplishments in library services that are national or international in scope and include improving, spreading, and promoting multicultural librarianship.

Under Orange’s passionate leadership and advocacy, OLOS broadened the association’s support and celebration of traditionally underserved library staff and library communities, developed new ALA member units and increased participation in events and activities, including the initiation of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration. Orange was the driving force behind the inception of the Sunrise Celebration, as well as its continued observance as a revered tradition at Midwinter.

As the director of the Arthur Ashe Jr. Foreign Policy Library, TransAfrica Forum, Orange coordinated lectures, special events, and receptions highlighting Africa and the diaspora. In addition to directing OLOS, Orange also served as the ALA staff liaison to the Social Responsibilities (SRRT), the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBTRT), and the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange (EMIERT) round tables for over a decade. Nominator Dr. Lori Mestre wrote that, “even in retirement Orange continues her advocacy such as providing guidance and training to library staff in St. Maarten in 2015.” Mestre also noted that, “through all of Orange’s challenging work, dedication, and efforts, she remains humble, poised and positive, a true inspiration for us all.”

“Satia Marshall Orange is a part of a long tradition of leadership in Black women’s history that includes Anna Julia Cooper, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin so eloquently described by historians Dr. Clark Hine and Dr. Paula Giddings,” said EMIERT Chair Dr. Leslie Campbell Hime. “EMIERT is pleased to honor her more than 30 years of work on behalf of traditionally underserved populations and the field of librarianship.”

As recipient of the 2017 Award, Orange will receive a commemorative plaque and a $500 honorarium to be presented during EMIERT President’s Program, Integrating Diversity Initiatives and Community Engagement: The Human Library at Penn State University, Saturday, 3:00pm, room W187b in McCormick Place, during ALA’s 2017 Annual Conference in Chicago.

For more information visit www.ala.org/emiert

Founded in 1982, the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) serves as a source of information for recommended ethnic and multilingual collections and services.
Congratulations on your new book, and on receiving the Darlene Clark Hine Award. I’d like to jump right in to the central content of the work first.

Q: What is “Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners” about exactly?

A: “Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners,” explores Black women’s participation in New York City’s informal labor market during the early twentieth century. It argues that the city’s underground economy served as a catalyst in working-class Black women’s creation of employment opportunities, occupational identities, and survival strategies that provided financial stability and a sense of labor autonomy and mobility.

Q: Your work centers around three specific professions in early 20th Century New York City’s underground industry: sex work, numbers running for gambling enterprises, and the supernatural consulting business. That’s quite a trio! How and why did these three professions emerge as the ones that your research centered upon?

A: New York City Black women engaged in a variety of informal work. This study, however, probes African American women’s underground work as numbers bankers, supernatural consultants, and sex entrepreneurs. I pay considerable attention to these occupations because Black women were heavily concentrated in these particular modes of labor, and because urban amusement consumers and pleasure seekers frequently engaged in games of chance, illegal sexual activities, and readily sought female clairvoyants’ spiritual guidance. Additionally, urban moral crusaders, medical professionals, political and religious leaders, and everyday residents publicly voiced concerns about and launched citywide campaigns against these particular occupations and the vice rackets they were part of.

Q: So, what implications did the work of those in these underground professions have on other working class Black women in New York City during that time period?

A: New York Black women’s illegal and quasi-legal income generating activities, as well other socioeconomic factors, shaped formal wage women’s lives in a myriad of ways. Some formal wage women articulated their objections to certain categories of informal labor like prostitution, citing that informal work reinforced urban whites’ negative perceptions of Black women as sexually deviant and innately deviant. Others suggested that such labor complicated middle and working-class efforts toward community building, racial advancement and racial uplift, and toward presenting positive monolithic images of Black womanhood and respectability. At the same time, urban women’s illegal and non-licensed labor inspired other economically struggling and pleasure-seeking women to create financial activities and social amusement that spoke to their desire for labor equity, pleasure and joy, wealth, and personal autonomy.

Q: Your work appears to focus on New York City. Do you know if similar things were happening with urban
Black women in other U.S. cities around the same time?

A: No doubt, urban and rural Black women across the nation participated in early twentieth informal/criminal economies. Scholars including Sharon Harley, Kali Gross (“Colored Crime: Violence, Murder, and Black Women in the City of Brotherly Love, 1880-1910”, Duke University Press, 2006), Cynthia Blair (“I’ve Got To Make My Livin: Black Women’s Sex Work in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago”, University of Chicago Press, 2010), Talithia LeFlouria (“Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South”, University of North Carolina Press, 2013), and Sarah Haley (“No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and The Making of Jim Crow Modernity”, University of North Carolina Press, 2016) have written on Black women’s informal labor outside of New York. For example, Sharon Harley’s essay, “Working for Nothing but for a Living: Black Women in Underground Economy” in her 2002 edited volume, “Sister Circle: Black Women and Work”, discussed the fascinating life of Washington, D.C., narcotics dealer and brothel owner Odessa Madre. Commonly referred to as the “Dope Queen” of Washington, D.C., Madre often appeared at her popular nightclub, Club Madre, with several attractive “sporting women” by her side and it was rumored that she had a sexual relationship with 1950s Black comedienne Jackie “Moms” Mabley. Additionally, I have discovered Black women numbers runners and bankers, sex workers, street vendors, drug dealers, baby farm operators (non-licensed childcare providers) in Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Nashville, etc. A: Delving into the lives, labors, and world created by New York City’s working-class African American women was an exciting, challenging, and frustrating endeavor. My concerns about the dearth of primary sources on my subjects made the prospect of archival searches particularly daunting. Tremendous methodological issues arose as I began piecing together the ambiguous yet provocative public and private lives of working poor Black women. The absence or unavailability of primary documentation complicated my attempts at recovering the details of underrepresented women’s lives and their labor. Because of the lack of available primary documentation, my study employs an interdisciplinary approach towards reconstructing and analyzing less-privileged black women’s labor identities and their power and vulnerabilities as informal workers. I utilized white and black race reform and charitable organizational records; anti-violence investigation reports and surveys; Federal Writers’ Project interviews and oral history collections; and city and state court, prison, and inmate parole records. Moreover, the book draws on the fiction and nonfiction writings and personal observations of some of the most influential writers, journalists, and cultural critics of the time, including Claude McKay, Roy Otley, Carl Van Vechten, Wallace Thurman, Marshall Cooke, Thelma Berlak, Vivian Morris, and James Weldon Johnson, as well as others whose candid writings captured Black New Yorkers’ everyday politics.

Q: What does winning the Darlene Clark Hine Award mean to you? Also, do you happen to know why you won the award for this title?

A: Winning the DCH award is a tremendous honor. Dr. Hine is a giant within the field of Black Women’s History; she and other African American women historians pioneered this expanding subfield. I am truly honored that the Organization of American Historians (OAH) DCH committee selected “Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners: Black Women in New York City’s Underground Economy”. The two studies are concerned with the post-1945 lives of Black New Yorkers. The first study is a book project that explores the socioeconomic, political, and cultural lives of Black New Yorkers during the 1980s. Commonly referred to as the era of Reagan, the 1980s, a time of rapid socioeconomic and political changes, was a pivotal decade for New York African Americans, particularly the working-class. Black urbanites witnessed the rise of crack cocaine cartels in their neighborhoods, rising city crime, homelessness, and racial violence, diminishing housing and economic opportunities, and more importantly the impact of Post-World War II federal and state legislation aimed at tackling urban crime and drug-related offenses. This book will be the first major study on New York African Americans during the Post-Civil Rights / Black Power Era. It will join recently published studies (Brenda Stevenson, “The Contested Murder of Latasha Harlins: Justice, Gender, and The Origins of the LA Riots”, Oxford University Press, 2013; Michael Fortner, “Black Silent Majority: The Rockefeller Drug Laws and The Politics of Punishment”, Harvard University Press, 2015; and Elizabeth Hinton, “From The War on Poverty to The War on Crime: The Making of Incarceration in America”, Harvard University Press, 2016) that focus on 1970s & 1980s urban America.

The second project is an article length manuscript that examines the highly publicized and controversial 1964 police shooting of 60-something-year-old Bronx, New York resident and grandmother Eleanor Bumpers.

Q: If you can resist the temptation of saying, “everyone,” who do you think would be most interested in reading this title? In other words, since we’re attempting to help librarians decide whether to add this title, who would be the target audience?

A: The target audience is anyone interested working-class issues, labor histories, Black entrepreneurship, urban histories, women’s studies, less familiar New York histories, and “histories from the bottom.”
Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature: African American Grandparents and Grand-Families Themed Books

Compiled by Dr. Claudette S. McLinn

Across the Alley: by Richard Michelson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Dial, ©2002
Amazing Grace: by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Blum, published Dial, ©1992
The Birthday Storm (Sassy Series #2): by Sharon M. Draper, published by Scholastic Press, ©2009
Bonjour, Lennie: written and illustrated by Faith Ringgold, published by Hyperion, ©1996
Bravo, Grace! by Mary Hoffman, published by Frances Lincoln Children’s Books, ©2005
Brendan Buckley’s Universe and Everything in It: by Sundee T. Frazier, published by Delacorte, ©2007
Chicken Sunday: written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco, published by Philomel Books, ©1992
Cirque Unbroken: by Margot Theis Raven, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Scholastic, ©2004
Coming on Home Soon: by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Putnam’s, ©2004
Cousins: by Virginia Hamilton, published by Philomel, ©2000
Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural, by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, illustrated by Knopf, ©1992
Daughter’s Day Blues: by Laura Pegram, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hua Hu, published by Puffin, ©2002
Go Fish: by Mary Stolz, illustrated by Pat Cummings, published by HarperCollins, ©1994
Gone Crazy in Alabama: by Rita Williams-Garcia, 243 pages, published by Amistad, an imprint by Hyperion, ©2000
Granddaddy’s Book: by Margaret King Mitchell, illustrated by Larry Johnson, published by Troll, ©1998
Granddaddy’s Street Songs: by Monalius Degross, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Jump at the Sun, ©2002
Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballet Box, by Michael S. Bandy & Eric Velasquez, published by Atheneum Books, ©2004
Hello, Goodbye Window: by Norton Juster, illustrated by Chris Raschka, published by Hyperion, ©2005
Hundred Penny Box: by Sharon Bell Mathis, illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon, published by Puffin Books, ©1975
It’s Church Going Time: by Wade Hudson, illustrated by Peter Ambush, published by Marimekko Books, ©2006
Janna and the Kings: by Patricia Smith, illustrated by Aaron Boyé, published by Lee & Low Books, ©2003
Just Like Josh Gibson: by Angela Johnson, illustrated by Beth Peck, published by Simon & Schuster, ©2004
Keepers: by Jeri Handel Watts, illustrated by Pamela Johnson, illustrated by Ysaye M. Barnwell, illustrated by Rebecca L. Hardison, ©2005
Lillie’s Right to Vote: A Celebrating of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by Sharon Winter, illustrated by Nate Williams, illustrated by Jeri Handel Watts, ©2005
Little Melba and Her Trombone: by Katherine Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison, published by Lee & Low Books, ©2005
Nan’s Pond: by Ethel Foothman Smothers, illustrated by Norma Paulsen, ©2004
No Mirrors in My Nana’s House: by Yusea M. Barnwell, illustrated by Sydelle Estes, published by Voyager Books/Harcourt, ©2005
On the Day I Was Born: by Debbi Chocolate, illustrated by Melodye Benson Rosales, published by Scholastic, ©2005
Only the Stars (Just for You series): by Deb Boyd, illustrated by Anna Rich, published by Scholastic, ©2004
Parents Doing It Too: by Sharon M. Draper, published by Dial, ©1998
Rita’s Secret: by Sharon M. Draper, published by Delacorte, ©2000
Scot’s Baby: by Myra Comeau, illustrated by Tanisha B. Davis, published by Jump at the Sun, ©2006
Scholar: by Pat侨, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, published by Knopf, ©1992
Showing the Way: by Sharon M. Draper, illustrated by Faith Ringgold, published by Hyperion, ©2001
Soul: by Judson Press, ©2004
The Story That Needs to Be Told: by Jewell Parker Rhodes, illustrated by Faith Ringgold, published by Knopf, ©2004
Wearin’ the Crown: by Jewell Parker Rhodes, illustrated by Faith Ringgold, published by Scholastic, ©2005
You! series): by Debbi Chocolate, illustrated by Melodye Benson Rosales, published by Scholastic, ©2005

Kuykendall Wins Travel Awards

By Leighann Wood, RUSA

BCALA executive board member Bradley J. Kuykendall, reference and instruction librarian at Lincoln University in Missouri, has been selected for the 2017 Global Financial Data Academic Business Librarianship Travel Award, administered by the Business Reference and Services Section (BRASS) of RUSA. The award, sponsored by Global Financial Data, consists of $1,250 to support attendance to the ALA Annual Conference.

Kuykendall, a recent Spectrum Scholar, was selected in recognition of the substantial promise and dedication he has shown at the start of his career as an academic business librarian. Especially notable is his passion for financial information literacy, and for teaching personal finance skills to the students of Lincoln University.

Before his career at Lincoln, Kuykendall received his MLSIS from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. During his master’s program, he worked at the John Deere Innovation Technology Center performing research with mechanical and industrial engineers using his LIS skills in data collecting.

Kuykendall will be honored at the RUSA Achievement Awards Ceremony and Reception held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 25 at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. All conference attendees are invited to the event. Additional event details will be available on the conference website in April. The Global Financial Data Academic Business Librarianship Travel Award selection committee includes: Michael R. Oppenheim (Chair), Ashley S. Dees, Patrick Joseph Griﬃns, and Cristina Springfield.
The African Diaspora Social Justice Children’s & Young Adult Bibliography

Compiled by Tiffeni Fontno

ALPHABET
A is for Activist: by Innosanto Nagara, Illustrated by Ana Juan, Triangle Square ©2013 (P)

AFRICAN
Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan, by Mary Williams, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, 40 pages ©2007 (P)

Colour of Home: by Mary Hoffman, 32 pages, Frances Lincoln Ltd, ©2012 (P)
The Day Gogo Went to Vote: by Elinor Batezat Sisulu, illustrated by Sharon Wilson, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 32 pages ©2009 (P)

Desmond and the Very Mean Words: by Desmond Tutu, illustrated by A.G. Ford, Candlewick, 32 pages ©2012 (P)

My Name is Sangoel: by Elinor Sisulu, illustrated by A.G. Ford, Candlewick, 32 pages ©2012 (P)

When I Get Older: The Story Behind “Wuzn’t” Flag, by K’Nyaan and Sol Sol, illustrated by Rudy Guitierrez, "Wavin’ Flag", by K’Naan and Sol Sol, ©2012 (P)

CIVIL RIGHTS
Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation, by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, Greenwillow Books, 40 pages ©2008 (P)
Child of the Civil Rights Movement: by Paula Young Shelton, illustrated by Royal Conrad, Dragonfly Books, 48 pages ©2015 (P)
Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box, by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, illustrated by Shadrack Strickland, Candlewick, 40 pages ©2015 (P)
We March: by Shane W. Evans, Square Fish, 32 pages ©2016

DISABILITY
Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofoe Yebuah, by Laurie Ann Thompson, illustrated by Regina Quint, Schueller & Wade, ©2015 (P)

ENVIRONMENT
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: by William Kamkwamba, Scholastic, ©2012 (P)

GROWTH
When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson, by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick, Scholastic Press, 40 pages ©2012 (P)

Green: by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by LeUyen Pham, Greenwillow Books, 32 pages ©2015 (P)


Ruth and the Green Book: by Calvin Alexander Ramsey, illustrated by Green Strasser, Crowdbirds Books, ©2010 (P)

This is the Dream: by Jessiie Alexander and James Ransome, illustrated by Diane Zuhone Shore and Jessica Alexander, illustrated by James Ransome, HarperCollins Publishers, ©2009 (P)

Watson Go to Birmingham: 1963, Christopher Paul Curtis, Laurel Lea, 224 pages ©2006 (M) (YA)

White Water: Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, illustrated by Shadrack Strickland, Candlewick, 40 pages ©2015 (P)

The Underground Abductor: The Abolitionist Tale about Harriet Tubman, by Nathan Hale, Harry N. Abrams, 128 pages ©2015 (P) (M)

The Underground Railroad, by Ellen Levine, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Scholastic Press, 40 pages ©2007 (P)
The Price of Freedom: How One Town Stood Up to Slavery, by Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Raum Prudin, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, Walker Childrens, 48 pages ©2012 (P)

Steamboat School: by Deborah Hopkins, illustrated by Ron Hash, Jump! At The Sun, 40 pages ©2016 (P)

INTERNATIONAL

NON-FICTION
Between the World and Me: Ta-Nehisi Coates, Spiegel & Grau, 176 pages ©2015 (YA)
On Saturday, March 18, 2017, The Friends of The Johnson Branch Library had their 7th annual James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival. It was held in the area behind The Enoch Davis Community Center and James Weldon Johnson Community Library (1059 18th Ave South in St. Petersburg, FL). The Library is part of The St. Petersburg Public Library System.

The major sponsors for the event were the City of St. Petersburg, United Parcel Service and The City of St. Petersburg Library System.

The purpose of the festival is to promote the James Weldon Johnson Community Library and celebrate the life of James Weldon Johnson. James Weldon Johnson was the first African American to pass the Florida bar, and field secretary of the NAACP. Johnson was also a lyricist and he wrote the Negro National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

The festival had activities throughout the day for the whole family. Activities included: vendors from area businesses and nonprofit organizations, children’s inflatables, book giveaways, hula hoop contests for adults and children, trivia questions about James Weldon Johnson, and door prizes for both adults and children.

Government officials such as Wengay “Newt” Newton of the Florida House of Representatives, and Joanne

Seventh Annual James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival is a Success

By Kevin W. Johnson, Friends of the Johnson Branch Library

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Government officials such as Wengay “Newt” Newton of the Florida House of Representatives, and Joanne
Lentino of the Pinellas County School Board gave presentations at the Festival.

Performances were provided by local artists; St. Mark’s Missionary Baptist Church mimes group, Shabazz Rogers performed with a group of adults and children on bucket drums, James Alderman did a Frankie Beverly impersonation, Wilmore Sadiki performed as a guitarist, Marques Clark performed spoken word, a St. Petersburg Main Library puppeteer provided a puppet show for the children, a presentation was done by the St. Petersburg Police Department K9 unit, and Eddie Pringle from Masonic Lodge #109 did a presentation about the history of the library and the lodge. The library was housed in the masonic lodge when it was opened in 1947.

The annual community service award was given to the Epsilon Beta Sigma chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. The sorority has supported the Friends and donated their time and resources since the Friends group was started.

The highlight of the day was the “Walk for Reading”, an annual event where the Friends, children, adults and community members walk through the community neighborhood surrounding the library to promote literacy in the community.

The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion (IJIDI) is a recently established, open access, peer-reviewed online journal that presents wide-ranging and multidisciplinary perspectives on the intersection of equity, social justice, and information. The journal seeks to expand the discourse around how access to, interaction with, and the use of information by a range of populations can impact individuals, communities, and society on the local and global scale. IJIDI’s unique approach is in adopting a broad definition of diversity and a mission to reflect the international dimension of diversity. IJIDI is established through the collaboration between the University of Maryland (UMD) Libraries and iPAC (the Information Policy & Access Center), a research center in the College of Information Studies (also known as Maryland’s iSchool); iPAC focuses on research and education in the areas of libraries, cultural, and public institutions; policy; diverse populations; and preservation. IJIDI is published by volume; each annual volume has no discrete issues. It is done to overcome publication delays associated with the traditional issue-based approach, and articles are reviewed and published on a continuous basis.

The journal is currently inviting submissions on a wide variety of topics related to diversity, including but not limited to:

- Increasing diversity in education and instruction, professional practice, and research;
- Information organizations such as libraries, archives, museums, and schools as change agents;
- The impact of information professionals and organizations on social justice;
- Information organizations as Institutions of Human Rights;
- Programming and service to underserved populations;
- Programming and service to individuals with disabilities;
- Cultural competence;
- Creating, expanding, and exploring theories related to social inclusion, equity and justice; and
- Methods for increasing diversity within and across disciplines and fields of practice.

Information professionals (e.g., librarians, archivists, curators, teachers), faculty members, and students are all encouraged to submit papers or reviews. We also welcome submissions from scholars and practitioners from outside of the library and information field insofar as their articles fall within the scope of IJIDI. We are particularly interested in reflections from journalists, educators, and members of the artistic community. Please visit The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion (http://publish.lib.umd.edu/IJIDI/index ) to submit your paper, or email the editor, Fiona Jardine at ijidi@umd.edu, should you have any questions.
The African Library Project is Changing Rural Africa One Library at a Time

By Jason Alston, Coastal Carolina University

In 2015, the American Library Association launched its three-year, national public awareness campaign, “Libraries Transform,” with the intent of illustrating how libraries throughout the United States transform their communities. The “libraries transform” concept, however, has global application, and Chris Bradshaw, founder of the nonprofit African Library Project, has assisted in transforming communities in rural Africa for over a decade through the formation of libraries.

“It’s phenomenal the kind of raw intelligence and interest that is being squandered in Africa, and the rest of the developing world as well, because of the lack of basic learning resources,” Bradshaw told BCALA News about rural communities in Africa. “Having a lack of basic resources is a huge issue. If they can have those basic resources, they can make their way.”

Founded in 2005, the African Library Project (ALP) (www.africanlibraryproject.org) partners with stakeholders in rural African schools and communities to establish libraries. The local villages or communities agree to provide hosting space for, staff, and sustain/ maintain these libraries. Local community members in a potential recipient community must provide letters of commitment to the library. Once interest and commitment are established within the potential host community, ALP matches the host community with a U.S.-based school or organization that organizes book drives and fundraisers for the new library. Once the U.S.-based entity raises $500 and collects 1,000 gently-used children’s books, ALP supports both the community in Africa and the assisting entity in the U.S. in actually establishing the library and having gathered resources transported to the African site. The $500 is used to cover the direct costs of shipping materials. ALP partners with African national governments or organizations to vet local library projects, clear and distribute shipping containers of books, and train teacher-librarians.

As of May 30, 2017, ALP has established 2,040 libraries in Africa with the help of American, Canadian and African grassroots volunteers. ALP currently works only with Anglophone nations and has established libraries in: Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“Almost all of our libraries are in rural areas, and in rural Africa, there’s almost no books,” Bradshaw said. Bradshaw told BCALA News that in addition to providing space, staff, and demonstrating commitment, communities receiving help establishing libraries also establish a library committee. ALP’s web site features a PDF version of a book that serves as a guide to Africans on how to establish and sustain their libraries; the book, entitled “How to Set Up and Run a Small Library in Africa” (https://www.africanlibraryproject.org/our-african-libraries/library-resources), is also available in hard copy form, and Bradshaw said the book has been downloaded over 4,000 times and used for starting libraries not just in Africa, but in other nations of the developing world.

TRANSFORMATION

Bradshaw truly believes that the libraries established in Africa through ALP have had transformative impacts on individuals and communities where they’ve been established. Bradshaw was eager to tell BCALA News the story of Ketelelo Moapare. Moapare, a San Bushman from Botswana, is a double orphan who was moved to a resettlement camp by the government of Botswana as a child. When Moapare was 12, an ALP library was established in the area he resided in. Moapare helped unpack books for the new library, and fell in love with reading through his work with the library.

Moapare’s love for reading, according to Bradshaw, led to him becoming the first San to graduate from high school in Botswana. Moapare was recognized as one of the top students in Botswana and Moapare was offered a scholarship by Botswana’s government to attend the best college in the world that he could get into. Moapare declined the government’s scholarship and opted instead to attend Michigan State University through a scholarship offered by the MasterCard Foundation.

Bradshaw also shared a story of community-level transformation, this story coming out of Malawi. Bradshaw visited Malawi roughly eight years ago, and – while there – visited a rural primary school where there was interest in establishing a library. In Malawi, Bradshaw said that primary schools can average 150 students per class. At this school, Bradshaw says the teachers were noticeably depressed and the students appeared unhurried. Bradshaw saw the school’s books, and said that many were turned the wrong way so that you could not see the title on the spine. Also, many of the books had bugs in them. Bradshaw said that because people in this area and other rural areas of Africa do not grow up reading or owning books, they do not know how to care for them.

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An ALP library was established at this primary school in Malawi and, according to Bradshaw, the culture of the school changed with the formation of the ALP library. Bradshaw said that parents, many of whom were themselves illiterate, began getting more involved in the school’s parent/teacher organization. Also, students became more engaged in learning, and stakeholders and community leaders in the community said the school had been transformed and there was now hope that more students would go on to secondary school (in this region, students take a rigorous examination in seventh grade and only top performers get to go on to secondary school because Malawi doesn’t have the space or resources to provide secondary school for all students). Also, a teacher was at this school who was trained in managing library collections, and that teacher taught others how to assist with maintenance.

“I was crying,” Bradshaw said. “I mean, I was so thrilled to see what was happening!”

Bradshaw also shared that ALP puts Hesperian health guides in a lot of their libraries. Hesperian is a Berkeley, CA-based publisher that publishes health guides for developing countries; Bradshaw describes these as, “health care manuals put in very simple terms about how to diagnose things and then how to treat them” for areas that have limited or no access to health care. Bradshaw said these health care guides are used to assist in treating ailments in these rural areas, and that there was even a situation where a Hesperian health guide was used to deliver a baby.
HELP IS NEEDED

Bradshaw responded, “For sure, absolutely!” when asked if she believed that there’d be a huge difference in societal progress in Africa and other parts of the developing world should they fund libraries to the extent that the U.S. does.

“Libraries are under attack in this country [the United States], but it’s not even comparable,” said Bradshaw, whose career background is in library services. “My hope is that you have readers who are inspired to help start a library through us.”

Bradshaw explained to BCALA News that when she tries to explain the importance of the work that ALP is doing in Africa, some people in the U.S. do not understand why libraries in particular are what’s needed. For instance, Bradshaw said people will suggest that high-tech solutions such as e-readers should be gathered for Africans to use; those suggesting this don’t understand that the Africans served by ALP cannot make use of e-readers because rural areas of Africa tend to not have electricity.

Bradshaw also pointed out that other infrastructure that Americans may deem essential, such as running water, may also be absent in rural Africa. People aren’t present in rural Africa who are trained to offer the solutions that Americans often wish to pose, such as exploiting solar energy to provide electricity for charging e-readers.

“When you witness the lack of resources in Africa, you begin to understand why they’re not developing more quickly than they are,” Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw said there is a lot more demand right now than can be filled, but libraries and librarians can assist ALP by conducting book drives, conducting fundraisers, and by spreading the word about ALP. Instructions on how to conduct a book drive for ALP are available at http://www.africanlibraryproject.org/book-drives/start-a-book-drive. As previously mentioned in this article, with 1,000 gently-used children’s books and $500 fundraised, a U.S.-based library or organization can start a new library in Africa through ALP. Bradshaw stressed that it is easy to get involved with ALP and wants people to explore the organization’s web site to get a feel for how easy getting involved can be.

ALP has not, according to Bradshaw, formally worked with any U.S.-based library associations to start ALP libraries; however, Bradshaw welcomes the opportunity to do so. Bradshaw says public libraries and school libraries have done drives for ALP. Bradshaw also told BCALA News that Penn State University has helped establish roughly 50 libraries in cooperation with ALP. ALP also sends containers of books to libraries in Anglophone countries each year. ALP does not assist in stock the libraries already containing more than 2,000 titles, as they, “are trying to get to those areas that really have nothing.”

ALP is most-interested in children’s books with a reading level of eighth grade or below. Reference books are also needed. Other materials are welcome, and questions can be directed to ALP. ALP is appreciative of receiving some textbooks, but Bradshaw noted that many textbooks are not reading-level appropriate and that teachers are teaching different things in Africa than teachers in the U.S.

ALP also tries to educate Americans on the challenges that rural Africans in ALP-serviced areas face. In addition to infrastructural challenges, many students in serviced areas have to walk three hours to arrive at school. Teachers in ALP-serviced areas often teach from memory, and also, even for teachers, reading levels often top out at eighth grade. ALP-established libraries are often maintained by teachers who keep the library running on top of their fulltime teaching loads.

Bradshaw’s interest in Africa began during her junior year of college, when she visited Sierra Leone and travelled throughout western and central Africa. Bradshaw said that she fell in love with African people during her visit, but said she was also “overwhelmed” when wondering how people in impoverished areas of Africa can escape poverty without education.

“People are so warm and hospitable even though they had nothing a lot of times,” Bradshaw said of those in Africa.

Bradshaw visited Africa again in 2004, this time with her family. The family was in the African nation of Lesotho, and there was no running water, roads or electricity where the family was visiting. While the family was horseback riding, Bradshaw’s son became bored and started reading a book. The guide for the horseback riding venture mentioned after seeing this that there may have been a library in Lesotho’s capital city. Upon returning to the village where the trek had started, Bradshaw spoke to a local villager who said there was a desire for a library there; the village, however, lacked space and potential staffing in addition to books. Bradshaw told the villager if the village provided the space and the personnel, she could acquire books. Two months later, a building space for the library was already halfway complete. This particular project was turned over to a Peace Corps volunteer in the area who was also a librarian. ALP was launched, complete with a web site and a board of directors, the following year.

Though never serving as a librarian herself, Bradshaw – a former YMCA executive who homeschooled her children – is aware of the transformation that libraries bring.

“I have tremendous respect for librarians,” Bradshaw said. “I think what they do is very important.”
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The first page in this story is a letter written by Vicky Cruz. “...I held off from doing this for a long, long time because I knew how bad you and everyone would feel. But the love I have for all of you doesn’t stop the hurt I feel inside. I’m sorry my nana. I love you...”

Victoria (Vicky) Cruz wakes up in Lakeview Hospital. She meets Dr. Desai, a therapist, who tells her that Juanita, Vicky’s nana, found her and called 911. Dr. Desai suggests that Vicky call Juanita, who is glad to hear from her. Dr. Desai also tells Vicky that her father agreed that Vicky should stay overnight. Although Vicky’s parents want Vicky to come home the next day and return to a “normal” environment, Dr. Desai recommends to Vicky’s father and stepmother that Vicky stays longer.

Vicky does stay longer and shares a room with Domonique (Mona) Salas. Mona is friendly, and is also bipolar. Vicky also meets E.M. who has anger management issues, and Gabriel, who struggles with schizophrenia.

In the group therapy sessions led by Dr. Desai, Vicky realizes she has depression and she begins to feel comfortable with the group. Together these four form a strong bond of friendship despite their individual fragilities. Then an incident forces the group to split up, and Vicky finds the courage to help.

Francisco X. Stork, who also suffers with depression, writes a realistic and honest story about depression and recovering. E.M., Gabriel, and Mona authentically portray their individual issues. Dr. Desai is a caring therapist and her group sessions provide the comfort and safety environment these characters need. Vicky’s parents represent those adults who have their own issues, and who try to understand depression. Vicky’s depression and her road to recovery is a delicate one, but one that offers light and hope.

Book Review: The Secret Game: A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball’s Lost Triumph

By Michele T. Fenton, Indiana State Library

“The Secret Game: A Wartime Story of Courage, Change, and Basketball’s Lost Triumph” by Scott Ellsworth is the story of a little piece of sports history unknown to many about a secret basketball game that took place in Durham, North Carolina between white and Black players on the evening of Sunday, March 19, 1944 on the campus of the North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University).

Segregation was the norm in the United States during the early half of the 20th century, especially in the South. However, a group of students sought to change this, leading to the holding of joint service meetings between members of the YMCA chapters of Duke University and the North Carolina College for Negros. It was during one of these meetings, that the idea of a secret basketball game between the Duke University Medical School team and the North Carolina College of Negroes came about.

Attendees at the joint YMCA meeting were discussing sports. At some point during this discussion, some wanted to know if the Duke University Medical School team and the North Carolina College of Negroes were to play against each other, who would win? A decision was made to find out.

Players from both schools knew the risks involved in having such an event. Segregation and racism had a stronghold in the world of sports, with separate leagues for whites and Blacks and athletes only competing against others of their own race and color. There was the risk of expulsion, firing, etc., however to the players, the game and the point they wanted to prove was worth the risks.

In addition to sharing details of the game, Ellsworth provides readers with extensive background on the players, their coaches, and supporters, aptly chronicling their hardships, challenges, and triumphs; and how these elements shaped their approach.
to basketball and the event in 1944 itself. For example, Aubrey Stanley, a native of Beaufort, N.C., through determination and the support and encouragement of his aunt, overcame an impoverished background to become an outstanding member of the North Carolina College of Negroes Eagles. In another example, readers see Jack Burgess, a native of Wolf Point, MT, and a member of the Duke Medical School team, face pushback from other Duke students because he showed respect to others regardless of race. It was he who persuaded his fellow teammates to agree to the secret game with the North Carolina College of Negroes.

Ellsworth shares additional facts as well:

John McClendon, the basketball coach for the North Carolina College for Negroes, was part of the surgical team that treated Betty Ford, wife of former United States President Gerald R. Ford, for breast cancer. His teammate, Dick Symmonds went to work for the Mayo Clinic.

There are many other historical gems, including who won the game, but to find out, head to your local library or bookstore to pick up this wonderful non-fiction read which will appeal to those with an interest in both African American history and the history of basketball in America.

Youth Corner: The Evolution of a Summer Reading Program

By Kirby McCurtis, Interim Branch Administrator, Multnomah County (OR) Library

This year my library system is revolutionizing how we do our Summer Reading Program (SRP). We have taken the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) theme of “Build a Better World” to new heights with a community engagement and learning program that I am so excited to share with families.

The first change participants will notice is in the age divisions for the different games we have. Based on feedback from families and staff, this year youth will play one of four games. The alignment will be with current school breaks and developmental stages and we think this will be more intuitive for patrons.

The next big change comes in how our games are formatted. Instead of reading for a certain amount of minutes, the game boards for children through 8th grade will have calendars for part of June and all of July and August. Participants can read or do one of the suggested learning activities on the board. For our youngest players, the childhood game has lots of options based on the five early literacy practices (read, write, talk, sing, play). For elementary and middle school-aged kids, we’ve incorporated STE(A)M themes and highlight civic/community engagement. SRP is designed to help prevent the “summer slide” and we think the calendar format is the best way to do that. Youth are encouraged and rewarded for making reading a daily habit. Our library also thinks the calendar will help voracious readers stay engaged with the library all summer long.

The final change comes on the teen front based on feedback from actual teens. We are not even calling it a game anymore—officially it is the “High School challenge.” Teens get a wallet-sized punch card, complete the activities on the card, and then can redeem it for a local vendor coupon or a ticket into a larger monthly drawing.

The activities focus on building a better world by practicing all the literacies needed for success—digital, information, cultural, and of course, reading. And all of this interaction is happening at the customer service desk, meaning all staff will be serving teens. We hope this opens up more ways to engage with teens, and because the challenge was teen-designed, we think it will appeal to more teens. In the midst of uncertain times, I hope you -- and librarians everywhere -- can take a moment to think of how your programs can help build and support a more engaged community.

(This is the latest installment of our recurring “Youth Corner” column series)
The Dangers Within: A Review of Burn Baby Burn

By Karen Lemmons, Detroit School of Arts

It is the summer of 1977 in New York City. The heat is intense, and the temperatures are high. Arsons, a serial killer named the Son of Sam, who randomly kills couples, and a blackout all create fears and intensifies a dangerous environment. Equally ominous is Nora Lopez’s home life.

Nora, a high school graduate, tries to prepare for college and life after high school. She works part-time at a deli and saves money from her earnings. However, her mom, who works at a factory, is working less hours. She is struggling to pay the rent. Therefore, Nora helps out financially. Hector, Nora’s brother, has stopped going to school, and he is involved in some suspicious activity. Furthermore, Hector’s menacing looks, and erratic behaviors, create a volatile and potentially violent home environment.

When Nora meets Pablo, a new guy in town, who also starts working at the deli. The mutual attraction intensifies a dangerous environment.

Medina accurately describes the killings, the intense heat, the arsons, and the blackout. The disco music permeates throughout the story. The characters are well developed. Readers will relate to Nora’s desire to get away, and will enjoy her romance with Pablo. The reader may empathize with the mom’s financial struggles, but will certainly dislike Hector. The everyday family drama and life in the Queens’ neighborhood are realistically depicted.

The statement, “The real dangers are often closer than we’d like to admit” is written on the jacket back cover of this book. In Nora’s case, this statement is very true.

Burn Baby Burn by Meg Medina.

Candlewick Press.
308 pp. 2016.
ISBN 978-0-7636-7467-0
$17.99

A Review of “She Stood For Freedom” by Loki Mulholland

By Tahira A. Ahmad, Queens Library

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland is not a name I have heard before, until I got the opportunity to do this review. She is certainly not a familiar name in children’s history books; yet, her contribution to the Civil Rights Movement is monumental.

This book gives the reader the idea to explore the roles and contributions of ordinary everyday people like you and I, involved in the Civil Rights Movement throughout our history. In particular our White allies. The same idea that made Loki Mulholland explore the deep experiences that influenced her father’s decision to fight for racial justice against all odds.

The short topics are arranged chronologically, with each describing key events in Joan Trumpauer’s life. Such topics as the dangers of demonstrations, the lifelong friendships she made, and the lessons she passed on to her children. Every detailed explanation truly paints a unique and graphic picture of her every single experience.

This book is beautifully written… I love the brilliant illustrations, the vintage photographs and collage artwork which adds character and meaning to the research involved and the Civil Rights timeline at the end pages which sum up the truth.

She Stood For Freedom gives the reader the idea to explore the roles and actions of anyone involved in the Civil Rights Movement throughout our history. The same idea that makes Loki Mulholland explore the deep experiences that influenced his

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland was a white teenager from the south during the de jure segregation period. She had the courage to put herself on the frontline of the Civil Rights struggle. Her strong determination is an example of sheer courage. Detailing the many events she participated in... sit-ins, part of the Freedom Riders in 1961, was arrested and put on death row for months at the notorious Parchman Penitentiary. She was the first white person to join in the 1965 Woolworth’s lunch counter sit-ins in Jackson, Mississippi, and she also participated in the March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King and the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965 (which contributed to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act that year). This amazing woman is “book worthy” and much more.

This is one of the best books I’d recommend for young readers, teachers, parents and caregivers. Easy to understand and packed with valuable information.
The name “Michelle” in Hebrew or French when translated means, “close to God”, “gift of God”, or, “who is like God”. Whichever translation you use, the connection to spirituality and reverence is included in The Meaning of Michelle. I chose “gift of God” for this book review. In truth, we are all gifts of God; we are life’s miracle, each with our talents and abilities. It is how we use our talents that set us apart, makes others take notice, and encourages admiration and respect.

Veronica Chambers’s book, “The Meaning of Michelle” is an anthology of 15 essays written about Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama. The book is written by people who knew her well, or just admired and respected her. The book is a short read, and once you get started you pretty much don’t want to stop. Chambers says in her introduction that the book is, “less an intellectual analysis of Michelle Obama as First Lady and more a series of musings, reminiscences, and pash notes to Michelle Obama as homegirl, the woman who ... we all want to be friends with (p. 8).” I agree, reading the book was like talking to a friend, some authors more than others.

Damon Young’s piece, “Crushing on Michelle: Or the Unapologetic Power of Blackness”, took me back to my hometown: Pittsburgh, PA. Damon starts his essay discussing how he learned about Barack Obama, while teaching in a high school in Wilkinsburg, a suburb of Pittsburgh. He did his research, Barack had promise, but it was Michelle that sealed the deal. “She was our litmus test. The final and most important exam Barack had to pass. We weren’t just voting for Barack. We desired to see Barack and Michelle and Sasha and Malia in the White House (p. 38).” Damon concludes with the thought that many children, like his nieces and nephews, are of the age where they only know America as having a Black president. Their recollection of a First Family will be one that included people that looked like them. Imagine that.

A few years ago, a colleague and I did a presentation at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) conference entitled, “Fitting the First Ladies: Black Women Fashion Designers in the White House”. While researching the subject, I found that Michelle Obama’s impact on the fashion industry, during her tenure in the White House, equated to about 14 million in stock revenues for each clothing brand she wore. Tanisha C. Ford wrote in her essay, “She Slays: Michelle Obama & the Power of Dressing Like You Mean It”: “when Michelle dresses the world watches (p. 116).” Ford writes about Michelle Obama’s style as a mode of survival and a symbol of many Black Americans’ hopes and dreams, a symbol of our collective hurt and pain (p. 119). What the author notes, and so many of us also notice, is that the older Michelle gets, the younger she looks. Ford’s essay is more than a critique of Michelle fashion sense; it is an acknowledgment of Michelle as a Black woman, a leader, a rebel, a “bawse”.

The essay by Karen Hill Anton was interesting because it compares a life lived in Japan with a life lived in Chicago. “The Freedom to be Yourself” is a letter to Michelle from a woman who left the United States forty years ago and never went back. One of the benefits she cites, living in Japan, is no one has guns. In 2013 Japan recorded 0 gun deaths (p. 161). Anton concludes her essay with a Japanese saying, “Ichi go ichi e. Treasure this moment, it will never come again (p. 169).”

All of the essays in the book offer a different perspective of Michelle Obama. Benilde Little talks about the South Side Michelle, Alicia and Jason Moran talk about the power and audacity of the Obamas to believe Barack could be President. Brittany Cooper compares Beyonce and Michelle, because Michelle compares herself with Beyonce. Their lady friendship is unique but not so unexpected. Benilde Little goes deep in her comparison. It is an intellectual analysis that you need a cup of tea to really appreciate all she put in her few pages. Each essay could be an assignment for literature analysis and would make a good book club discussion. Therefore, before I steal someone’s thunder, I will stop right here and just encourage everyone to read the book. It is a stress free, light read and a nice way of reminiscing about a time when we didn’t have controversy in the White House.
Tech Sidebar: Porter to begin BCALA News Contributions About Technology
By Toccara D. Porter

How do we as Black librarians continue to make strides in the area of leadership while we focus on advancing our communities and cultural traditions? The answer will vary by person. But, for me, technology will fill a critical need in this effort. Technology helps us extend our message via social media. Websites and online instructional videos must be built for outreach to distance learning populations. We need innovative software for in-house professional development training. Further, a driver of the aforementioned points is the people that visit libraries, from the youth to adults of all ages that have a plethora of electronic devices on hand. Some of these same people frequent libraries to gain access to computing devices that they may not have the luxury to afford on their own.

None of what I have said is new to many librarians reading this piece. This message is routinely communicated across various library venues. But, how much of this message has really sunk in for those of us in BCALA? Consider this: the body of BCALA has many parts (e.g., executive board, LIS students) that help solidify the whole entity. Technology represents another part that will help our whole body function successfully in combination with the other parts, especially when we continually strategize and make technology a priority. Hence, opportunities are abound for those who see this void and seek to fill a need within the BCALA community to not only identify tech tools, but to create a platform of instruction for learning in ways that will truly expand the vision and capabilities of BCALA members for years to come.

I am volunteering to join and serve in this effort.

Therefore, the vision for future tech content that I will write will center on entries that are short and easy to follow. When a tool is introduced, the intention is to cover one or two essential points that will enable you to actively take steps to begin a process for exploration and application. Another part of the vision is interactivity. That is, when the content makes you curious, excited, and even skeptical, reach out to the newsletter and provide feedback about the tech topics.

Most importantly, my hope is that these tech entries will inspire an increase in conversations had within BCALA about the integration of technology as a means to educate, train, and create. I am super excited to write about a range of tools from SoftChalk online learning modules, GIFs, visual learning methods, and more. Let us learn anew, learn again, and learn how to lean into our fears as we think about and discuss technology.
writing agency in St. Louis, MO. He researched topics, while she wrote the books.

The fruitful collaboration produced award-winning histories and biographies. "A Long Hard Road: The Story of the Pullman Porter" (Walker & Company, 1989) received the Coretta Scott King Award and Jane Addams Peace Award; "Soujourner Truth: Ain’t I a Woman" (Scholastic, 1992), a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. In "Dark Thirty: Tales of the Supernatural" (Knopf, 1992), Coretta Scott King Award winner, Patricia McKissack eloquently told personal stories and captured stories told by her grandparents on the front porch.

The couple together fleshed out how enslaved families faced separation, longed for freedom and practiced resistance. Research for "Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters" (Scholastic, 1994), Coretta Scott King Award, provided source material for "A Picture of Freedom: the Diary of Clotee, a slave girl, Belmont Plantation, Virginia, 1859" (Scholastic, 1997).

The McKissacks gave generations of young people vital connections to roots and identities. In "In Praise of Our Fathers and Our Mothers: A Black Family Treasury by Outstanding Authors and Artists" (Just Us Books, 1997), Patricia C. McKissack recognized the significance of passing on family traditions, and honors elders. I found connections to Patricia C. McKissack. I was surprised to learn how her great-great-great grandmother Lizzie Passmore, who was an enslaved person and able to read in Barbour County, AL, provided the inspiration for the slave girl Clotee. My Barksdale ancestors, too, were enslaved in Barbour County, AL.

I grew up attending cake walks at church, wrote a poem, "Cakewalk" and enjoyed the McKissack’s “Mirandy and Brother Wind” (Knopf, 1988). I enjoyed telling their story of a young girl who caught the wind, and with her partner won the junior cakewalk, to many captivated audiences.

As mentioned in my newest book "Leadership Under Fire" (Amber Books, 2016): “Histories and biographies were my thing. We read works by the McKissacks. They were a husband and wife team, who researched and wrote Black history and biographies...To meet the McKissacks when we were the Black Special Collections Librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh was the bomb!”

Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack, cultural missionaries, prodded me to soar. It was October 1993. We took pictures together and they autographed several books in the Black Special Collection. I recall they embodied a unity in purpose and oneness, and how busloads of children awaited in the auditorium. My wife Drusilla and I reflected upon when we lived in Washington, D.C. and sought hooks with positive images for our family; at that time, we purchased "Messy Bedroom Closet" by Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack. I treasured my personal autographed copy of “Mirandy and Brother Wind” (Knopf, 1988): "Barsdale a Black historian" signed by Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack.

The McKissacks inspired others to dream big. I reflected upon how the McKissacks shared the unlimited possibilities that exist in freedom. I plan to carry on the missionary work in the same tradition, spirit of unity in purpose and write on. So I have just begun.

I recently wrapped up a reading of my children’s storybook “Lion Pride” (Nefu, 2011) at Stambaugh Charter Academy, Youngstown, OH. Youth answered my call to collective work and responsibility. “Let’s pull together!” thundered through the gymnasium. On cue, several hundred youth squat on the floor in unison, raised hands, made fists and pulled back down.

When asked on a recent author visit “Who influenced you as a librarian-writer?” The answer was simple: Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack, a distinguished couple. I, too, hope to be a beacon of freedom and pass on an inspirational message. “Passing the Baton... Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack”, I indeed am grateful.

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