

BCALANEWS

Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc.



Legendary hip hop DJ and VJ Ralph McDaniels has helped transform Queens Library in New York City into one of the borough's premier hip hop culture resources. Learn about what McDaniels has done for the system and how it is bringing hip hop fans into the library to view archives and attend events in this edition of BCALA News!

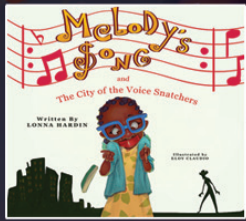
VOLUME 44 | ISSUE 1 | WINTER 2017

Melody's Song

and The City of the Voice Snatchers

Written By
**LONNA
HARDIN**

A children's story about a fierce and feisty little girl who sets out on a colorful adventure to find her true voice, save her city and overcome the evil Voice Snatchers.



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Dear BCALA Members,

It's spring! I always find it a bit magical when spring returns. No matter how many times I've witnessed tulips bloom, trees erupt from winter's sleep, birds chirping as they return to build their nests, and blades of grass pushing up through the earth, it's still magical when it happens.

The rhythm of the seasons is a constant cycle. Just as the changing seasons are inevitable, so is organizational change. BCALA celebrates 47 years of championing African-American librarians this year and we continue to have tremendous impact on the profession and the communities we serve.

We will also celebrate our 25th year since the first National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL) was held in Columbus, Ohio in 1992. This year, we will gather in Atlanta for NCAAL X. Our time together is like a family reunion...a time to remember, a time to laugh, a time to celebrate, a time to share old stories and make new memories. Don't miss it!

Several initiatives have been created to increase membership, recruitment,

retention and engagement, to enhance leadership and professional training, and development and improve organizational excellence. One initiative lead by the membership committee is a membership campaign, "New Vision, New Direction," that kicked-off at ALA Midwinter in Atlanta. The goal is to increase membership by 25 percent annually through 2019. How can you help? Each member can recruit a member.

There is plenty of work to do as we strive to make BCALA the pre-eminent organization serving African American librarians. If you want to volunteer for one of the committees, please contact the committee chair directly.

As always, I welcome your comments, questions, and feedback via email at president@bcala.org.



Denyvetta Davis,
President, BCALA
2016 - 2018



TOGETHER WE
ACHIEVE MORE.

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BCALA



N E W S

25 YEARS

History of National Conference of African American Librarians

By Carolyn Garnes, NCAAL X Co-Chair

Hello BCALA members,

We will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL) on Saturday, Aug.12, 2017 at the Grand Hyatt (Buckhead). I am reaching out for information. Anyone who would like to submit images or information on past conferences can use this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/aBvmXaU7fipVkC4yDWyY>

10th Atlanta, GA, August 9 -12, 2017.

“Culture Keeper X: Beyond Library Walls: Innovative Ways to Engage Our Communities.”

Co-Chairs - Carolyn Garnes, Atlanta, GA and Dorothy Guthrie, Gastonia, NC. Caucus President – Denyveta Davis.

9th St. Louis, MO, August 4 - 8, 2015.

“Culture Keepers IX: Meet at the Gateway: Reimagining Communities, Technologies, and Libraries.”

Co-Chairs - Emily Guss, Chicago, IL and Makiba Foster, St. Louis, MO. Caucus President, Kelvin Watson.

8th Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, August 7-11, 2013.

“Culture Keepers VIII: Challenges of the 21st Century: Empowering People, Changing Lives.”

Co-Chairs - Denyveta Davis and Fannie Mae Cox. Caucus President, Jerome Offord, Jr.

7th Birmingham, AL, August 4-8, 2010.

“Culture Keepers VII: Bridging the Divide with Information Access, Activism, and Advocacy.”

6th Fort Worth, TX, August 2-6, 2007.

“Culture Keepers VI: Preserving the Past, Sustaining the Future.”

Caucus President - Wanda Brown.

5th Fort Lauderdale, FL, August 12-15, 2002.

“Culture Keepers V: Access.”

Co-Chairs- Florence Simpkins & Wayne Crocker.

4th Las Vegas, NV, July 19-20, 1999.

“Culture Keepers IV: Challenges and Opportunities in the New Millennium.”

Co-Chairs- Florence Simpkins & Wayne Crocker. Caucus President, Gregory Reese.

3rd Winston-Salem, NC, July 31-August 3, 1997.

“Culture Keepers III: Making Global Connections.”

Caucus President - Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin.

2nd Milwaukee, WI, August 5-7, 1994.

“Culture Keepers II: Part I Unity through Diversity.”

1st Columbus, OH, September 3-6, 1992.

“Culture Keepers: Enlightening and Empowering our Communities.”

BCALA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday Jan. 22, 2017 | 8-9 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 7:46 p.m. by President Davis due to error in ALA schedule that reported the meeting was to begin at 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO ATLANTA

President Davis welcomed the body to Atlanta, and thanked members for their patience and irregular start time.

President Davis led a moment of silence in remembrance. Past BCALA presidents, BCALA Executive Board members, BCALA committee chairs, BCALA lifetime members, members with 40 years or more, new members of BCALA, first time conference attendees, and recent library school graduates were recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Richard Ashby motioned the agenda be accepted, Fannie Cox seconded. Agenda was approved.

EMERGING LEADER

BCALA sponsors two Emerging Leader, Christina Fuller-Gregory was in attendance. President Davis read a thank you letter from her. She is working on a diversity and inclusion project

READING/ APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were presented by Kirby McCurtis, Secretary, with corrections. Kathleen Bethel motioned the minutes be approved with corrections, Rose Dawson seconded. Minutes from 2016 Membership Meeting in Orlando were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budget review by Treasurer Wanda Brown. Kelvin Watson motioned the financial report be approved as presented, Andrew (Sekou) Jackson seconded. Treasurer's report was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- *President Davis has started an orientation for new Executive Board members. The inaugural session here in Atlanta was a success.*
- *Executive Board working on a strategic action plan.*
- *Fundraising committee presented a proposal.*
- *President's Advisory Council made up of past presidents was created.*
- *Dr. Stanton Biddle presented the budget; the board voted and approved. Jos Holman, chair of the Bylaws*
- *Committee presented changes to the bylaws; the board voted and approved.*
- *The board voted and approved the NCAAL 10 travel grant funds.*
- *The board voted and approved NCAAL XI Site Selection funds.*

VISITORS

Candidates running for ALA President (Loida Garcia-Febo and Terri Grief) spoke. Their responses to a set of questions presented by President Davis was sent to the listserv.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- *Chair Rudolph Clay presented on the Membership Drive Initiative. This is launching very soon with the goal to increase membership to 1,000 by 2020 (BCALA 50 year anniversary).*

- *This initiative will be a joint effort by the Membership, Recruitment and Professional Development, and Affiliates Committees.*
- *One target population is library support staff that are currently working in libraries.*
- *Another target population is library school students.*
- *Rudolph spoke about members getting a member; meaning each member would have the responsibility of recruiting one member.*
- *The Committee is working on drafting "elevator pitches" and creating more "Ask me about BCALA" buttons.*
- *If members have any other suggestions, please email Rudolph Clay.*

NCAAL 10

Conference Co-chairs Carolyn Garnes and Dorothy Guthrie gave an update on the 10th National Conference of African American Librarians, to be held August 9 -13, 2017 in Atlanta, GA.

LITERARY AWARDS

- *Committee member Lee LeFleur shared the award winners and reminded members that the presentation of the awards to the recipients will happen during NCAAL X in the Atlanta at Auburn Avenue Center, not at Annual Conference.*
- *1st novelist award was "Grace" by Natasha Deon.*
- *Fiction-Another "Brooklyn" by Jacqueline Woodson.*
- *Honor books (runners up) for Fiction*
- *"Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead*
- *"The Mothers" by Brit Bennett*
- *The Nonfiction winner was "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly.*
- *Honor book for Nonfiction was "Pushout" by Monique Morris.*
- *The Poetry winner was "Counting Descent" by Clint Smith, and the honor book for Poetry was "Attraversiamo" by Monique Ferrell.*
- *The Citation/Outstanding contribution to publishing award was a book called "Olio" by Tyemhimba Jess.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Lots of job recruitments happening nationwide, be sure to check the BCALA website.*
- *Fannie Cox as Co-Chair of the Professional Development Committee is looking for mentors and mentees. Be on the lookout for the formal program launching in June. She is interested in reaching out to both retirees and students.*
- *Trevor Dawes shared about a coworkers' new book "Never Caught". The author, Erica Armstrong Dunbar, was set to fly in to conference and speak courtesy of publisher Simon & Shuster but due to weather was unable to arrive.*
- *Richard Ashby is interested in interviewing great librarians. He is putting together an Oral History of BCALA.*
- *Andrew Jackson acknowledged the Affiliates present at the meeting. If you have ideas or suggestions about creating new Affiliates, contact him.*
- *Michael Anderson "President Philson" is a first time YA author. His book is called "Mi\$adventure\$ of the American Dreamer: Nick Ca\$h Vs. Everyone."*
- *Dr. Sandy Wright wrote a book for children called "Queen Imani."*
- *Eboni Njoku reminded everyone about the MLK Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. Monday morning.*
- *Congratulations to Kelvin Watson on his new position as Library Director of Broward County Library in Ft. Lauderdale. Kelvin thanked everyone for their support.*
- *Congratulations to Dorothy Guthrie for the MLK Unitarian Award.*
- *The hospitality suite is 6818 and will be open at 9:30 p.m.*
- *Gladys Smiley Bell won a raffle prize from the NCAAL chairs. It is a one night stay at the Hyatt in Buckhead (Atlanta).*
- *JCLC will be in Albuquerque, NM in September 2018.*

ADJOURN

President Denyveta Davis adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectively Submitted Kirby McCurtis, Secretary.

Resolution of Respect For **Amanda Sullivan Rudd**

*“I have built a monument more lasting than brass, loftier than the royal
structures of the Pyramids...”*

Horace “Exegi Monumentum Aere Perennius,” Book III, Ode XXX

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

Whereas, **Amanda S. Rudd**, the daughter of Wesley Sullivan and DeLarion (Moore) Sullivan, was a steadfast friend, devoted mentor, and advisor to generations of **African American librarians in Chicago** and to librarians throughout the United States; and was a community activist, visionary leader, and a member of the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA)**, Inc., whose departure we so deeply feel and whose life has been an example of Christian fortitude to her family, her friends, her community, and her colleagues throughout this nation, and

Whereas, **Amanda S. Rudd** lent her gifts to the library profession and to this nation, early in her career, as a 2nd grade teacher at the former Observation Elementary School, Cleveland, Ohio, as Assistant Director of School Libraries for the Cleveland, Ohio Public School System in the late 1960's, as an Educational Consultant with “*World Book Encyclopedia*” in Chicago, Illinois in the 1970's, and

Whereas, **Amanda S. Rudd's** career with the Chicago Public Library evolved over a period of ten (10) years from Assistant Chief Librarian, Community Relations and Special Programs in 1975, to Deputy Commissioner, 1975-1981, and Acting Commissioner, 1981-1982, and culminated with her appointment as Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library in 1982 until her retirement in 1985, where she held the distinction of being the only African American to hold the position of Commissioner of Libraries, and

Whereas, **Amanda S. Rudd** also lent her gifts to the library profession through her involvement in the American Library Association, Public Library Association, Illinois Library Association, and Illinois State Library's Advisory Committee, and

Whereas, the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc., the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association**, the entire library profession, residents of Chicago, and communities throughout this nation have sustained a great loss in the home going of **Amanda S. Rudd**, therefore be it



Resolved, that we eulogize her memory by trying to bring into our own lives the dedication and professionalism, coupled with sustained vision, power, and purpose that made her life a worthy pattern for our emulation, and that we earnestly try to live as purposefully as did **Amanda S. Rudd**, and be it further

Resolved, that the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. and the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association**, express their sincere sympathy to the family of **Amanda S. Rudd**, and that we place a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. and the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association**, and that we also send a copy of this resolution to the members of **Amanda S. Rudd's** family and the **Chicago Public Library** 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 Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.

DENYVETTA DAVIS

Denyvetta Davis, President

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

February 18, 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, North Carolina), Treasurer

Kelvin A. Watson, (Broward County Libraries, Fort Lauderdale, Florida), Immediate Past President

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Jason Alston, Ph.D. (Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina)
 Vivian Bordeaux (Bridgeport Public Library, Bridgeport, Connecticut)
 Elizabeth Jean Brumfield (Prairie View A&M University, Houston, Texas)
 Rudolph Clay (Washington University Libraries, St. Louis, Missouri)
 Brian Hart, (EveryLibrary, Riverside, Illinois)
 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)
 Sammie Johnson, (Alabama A & M University, Normal, Alabama)
 Bradley Kuykendall (Page Library, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri)
 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

THE CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE BLACK CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Emily Guss, (Chicago, Illinois), President

Image of Amanda S. Rudd courtesy of Chicago Public Library Archives, Special Collections

NCAAL X Registration *Info*

BY NCAAL X PLANNING COMMITTEE

Registration and housing for the 10th National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL X) are now open! To find all of this information on the web, please visit <http://bcala.org/2017/02/02/10th-national-conference-of-african-american-librarians/>.

Program

The 10th National Conference of African American Librarians will be held August 9-13, 2017 at the Grand Hyatt (Buckhead) in Atlanta, Georgia. The preliminary program is coming soon.

Registration

Online registration (<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=eventsconf&Template=/Conference/ConferenceList.cfm&ConferenceTypeCode=M>) is now available. On-site registration will NOT be provided.

Registration Fees

ON-SITE REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE

	<i>Early Bird & Housing (by April 30, 2017)</i>	<i>Advance (by July 10, 2017)</i>	<i>Regular (by August 1, 2017)</i>
BCALA/Ethnic Caucus/GA Librarians	\$ 299	\$ 325	\$ 350
ALA Members	\$ 330	\$ 355	\$ 380
Non-ALA/Caucus:	\$ 360	\$ 375	\$ 400
Retired Caucus	\$ 269	\$ 299	\$ 310
Student:	\$ 125	\$ 150	\$ 175
Guest (with paid registration only)	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50

Join BCALA (<https://www.memberize.net/clubportal/MemberJoin.cfm?clubID=2381>) today to register at the member rate!

BCALA - 10th National Conference of African American Librarians

Hotel *Accommodation*

GRAND HYATT ATLANTA (BUCKHEAD)

3300 Peachtree Road NE

Atlanta, GA 30305, USA

Phone: 888-421-1442

Hotel Website: www.grandatlanta.hyatt.com

Hotel Registration: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/BCALA2017>

Grand Hyatt Atlanta is set within the upscale uptown neighborhood of Buckhead. You will experience legendary Southern hospitality at this Atlanta hotel, located two blocks from the Buckhead MARTA station. Recently named one of "USA Today's" 10 Best Atlanta hotels, Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead is the perfect combination of sophistication, state-of-the-art amenities and southern charm. Conveniently located on Peachtree Street, this hotel puts you in the heart of Atlanta's best shopping, dining, sports and live music.

Room Rates

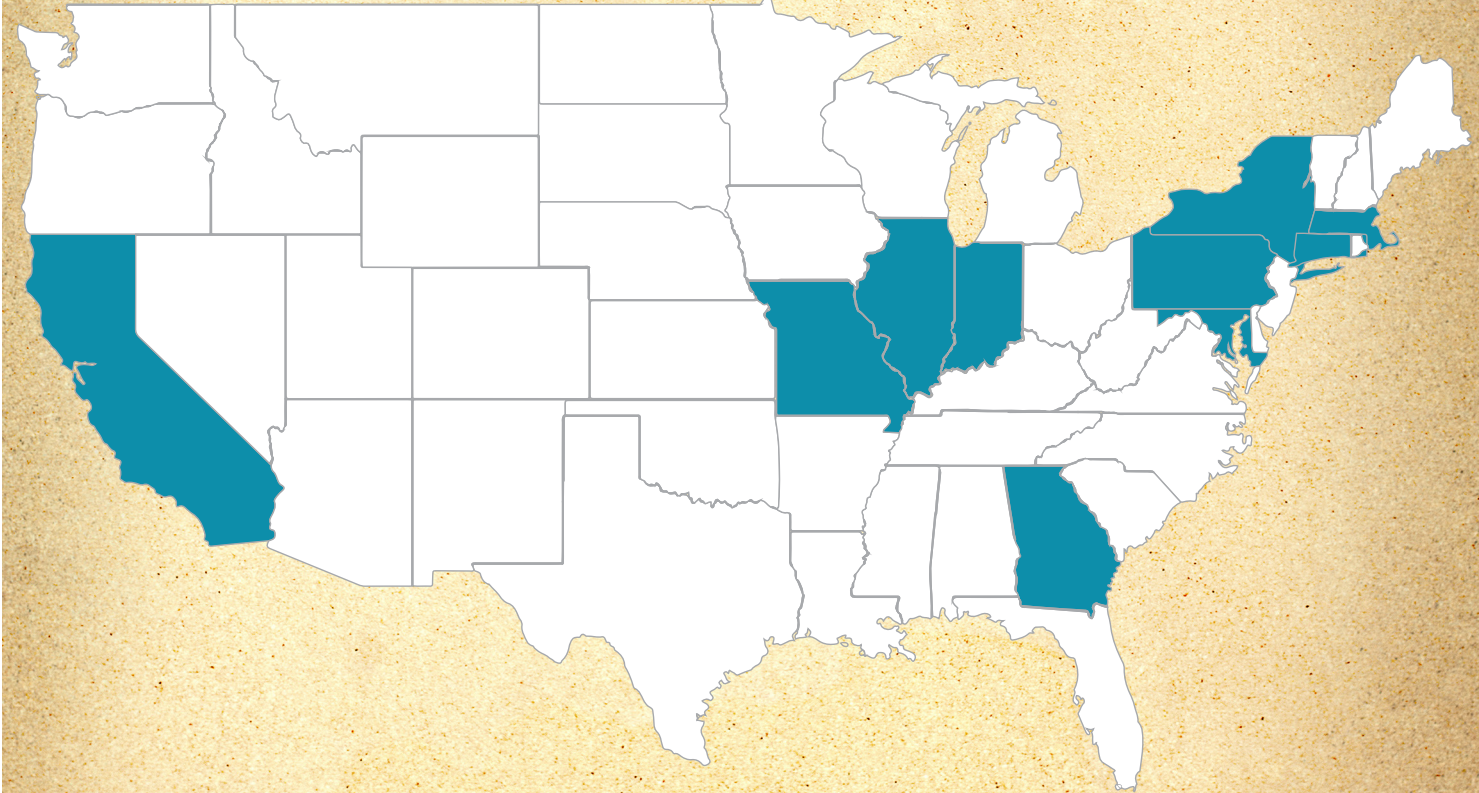
Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy	Triple Occupancy	Quadruple Occupancy	Regency Club
\$149	\$149	\$174	\$199	\$219

Exhibitions

The 10th NCAAL offers participating exhibitors and organizations unique on-site promotional marketing opportunities, including program sponsorships and event partnerships that will provide major visibility throughout the conference. We are planning for 300 or more attendees representing public, academic, school, and special libraries. We are also expecting 35 exhibitors. Your participation is pivotal to our success and your sponsorship would support BCALA's continuing programs, mentorship, scholarships, and forums.

For more information, download a copy of the exhibitor packet (<http://bcala.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/NCAAL-10th-Exh-Packet-2017.pdf>).

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



A horizontal row of 12 black silhouettes of people of various ages, ethnicities, and genders, facing different directions. The background is a textured, light brown surface.

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

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BCALANEWS
Black Caucus of the American Library Association Inc.

Coverart courtesy of the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission



F E A T U R E D

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Dorothy Guthrie Honored with MLK Award

By Reader Submission



The Gaston Clergy & Citizens Coalition, an initiative of “Gaston Together” (for more information, try www.gastontgether.org), presented one of the 2017 Gaston County MLK Unity Awards to BCALA’s Dorothy Guthrie. The Gaston Clergy & Citizens Coalition is a countywide, non-denominational ministerial association formed in

the late 1990’s by Gaston Together.

The annual award was established in 2004 by the coalition to recognize current or former Gaston County citizens who have performed exemplary community service to help build bridges of unity across lines of race, class, gender, faith and/or municipalities

within Gaston County. Names of the honorees are engraved on the MLK Monument located at the plaza.

Familiar to many through her work with Gaston County Schools, Guthrie is a retired school administrator. She holds both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Winthrop University. She served as the library director for Gaston County Schools and was the “Media Coordinator of the Year” for three consecutive years. Guthrie is the author of “Integrating African American Literature in the Library and Classroom.” She also coordinated the first Gaston County Diversity Book Fair. Her interest in youth and education led her to seek a position on the Gaston County Board of Education, a seat for which she was recently re-elected. She is an associate minister at Tabernacle Baptist Church and is a former spiritual counselor at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte. Mrs. Guthrie has been active in BCALA for many years and presently serves as the Co-Chair of the 10th National Conference of African American Librarians.

Andrew “Sekou” Jackson Has Retirement Celebration

By BCALA Publications Committee

This picture is from BCALA Past-President Andrew Jackson’s retirement celebration on Sunday, Sept 18, 2016. Jackson received the proclamation from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz with (l-r) George Dixon (District Leader), New York State Assemblyman Jeff Aubry, New York State Sen. Jose Peralta and the new Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center director, Dr. Mikisha Morris.

In recognition of 36 years at the helm of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, the NY Black Librarians Caucus established a \$1,000

scholarship in Jackson’s name for library support staff to encourage and assist in the completion of their undergraduate degree. The retirement gift from colleagues, friends and community was an open round trip ticket to Ghana, West Africa. The Langston Hughes staff sang my favorite song, The Impossible Dream, during the celebration.



Kelvin Watson Named Broward County Libraries Director

By Ric Barrick, Broward County Government

BROWARD COUNTY, FL - Kelvin Watson has been named the new Broward County Libraries director, effective February 26, 2017. He was the chief operating officer, and senior vice president for Queens Library in New York City. The Queens Library

serves 2.3 million people from 62 locations plus seven Adult Learning Centers and two Family Literacy Centers. It circulates among the highest numbers of books and other library materials in the country.

Watson is credited with innovative community outreach to establishments who have not been active patrons of the library system, such as community centers, hospitals and jails. His background in addressing the digital divide has helped patrons understand how to use technology and realize how impactful these tools can be in their lives. As the new libraries director, his successes in establishing community partnership will be a key factor in building on the current partnerships that exist in Broward County.

Watson has played a critical role in expanding the digital platforms offered by library systems he has worked with to broaden patron access to e-content. In Queens, he spearheaded a new initiative to offer 24/7 seamless access to digital materials, including single login access to create less barriers to obtaining information, an integrated media search feature, and access to numerous articles, databases, and other content.



In addition to his position at Queens Library, Watson has previously held positions including the National Agricultural Library, The Library Corporation, Ingram Library Services, Borders Group, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is also a past president of BCALA. Kelvin has also served as a commissioned officer in the Active U.S. Army and Army Reserves.

"We are excited to have someone with the depth of industry experience and successful community engagement as Kelvin brings to Broward County" said County Administrator Bertha Henry. "I am confident that his experience in expanding digital and traditional service delivery will enhance our already robust offering of library, online, and mobile services. I know that his talents will positively impact our library's growing role as a cultural and civic enrichment center for all of our residents."

Watson received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a minor in Military Science from Lincoln University in Missouri. He also has his Masters of Library Science Degree from the North Carolina Central University.

New Library of Congress Video: Ritual Archives

By BCALA Publications Committee

The Library of Congress invites the public to enjoy its new video, "Ritual Archives," which features speaker Toyin Omoyeni Falola. The speech, which is approximately 82 minutes long, was recorded in October 2016, and features Falola – an African studies scholar – discussing ritual archives and the African tradition. The link to the video is here: http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=7711&locId=eanw.

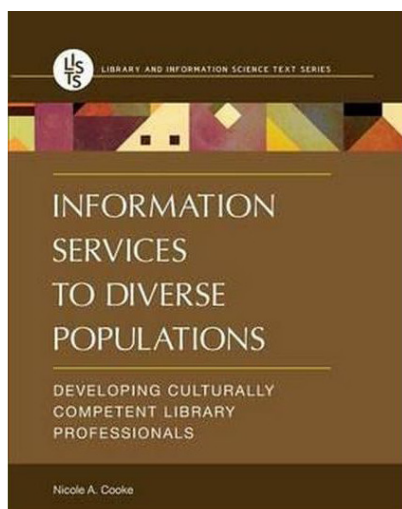
Falola is a Nigerian historian and professor of African studies. He holds the Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities, at the University of Texas-Austin. He is a member of the Library of Congress Scholars Council, and has been in residence as the Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the South at the Library's John W. Kluge Center.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Nicole Cooke Releases New Book for Serving Diverse Populations

By BCALA Publications Committee



Nicole Cooke, PhD, a professor in the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has released a book entitled “Information Services to Diverse Populations: Developing Culturally Competent Library Professionals” through Libraries Unlimited Publishing.

The publisher’s web site states about the new book:

“Filling a gap in the existing library and information science literature, this book consolidates recent

research and best practices to address the need for diversity and social justice in the training and education of LIS professionals.

The development of cultural competency skills and social awareness benefits LIS students, their future employers, and the library profession at large—not to mention library customers and society as a whole. This textbook and comprehensive resource introduces students to the contexts and situations that promote the development of empathy and build cultural competence, examines the research in the areas of diversity and social justice in librarianship, explains how social responsibility is a foundational value of librarianship, and identifies potential employment and networking opportunities related to diversity and social justice in librarianship.

A valuable book for students in graduate library and information

science programs as well as LIS practitioners and researchers interested in knowing more about the topic of diversity in the profession, *Information Services to Diverse Populations: Developing Culturally Competent Library Professionals* addresses the political, social, economic, and technological divides among library patrons, covers transformative library services, and discusses outreach and services to diverse populations as well as how to evaluate such services, among many other topics. Appendices containing suggestions for exercises and assignments as well as lists of related library organizations and readings in related literature provide readers with additional resources.”

Cooke told “*BCALA News*”:

“This is the culmination of 4 years of work, and is based on the class I teach at the University of Illinois’ School of Information Sciences. I wrote the book that I wanted to use

in my classroom. It consolidates the literature in a way that I think will be helpful to students seeking an introduction to the topic, and to practitioners wanting to dive more deeply into the scholarship in this area. It also contains some reflections and thoughts about how we can consistently incorporate diversity into our professional practice and organizations, in an effort to better serve our diverse populations.”

Dr. Blanche Woolls, an editor with Libraries Unlimited, offered praise on Cooke’s title, saying:

“Hearing Dr. Nicole Cooke speak on diversity, when she was still a doctoral student presenting at the 2011 IFLA conference in Puerto Rico, I knew hers was a voice the profession needed to hear. It was my pleasure to invite her to contract a textbook on the topic, which is based on the course she teaches at Illinois. She has written an excellent introduction for the profession. While, considering the diversity of clientele in all types of libraries in the U.S., this should merit an entire course on the topic. However, this is

not the case in most LIS programs. In this way, Illinois is ahead of the curve, thanks to Dr. Cooke’s efforts and expertise. Dr. Cooke’s book provides an introduction for students and a refresher for all professionals who work with these diverse populations. It is a landmark publication.”

Purchasing information for Cooke’s title is available at: <http://www.abc-clio.com/ABC-CLIOCorporate/product.aspx?pc=A4633P> or on [Amazon.com](#).





BOROUGH PRESIDENT KATZ APPOINTS *ANDREW P. JACKSON TO QUEENS LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

Reposted Press Release

QUEENS, NY – Borough President Melinda Katz is pleased to announce her appointment of Andrew P. Jackson to the Queens Library Board of Trustees.

Jackson (also known as Sekou Molefi Baako) is an East Elmhurst resident with a long history of community service, including 36 years as executive director of the Queens Library’s Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, a full-service, general circulation library with an extensive reference collection of materials related to African American history and culture, and a cultural arts program that offers a variety of programming of independent film video screenings, stage presentations, panel discussions, concerts, art exhibitions and more.

“Mr. Jackson has extensive library management experience and has been the driving force behind the rise of the Langston Hughes Library and Cultural Center into a world-renowned institution of African American scholarship and an important center of learning, literacy and culture in Queens,” Borough President Katz said. “Mr. Jackson’s life work reflects a dedication to serving communities and will be an invaluable addition to the Queens Library Board of Trustees, which is entrusted with providing sound stewardship to our borough’s top-flight public library system.”

Jackson retired from his position as executive director of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center in 2016 and is now the institution’s executive director emeritus. He also continues to serve as an adjunct professor in York College/CUNY’s Department of History and Philosophy, where he teaches in the Black Studies Program and the Cultural Diversity Program, and an adjunct professor in Queens College’s Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

Jackson also served as an advisor to the Wyandanch Public Library in Wyandanch, NY from 2009-2010 and as a training, operations and development consultant for the Roosevelt Public Library in Roosevelt, NY from 2005-2010. He was former president and member of the Executive Board of BCALA, co-chair of ALA’s Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunrise Celebration, and member of the ALA Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

“As someone who has devoted his life to the promotion of literacy and learning and to the betterment of the community, I am thankful that Borough President Katz has appointed me to Queens Library’s Board of Trustees,” Jackson said. “I am committed to using my library management experience to ensure that Queens Library is governed with transparency and fiscal soundness. We must continue to provide quality service to the Queens residents who depend upon having access to its vast catalog of books and other media and to its many educational, cultural and community programs.”

Jackson is also a member of the York College/CUNY President’s Advisory Council, a founding board member of the Corona-East Elmhurst Historic Preservation Society and a member of the Community Advisory Board of the Louis Armstrong House Museum. His previous community service has included terms on the Board of Directors of Queens

Public Television, the Community Advisory Board at Elmhurst Hospital Center and the Renaissance Charter School.

Jackson is a lecturer and public speaker, as well as an author and editor who co-edited the award winning book, *The 21st Century Black Librarian in America: Issues and Challenges*, and authored *Queens Notes: Facts About the Forgotten Borough of Queens, New York*. His essay, *In the Tradition: The Legacy of Cultural Messengers from Langston Hughes to Tupac Shakur*, was published in *phati'tude Literary Magazine* in 2010. Jackson also wrote the foreword to the 9th and 10th editions of *The African American Almanac* and serves as a contributor to and reviewer of *The African American Experience* for ABC-CLIO, Inc.

Jackson served in the United States Air Force from 1964 to 1968, achieving the rank of staff sergeant and earning a Bronze Star in 1967 for his service with the 4th Air Commando Squadron in Vietnam. Jackson earned a Bachelor of Science degree from York College/CUNY in 1990 and earned a Master of Library Science degree from Queens College in 1996.



Please Visit **BCALAJOBS.ORG** For Job Openings And Announcements

The screenshot displays the BCALA Career Center website. The header includes navigation links: BCALA.org, Home, Blog, About, Sitemap, and Contact Us. A central banner features the Black Caucus logo and buttons for PART-TIME, FULL-TIME, and FREELANCE job types, along with links to SUBMIT A JOB, ADD A RESUME, and LOGIN/REGISTER. Below the banner, there is a search bar with fields for Keyword, Location, and Radius, and a search icon. A sidebar on the left offers filters for BROWSE JOBS by Category, Type, Salary, and Date posted. The main content area lists featured jobs, including positions at the University of Alabama School of Library & Information Studies, such as School Library Media Specialist and Assistant Professor, both posted by E. Lynch on 26 Aug 2016. The bottom of the page shows a 'RECENT POSTS' section.



Queens Library and Hip Hop Legend

RALPH MCDANIELS

Take the Lead in Preserving African-American Cultural Heritage

Such an ambitious project—currently the only one of its kind at a public library system—called for an expert on both hip hop and Queens, which led to the library’s partnership with Ralph McDaniels, who became Queens Library’s hip hop coordinator in 2015. McDaniels is the legendary DJ, VJ, producer, and media pioneer who created the seminal hip hop video show “Video Music Box” in 1983, and its influential format and content has made him an icon of African-American culture, recognized by no less of an authority than the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, which has created a permanent exhibit of his work.

Under his direction, Hip Hop Programs & Culture has featured

a wide variety of events, from graffiti exhibitions and hip-hop workout classes to standing-room-only conversations with legends like KRS-One, Darryl “DMC” McDaniels, and FUBU founders Daymond John and Keith Perrin. His latest program is the “Queens Hip Hop Pioneers” exhibit of photographs on display at Queens Central Library in Jamaica throughout Black History Month.

Queens Library recently spoke with McDaniels about the accomplishments of the Hip Hop Programs & Culture initiative and how he sees it progressing in the future.

QL: What effect has Hip Hop Programs & Culture had on the Queens Library community?

RMD: One of the great things about Queens is that it’s so diverse, you can be in Flushing with a largely Asian community, or in Corona with a largely Latino community, or in South Jamaica with a largely African-American community, but they all love hip hop! So they can all be engaged in that same way, and you can connect communities that otherwise might not talk to each other.

We brought DJ Neil Armstrong—Jay-Z’s tour DJ for two years—to Flushing Library to do his Dinner and a Mixtape event. He happens to be from Flushing, and he’s of Filipino descent. So there was a taste-testing element with food in one room, and he was playing his world-renowned mixtapes in another room, where I was



interviewing him. There were doubts about how many people would come to Flushing for the program, but like I said, I know that Asian communities love hip hop—I have mixtapes in Japan that are considered the Holy Grail! They just started a Hot 97 radio station there too. So the event was crowded, very well attended, and it was like a homecoming for him. So to have an event like that do well there, when people were unsure of how it would draw, was a great situation.

So that's the great thing about hip hop—it brings diverse folks together. That's pretty unique. Hip hop is probably the most influential art form of the last 30 years, and people are pretty passionate about it. It has a way of extending into so many areas of culture, in America and around the world—fashion and entertainment, but also politics and the fight for equal rights—that other music might not touch on.

QL: What have you learned about programming during your time as hip hop coordinator?

RMD: You do have to go to each branch of the library, and ask "How do I engage that community? Which ways of focusing on hip hop work best in each neighborhood?" I read an article about Applebee's, and how it's so successful because each restaurant reflects its neighborhood. We want the events we create to best reflect their neighborhoods too. And I'm a native New Yorker, but a lot of neighborhoods have changed over

the past 10-20 years, so you have to pay attention to what's going on, and who's living where now.

Plus, if you were around when hip hop first got started, you're in your 40s, maybe even in your 50s. So it's programming for both the older side of hip hop culture, with an event like the Pioneers exhibit, and content that's a little more chill, and serving the younger generation as well, with hip-hop workouts and dance events and so on. We do see our attendance consistently going up at our events, and I'm learning too, about how to market them right, connect with the right support person at each branch, when you need an extra push on social media, and so on.

QL: Can you talk about the Queens Hip Hop Pioneers exhibit? We hear that it will be a sort of kick-off for a larger hip hop archives project.

RMD: One of the things I wanted to do when I came to Queens Library was create a hip-hop timeline for Queens. Queens doesn't have a well-documented history of hip hop like Brooklyn and the Bronx. The Bronx has a walk of fame for hip hop; they're working on a museum right now—but there are no Queens landmarks, it's just word of mouth. So I said, "Let's at least start to get the story." We had a meeting one night of people from the early era of Queens hip hop, before records were made or anything like that—the late '70s, early '80s pioneers. We sat down, and everyone talked about dates, and what happened

when. We all helped each other get things right or fill in the gaps. There were things I didn't know that they helped with, and vice versa.

QL: And that's linked to what we're doing with the Queens Memory project at the library—preserving the local history of Queens by recording peoples' stories and digitizing photos and other materials.

RMD: Exactly. So from that meeting, we created a document and a video. While we were together, I said that we needed to take photos of everyone—some of the people there hadn't been together like that in years; it was a reunion of sorts for folks from all over Queens. They felt good about themselves, they had a great time, and you could tell that they felt like they were 21 again. So I said let's document everyone, how they look now, with black-and-white photography (because it's kind of timeless), and we used those pictures for the exhibit.

We had a launch event for the exhibit at Central Library, and I wanted it to reflect the pictures, so we had an old-school DJ set with two of the early pioneers from back in the day, from the area, the Disco Twins and DJ Divine. I asked them to just play vinyl—nowadays, most DJs play off of computers—and they looked at me and said, "We haven't played off vinyl in a long time!" I said, "That's alright, just bring a crate of records!" And during the event, I realized it was a great call, because that's the authentic



way, the way we did it.

We also invited people to go downstairs to the library archives to see videos and pictures from our previous hip hop events, and donate their stories and get things scanned for the archives. On top of that, what we collected during that first Pioneers meeting is now in the archives too. Now, hip hop has a place there, which is important, because people come here all the time looking for different things in the archives, and now they know that there's a definite history we're building that they can come and reference. It's exciting.

QL: What's on the horizon for Hip Hop Programs & Culture?

RMD: People were really excited about the photo exhibit—artists and visitors alike. A lot of pioneers asked me why their picture wasn't included! So that will be an ongoing project. I would like the Hip Hop Archives to one day have their own dedicated area. I created my own business in hip hop, my own film and television production company, and I'd like to talk with young people about creating their own businesses, being entrepreneurs, and getting their vision out there. Hip hop has always been kind of a stepchild, even to the music business, and even when guys and girls were representing hip hop artists as lawyers and as accountants, they had to create their own lane and their own niche—and some of them have done very well. So I think the business of hip hop is more important than anything, because traditionally,

African-American communities have not done well in terms of business, hip-hop related or not. So I definitely want to connect with experts on our staff or outside the library and get their help, collaborate on that.

I also think the most important thing I can do here at the library is give young people a chance to speak, record themselves, say something, whatever it is—and then listen to them, and pay attention to what they have to say.

When I was younger, all I wanted was someone to listen to me, and—even better—give me feedback! Young people have often been let down by a lot of different people in their lives, and they just want to be heard.

The one thing I hope we gain with audiences in Queens is that, when Hip Hop Programs & Culture does something, they believe that it's going to be good, and it's going to be important. And then, we have to keep living up to that!

QL: What do you think hip hop means to Queens, and to Queens Library?

RMD: Hip hop is a product of the history of Queens. Hip hop comes from the families that came before us. We're all a product of the Civil Rights movement on this side of Queens, the South Jamaica side. When I moved here from Brooklyn as a kid, we were the second Black family on the block. We were just trying to make our way. And kids taking apart their parents' records and dismantling their music equipment and trying to make their

own sound—that was happening here in Jamaica, and in Corona, Long Island City, all over Queens. The Bronx had their own thing going on, and what we were doing wasn't that different. But most of us didn't live in the projects, we lived in houses, we had basements and backyards, so what we were doing was different than in other areas; it was distinctly Queens, produced by Queens, and the best thing in the world.

I think hip hop gives Queens Library a fresh look at young people, the new generation, and millennials—for them, hip hop is part of everything in their world, every day, so they don't understand why it wouldn't be part of the library.

When I was a kid, Russell Simmons and I lived in Hollis, and we used to come to Central Library. It was a place to meet girls, but also just to hang out. It was a place where no one harassed you. It was a safe space. So that's where hip hop comes from, even before there were records. Sitting around, talking, creating a beat, and trying to figure things out.

Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature:

BEST MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2016

*Compiled by Dr. Claudette Shackelford McLinn, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada,
Dr. Sujin B.E. Huggins, and Ana-Elba Pavon*

ADA'S VIOLIN: THE STORY OF THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA OF PARAGUAY, by Susan Hood, illustrated by Sally Wren Comport, 40 pages, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book*)

AS BRAVE AS YOU, by Jason Reynolds, 410 pages, published by A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction*)

BOOKED, by Kwame Alexander, 314 pages, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction/novel in verse*)

CITY SHAPES, by Diana Murray, illustrated by Bryan Collier, 40 pages, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

FIRST STEP, THE: HOW ONE GIRL PUT SEGREGATION ON TRIAL, by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, 40 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book*)

FRAZZLED: EVERYDAY DISASTERS AND IMPENDING DOOM, written and illustrated by Booki Vivat, 225 pages, published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction*)

FREEDOM IN CONGO SQUARE, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, 40 pages, published by Little Bee Books, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book*)

FREEDOM OVER ME: ELEVEN SLAVES, THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE, written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan, 56 pages, published by A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, historical fiction, picture book*)

GARVEY'S CHOICE, by Nikki Grimes, 108 pages, published by WordSong, an imprint of Highlights, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction/novel in verse*)

GHOST [Track series, Book 1], by Jason Reynolds, 181 pages, published by A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction*)

HEAD OF THE SAINT, THE, by Socorro Acioli, translation by Daniel Hahn, 181 pages, published by Delacorte Press, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction*)

IN PLAIN SIGHT, by Richard Jackson, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, 40 pages, published by Roaring Brook Press, ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

IT AIN'T SO AWFUL, FALAFEL, by Firoozeh Dumas, 378 pages, published by Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt., ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction*)

JAZZ DAY: THE MAKING OF A FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPH, by Roxane Orgill, illustrated by Francis Vallejo, 55 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2016 (*Elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction, poetry, picture book*)

LIFE WITHOUT NICO, by Andrea Maturana, illustrated by Francisco Javier Olea, 36 pages, published by Kids Can Press., ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

LION ISLAND: CUBA'S WARRIOR OF WORDS, by Margarita Engle, 163 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, historical fiction/novel in verse*)

LUCY AND LINH by Alice Pung, 340 pages, published by Alfred A. Knopf, ©2016 (*Middle school/High school, fiction*)

MAMÁ THE ALIEN / MAMÁ LA EXTRATERRESTRE, by Rene Colato Lainez, illustrated by Laura Lacámara, 32 pages, published by Children's Book Press, an imprint of Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

MARCH: BOOK THREE, written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, 246 pages, published by Top Shelf Productions, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, graphic novel-memoir*)

MAYBE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL: HOW ART TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD, by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Rafael López, 40 pages each, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

NIGHT GARDENER, THE, written and illustrated by The Fan Brothers, 48 pages, published by Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

PIECE OF HOME, A, by Jeri Watts, illustrated by Hyewon Yum, 32 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

POEM FOR PETER, A: THE STORY OF EZRA JACK KEATS AND THE CREATION OF THE SNOWY DAY, by Andrea Davis Pinkney, pictures by Lou Fancher

and Steve Johnson, 60 pages, published by Viking, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, poetry, picture book*)

PREACHING TO THE CHICKENS: THE STORY OF YOUNG JOHN LEWIS, by Jabari Asim, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, 32 pages, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book*)

PRINCESS AND THE WARRIOR, THE: A TALE OF TWO VOLCANOES, by Duncan Tonatiuh, 40 pages, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Preschool/Elementary school, folklore, picture book*)

RADIANT CHILD: THE STORY OF YOUNG ARTIST JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT, Written and illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, 40 pages, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book*)

REAL SISTERS PRETEND, by Megan Dowd Lambert, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell, 32 pages, published by Tilbury House Publishers, ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

RUDAS: NIÑO'S HORRENDOUS HERMANITAS, written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales, 40 pages, published by Roaring Brook Press / A Neal Porter Book, ©2016 (*Preschool/Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

SACHIKO: A NAGASAKI BOMB SURVIVOR'S STORY, by Caren Stelson, 144 pages, published by Carolrhoda Books, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, nonfiction/biography, memoir*)

SAVE ME A SEAT, by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan, 216 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction*)

SOMOS COMO LAS NUBES / WE ARE LIKE THE CLOUDS, by Jorge Argueta, translated by Elisa Amado, illustrated by Alfonso Ruano, 36 pages, published by Groundwood Books / House of Anansi Press., ©2016 (*Upper elementary school/Middle school, poetry, picture book*)

STEAMBOAT SCHOOL: INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, 1847, by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Ron Husband, 40 pages, published by Disney Hyperion, ©2016 (*Elementary school, historical fiction, picture book*)

STORYTELLER, THE, written and illustrated by Evan Turk, 48 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (*Elementary school, folklore, picture book*)

SUN IS ALSO A STAR, THE by Nicola Yoon, 348 pages, published by Delacorte Press, ©2016 (*Middle school/High school, fiction*)

THEIR GREAT GIFT: COURAGE, SACRIFICE, AND HOPE IN A NEW LAND, by John Coy, photographs by Wing Young Huie, 32 pages, published by Carolrhoda Books, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book*)

THUNDER BOY JR., by Sherman Alexie, illustrated by Yuyi Morales, 40 pages, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2016 (*Elementary school, fiction, picture book*)

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER, by Grace Lin, 370 pages, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2016 (*Elementary school/Middle school, folklore,*)

WHOOSH! LONNIE JOHNSON'S SUPER-SOAKING STREAM OF INVENTIONS, by Chris Barton, illustrated by Don Tate, 32 pages, published by Charlesbridge, ©2016 (*Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book*)

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Getzville, NY (October 5, 2016) – William S. Hein & Co., Inc. has released the newest HeinOnline collection, *Slavery in America and the World: History, Culture & Law*. This collection, developed under the direction of Paul Finkelman, Ariel F. Sallows Visiting Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, has been in development for more than three years, with an investment by the Hein Company of tens of thousands of dollars. During the development of the collection, the Company's market research indicated that *Slavery in America and the World* would be a very successful and profitable collection once offered on a subscription basis. However, while the Hein Company is a for-profit corporation with fiscal responsibilities to its shareholders, its mission statement contains a number of core values, one of which is Corporate Citizenship. This means that, as a company, Hein resolves to make a positive difference in the community.

The crisis revolving around race relations in America and the recent events surrounding this crisis have made the Hein Company rethink the idea of financially profiting from the sale of a collection on slavery. As good corporate citizens, Hein realized that a unique opportunity existed to make a positive impact in the community, in the profession and very possibly in a wider arena. Therefore, the decision was made not to charge for this collection, but to provide *Slavery in America and the World* free to anyone with an interest in the subject: libraries, institutions, students, researchers, or any other entity within the global community. By doing this, the Hein Company will realize a different form of profit by potentially making a difference during this troubling time.

The Hein Company has always recognized the impact librarians have within their communities. Their social consciousness, their communication skills, their ability to interact in a positive fashion with young

children, students of all ages, high school, college and graduate level faculty, business people, attorneys, judges and the public in general put them in a unique position to open lines of communication to address the issues Americans are faced with today. By providing complimentary access to *Slavery in America and the World*, a wide audience has an opportunity to be more informed about the history of slavery and the pain of racism. By using this collection, librarians can be in the forefront of a movement to help educate their communities and create an environment for open and positive dialogue, which may go a long way in helping find solutions to the distressing issues confronting all of us.

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BLACK FEMINIST FUTURES:

Bibliography of 2016 books compiled for the May 20-21, 2016 symposium at Northwestern University

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Alexander, Danny. *Real Love, No Drama: The Music of Mary J. Blige.* Austin: *University of Texas Press*, 2016.

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Coretta Scott King Award Books Idea Exchange

From Dr. Claudette S. McLinn

Founded in 1969, the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards are the first and oldest of the ALA awards to recognize/honor diverse books. Expert panelists will provide highlights of acclaimed activities and lessons utilizing the Coretta Scott King Book Award winner and honor books in public and school libraries, classrooms, and academia. Attendees are encouraged to bring successful ideas, activities, lessons, and strategies to share. There will

be a sharing session of best practices at the end of the panel presentation. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards study guides will also be discussed.

Coretta Scott King Award Books Idea Exchange, which will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2017, 3 - 4 p.m., during the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago IL. (Note: The room location is TBD.)



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[@AALibnNU](https://twitter.com/AALibnNU)



TAI Gathering of Elders Explores Art as a Social Change Agent

By Roland Barksdale-Hall, JAH Kente International



17-year-old musician Avandre Sayles crooned on his saxophone at the Teaching Artist Institute (TAI) Applicant Open House and Reception in the evening. The youth leader followed with an inspiring presentation on his brainchild, the Khorì Project, at the ATS Conference, Cleveland, Ohio.

“How can art be employed to change the world?” was central to the discussion at an international forum, dubbed the Teaching Artist Institute “Gathering of Elders.” The TAI Year End Retreat held work sessions at the Cuyahoga County Public Library in Cleveland, where attendees from Africa, the Caribbean and Canada

participated in strategic planning.

TAI founder Kim Poole vividly retells how TAI was formed. Three years ago, the Baltimore artist arrived in Nigeria. She realized a mission, “to empower women to celebrate their resilience and encourage cross-cultural communication and

peace building through the music for change concert series. From this launch pad the Teaching Artist Institute was birthed... as a tool for social transformation.” The Musician Union of Ghana now is one of the TAI partners.

Intergenerational involvement and active participation of youth leaders made this year’s culminating TAI event unique. While dubbed a “Gathering of Elders” with discussion about the status of youth there was more to the events. BCALA member Roland Barksdale-Hall addressed the need for greater advocacy and activism for youth and others who lack representation.

Before the departure he shared how a shooting occurred at his neighborhood barbershop shortly after leaving. He did not look forward to the prospect of finding a new barbershop. Our eyes met. We knew a brother had to have his haircut. He was going to look. I pressed two crisp \$20 bills in his hand toward the journey.

“We’ll be seeing each other again.” Avandre flashed an award-winning smile and waved farewell.

Our encounter was the walking, crooning embodiment of my book “Leadership Under Fire” and prepared TAI presentation, “A Circle of Healing Elders: The ABC’s

of Storytelling.” The griots need a spiritual connection to the ancestors and with the simbas (male youth) for the healing circle to be complete.

Check out the simba musician Avandre as he soars on the sax. Melanin News provided coverage of Avandre and the TAI Applicant Open House and Reception held in the evening at the ATS Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/hon7rnm>. You are in for a thrill!

Roland Barksdale-Hall is author of “Leadership Under Fire: Advancing Progress, Communicating, Teaching and Setting Our Communities at Liberty.”

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O P - E D

Book Review: “Hey Little Girl, She’s Got Swirl”

By Mildred Rias



“Hey Little Girl, She’s Got Swirl” By Frances Richards, PhD. Illustrated by Misba. Copyright 2016.

Recommended for grades preschool-2.

How do you see the people around you? In black and white? Or in swirls? Swirls are all the skin colors that make us-us! Sort of like ice cream where we can have one flavor or we can mix more than one flavor and it will still be ice cream.

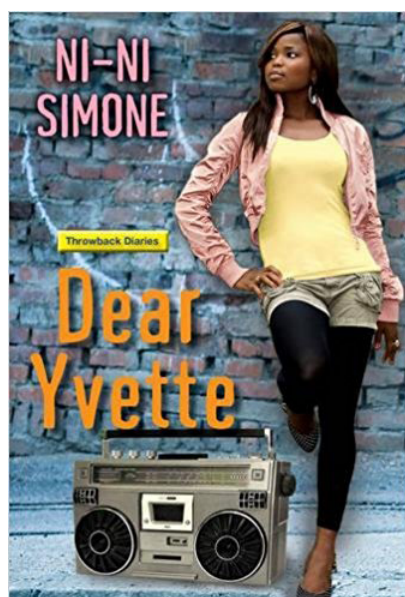
This is how Penelope, a bi-racial little girl, uses simple rhyming words and color swirls to describe the uniqueness of people that live in our world. The story teaches children about how their skin color may be different from someone else’s and to

accept those differences without being judgmental. All people have qualities that make them different and yet, even with those differences, we still enjoy doing many of the same things.

Easy to read and the rhyming verse flows very well with the colorful illustrations. Children can easily identify with the different activities in the story. Great for story time to use as an opening to talk about race and accepting people whose skin is different from yours.

Book Review: “*Dear Yvette*” by Ni-Ni Simone

By K.C. Boyd, East St. Louis School District



Dear Yvette
by Simone, Ni-Ni
December 2016
256p. Kensington, paperback,
\$9.95 (9780758287762)
Grades 9th-12th

In her latest, Ni Ni Simone (“Throwback Diaries Series: Down by Law,”) tackles the topic of second-generation families who are wounded by the 80’s drug epidemic within the African-American community.

Yvette Lavonne Simmons is a sixteen-year-old mother of a two-year-old daughter and lives in the DaBricks, one of the toughest housing projects in Brick City, New Jersey. Yvette has no stable family, dismal homelife and lacks the guidance of her absentee drug addict parents. After a street fight ended in a second degree murder charge, her case worker, Janette sends Yvette and her child to a professional parent home in Norfolk, Virginia. It is here that she is given the opportunity to start over under the guidance of the stern and loving Aunt Glo. It is Aunt Glo breaks through the teen’s angry

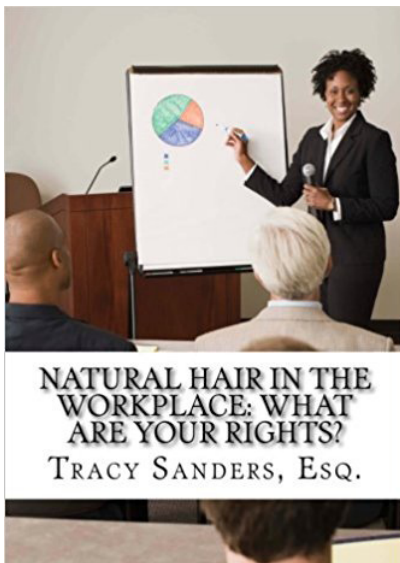
and defensive walls and teaches her that she is worthy of a second chance and receiving love. Other characters such as housemate, Tasha and romantic suitor Brooklyn also help Yvette through this journey of self-awakening.

Simone cleverly uses the music and culture of the 80’s as a colorful backdrop for Yvette’s story. High school teachers, librarians and social workers can effectively use “*Dear Yvette*,” as a cautionary tale for troubled teens. Overall, this story is a must read for teen street literature fans and should not be missed.

*Review originally appeared in:
Booklist Magazine. December, 2016*

Book Review of *“Natural Hair and the Law”* by Tracy Sanders, Esquire

By Katherine R. Myers, Esq.



As an attorney, author and African-American woman who wears her natural hair, Tracy Sanders tackles the intersectionality of natural hair in the workplace and the laws that impact employees and employers in her 43-page work, *“Natural Hair and the Law.”* Natural hair is a hot topic as many African-American women are making or have made the transition away from relaxers, which are chemicals that straighten the hair’s natural curl pattern. CNBC ran an article in 2015 called, “This hair trend is shaking up the beauty biz,” which reported that in 2014, relaxer sales

were down 34 percent from 2009.

Overall, the organizational style was crisp and direct. It opened with an overview of what would be covered and the work stayed true to that chapter by chapter:

“First, knowledge of the law is empowering because it clears up ambiguity. Second, employers may discover that natural hair provides a sense of pride and cultural identity rather than a symbol of scorn or rebellion. Third, case studies will be examined, which should serve as a useful resource to avoid pitfalls. Finally, five tips will be provided to help you navigate natural hair in the workplace.” Pg. 6.

She begins in Chapter 1 with a larger historical narrative and context in order to connect the transatlantic slave trade in America with the current debates and controversies which surround African-American women who decide to wear their hair as it grows out of their heads. For example, “During slavery there were house slaves and field slaves. The house slaves were lighter skinned, had

softer hair, were better educated . . .” (pg. 9). In theory, the concept is great because it establishes the relevance of this work. Knowledge of the larger historical context of the natural hair journey proves absolutely necessary as a prerequisite for the reader to fully appreciate the significance of the author’s chosen topic.

However, in practice, the historical backdrop fell short, as it was overly broad, wide sweeping and full of overgeneralizations such as, “Thus, class distinction in the African-American community may have originated during slavery, and remnants of the social pattern persist to a slighter degree.” (pg. 9-10). Although this statement may be true, it misses how light skin and dark skin enslaved Africans were produced, different access to educational opportunities, and the impact of so many historical events since that time such as the American Civil War, Reconstruction, World War II, Industrial Revolution, the creation of historically Black colleges and universities and the list continues. While “scholars” were referenced once

on pg. 9, they were also referenced generally, without name or the name of their relevant works. This portion of the piece only touched the surface of African-Americans' history in this country. The reader is left to rely on unsupported generalizations to reach why the natural hair debate is relevant today.

Woven into the historical context of Chapter 1, the author shows the reader her very personal connection to the topic of natural hair by recounting her own experiences with wearing her natural hair. Sanders connects the work to her personal journey to accept her natural hair which adds "texture" to the piece. Notwithstanding, the personal natural hair journey story failed to link to the larger thesis. Instead, the take away was, "I went to law school and achieved the long term goals of graduating and passing the bar exam," with "faculty, administrators, and externship supervisors" who "were very supportive." (pg. 12).

The only external natural hair conflict appeared to be a hypothetical one: "The employers were content with my appearance because they knew that the externship was finite with an ending date." (pg. 12). By the end of Chapter 1, it remains a mystery as to what led to the author's feeling of shame regarding her natural hair aside from internal feelings. And I do not mean to say that external forces did not exist, but only that the author did not present them for the reader.

While I fully appreciate the personal touch, the tone appeared out of place in this work. Especially since

the piece began with a scholarly and didactic tone: "In this book, you will learn more about your rights, as an employee, to natural hair in the work place. You will learn how employment discrimination law distinguishes natural hair . . ." (pg. 5). And the first chapter includes what feels like a thesis statement of what will be covered. As a reader, I expected a scholarly work, a well-researched essay, or a helpful legal guide. I think the book delivered in each of those areas at some points, but the biographical material was unexpected.

Once the historical and personal connections are introduced, the remainder of the work is dedicated to discussing federal and state employment discrimination laws. The legal explanation was right on without boring the reader or providing an overly technical explanation. It was helpful, just as a guide should be. The discussion of the law and references are undoubtedly the highlight of this work: "Civil rights activities urged the United States government to enact legislation such as Title VII, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Civil Rights Act of 1968." (pg. 24). Here, Sanders shines and provides concrete, practical and applicable information. Chapter 4, entitled "Title VII and African American Hair/Black Hair/Kinky Hair" is my favorite chapter because it explains the EEOC's (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) "Manual on Appearance and Grooming Standards," which provides the direct legal link between natural hair and the law, the title of the work.

That being said, Chapter 5 was just over one page of content that included hyperlinks for readers to read to learn more, and Chapter 6 provided case studies and explanations that made the work feel like a workbook and disrupted the flow for the reader. However, I appreciate its value as a tool for understanding discrimination on the basis of natural hair in the work place.

My second favorite chapter is Chapter 7, entitled: "Five Tips for Employees with *Natural Hair in the Workplace*". The tips are helpful, practical and based on existing law. This chapter plus the fourth would make for an awesome pamphlet or poster that could accompany this work. This chapter is most helpful. It is the type of content that I anticipated receiving when I started the book.

I am glad Sanders put this piece together. It takes a heroic stab at a very large and deep-seated issue in the African-American community, makes it relevant in our modern area and provides legal tools for employees to assert their rights and employers to avoid restricting the rights of employees.

Bravo.

(Editor's note: Tracy Sanders is currently based in California. To learn more about Sanders' work, or for purchasing information, please visit her site: <http://www.naturalhairandthelaw.com>. Katherine R. Myers is an attorney practicing in South Carolina and was asked by BCALA News to write a review of this work because she is a credentialed and practicing attorney).

Book Review: “Jump” by Steve Harvey

By K.C. Boyd, East St. Louis School District

“The doors that God opens for you are not difficult doors to walk through...

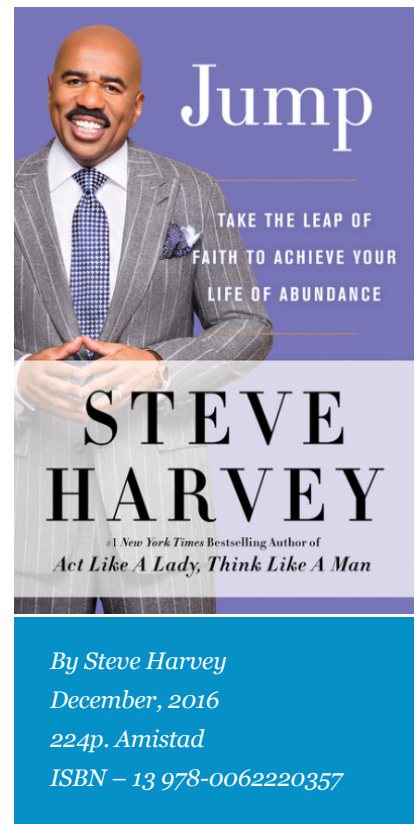
Have the courage to walk through the door He has opened especially for you...

Be willing to jump even when you don’t know where you’ll land...

Only then will you ever be able to soar.” – “Jump” by Steve Harvey

One word can describe this very personal story of struggle and triumph: Inspirational! Harvey's testimonies on successes/struggles with life, family and career provide readers with the blueprint to take that 'Jump' in their personal lives. Who would have thought this comic was homeless, living out of his car while performing stand-up on the road? Harvey's honesty is heartfelt and encourages readers to look deeply within themselves to examine if they are happy with the circumstances of their lives. He also challenges the readers that they should live every moment to the fullest to achieve a life of abundance. Harvey does warn readers that the parachute may not open right away and mistakes will be made, but making that 'jump' in their lives will allow them to see what greatness God has in store for them. A must read for teens and adults.

(Editor's note: originally appeared in "Booklist Magazine," December 2016)



Book Review: Same Family, Different Colors

By Valerie Hawkins, Prairie State College

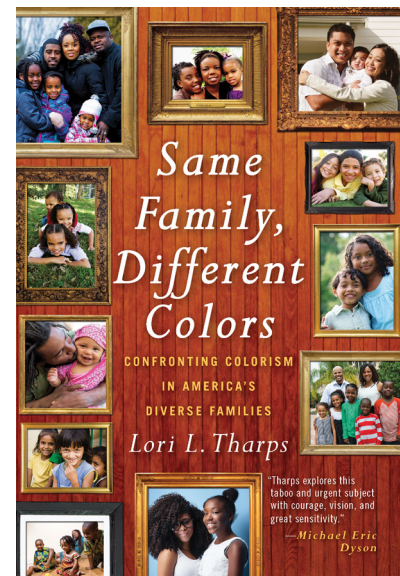
Same Family, Different Colors: Confronting Colorism in America's Diverse Families.

With “*Same Family, Different Colors*,” Tharps does indeed confront “colorism” (racism’s more visual cousin) – an individual yet collective preference for those who more closely resemble a white ideal, of lighter skin, finer hair, keener facial features. Most importantly, Tharps dispels colorism’s most persistent myths, which are that it arose solely out of divisions of labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants -- of light-skinned house slaves and dark-skinned field slaves -- and that it is a prejudice inherent only in the African American community. Tharps, a journalist, presents racial and geographical history that’s long been hidden in plain sight, outcome statistics, and compelling--sometimes heartbreaking--anecdotes from the biographies of living people, across a wide race and skin color spectrum, to show that no nationality is immune to colorism’s pernicious effects, whether African American, Latino, Asian American, or a biracial combination of these—or white. She also exposes the colorism economy, the vast array of skin lightening products available in numerous countries across the globe. “*Same Family, Different Colors*” is a landmark investigation into the

social, cultural, and economic aspects of colorism, on both the American landscape and the world community.

Link to publisher’s page on the book:
<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/538473/same-family-different-colors-by-lori-l-tharps/9780807076781>

Follow Valerie Hawkins on Twitter:
[@LibrariesVal](https://twitter.com/LibrariesVal)



Tharps, Lori L. (author).
 October 2016. Beacon Press,
 Hardcover, \$26.95
 978-0-8070-7678-1.

Why You'll Like It: Genius & Clever Heroine. Black Girl Magic. DINOSAURS!

By Jessica Anne Bratt, Grand Rapids Public Library



Lunella! AHHHH! She's clever and bright with a deep love for science and is pursuing an extracurricular project to get answers about her status as an Inhuman (special race of mutants). Currently, Marvel has named her the smartest girl in their universe. This volume marks her debut as a comic book heroine along with Devil Dinosaur. The first volume is action packed, and while we are not sure how she will hide a T-Rex in

Manhattan, readers will be hooked and along for the ride!

In this graphic novel series, future issues will explain where she manages to hide a T-Rex in New York and IT IS ABSOLUTELY GLORIOUS! It is hard being a genius at school and hiding your superhero status from your parents. I love the fact that Devil Dinosaur and Lunella team up to save her school. The lighthearted feel of the comic is expressed through the bold, colorful art. Other Marvel superheroes start making appearances in later story arcs.

Another comic book with a smart heroine is “*Princeless Vol 1*” (https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20300540-princeless-book-1?ac=1&from_search=1&from_nav=true) by Jeremy Whitley. The “*Princeless*” comic is important, as young girls can see themselves reflected in this fantasy heroine in everything from hair to skin tone. Older readers, who grew up reading various comic side characters like

Storm, Amanda Waller, and Misty Knight, will delight in reading this lead heroine. There's something fantastic about seeing a young heroine that looks like you. It's very important and while this comic book covers family, hair, and gender issues—underneath it has the universal theme of love, friendship, and acceptance. It is fantastic that the comic industry has been steadily publishing diverse Black girl leads that readers can choose from. Any time diverse titles hit the market, please make it a goal to support them. If you get comic subscriptions, support these titles!

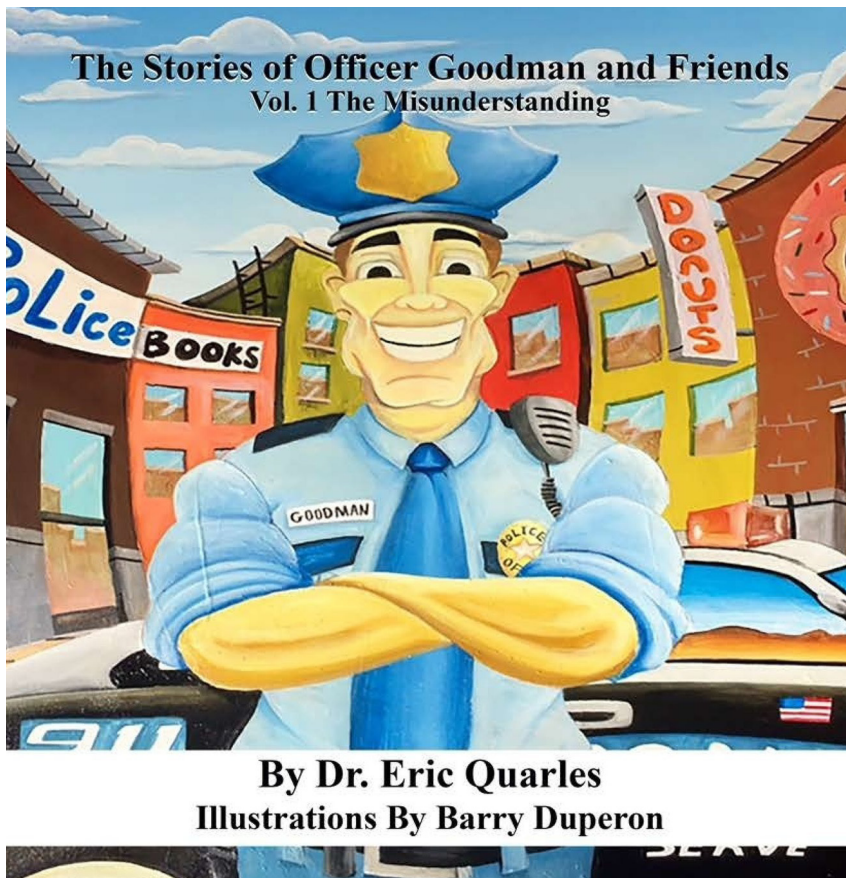
When they come out as volumes, purchase them for your library collections. It helps in the support of telling publishers that people want to read diverse books.

(Editor's note: This is the latest installment of our “Youth Corner” column series)

Book Review: “*The Stories of Officer Goodman and Friends Vol. 1 (The Misunderstanding)*”

By Tahira Ahmad, Queens Library

“*The Stories of Office Goodman and Friends Vol. 1 (The Misunderstanding)*” by Dr. Eric Quarles. 2016. 36 pages. Independently published. <http://officergoodmanandfriends.com/>



The first thing that influenced my conclusion about this book, was the website. An interactive site for kids where they can interact with the author by asking questions, print out coloring pages, and read all about the differing characters from the book. This idea of an interactive website, creates a little bit more than the ordinary reading of the book. Hopefully the site will become more interactive with many optional interesting activities that will allow readers the opportunity to explore their creative minds.

The name “Exceptional City” is very ingenious. I like the fact that it unconsciously depicts a picture of a community where everyone strives to be “exceptional”, or at least caring and law abiding.

The idea/storyline is brilliant, most especially in our modern times where the negativity surrounding law enforcement officers is very common (mostly due to unfortunate occurrences). Ideas that teach cooperation, civic duties and community membership are much needed to guide and strengthen our young ones.

Also, the diversity displayed throughout the book is wonderful. It shows what a truly exceptional community should be; it shows that there's always a place for everyone. Everyone belongs somewhere. This is what we need to teach to our young ones. Everyone is part of a community and so are law enforcement officers. Working together makes a community exceptional.

A great little book which can definitely serve as a reference/teaching tool for both teachers, parents and caregivers when dealing with such highly sensitive issues like relations forcement and children, or simply policing.

I believe most times, children in particular, find it very difficult to differentiate between what the media portrays and what they hear in conversations/ the positive image we as parents and teachers teach them. This book makes it easier in some ways, by offering a channel of communication for both parent and child, or teacher and student to discuss such relevant issues like the roles/responsibilities of the law enforcement, as well as our civic duties as members of a community, and much more.

Lastly, although the storyline is brilliant, the plot and sentences do not create the synchronization needed to sustain continuity in a story. A reader should not have to read between the lines in order to grasp the meaning of what the author is trying to convey. Most young children do not have that idea in their heads yet.

A nicely written book which will get more interesting as the series progresses hopefully. A nice book for young readers and a simple reference tool for parents and teachers. Looking forward to more adventures with Office Goodman and Friends.

“A nicely written book which will get more interesting as the series progresses hopefully.”

Book Review: There's a Lid for Every Pot

By Jason Alston, Coastal Carolina University



Middle Class Matchmaker

As of this writing, I've been single for over 10 years. And as much as I may not want to admit it, in that time, yes I have peeped a dating site and joined a dating group or two. In the Black dating advice scene, however, it seems three problems arise for me personally.

The first problem is that a lot of Black dating advice seems to have at least some element of misogynistic tone; exhibit one may be the onslaught of dating guidance coming from Steve Harvey. While progressive in many areas like social justice and funding of public resources, I think much of the Black community tends to have a more conservative and perhaps retrograde view of gender roles within heterosexual couplings. As such, I get a lot of advice suggesting

I be an alpha male type that I just can't be. Also, I encounter a lot of Black women who seem to want a man who ascribes to those traditional head and protector roles; I can't really articulate what I'm looking for, but it's certainly not to be some traditional household head.

The second problem is that a lot of Black dating advice and rhetoric focuses on faith, obeying the Christian God, and putting Jesus at the center of your relationship. That's great stuff if you're a Christian, as the overwhelming majority of American Black people are. Every now and then though, an agnostic who heavily studies Judaism such as myself may pop up, and I can't do a damn thing with Christianity-based dating advice.

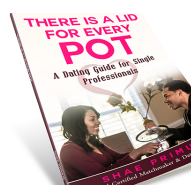
Finally, my third problem is that Black dating advice and discussions at times is "ghetto'ized." This doesn't happen too often, but still, sometimes those in the Black matchmaker realm forget that there is a very healthy and successful Black middle class in this country, and that there are Black



This guide will offer stories, tips and strategies on the best ways to navigate the dating scene, building a foundation in a relationship, and how to maintain it once you're there. Before you can get to the maintenance, you have to be ready. If you're not ready, no lid or pot will do. My wish for all my clients, and for you, is that you open yourself to experience true love. It is the most powerful feeling you can have, it's universal and will give you wings.

Yes, Cupid's wings.

Shae - Middle Class Matchmaker



men who don't fit the cliché hip hop baller mold and Black women who don't conform to the "Real Housewives" image.

It was this third issue that prompted my initial intrigue in Shae Primus, an Atlanta-based certified dating coach and matchmaker who brands her dating service as "Middle Class Matchmaker" (<http://middleclassmatchmaker.com/>). Being based in one of the nation's hotspots for single, Black professionals, I suspected Primus may offer something more diverse and complex than the low-brow Black matchmaker venues that previously alienated me. Primus runs a Facebook group in addition to her dating site, and after seeing her facilitate several discussions and successfully pair several couples, I knew there was something special about her approach.

Primus is also an author, and in late-2016 published, *"There is a Lid for Every Pot: A Dating Guide for Single Professionals."* So I was curious not just for myself, but for the sake of libraries throughout the nation: is Primus' book a worthwhile read, and worth a coveted spot on the shelf of a public library?

Let's find out.

"There is a Lid for Every Pot" is a decidedly quick read, which works out in its favor from the outset. The 142-page work is split into 16 brief and easy-to-digest chapters. Primus

is clearly not operating from any publishing constraint to make the book longer than it needs to be to communicate its points; and for this, aging singles such as myself who really want to get to the point before our fingers are too frail to support wedding bands are thankful.

Primus explains in the introduction that she truly believes there is someone out there for everyone (a lid for every pot) and that finding her unique match motivated her to create her dating agency. Primus explains that the work is a "relationship Bible," and can be used as a guide for those attempting to navigate the dating scene. However, Primus does appeal to spirituality and to God in the introduction, which made me a bit nervous. Fortunately, the remainder of the work does not rely heavily on religious themes and doesn't come across as Biblically-based dating advice.

In chapter 1, Primus communicates the goal of wishing to help the audience find their "recipe" for their proper mate. Primus offers an extremely practical approach based in self-reflection to get the reader to be realistic in their approach to finding a mate. She also links the reader to a "love languages" test to help the reader gain some additional self-awareness and insight. Primus has the reader complete a few exercises in this chapter, revealing a key strength to the book as a whole; in nearly every chapter, there is at

least one fun exercise for readers to complete in order to discover more about themselves and what they may be compatible with.

In chapter 2, Primus goes on to tell readers to take care of more than just "the presentation," and offers an anecdote that helps explain how attention merely to the superficial aspects of one's self can fall short. In chapter 3, Primus provides a unique twist to the oft-heard line that neither we nor any mate we may find is perfect. In chapter 4, Primus yet again engages readers in an activity, first by explaining the importance of having requirements, and then by helping readers define their requirements of a mate.

Chapter 5 is one of the most important chapters of the work, and is chock full of sound practical advice for singles putting themselves out there to be noticed; this is an essential component that is missing from some dating resources. Primus' advice goes beyond the obvious and the commonsensical, adding value to it. In chapter 6, Primus again offers readers a self-discovery exercise, this time to help them assess their compatibility with other people.

Chapters 7 and 8 presented some problems for me personally, though they may be just what the matchmaker ordered for many other people. Chapter 7, entitled "It's a Man's World," speaks about the advantages that men have in dating and courtships, and the subsequent

disadvantages that women have. One claim in particular, which is that successful women don't have the same options as successful men, or men in general, just seemed bogus and perhaps the result of the author not fully comprehending a man's struggles with dating. Also, Primus – who appears to have lived in metro-Atlanta at least since college in the late 1990s – may be in an area where Black men are indeed swimming in a sea of successful Black bachelorettes; the waters of mid-sized Carolina towns and other locales, however, may be more barren. Chapter 8 is a hard chapter for me to judge just because this specific chapter seems to be strictly for a female audience.

The work picks back up in chapter 9, as it yet again offers practical advice. This time, readers are given four initial questions that they should ask up front and right away (none of which involve sex, she points out). Following these four questions, Primus offers readers “rules” (which she also concedes can be accepted as guidelines) for leading off in the beginning stages of a courtship. As in previous chapters, the rules are practical, sensible, and not necessarily commonsense things that one would think of without purchasing the book.

Chapters 10 and 11 detail some common shortfalls among men and women, respectively. Primus admits her potential bias as a woman in presenting these, and – at least until

the end of chapter 11 – these biases do seem apparent. Chapter 10 seems to have an air of lecturing to men and sort of putting them in their place; chapter 11 largely has some uplift and positive reinforcement when addressing women, and the tone is relatable. Chapter 11 does conclude, however, with a firmer tone toward women and things Primus feels they should avoid doing. It is worth noting that Steve Harvey and other Black men who dole out something resembling relationship advice take preachy and condescending tones toward women; perhaps Primus' work balances out misogynoir elsewhere.

Chapters 12, 14 and 15 were the book's most mundane chapters. Tucked within these was chapter 13, which consisted largely of an anecdote. Chapter 13 is a chapter on reciprocity, and what makes it interesting is that the anecdote has a completely different ending than readers are probably expecting. The twist affirms to the reader that reciprocity is to be expected in any successful relationship, and lack of it will stand out in unsuccessful ones.

The book ends on a high note with chapter 16, which is Primus' call to action to readers to put aside the skepticism that she knows they still harbor even after reading the work. Without this chapter, I am sure some readers would indeed continue being skeptical and negative about their prospects. Knowing that readers may

come away from the rest of the work without necessarily feeling energized shows that Primus is writing in an arena that she is knowledgeable of, and that she understands the behaviors of disenchanted singles.

This work has several strong points that I've previously mentioned. Engaging readers with activities keeps them hooked. The advice is practical, which isn't always the case in dating works. The work serves a market that I think few Black dating resources attempt to tap. This title can hold relevance to readers regardless of their religious beliefs. Also, it's a concise read, which is always welcome.

Some readers may be turned off by the minimal – but present – adherence to gender roles. Also, some of the chapters near the end felt unnecessary and almost a chore to read even, though if the work were too brief, readers might choose not to buy it. I'd say though, that this work offers something different, so readers who have had enough of the Steve Harvey-brand of relationship advice may want to try something new, and this is it.

“There is a Lid for Every Pot” is a good find for public libraries, particularly those that serve a largely Black patron base. The work would hold little to no relevance for academic libraries and school media centers. Purchasing information is at <http://middleclassmatchmaker.com/bookpurchase.html>.

Stop Saying They Probably Haven't Been in a Library Recently!

By Jason Alston, Coastal Carolina University

You'll inevitably hear it at some point. Someone will question the worth of libraries, or at least question the amount of funding that libraries get. It could be journalist Greta Van Susteren declaring that academic libraries are vanities projects, as she did in an October 31, 2016 tweet. It could be "New York Post" columnist Naomi Schaefer Riley, who suggested in a December 11, 2016 column that librarians may have too much time on our hands and that the Internet has cut into our relevance. Or it could be President Donald J. Trump, who has followed the lead of Speaker Paul Ryan in calling for the outright elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in his recent budget proposal.

Or it could even just be your friends and family. But someone is going to do it. Someone is going to question the current worth of libraries every so often. We of course know what we do every day and why it is important. But a lot of people do not have such an immediate need for libraries that they use them very often. It's certainly

a tough pill to swallow if you're passionate about libraries, but it's a reality that we need to accept unless the reality changes.

Unfortunately, also when someone questions the worth, function, and need for libraries in the current day, a librarian somewhere will inevitably say, "S/he probably hasn't even stepped foot in a library recently!"

This, my friends and colleagues, is not the proper response, and not something that we should be offering as a retort. Here's why.

Whether it's proper or not, I think people tend to assign value to publicly-owned facilities and to public accommodations (privately-owned facilities such as movie theaters, restaurants and hotels that are open to the public) based either on their own personal usage of them, the usage of them by people they know, or their awareness of the benefits that they offer to people who do use them. It doesn't matter what these things actually do offer; it doesn't matter how neat-o your collection is.

If people do not utilize them and also do not know people who utilize them, they are likely to question their value and purpose.

So let us put ourselves in the shoes of someone who thinks libraries are irrelevant. If you say libraries are irrelevant, and a librarian responds by pointing out that you haven't been in a library recently, your response is probably going to be that you've been living just fine without visiting the library for a long time. And so have a lot of people in your circle. And that validates your position that they are obsolete. As far as you know, at least, everyone in your circle is filling their information needs through their own Internet access.

You, therefore, feel as though the librarian's retort has proven your point.

I believe that the goal of library PR should somehow be to have even those who have not and will not ever use the library to still think it's an important thing. My dream would be for everyone to see the library

the way they see a gym in regards to importance. We teach the typical American from elementary school on that health, exercise and eating right is important. I'd assume the message sticks on some level, as even those who do not exercise in their adult years probably would – if asked – say exercise is important and gyms are relevant.

Now, gyms generally aren't publicly funded, so, unlike libraries, a gym wouldn't be targeted when those who

are looking for things to cut from government spending are pointing their fingers. But, I'm sure there are other government resources that people think are important even if they've never used them. Perhaps there are people who have never stepped foot in a community college who, regardless, believe that these are worthy educational options for millions of students. Or, perhaps there are people who never use the post office but are still convinced that the country would encounter significant

setbacks if government-run postal services were no longer available.

Just please, if someone suggests that the library is useless, don't point out to them that they don't use it.



Notice: BCALA News to End Printing Issues

By Jason Alston, BCALA News Editor

BCALA's executive board has followed the recommendation of the publications committee to cease printing paper copies of this publication. As chair of the publications committee, I have recommended we cease printing the publication due to the high expenses. Printing roughly 300 copies of each

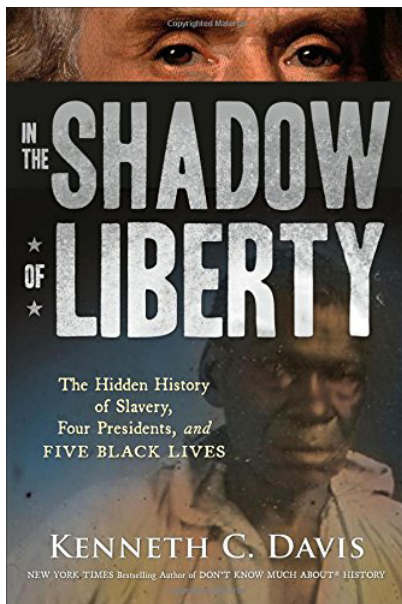
BCALA News issue was costing the Caucus between \$10,000-\$14,000 per year.

The final printed copy of BCALA News will be the Spring 2017 issue, which is the next issue. Starting with the Summer 2017 issue, presentation of the publication will be online only. I do hope to designate a handful of

institutions that currently bind the BCALA News as repositories. If this is done, we will continue sending print copies to those institutions only on the condition that they continue to bind the publication. Please email me at jasonalston@gmail.com with any comments.

A Few Inspired Words After Reading “*In the Shadow of Liberty*”

By Andrew Jackson



For those looking for new sources to use while teaching Black history or those interested in learning more of those missing pages of American history, this new work, “*In the Shadow of Liberty*” by Kenneth C. Davis, will certainly open some eyes. From my research, more than five of our early presidents owned slaves, and most if not all of the signers of the Constitution of the United States were also slave owners. Whether enslaved Africans worked as valets, in the kitchen, in the fields or on plantations, Africans were property of their master. When Thomas Jefferson died, his slaves were not freed, he willed them to his wife. Children of enslaved Africans were chattel for life.

Through “*Hidden Figures*”, the latest award winning film, we learned another chapter from America's historical past that tells about the critical role Black women played in the building of America's space program and as in the case of Katherine Gable Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn and Mary Jackson, and their genius towards America's forward

progress. Too often, I'm asked by my undergraduate students taking the “Introduction to Black Studies” course, why haven't we been taught this before college? So here we are in the second decade of the 21st Century and still being introduced to more missing chapters.

“America is a dream. The poet says it was promises. The people say it is promises - that will come true...” The words of Langston Hughes from his powerful poem, “Freedom's Plow” (1943). America can only belong to all the people when the stories of all who helped shape American history are told openly, honestly and truthfully. Americans have the right to know the good, bad and ugly of our history while attending school during their formative years and not if they attend college. My parents attended segregated schools in Vicksburg, MS yet were taught more complete versions of American history from their Black teachers throughout their school years. That changed after Brown vs Board of Education (1954) altered the approach

to teaching in our educational system.
HMMMM???

"O, let America be America again-the
land that never has been yet-and yet
must be - the land where every man is
free. The land that's mine...who made
America. Whose sweat and blood,
whose faith and pain, whose hand at
the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
must bring back our mighty dream
again... Oh, yes, I say it plain, America
never was America to me, and yet, I
swear this oath-America will be..."
from Hughes' powerful lament, "Let
America Be America Again" (1936).

Through four hundred years of
enslavement and second class
citizenship even longer, Black men
and women fought and died in every
war this country has been involved
in, and given of their talents and
skills to make our country great,
yet rarely given credit for their
contributions towards that effort.
This in itself justifies the need for
a Black History Month to highlight
these accomplishments and historical
events, and remind us they be
shared each and every month as part
of the true narrative of America,
our America.

“
*America is a dream.
The poet says it was
promises. The people
say it is promises –
that will come true...;*



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Tom Joyner
Opening Speaker



Dr. Bernice King
Closing Speaker