

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!

VOLUME 44 | ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2017



Ezra Knight

VOICE BEHIND THE BOOK

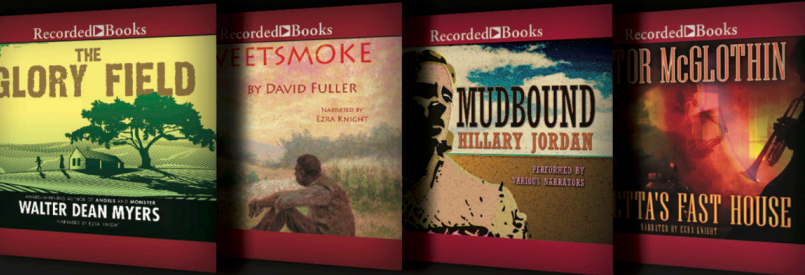


Born in Atlanta, Ezra Knight is an actor of stage, television, and film as well as a commercial voice-over artist and narrator. He’s performed the title roles of Othello and Hamlet as well as Mufasa in Disney’s *The Lion King* at the Hafen Theater in Hamburg, Germany. Ezra is also an award-winning narrator of more than 50 audiobooks and has narrated titles by Yolanda Joe, Eric Jerome Dickey, Walter Dean Myers, and T.D. Jakes.

EZRA KNIGHT | BCALA
EZRA KNIGHT IS A SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER AUG. 12 AT THE CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA.
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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 to The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) by the new Trump administration.

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 country, 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!



Denyveta Davis,
President, BCALA
2016 - 2018

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

– Mahatima Gandhi

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NEWS



BCALA Literary Awards

Press Release
For Immediate Release
January 21, 2017

Contact: Gladys Smiley Bell
757-727-5185 or gladys.bell@hamptonu.edu
Press Room – Georgia World Congress Center,
Atlanta, GA

BCALA ANNOUNCES THE 2017 LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS

BCALA announces the winners of the 2017 BCALA Literary Awards during the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association in Atlanta. The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African American authors published in 2016, including an award for Best Poetry and a citation for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing. The recipients will receive awards during BCALA’s 10th National Conference of African American Librarians on August 10, 2017 in Atlanta, GA.

THE WINNER OF THE 1ST NOVELIST AWARD IS *GRACE: A NOVEL* BY NATASHIA DEÓN (COUNTERPOINT PRESS).

Naomi narrates this fascinating novel about her life and tragic death. In afterlife, she tells the life of her daughter Josey. Both women, born into slavery; learn to keep their dignity despite the many harsh realities which they faced. Illustrated in the narrative are the ways that love and pain shape lives, relationships, and legacies. Deón currently teaches law at Trinity Law School and Mount St. Mary’s College.

THE FICTION CATEGORY WINNER IS *ANOTHER BROOKLYN: A NOVEL* BY JACQUELINE WOODSON (AMISTAD).

Another Brooklyn is the coming of age story of August, her family, and her relationship with three childhood friends, growing up in Brooklyn, NY in the 1970’s. August’s Brooklyn is a world of wonder and friendship, but also danger and suspense. Woodson’s poetic words give voice to the perspectives of being a young Black girl growing up in the inner city without a mother. Told in part through flashbacks and reflections, the story narrates us through August’s return to Brooklyn as an adult, unraveling the mystery of her adolescent experiences there, and their impact on the woman she has become. Woodson is the bestselling author of more than two dozen award-winning books. She lives with her family in Brooklyn, NY.

THE HONOR BOOKS FOR FICTION ARE *THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: A NOVEL* BY COLSON WHITEHEAD (DOUBLEDAY) AND *THE MOTHERS: A NOVEL* BY BRIT BENNETT (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE).

The Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor--engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. The first stop for slaves Cora and Caesar is a city in South Carolina; initially it seems like a haven—but the city’s placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its Black denizens. The adventurous tale of one woman’s ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history of slavery. Whitehead lives in New York City.

The Mothers is a story that has an uncanny ability to mirror all of our real lives. The life of the main character, Nadia Turner, is relatively normal until the suicide of her mother, and an unexpected pregnancy. Nadia and her circle drive the book forward, constantly haunted by decisions made as children, yet no matter how far they move on, or more accurately move away, they cannot move beyond the ghosts of ‘what if.’ Bennett was born and raised in Southern California.

THE WINNER IN THE NONFICTION CATEGORY IS *HIDDEN FIGURES: THE AMERICAN DREAM AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE BLACK WOMEN MATHEMATICIANS WHO HELPED WIN THE SPACE RACE* BY MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY (WILLIAM MORROW).

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; Tiffany A. Duck, Phoebus 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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

EMILY R.GUSS

Emily Guss, (Chicago, Illinois), President
The Officers and Members of The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.
Denyvetta Davis
Denyvetta Davis, (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), President
April 11, 2017

OFFICERS:

Denyvetta Davis, (Retired, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), President
Richard Ashby, (Yeadon Public Library, Yeadon, Pennsylvania), Vice President
Kirby McCurtis (Multnomah 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

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Elizabeth Jean Brumfield (Prairie View A&M University, Houston, Texas)
Rudolph Clay (Washington University Libraries, St. Louis, Missouri)
Brian Hart, (EveryLibrary, Riverside, Illinois)
Jos N. Holman (Tippecanoe County Public Library, Lafayette, Indiana)
Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) (Retired, Langston Hughes Community Library & Cultural Center, Queens, New York)
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Karen Lemmons (Detroit 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.

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_HERZBERGS_MOTIVATION-HYGIENE_THEORY.

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 Self-Publishing Literary Awards

Press Release
For Immediate Release
March 30, 2017

Contact: Tiffany A. Duck or
tiffany.duck3@gmail.com
Hampton, VA

BCALA AND BIBLOBOARD 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*.

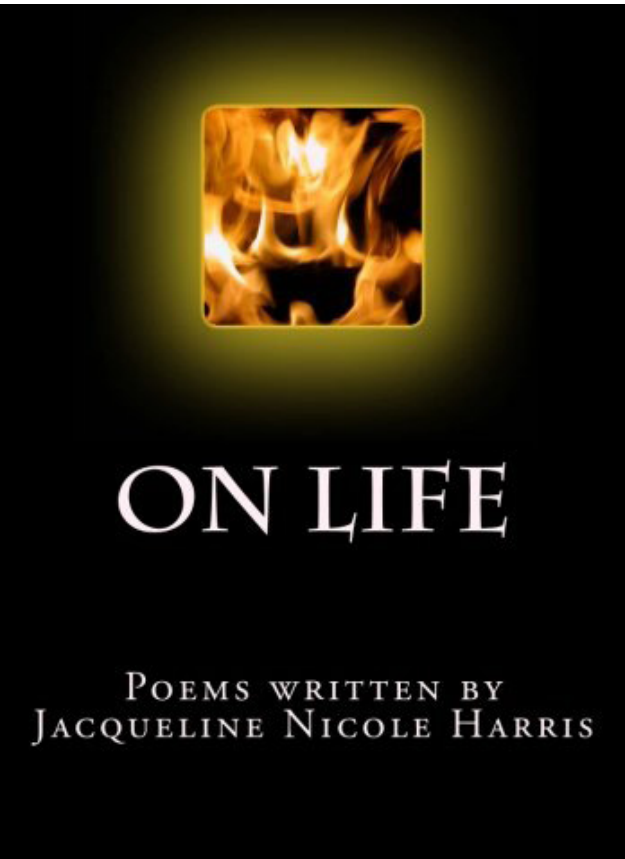
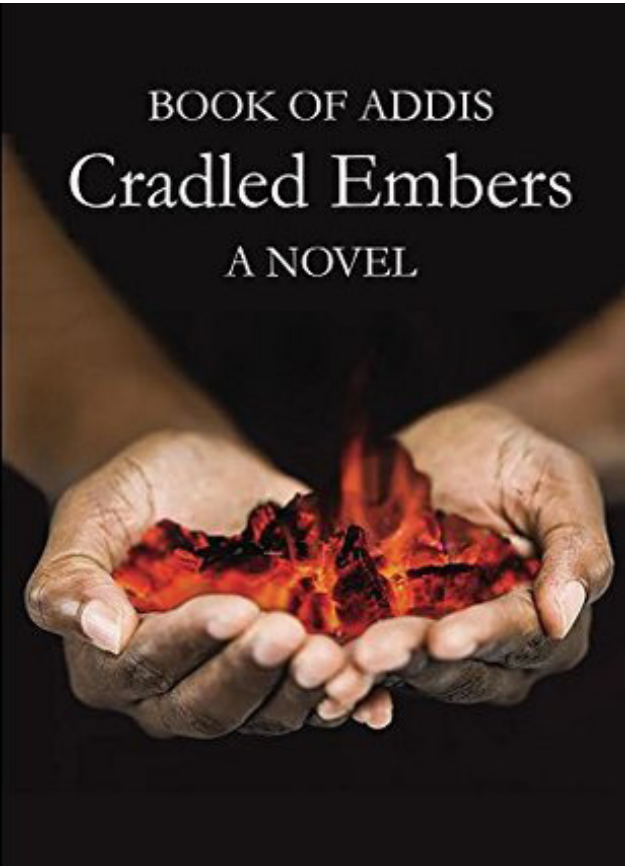
The Honor Book for Fiction is Melting the Blues (Gold Fern Press) by Tracy Chiles McGhee. McGhee’s debut novel is set in Arkansas in the 1950s, a time when racial tensions were soaring. Augustus, the main character, is so engrossed in his music, but must wrestle with the past in order to move forward 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.

Members of the BCALA Literary Awards Jury are: Tiffany A. Duck (Chair), Hampton Public Library; Gladys Smiley Bell, Hampton University; Jamillah Gabriel, Purdue University; Dominique Luster, Carnegie Museum of Art; Carol Nurse, Montclair University; Annie Payton, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University; and Stacy Williams, University of Southern California.



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 - Burnham1
6/23/2017 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 - Cresthill
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,
EMIERT, PLA and YALSA
6/24/2017 3:00PM - 5:00PM

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

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 -
Burnham 4
6/25/2017 3:45PM - 5:00PM

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: Dutchess Harris, author of
Human Computers Sponsor: ABDO
Publishing

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

*Available for small group meetings
upon request*



The Black Caucus of American Library Association, Inc.

10th National Conference of
African American Librarians

CULTURE KEEPERS X

Beyond Library Walls:
Innovative Ways to Engage Our Communities

August 9 – August 13, 2017
Atlanta, Georgia
Grand Hyatt (Buckhead)

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

For More Info Visit: BCALA.ORG

Conference *Highlights*

BY NCAAL X 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



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



COFFEE WITH AUTHORS OF *WE ARE CHARLESTON: TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH AT MOTHER EMANUEL*

Date: Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017
Time: 8 – 9:30am
Cost: \$25



LUNCHEON PROGRAM – LUNCH WITH (Environmental Justice Advocate) MUSTAFA SANTIAGO ALI

Date: Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017
Time 11:30am-1pm
Cost: \$60

PRESIDENTS’ 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

CLOSING BRUNCH

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

Conference *Programs*

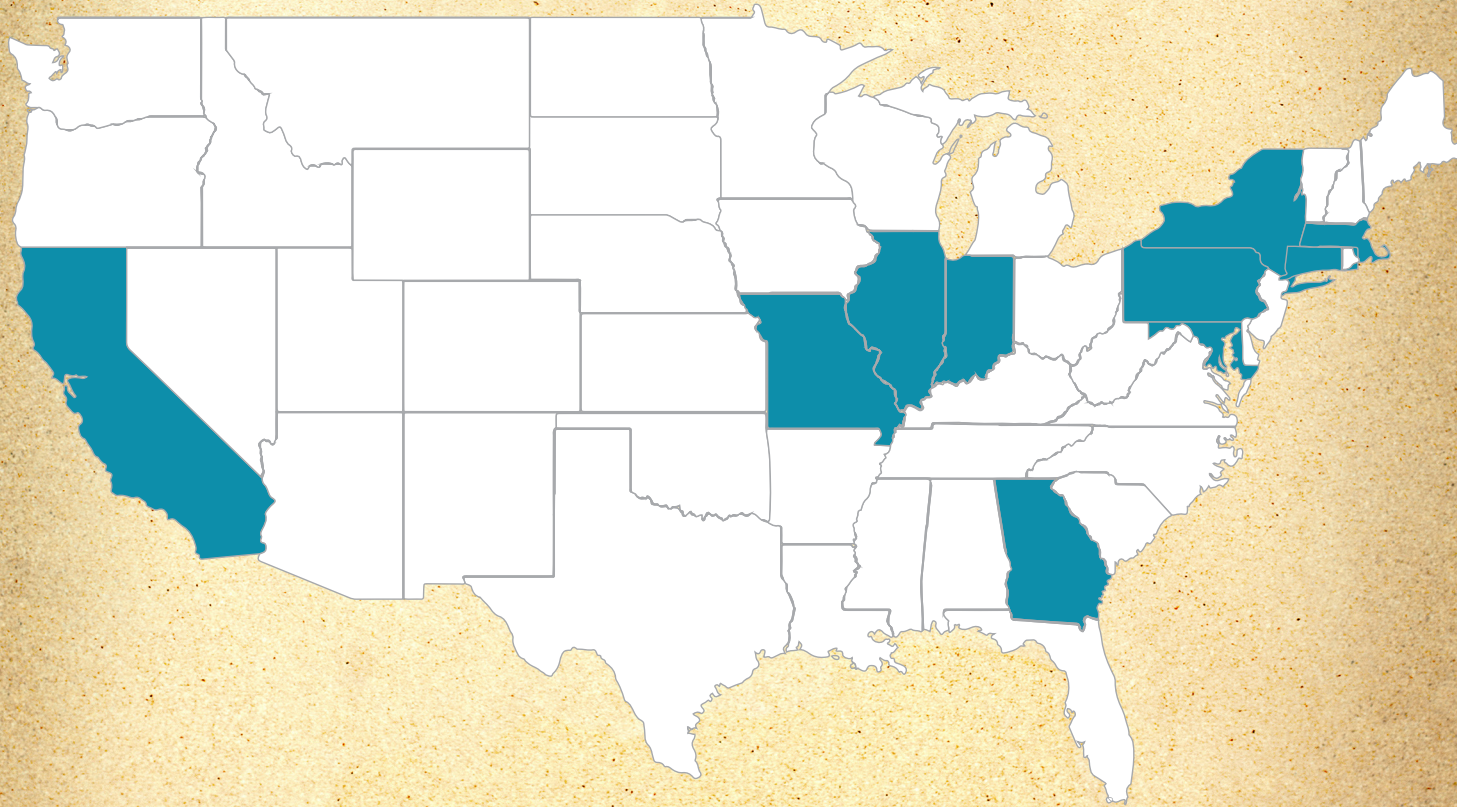
Conference will present effective and innovative library programs, share best practices, and provide valuable information that participants can utilize at their libraries, support collaboration, and be applicable to a broad variety of library institutions.

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!

Hi we're OPUSSEVEN, a branding and creative agency. We would love to partner with your company or library.

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.

OPUSSEVEN
www.opusseven.com

BCALANEWS
Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc.



FEATURED

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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



Image courtesy of Shaunda Bailey, Multnomah County 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



CHICAGO — Dr. Em Claire Knowles, assistant dean for student and alumni affairs at Simmons College’s School of Library and Information Science (SLIS), has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the American Library Association’s Beta Phi Mu Award. This award is given in recognition of the achievement of a library school faculty member or another individual for distinguished service to education for librarianship. This annual award, which consists of \$1,000 and a citation of achievement, is sponsored by the

Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honor Society.

Knowles holds a B.A. in international relations from the University of California (Davis), a M.L.S. from the University of California (Berkeley), a M.P.S. from California State University (Sacramento) and a Doctor of Arts in Library Administration from Simmons College. Prior to her current position as assistant dean for students and alumni affairs at Simmons SLIS, which she has held since 1988, Knowles worked in a wide range of professional positions at the University of California (Davis and Berkeley campuses) and the Wentworth Institute of Technology.

In addition to her significant positions of employment, her leadership and influence are evidenced by the prominent roles she has taken on at various levels in our field. She has served as a member of ALA’s governing Council and as a member of the ALA Executive Board. She has completed multiple terms on the Executive Board of BCALA. Additionally, Knowles has been involved as

a trustee for both the Freedom to Read Foundation and the Massachusetts State Library. She also served on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, including as its chair.

Throughout her decades of dedicated service to the profession, Knowles has been recognized numerous times for her tireless efforts and achievements. A selection of the accolades she has received include: the Sojourner Truth Award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc.; the Professional Achievement Award and the Distinguished Service Award, both from BCALA; the Outstanding Public Service Leadership Award from Simmons College; and the Recognition for Outstanding Service to Campus Award from the University of California, Davis. These awards, among the many others that have been bestowed upon her, recognize her selfless commitment to bettering the lives of others through her work, at the heart of which lies library education.

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 becoming 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.

Quinby Street Center Receives 2017 Día Grant

By Roland Barksdale-Hall, Quinby Street Resource Center



Sheila L. White (left) and Roland Barksdale-Hall

The Quinby Street Resource Center showcased rich African American children’s literature and storytelling tradition with a 2017 Día Grant from the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature. Events held April 20-21at the Mercer County Housing Authority Sharpsville Garden Children’s Learning Center highlighted the

importance of passing on a cultural legacy. The theme “Passing the Baton... the Influence of Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack” was inspired by a rich African American literary legacy.

Mila, a colleague and AmeriCorps team leader at the Sharpsville Garden Children’s Learning Center,

posed the following: “Mr. Roland, I know you are a very busy person. Yet the children love your story telling at the Centennial Playgroup and Quinby Street Resource Center. You have a passion for storytelling and love children. Won’t you come once a month and do storytelling at Sharpsville Gardens Children’s Learning Center?”

My response carefully was weighed. “No, I will come once to do a special storytelling. I then will do storytelling training for AmeriCorps team members at the children’s learning center. AmeriCorps team members have direct contact hours with the children and need to develop the skillset.”

Children and their families enjoyed a romp with “Flossie and the Fox” and “A Million Fish ...More or Less”. Children broke a fish piñata, played games, and sang songs. Children broke open plastic eggs filled with candy, received as incentives for listening to stories. Favorite prizes included water blasters, Go Fish and coloring books

at the Thursday afternoon event. Children had a fun time.

On the following Friday AmeriCorps team members came from more than sixty miles away to attend a “Passing the Baton” three-hour storytelling training at the Sharpsville Gardens Children’s Learning Center. Attendees experienced another meaning of Día (Diversity in Action). They learned how to use the five senses when telling a story. Attendees rated the storytelling training very high.

“Passing the Baton” took inspiration from a Black History Month presentation at the former Unitarian Church, now the Sharpsville Historical Society. I recalled feeling intrigue about the invitation.

I now stood in front of a wooden lectern in a sanctuary where clergy delivered inspired messages. I looked upon the sculptured faces of Society members in wooden pews and began my message. What fresh word did I have?

I took a deep breath and began. “Your work preserving this fine edifice, the former Unitarian Church, indeed is a noble effort. With many of your members my age and older, we need to consider— ‘Who will carry on this work? Who will you pass the baton?’”

Society members were challenged to develop children’s outreach, provide tours with treats, and tell the stories of how their ancestors were hungry when they came to America. The message was well received with comments, ranging

from “You spoke to our mission” and “relevant, to the point.” The take-home message—make plans to pass on the baton—resonated with the audience.

Indeed “Passing the Baton... Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack” impacted the residents of the Mercer County Public Housing Authority. Children served by the Quinby Street Resource Center now will enjoy years of reading wonderful multicultural resources thanks to a 2017 Día grant funded event supported by the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature in partnership with the Association of Library Services to Children (ALSC) and author Pat Mora, the founder of Children’s Day.



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



Pictured left to right are Rashond Smith, reference librarian; Chris Henry, system administrator; Kern Roberts, technical assistant; Matthew Powell, coordinator, public relations and community outreach; LaMar Clark, library assistant

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 stereotyped 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 technological advances of the library as a vital resource for the patrons he interacts with. “The growth of technology makes it more accessible

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’s final graduating class of 2002. His interest in information technology sparked in high school and as an adult he remained enthusiastic to share his expertise with the public library of his youth.

“After graduating high school, I went to the military, [and following my duty] I came back here with no hesitation,” said Roberts. “Information technology is my passion.” Roberts firmly believes EOPL is a community center evidenced by the swarms of patrons utilizing various terminals to access and relay information daily. “People come here to socialize,” said Roberts. This does not come as a surprise with the current evolution of libraries

coupled 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.

The candidate will have experience in the development and expectations of a strategic vision, a record of successful staff development and team-building, the expertise to balance support for the library's traditional services with the development of new approaches to teaching, learning, scholarship and dissemination of knowledge.

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



Lincoln University of Missouri Seeks Library Director

From Reader Submission

JOB SUMMARY:

Lincoln University invites nominations and applications for the position of Director of the Library. This is an exceptional opportunity for a talented and adept leader to continue to advance the Inman E. Page Library as an integral part of the Lincoln University educational experience and to collaborate on a vision for the evolving role of the library in learning, teaching and research at the university.

Page Library seeks to be the collaborative intellectual center of the campus and an invaluable resource for students and faculty as well as for outside scholars and community members. The next director has the unique opportunity to shape the development and growth of

the library and to re-imagine the strategic goals of the library going forward. The next director should be ready to develop and implement a shared vision for the library that will support the university's academic mission, lead a strong and talented library staff and judiciously manage the libraries resources. The director will collaborate closely with faculty and administrators to align and integrate the library with academic life on campus.

The successful candidate will bring a deep understanding of technological innovations and challenges facing academic libraries today; a strong commitment to intellectual diversity and inclusion; and a passion for the mission and goals of an outstanding liberal arts and research university.





Satia Orange to Receive the 2017 EMIERT Distinguished Librarian Award at ALA Annual



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.

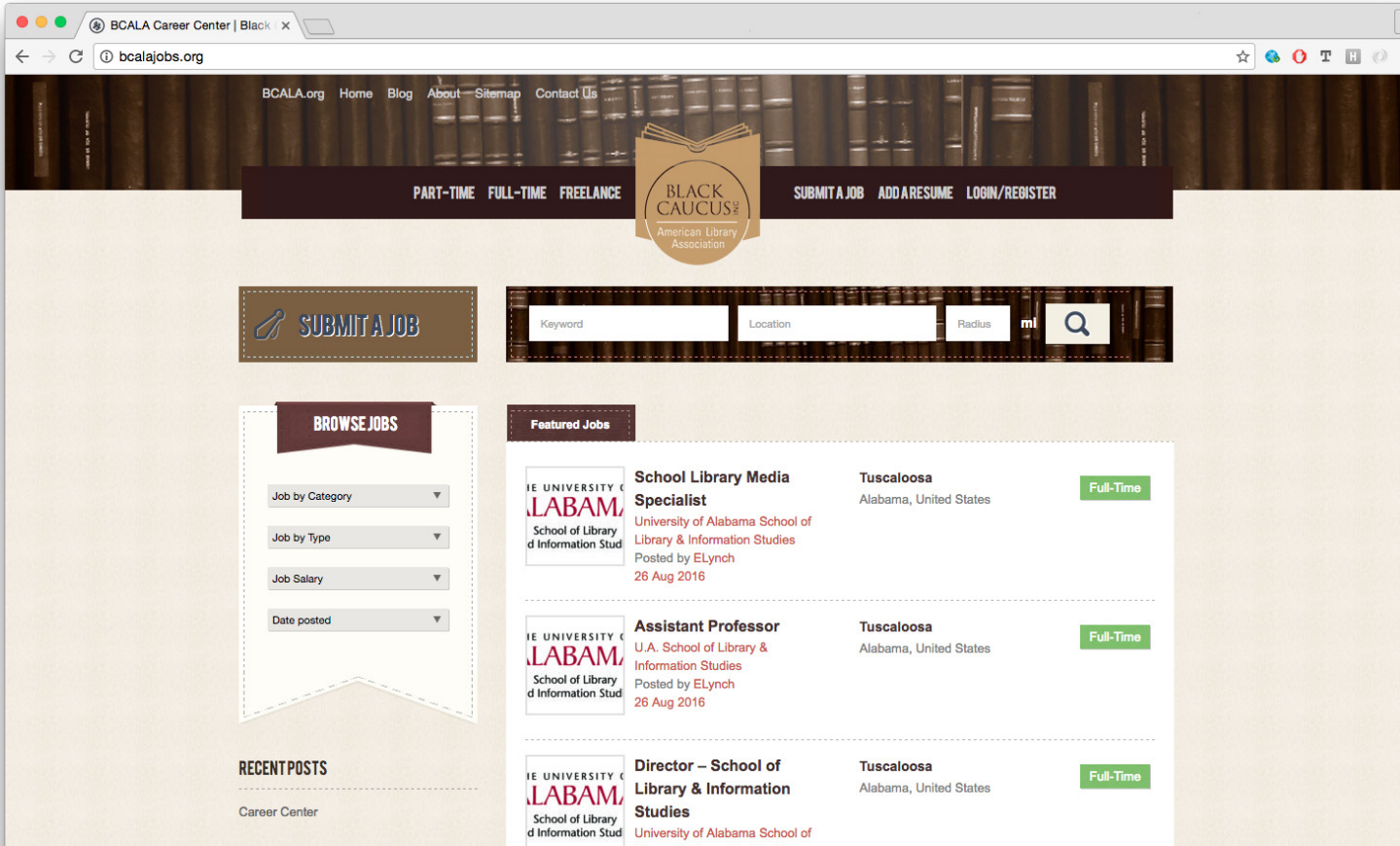
For more information visit www.ala.org/emiert

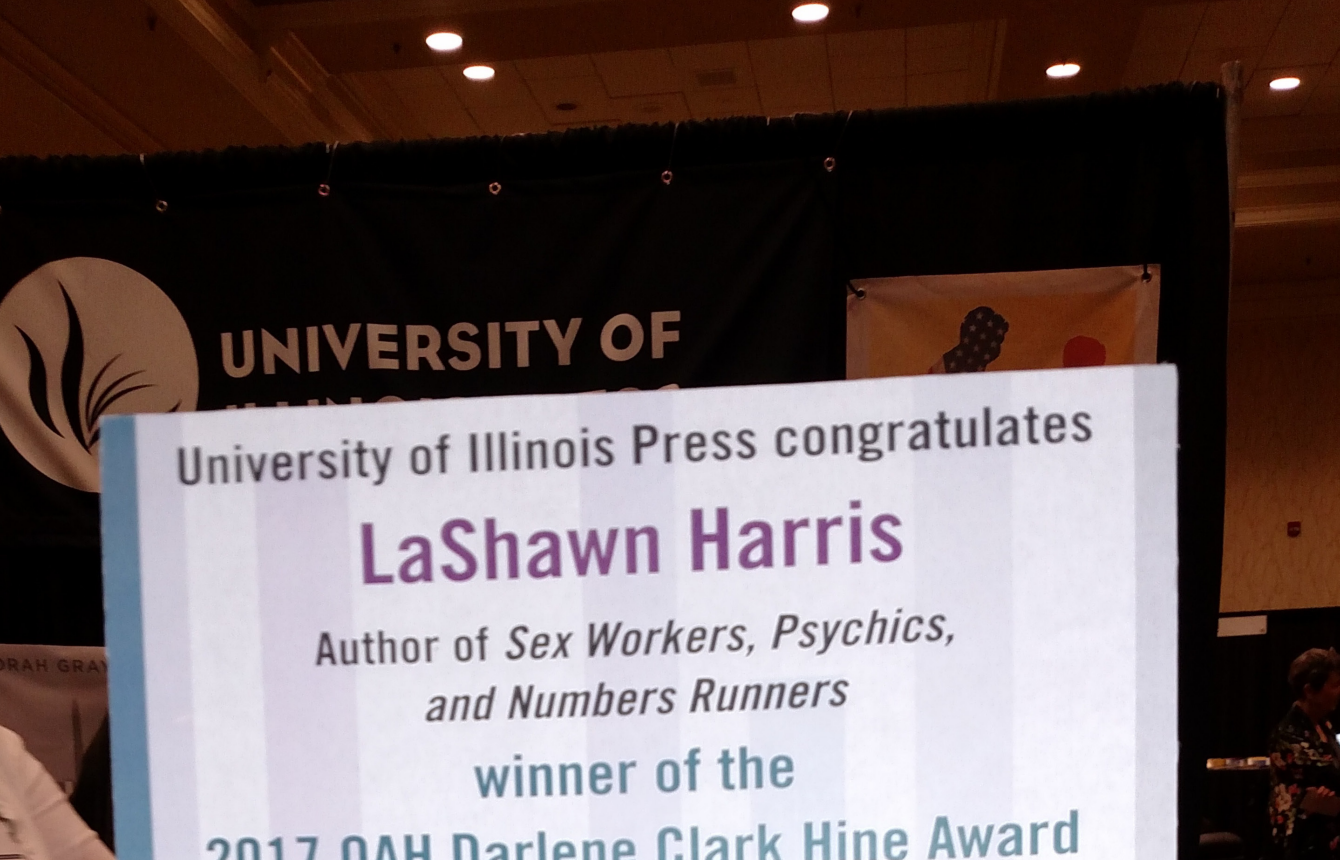
Founded in 1982, the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) serves as a source of information for recommended ethnic and multilingual collections and services.

Contact:
John L. Amundsen
Program Officer, Outreach and Communications
ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy & Outreach Services

(312) 280-2140
jamundsen@ala.org

Please Visit
BCALAJOBS.ORG
For Job Openings and Announcements





Sex Workers, Psychics and Numbers Runners: A Q&A with Author Dr. LaShawn Harris

By Jason Alston, Coastal Carolina University

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.

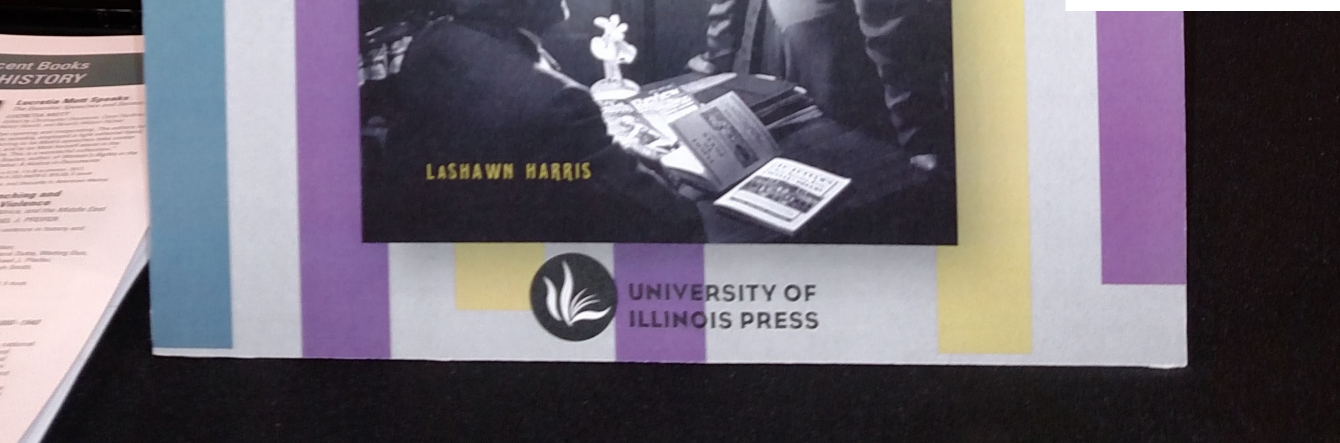
Q: *Your work centers around three specific professions in early 20th Century New York City's underground industry: sex work, numbers running for gambling enterprises, and the supernatural consulting business. That's quite a trio! How and why did these three professions emerge as the ones that your research 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 ordinary residents publicly voiced (in newspapers, anti-vice reports, and race reform agency records) 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 Amazon: Crime, Violence, 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), Talitha LeFlouria (“Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South”, University of North Carolina Press, 2015), 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.

Q: Now, when it comes to historical works, we’re always interested in what the historical lesson is from the history. What overall lesson(s) do you feel readers should come away with after completing this title?

A: Readers should walk away with the following:

1. Early twentieth century urban working-class and poor Black women actively defined labor, urban space, and respectability;
2. Some Black women like famous Blue singers Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday went beyond formal wage labor, engaging and creating for themselves work that catered to their economic needs as well as their desire for personal pleasure and labor equity;
3. Black women’s participation in the labor market was much larger than previously thought;
4. Engagement in off-the-books meant exploring labor / economic possibilities, and potentially facing labor consequences;
5. Working-class men and women articulated varying opinions on informal labor and vice within their communities;
6. Finally, that my focus on community politics and activism, state sanctioned violence, Black resistance, urban hustling, and respectability during the early twentieth century is connected to broader contemporary conversations about race, gender, and class oppression, police violence, neighborhood advocacy, racial

capitalism, and the different ways in which working-class women strive to economically survive.

Q: The University of Illinois Press description of your title notes that you mined police and prison records, newspaper accounts, and period literature during your research process. Please tell us a little bit more about your research process for this title.

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-vice 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, Roi Ottley, Carl Van Vechten, Wallace Thurman, Marvel Cooke, Thelma Berlack, 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 sub-field. I’m truly honored that the Organization of American Historians (OAH) DCH committee selected “Sex Workers, Psychics, and Numbers Runners” for this HUGE honor.

Q: As your scholarly work continues, what else may our readers who like and want to follow your work expect from you in the future?

A: I recently published an essay in the Journal of Urban History (JUH). The essay is entitled, “‘Women and Girls in Jeopardy by His False Testimony:’ Charles Dancy, Urban Policing, and Black Women in New York City.” Drawing from state and federal census records, newspaper editorials, and court records, this article examines how police surveillance, particularly the NYPD officers’ use of criminal informants, impacted 1920s New

York Black women. Positioning urban women’s often dangerous encounters with criminal informants at the center of conversations framed around police brutality, this essay contributes to recently published scholarship on African American women, police violence, and legal injustices. This work goes beyond well-documented historical narratives and analyses of police brutality cases that primarily involve Black women and police officers. Instead, this article complicates existing accounts of police surveillance, exploring the less familiar labor of African American police informants.

My future academic projects include conducting research for two projects. Both projects are offshoots from my book “*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 Eras. 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 1984 police shooting of 60-something-year-old Bronx, New York resident and grandmother Eleanor Bumpurs.

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 E. B. Lewis, published Putnam’s, ©2006
Always My Dad, by Sharon Wyeth, illustrated by Raul Colón, published by Scholastic, ©1998

Amazing Grace: by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch, published Dial, ©1991

Bayou Magic: by Jewell Parker Rhodes, 239 pages, published Little, Brown and Company, ©2015

Beauty, Her Basket: by Sandra Belton, illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera, published by Greenwillow Books, ©2003

The Baby on the Way: by Karen English, illustrated by Sean Qualls, published by Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, ©2005

Bayou Magic: by Jewell Parker Rhodes, published by Little Brown and Company, ©2015
Bigmama’s, written and illustrated by Donald Crews, published by Greenwillow Books, ©1991

The Birthday Storm (Sassy Series #2): by Sharon M. Draper, published by Scholastic Press, ©2009

Bonjour, Lonnie: 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

Brown Girl Dreaming: by Jacqueline Woodson, 336 pages, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint by Penguin Group (USA) ©2014

Chicken Sunday: written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco, published by Philomel Books, ©1992

Circle Unbroken: by Margot Theis Raven, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Scholastic, ©2004

Coming on Home Soon: by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated 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: published by Knopf, ©1992

Daughter’s Day Blues: by Laura Pegram, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying- Hua Hu, published by Puffin, ©2002

Fireflies for Nathan: by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim, illustrated by John Ward, published HarperCollins, ©1994

Full, Full, Full of Love: by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Paul Howard, published by Candlewick Press, ©2003

Go Fish: by Mary Stolz, illustrated by Pat Cummings, published by HarperCollins, ©1991
Goin’ Someplace Special, by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, published by Atheneum Books, ©2001

Gone Crazy in Alabama: by Rita Williams-Garcia, 293 pages, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers ©2015

Granddaddy’s Gift: by Margaret King Mitchell, illustrated by Larry Johnson, published by Troll, ©1998

Granddaddy’s Street Songs: by Monalisa Degross, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Jump at the Sun/ Hyperion Books for Children ©1999

Granddaddy’s Turn: *A Journey to the Ballot Box*, by Michael S. Bandy & Eric Stein, illustrated by James E. Ransome, published by Candlewick Press, ©2015

Granddaughter’s Necklace: by Sharon Wyeth, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, published by Arthur A. Levine Books, ©2013

Grandfather and I: by Helen Elizabeth Buckley, illustrated by Jan Ormerod, published by HarperCollins, ©2000

Grandma’s Gift: written and illustrated by Eric Velasquez, published by Walker, ©2010
Grandma’s Purple Flowers, written and illustrated by Adjoa J. Burrows, published by Lee & Low Books, ©2008

Grandma’s Records: written and illustrated by Eric Velasquez, published by Walker, ©2001

Grandmama’s Joy: by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Carole Byard, published by Puffin, ©1999

Grandmama’s Pride: by Becky Birtha, illustrated by Colin Bootman, published by Albert Whitman, ©2005

Grandmother and I: by Helen Elizabeth Buckley, illustrated by Jan Ormerod, published by HarperCollins, ©2000

Grandpa: *Is Everything Black Bad?* By Sandy Lynne Holman, illustrated by Lela Komentiani, published by Culture Co-Op, ©1998

Grandpa’s Face: by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Putnam & Grosset, ©1988

Hat that Wore Clara B: by Melanie Turner-Denstaedt, illustrated by Frank Morrison, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, ©2009

Harlem Nutcracker (Picture Book): by Donald Byrd, photographs by Susan Kuklin, published by Jump at the Sun, ©2001

Heaven’s All-Star Jazz Band: written and illustrated by Don Carter, published by Knopf, ©2002

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

I Love My Family: by Wade Hudson, illustrated by Cal Massey, published by Cartwheel Books, ©1995

I’ll Do the Right Thing: by Jean Alicia Elster and illustrated by Nicole Tadgell, published by Judson Press, ©2003

It’s Church Going Time: by Wade Hudson, illustrated by Peter Ambush, published by Marimba Books, ©2008

Janna and the Kings: by Patricia Smith, illustrated by Aaron Boyd, published by Lee & Low Books, ©2003

Jazz Baby: by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by R. Greg Christie, published by Harcourt, ©2007
Jewels, by Belinda Rochelle, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu, published by Puffin, ©1998

Joy! (Board Book): by Joyce Carol Thomas, illustrated by Pamela Johnson, published by Jump at the Sun, ©2001

Just Like Josh Gibson: by Angela Johnson, illustrated by Beth Peck, published by Simon & Schuster, ©2004

Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World: by Mildred Pitts Walter, illustrated by Catherine Stock, Lothrop, published by Lee & Shepard, ©1986

Keepers: by Jeri Handel Watts, illustrated by Felicia Marshall, published by Lee & Low Books, ©1997

Last Stop on Market Street: by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Chris Robinson, published by G.P. Putnam’s Sons, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), ©2015

Lillie’s Right to Vote: *A Celebrating of the Voting Rights Act of 1965* by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shane W. Evans, published by Schwartz & Wade Books, ©2015

Little Melba and Her Trombone: by Katherine Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison, 34 pages, published by Lee & Low Books, Inc., ©2014

Lottie Paris Lives Here: by Angela Johnson, illustrated by Scott M. Fischer, published by Simon & Shuster, ©2011

Ma Dear’s Old Green House: by Denise Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler, published by Just Us Books, ©2004

Molasses Man: by Kathy L May, illustrated by Felicia Marshall, published by Holiday House, ©2000

More, More, More, Said the Baby: *Three Love Stories*, written and illustrated by Vera Williams, published by Greenwillow Books, ©1990

Moriah’s Pond: by Ethel Footman Smothers, published by Knopf, ©1994

Music from the Sky: by Denise Gillard, illustrated by Stephen Taylor, published by Groundwood Books, ©2001

My Nana and Me: by Irene Smalls, illustrated by Cathy Ann Johnson, published by Little Brown Books, ©2005

My Pop Pop and Me: by Irene Smalls, illustrated by Cathy Ann Johnson, published by Little Brown Books, ©2006

Ninth Ward: by Jewell Parker Rhodes, published by Little Brown Books for Young Readers, ©2010

No Mirrors in My Nana’s House: by Ysaye M. Barnwell, illustrated by Synthia Saint James, published by Voyager Books/Harcourt, ©2005

No Mush Today: by Sally Derby, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell, published by Lee & Low Books, ©2008

On the Day I Was Born: by Debbi Chocolate, illustrated by Melodye Benson Rosales, published by Scholastic, ©1995

Only the Stars (Just for You! series): by Dee Boyd, illustrated by Anna Rich, published by Scholastic, ©2004

The Other Half of My Heart: by Sundee T. Frazier, published by Delacorte Press, ©2010
Patchwork Quilt, by Valerie Flournoy, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, published by Dial, ©1985



Peekaboo Bedtime: *written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora, published by Putnam, ©2008*

Peekaboo Morning: *written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora, published by Putnam, ©2002*

Piano Man: *by Debbi Chocolate, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, published Walker Books, ©2000*

Porch Lies: *Tales of Slicksters, Tricksters, and Other Wily Characters, by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by André Carrilho, published by Schwartz & Wade Books, ©2006*

P.S. Be Eleven: *by Rita Williams-Garcia 274 pages, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers ©2013*

Quinnie Blue: *by Dinah Johnson, illustrated by James Ransome, published by Henry Holt, ©2000*

Ruth and the Green Book: *by Calvin A. Ramsey with Gwen Strauss, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Carolrhoda Books ©2010*

Robert Lives with His Grandparents: *by Martha Whitmore Hickman, illustrated by Tim Hinton, published by Albert Whitman and Company, ©1995*

Seaside Dream: *by Janet Costa Bates, illustrated by Lambert Davis, published by Lee & Low Books, ©2010*

Searching for Sara Rector: *by Tonya Bolden, 76 pages, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, ©2014*

Show Way: *by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott, published by Putnam’s, ©2005*

Silent Witness in Harlem: *by Eva Creary, illustrated by Marianne O’Loughlin, published by Silver Moon Press, ©2002*

Singing with Momma Lou: *by Linda Jacobs Altman, illustrated by Larry Johnson, published by Lee & Low, ©2002*

Sophie: *by Mem Fox illustrated by Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson, published by Harcourt Brace, ©1997*

Stealing Home: *by Mary Stolz, illustrated by Pat Cummings, published by HarperCollins, ©1984*

Stitchin’ and Pullin’: *A Gee Bend Quilt, by Patricia McKissack, illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera, published by Random House, ©2008*

Storm in the Night: *by Mary Stolz, illustrated by Pat Cummings, published by HarperCollins, ©1988*

Sunday: *written and illustrated by Synthia Saint James, published by Albert Whitman & Company, ©1996*

Sweet, Sweet Basket: *by Margie Willis Clary, illustrated by Dennis L. Brown, published Sandlapper, ©1995*

Tanya’s Reunion: *by Valerie Flournoy, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, published Dial, ©1995 Tea Cakes for Tosh, by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, published by G.P. Putnam’s & Sons, ©2012*

Terrible Wonderful Tellin’at Hog Hammock: *by Kim Siegelson, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, published by HarperCollins, ©1996*

These Hands: *by Margaret H. Mason, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Houghton Mifflin, ©2010*

This is the Rope: *A Story from the Great Migration, by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by James Ransome, 32 pages, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, ©2013*

Those Shoes, by Maribeth Boelts: *illustrated by Noah Z. Jones, published by Candlewick Press, ©2007*

Toning the Sweep: *by Angela Johnson, published by Scholastic, ©1993*

Two Mrs. Gibsons: *by Toyomi Igus, illustrated by Daryl Wells, published by Children’s Book Press, ©1996*

Visiting Day: *by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by James Ransome, published by Scholastic, ©2002*

Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963: *A Novel, by Christopher Paul Curtis, published by Delacorte Press, ©1995*

Welcome, Precious: *by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Orchard Books, ©2006*

When Grandmama Sings: *by Margaree King Mitchell, illustrated by James Ransome, published by Amistad, ©2012*

When I am Old with You: *by Angela Johnson, illustrated by David Soman, published by Orchard, ©1990*

When Jo Louis Won the Title: *by Belinda Rochelle, illustrated by Larry Johnson, published by Houghton Mifflin, ©1994*

White Water: *Inspired by a True Story, by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, illustrated by Shadra Strickland, published by Candlewick Press, ©2011*

William and the Good Old Days: *by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist, published by HarperCollins, ©2000*

Yo, Jo! *Written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora, published by Harcourt, ©2007*

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 MSLIS 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 5-6:30 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 Griffis, 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, 32 pages, 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, ©2005 (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 ©1999 (P)

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

My Name Is Sangoel: by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammad, illustrated by Catherine Stock, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 36 pages, ©2009 (P)

When I Get Older: *The Story Behind “Wavin’ Flag”*, by K’Naan and Sol Sol, illustrated by Rudy Guitierrez, Tundra Books, 32 pages, ©2012 (P)

Afro-Latinx/Afro-Caribbean Bad Hair Does Not Exist! /Pelo Malo No Existe: by Sulma V. Arzu-Brown, illustrated by Isidra Sabio, Afro-Latin Publishing, 28 pages, ©2014 (P)

Mama’s Nightingale: *A Story of Immigration*, by Edwidge Danticat, illustrated by Leslie Staub, Dial Books, 32 pages, ©2015 (P)

The Poet Slave of Cuba: *A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*, by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Sean Qualls, Square Fish, 208 pages, ©2011 (M), (YA)

Roberto Clemente: *Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates*, by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Raul Colon, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 40 pages, ©2008 (P)

The Surrender Tree: *Poems of Cuba’s Struggle for Freedom/El Arbol De La Rendicion*, by Margarita Engle, Square Fish, 384 pages, ©2010 (M), (YA)

BIOGRAPHIES

The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch: by Chris Bartion, illustrated by Don Tate, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 50 pages, ©2015 (P)

Coretta Scott: by Ntozake Shange, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Katherine Tegen Books, 32 pages, ©2011 (P)

Claudette Colvin: *Twice Toward Justice*, by Phillip Hoose, Square Fish, 160 pages, ©2010 (M) (YA)

Harlem’s Little Blackbird: *The Story of Florence*, by Renee Watson, illustrated by Christian Robinson, Random House Books for Young Readers, 40 pages, ©2012 (P)

Malcolm X: *A Fire Burning Brightly*, by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Leonard Jenkins, Amistad, 40 pages, ©2005 (P)

Martin’s Big Words: *The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier, Hyperion Book CH, 40 pages, ©2007 (P)

My Brother Martin: *A Sister Remembers Growing Up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*, by Christine King Farris, illustrated by Chris Soentpiet, Aladdin, 40 pages, ©2006 (P)

Nelson Mandela: by Kadir Nelson, Katherine Tegen Books, 40 pages, ©2013 (P)

Nelson Mandela: *Long Walk to Freedom*, by Chris van Wyk, illustrated by Paddy Bouma, Flash Point, 63 pages, ©2009 (P)

Mumbet’s Declaration of Independence: by Gretchen Woelfle, illustration by Alix Delinois, Carolrhoda Books, 32 pages, ©2014 (P)

Passenger on the Pearl: *The True Story of Emily Edmonson’s Flight from Slavery*, by Winifred Conkling, Algonquin Young Readers, 176 pages, ©2016 (M), (YA)

Ron’s Big Mission: by Rose Blue and Corinne Naden, illustrated by Don Tate, Dutton Books for Young Readers, 32 pages, ©2009 (P)

Rosa: by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated Bryan Collier, Square Fish, 40 pages, ©2007 (P)

The Story of Ruby Bridges: by Robert Coles, illustrated by George Ford, Scholastic Paperback, 32 pages, ©2010 (P)

Unbowed: *A Memoir*, by Wangari Maathai, Anchor, 368 pages, ©2007 (YA)

When Marian Sang: *The True Recital of Marian Anderson*, by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick, Scholastic Press, 40 pages, ©2002 (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)

The Case for Loving: *The Fight for Interracial Marriage*, by Selina Alko, by Sean Qualls, Arthur A. Levine Books, 40 pages, ©2015 (P)

Child of the Civil Right Movement: by Paula Young Shelton, illustrations by Raul Colon, Dragonfly Books, 48 pages, ©2013 (P)

Granddaddy’s Turn: *A Journey to the Ballot Box*, by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, illustrations by James E. Ransome, Candlewick, 32 pages, ©2015 (P)

Grandmama’s Pride: by Becky Birtha, illustrated by Colin Bootman, Albert Whitman & Company, 32 pages, ©2016 (P)

Freedom on the Menu: *The Greensboro Sit-Ins*, By Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue, Puffin Books, 32 pages, ©2007

Ida B. Wells: *Let the Truth Be Told*, by Walter Dean Myers, Illustrated by Bonnie Christensen, Amistad, 40 pages, ©2015 (P) (M)

Lillian’s Right to Vote: *A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*, by Jonah Winter, illustrations by Shane W. Evans, Schwartz & Wade, 40 pages, ©2015 (P)

Loving vs. Virginia: *A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case*, by Patricia Hruby Powell, illustrated by Shadra Strickland, Chronicle Books, 260 pages, ©2017 (YA)

Ruth and the Green Book: by Calvin Alexander Ramsey, illustrated by Gwen Strauss, Carolrhoda Books, ©2010 (P)

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

Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963, Christopher Paul Curtis, Laurel Leaf, 224 pages, ©2000 (M) (YA)

White Water: Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, illustrated by Shadra 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 Ofosu Yeboah*, by Laurie Ann Thompson, illustrated by Sean Qualls, Schwartz & Wade, ©2015 (P)

ENVIRONMENTAL

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

Mama Miti: *Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya*, By Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Simon & ,Books, 40 pages, ©2010 (P)

One Plastic Bag: *Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*, by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon, Millbrook Picture Books, 32 pages, ©2015 (P)

Seeds of Change: *Wangari’s Gift To The World*, by Jen Cullerton Johnson, and illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler, Lee & Low Books, 40 pages, ©2011 (P)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Kindred: *A Graphic Novel Adaptation*, by Damien Duffy and Octavia Butler, illustrated by John Jennings, Harry N. Abrams Publishers, 240 pages, ©2017 (M) (YA)

March (Book 1, Book 2, Book 3): by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, Top Shelf Productions, ©2013,©2015, ©2016 (M) (YA)

Nelson Mandela: *The Authorized Comic Book*, by The Nelson Mandela Foundation, Illustrated by Umlando Wezithombe, W.W. Norton & Company, 208 pages, ©2009 (M) (YA)

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

HISTORY

Henry’s Freedom Box: *A True Story from 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 Bloom Fradin, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, Walker Childrens, 48 pages, ©2013 (P)

Steamboat School: by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Ron Husband, Jump At The Sun, 40 pages, ©2016 (P)

INTERNATIONAL

We Are All Born Free: *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures*, by Amnesty International, Frances Lincoln Children’s Books, 72 pages, ©2016

NON-FICTION

Between the World and Me: *Ta-Nehisi Coates: Spiegal & Grau*, 176 pages, ©2015 (YA)



Black Lives Matte: *by Sue Bradford Edwards and Duchess Harris: Essential Library, 112 pages, ©2015 (M) (YA)*

The Black Panthers: *Portraits from an Unfinished Revolution, by Brian Shih and Yohuru Williams, Nation Books, 288 pages, ©2016 (YA)*

Birmingham, 1963: *by Carole Boston Weatherford, WordSong, 40 pages, ©2007 (M)*

Freedom Walkers: *The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, by Russell Freedman, Holiday House, 112 pages, ©2009 (M) (YA)*

Getting Away with Murder: *The True Story of the Emmett Till Case, Chris Crowe, Dial Books, 128 pages, ©2003*

Let It Shine: *Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters, by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn, HMH Books for Young Readers, 120 pages, ©2013 (M)*

Marching for Freedom: *Walk Together Children and Don’t You Grow Weary, by Elizabeth Partridge, Viking Books for Young Readers, 80 pages, (M)*

No Choirboy: *Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row, by Susan Kuklin, Square Fish, 240 pages, ©2014 (YA)*

Remember: *The Journey to School Integration, Toni Morrison, HMH Books for Young Readers, 80 pages, ©2004 (P) (M)*

A Wreath for Emmett Till: *by Marilyn Nelson: HMH Books for Young Readers, 48 pages, ©2009 (P) (M)*

SPORTS

Game Changer: *John McLendon and the Secret Game, by John Coy, illustrated by Randy Duburke, Carolrhoda Books, 32 pages, ©2015 (P)*

Let Them Play, by Margot Theis Raven: *illustrated Chris Ellison, Sleeping Bear Press, 32 pages, ©2005 (P)*

Muhammad Ali: *The People’s Champion, Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Alix Delinois, Amistad, 40 pages, ©2016 (P)*

Middle School Fiction

Africa Is My Home: *A Child of the Amistad, by Monica Edinger, illustrated by Robert Byrd, Candlewick, 64 pages, ©2013*

Brown Girl Dreaming: *by Jacqueline Woodson, Puffin Books, 368 pages, ©2016*

Crow: *by Barbara Wright, Yearling, 320 pages, ©2013*

Forge: *Laurie Halse Anderson, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 320 pages, ©2010*

One Crazy Summer: *by Rita Williams-Garcia, Amistad, 240 pages, ©2011*

Out of Bounds: *by Beverly Naidoo, Heinemann, 128 pages, ©2003*

Red Pencil: *by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Shane W. Evans, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 368 pages, ©2015*

Stella by Starlight: *by Sharon M. Draper, Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 352 pages, ©2016*

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

All American Boys: *by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, Antheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 320 pages, ©2015*

Aluta: *by Adwoa Badoe, Groundwood Books, 192 pages, ©2016*

Americanah: *by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ancor, 588 pages, ©2014*

Burn My Heart: *by Beverly Naidoo, Puffin, 224 pages, ©2007*

How It Went Down: *by Kekla Magoon, Square Fish, 352 pages, ©2015*

Monster: *by Walter Dean Myers, Amistad, 281 pages, ©2004*

Mother to Mother: *by Sindiwe Magona, Beacon Press, 224 pages, ©2000*

The Hate U Give: *by Angle Thomas, Balzer Bray, 464 pages, ©2017*

Seventh Annual James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival is a Success

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

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



Lentino of the Pinellas County School Board gave presentations at the Festival.

Performances were provided by local artists; St. Marks 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.



Trena Cox of Juvenile Welfare (left) and Kevin W. Johnson talk during the James Weldon Johnson festival



New Journal on Information, Diversity and Inclusion Invites Submissions

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;*
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- *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 4,100 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 unenthused. 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.

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 not in libraries. “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 stocking

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.

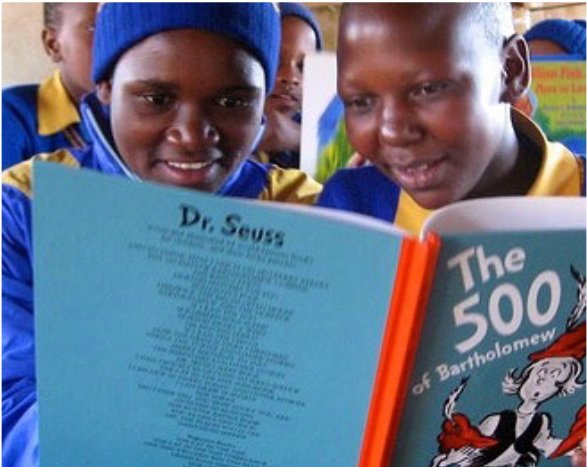
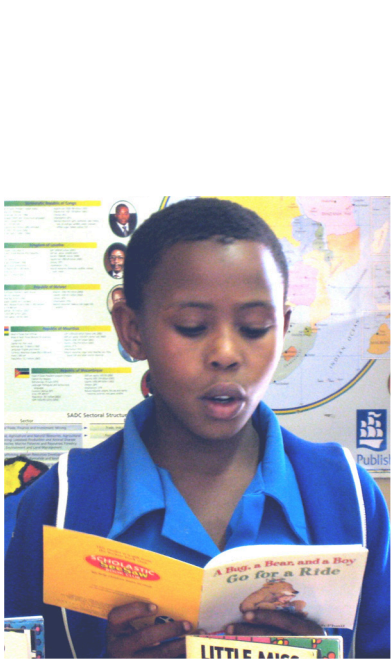
Bradshaw visited Africa again in 2004, this time with her family. The family was in the African nation of Lesotho, and there was no running water, roads or electricity where the family was visiting. While the family was horseback riding, Bradshaw’s son became bored and started

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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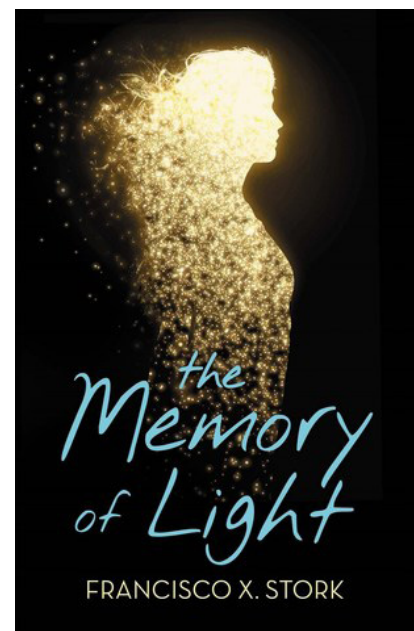
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O P - E D

Hope: A Review of Memory of Light

By Karen Lemmons, Detroit School of Arts



Memory of Light by Francisco X. Stork. Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Scholastic.

336 p. 2016.
ISBN 978-0-545-47432-0.
\$17.99

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.

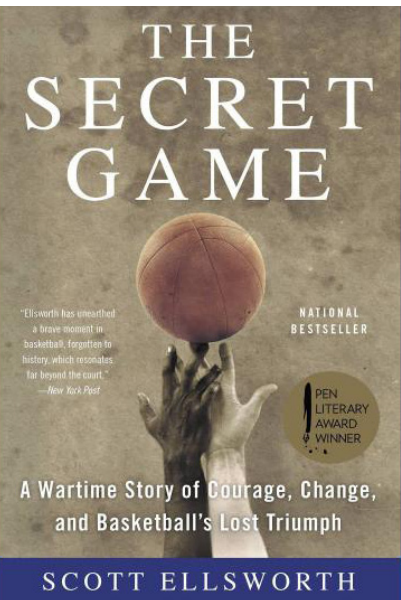
Vicky does stay longer and shares a room with Domonique (Mona) Salas. Mona is friendly, and is also bipolar. Vicky also meets E.M. who has anger management issues, and Gabriel, who struggles with schizophrenia. In the group therapy sessions led

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 Negroes. 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 for Negroes.

Ellsworth shares additional facts as well:

John McClendon, the basketball coach for the North Carolina College for Negroes, was the first African American to graduate from the University of Kansas with a degree in physical education. He also studied

under Charles McCloy, a renowned expert in anthropometry and physical education, while attending graduate school at the University of Iowa. In addition, McClendon was the first African American to serve as head coach at Cleveland State University.

James Naismith, the inventor of basketball and an instructor at the University of Kansas, was John McClendon’s mentor, friend, and confidante. In addition, Naismith travelled in 1936 to Berlin, Germany to watch the first ever basketball game played in the Olympics.

The Duke Indoor Stadium (now Cameron Indoor Stadium), was designed by Julian Abele, an African American architect from Philadelphia, PA. Abele was the first African American graduate of the architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania.

James Hardy, Floyd Brown, and John Brown, members of the

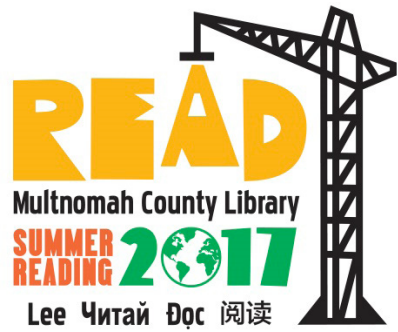
North Carolina College of Negroes’ basketball team, were recruited from Theodore Roosevelt High School (aka Gary Roosevelt High School) in Gary, Indiana. This was the same high school attended by the older siblings of Gary native and pop superstar Michael Jackson.

Dick Thistelthwaite, a member of the Duke Medical School team, 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: https://www.csllpreads.org/](https://www.csllpreads.org/)) 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.

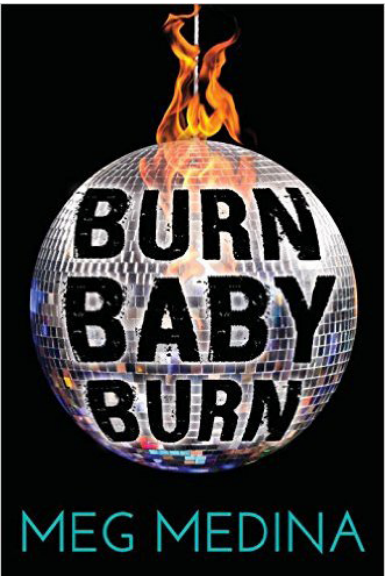
The final change comes on the teen front based on feedback from actual teens. We are not even calling it a game anymore--officially it is the “High School challenge.” Teens get a wallet-sized punch card, complete the activities on the card, and then can redeem it for a local vendor coupon or a ticket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



Burn Baby Burn by Meg Medina.

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

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.

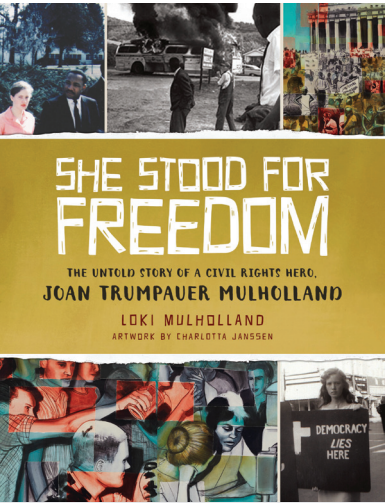
Nora, a high school graduate, tries to prepare for college and life after high school. She works part-time at a deli and saves money from her earnings. However, her mom, who works at a factory, is working less hours. She is struggling to pay the rent. Therefore, Nora helps out financially. Hector, Nora’s 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. Then Nora meets Pablo, a new guy in town, who also starts working at the deli. The mutual attraction for each other is intense and makes the summer even hotter and more dangerous for them.

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.

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 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

mother’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 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 his mother’s decisions to fight for racial justice in the face of evil and against all odds.

This book is a good companion to other biographical references of ordinary young people who made immense contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. The chronologically arranged sections/topics describe key events in Joan Trumpauer’s life, for example, the dangers she faced while demonstrating as well as the lifelong friendships that made her a part of a bigger family. It truly

sums up a unique perspective for any reader. The collage artwork by Charlotta Janssen makes the story come to life. Beautifully written, very visual with copies of original pictures and documents which support and highlight given facts.

A truly inspiring book. 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 front lines 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 1963 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.

Book Review: “The Meaning of Michelle”

by Elizabeth Jean Brumfield, Prairie View A&M University



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 Wilksburg, 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 individuals 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 that 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.

Toccara D. Porter is currently enrolled in a web application development program at Ivy Tech

Community College. She graduated with an MLIS in 2007 from Kent State University, holds a second master's degree in educational technology, and has worked in public and academic libraries. Much of her published work has focused on the integration of games and visual multi-media within library instruction.



Passing the Baton: Frederick and Patricia C. McKissack and the Influence on the Writing of Roland Barksdale-Hall

By Roland Barksdale-Hall, JAH Kente International



Pictured left to right: Roland Barksdale-Hall, children's librarian Joyce Broadus, and the McKissacks, circa 1994.

During the 1970s Patricia McKissack (1944-2017) was an English teacher at a middle school in Kirkwood, MO when she wanted to introduce students to her favorite poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar. She was unable

to find an appropriate book. She identified a need, researched and wrote a biography on Dunbar, which was revised and published as “Paul Laurence Dunbar: A Poet to Remember” in 1984. This was the

beginning of a prolific writing career that produced more than one hundred children’s books.

Patricia, then an editor, and husband Frederick, an engineer, left those careers and formed a freelance

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; “*Sojourner 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 books with positive images for our family; at that time, we purchased “*Messy Bessey’s Closet*” by Frederick

and Patricia C. McKissack. I treasured my personal autographed copy of “*Mirandy and Brother Wind*” (Knopf, 1988): “*Barksdale 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.



BCALA News

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CULTURE KEEPERS X

Beyond Library Walls:

Innovative Ways to Engage Our Communities

August 9 – August 13, 2017

Atlanta, Georgia

Grand Hyatt (Buckhead)



Tom Joyner
Opening Speaker



Dr. Bernice King
Closing Speaker