

Newsletter 2020

Volume 46

BCALA

[www.BCALA.ORG](http://www.BCALA.ORG)

# BCALA NEWS

Black Caucus of American Librarian Association INC.

— Issue 1

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# SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE 11TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARIANS

## AUGUST 5-9, 2020

### TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Join us as we gather to engage and elevate our conference theme: *Culture Keepers XI the Sankofa Experience: Inspired by Our Past, Igniting Our Future* from August 5-9 at the Tulsa Hyatt Regency in Tulsa, OK, the home of Black Wall Street.

TO REGISTER AND FIND MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[HTTP://BIT.LY/NCAAL-11](http://bit.ly/NCAAL-11)

OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW



11TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARIANS



## SAVE THE DATE!

### 11th National Conference of African American Librarians

**Culture Keepers XI  
The Sankofa Experience:  
Inspired by Our Past,  
Igniting Our Future**

### August 5-9 Tulsa, Oklahoma

#### Conference Tracks:

- Sankofa/50th Anniversary
- Innovation, Creativity and Technology
- Bridge Building, Intersectionality and Inclusion
- Leadership, Management, Development and Organization
- Collections, Programs and Services
- Advocacy, Outreach and Collaboration
- Retirees
- Health, Wellness and Medical

Find more information at  
**NCAAL.org.**

Tulsa City-County  
**LIBRARY AWARDS**



LIBRARY JOURNAL

**Named New Landmark Library**

2019

ALA/INFORMATION TODAY, INC.

**Library of the Future Award**

2019

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

**Our Driving Concern Oklahoma Employer  
Traffic Safety Exemplary Award**

2019

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

**Central Library LEED Gold Certification**

2018

ALA AND AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

**Library Building Award for Central Library**

2018

ALA AND LLAMA

**PR Xchange Award**

three-time winner

TCCL Promotional Video - 2019

Library Event Guide - 2018

TCCL Promotional Video - 2018

**International Association of  
Business Communicators Award**

six-time winner

TCCL Promotional Video - 2019

SRP Promotional Video - 2019

Library Event Guide - 2019

BE ALL IN Internal Communication Campaign - 2019

SRP Promotional Video - 2018

TCCL Event Guide - 2018

THE TULSA VOICE

**Best Place to Learn Something New**

three-time winner - 2017, 2018 & 2019

SUSTAINABLE TULSA - HENRY BELLMON AWARDS

**The Planet Award**

2017



# EXHIBIT at the 11th NCAAL

## National Conference of African American Librarians

Conference Theme: The Sankofa Experience:  
Inspired by Our Past, Igniting Our Future



**August 5-9, 2020**  
**Tulsa, OK**



**Tulsa Hyatt Regency**

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ncaal-11>

**11th National Conference of  
African American Librarians (NCAAL)**

- \* Expecting 400-500 Attendees
- \* "No conflict times" in the AM and PM
- \* Book signings, and other events in the exhibit area
- \* Access to the BCALA Listserv for pre-conference vendor messages
- \* Single room hotel rate of \$109/night single, doubles, triple, quad

**Exhibit Hours:**

**August 6 Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**August 7 Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**August 8 Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Closing Reception (2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)**

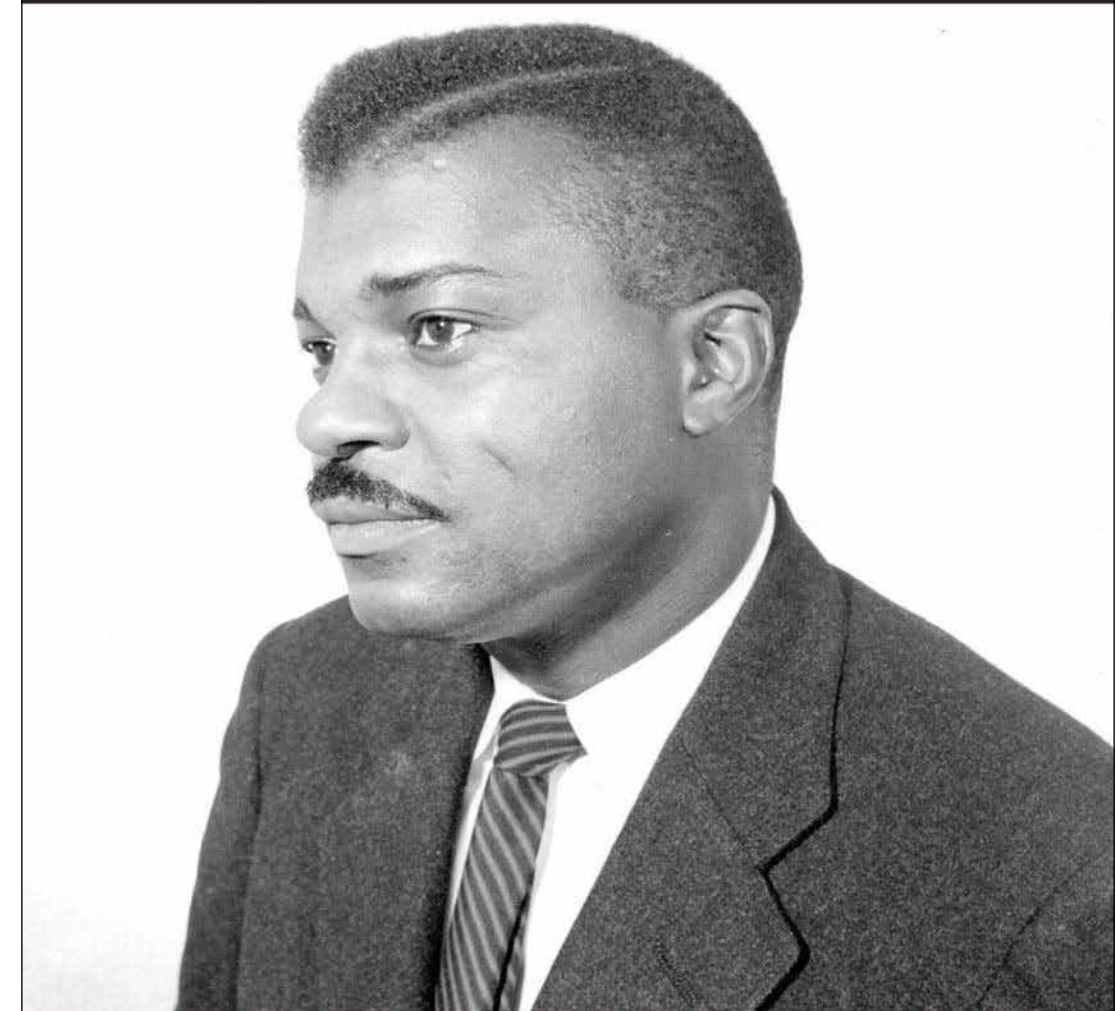
**Move-In August 6 Thursday 7:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Move-Out August 8 Saturday 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ncaal-11>

# E.J. JOSEY

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER OF THE  
MODERN LIBRARY PROFESSION



RENATE L. CHANCELLOR

# The 2020 Census and its Impact on the community

by Nichelle M. Hayes MPA, MLS

2020 marks an important year for our Country. It's a new decade and with that comes the Decennial Count, The United States Census. The census seeks to count each and every individual residing in the US. Each household will receive a form so that everyone (relatives and non-relatives) residing in that particular home are counted. Completing the Census is our Civic Duty.

## Why the Census is important

The Census is very important for a few reasons. According to the United States Census Bureau there are 3 major reasons that being counted is important. The information from the 2020 Census will be used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals and fire departments in the amount of \$675 billion annually.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives and inform the redrawing of congressional district boundaries.

By federal law, "individual responses to the census are confidential for 72 years and cannot be shared with anyone, including law enforcement, immigration, tax agencies, or even the President of the United States."

All of those categories affect everyone who lives in the US, citizens or non-citizens. Congressional representation is critical in order to create legislation that

## census facts

The 2020 Census is required by the Constitution, and the United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



will improve our country.

2020 will be the first year that the census can be completed via computer or smartphone. Households will receive an invitation in the mail to respond online to the Census, some will also receive a paper questionnaire. There will still be Census Takers who will go door to door to reach people who haven't responded via paper or online.

As information professionals we should be prepared to assist our patrons with completing the Census online, if needed.

## How Census Records Impact Genealogy

One of my passions is genealogy. Census records are vitally important in genealogy research. Completing the census query this year will allow your descendants, in 72 years, to learn where you lived and who lived with you in 2020.

## 1870 United States Federal Census for Rebecca Curtis

Louisiana > St Mary > Ward 5

15	281	274	James Lucy	23	M	13	"	"	"	St. Mary
16	282	275	Rebel William	54	M	17	Farmer	30000	1000	Louisiana
17			- Wilmoth	33	F	17	Keeping house			Virginia
18			- Gustave	12	M	17	At Home			Louisiana
19			- Kenneth	6	M	17	"	"		"
20			- Ira	9	M	17				"
21	283	276	Curtis Catharine	25	F	13	Domestic servant			"
22			Riley Francis	20	F	13	"	"		"
23			- Emily	5	F	13				"
24	284	277	Curtis James	58	M	13	Farm labor			Virginia
25			- Rebecca	40	F	13	Keeping house			"
26			- Levi	28	M	13	Farm labor			Louisiana
27			- Willie	14	F	13	"	"		"

Finding your ancestors in the Census records is an exhilarating experience. 1870 was the first Census that counted people by name who had formerly been enslaved. In my research, I found in the 1870 Louisiana Census, St. Marys' Parish, Rebecca Curtis and James Curtis are living together in the same home with Levi, Willie (female) & James. The census record indicates that Rebecca and James were born in Virginia. The record indicates the younger members were born in Louisiana. All members of the house are shown as Farm Laborers except for Rebecca where it indicates "keeping house". The information in the census record confirmed oral history that had been shared with me by the Elders in my family during the many family reunions that I was blessed to attend. A census record is a snapshot in time. Don't miss out on taking a picture of the people residing in your home.

#DontBThatAncestor.

In Jemele Hill's podcast "Unbothered" she recently spoke with Angela Rye and the topic of the census

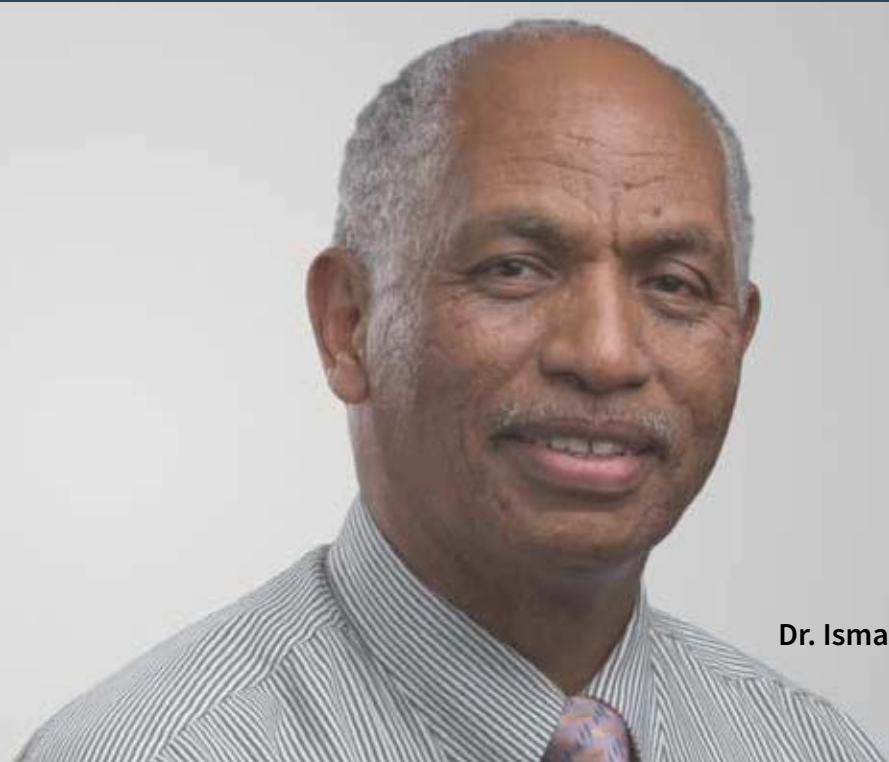
came up. Rye mentioned #DontBThatAncestor.

Rye encouraged everyone to answer the census. Enable your descendants to find where you were living in 2020.

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

I encourage you to learn about the census by going to 2020census.gov. Follow the instructions on the questionnaire when it is sent to your home. Make your household count, ensure that you and your community are fully accounted for. Talk to your friends and family about the importance of completing the census. Completing the census is one way that you can exercise your civic duty and help to preserve your family's history.





**Dilligent.  
COMMITMENT.  
Consistent.  
INVALUABLE.**

**Dr. Ismail Abdullahi**

***Dr. Ismail Abdullahi retires after 30 years in LIS education***  
by Dr. Ana Ndumu

**“Library science is about community joining together to discuss, understand each other, and establish networks.”**

*- Dr. Abdullahi*

In May of 2019, Dr. Ismail Abdullahi retired as Distinguished Professor of Global Library and Information Science from North Carolina Central University’s School of Library and Information Science where he has taught since 2005. His stellar career was unique in that he shaped library education in three continents. He created a Study Abroad partnership between NCCU and the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark, and was diligent in diversifying and globalizing the library profession.

Dr. Abdullahi’s leadership is expansive. Within the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), he established and led the IFLA LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group (SIG) from 2005-2013 and served on the Education and Training Section for many years. He was instrumental in the founding of the African Librarian and Information Associations (AfLIA) as well as the Diversity Group for the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in the United Kingdom (CILIP). He also advised LIS programs in countries such as Senegal, Cameroon, South Africa, India, Taiwan, Thailand, and China. He has been a member of ALA and the BCALA since 1985 and recently completed

12 years, or three terms, as an ALA Councilor-at-Large. In the past, Dr. Abdullahi chaired the ALA International Relations Committee, among several other groups.

**“...Library science is about community coming together to discuss.”**

Dr. Abdullahi’s research and publications centered on improving library and information science professionalization throughout the world. He authored the first biography on his mentor, “E.J. Josey: An activist librarian,” and also edited important texts on global librarianship, including “The Future of LIS Education in Developing Countries: The Road Ahead” and “Global Library and Information Science.” He published dozens of articles as well as book chapters and served on the editorial boards of four international journals. His doctoral dissertation was entitled, “A Study of Cooperative Programs among University and Special Libraries in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.”

Originally from Ethiopia, Dr. Abdullahi earned a Bachelor’s in Library Science degree from the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, Denmark; a Master’s in Library and Information Science from North Carolina Central University; and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh. His first assistant professor appointment was at the University of Mississippi in 1989. He joined the faculty of Clark Atlanta University as an assistant

professor in 1992 and earned tenure in 1996. After the closing of the historic CAU School of Library and Information Science program in 2005, Dr. Abdullahi was the sole CAU faculty member to continue in the professoriate. He transitioned to North Carolina Central University where he was promoted to full Professor in 2016 and, until his retirement, served as faculty advisor to the ALA Student Chapter.

Dr. Abdullahi is the recipient of numerous awards - for example, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Leadership Award, the ALA International Relations Committee’s 2018 John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award and, most recently, the first ever AfLIA Lifetime Achievement for African Librarianship in recognition of his several years of consistent and invaluable service to the library sector particularly in Africa. His commitment to multiculturalism and transnationalism, particularly in a field that is comprised of very few faculty of color, serves as a model for emerging LIS professors. Throughout his time at the last two HBCU-based LIS programs, he trained hundreds Black librarians. He believes that “library science is about community coming together to discuss, understand each other, and establish networks. We must not lose the community aspect.”

Thank you, Dr. Abdullahi, for your stalwart, exemplary career and especially your contributions to strengthening Black librarianship throughout the world.

# BREAKING



**“GRAB THE MIC:  
Tell Your  
Story”.**

## Jason Reynolds Named Ambassador for Young People’s Literature by the Library of Congress.

Recently Carla Hayden the head of the Library of Congress announced that Jason Reynolds will serve as National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature in 2020 and 2021.

Reynolds is the author of 13 books for young people. According to his interview on CBS This Morning, Reynolds wants to reach out to all Youth. Those that live in Urban, Suburban and Rural communities.

His platform is, “GRAB THE MIC: Tell Your Story”. Reynolds discussed not becoming a voracious

reader until he was 17.

Reynolds mentioned grabbing the reader in the first few paragraphs, rather than waiting for a long build up.

Reynolds has been confirmed as a speaker at this year’s NCAAL in Tulsa, OK.



# NEWS



## Tracie D. Hall named ALA Executive Director

Recently, President of ALA, Wanda K. Brown announced that Tracie D. Hall will become ALA’s newest executive director on February 24, 2020.

Ms. Hall has an amazing resume. She has been a Spectrum Scholar and also served as the Director of the Office for Diversity.

Hall holds an MLIS from the Information School at the University of Washington as well as an MA in International and Area studies with an emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa from Yale University and dual bachelor’s degrees in Law and Society and Black Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Nicole M. Hayes & John Lewis

## Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) recently told that public that he has been diagnosed with stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer.

He will be undergoing treatment and will continue to serve his district. Rep. Lewis will turn 80 in February, he has represented Georgia’s 5th Congressional District since January 1987.

People from all over the country have offered their thoughts and prayers for Rep. Lewis’ full recovery, including former President of the United States Barack H. Obama and Speaker of the House of Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). Lewis is the co-author of the popular graphic knowledge trilogy “March”. March is the story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of Lewis. March is the award-winning, #1 bestselling graphic novel trilogy recounting his life in the movement

Lewis was one of the founders of SNCC, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee while in college. He was featured in the movie “Selma” by director Ava Duvernay. He participated in the Freedom Rides as well as the march on the Edmond Pettus Bridge.



# Dr. King, Poor People, and the Need for Compassion

by Kevin Powell

I have no personal recollections of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr., since I was but a baby when he was assassinated in 1968. Nor did I know until years later that, as I took my first steps as a child, Dr. King was staging what would be his curtain call: a relentless effort on behalf of the underclass.

Dubbed “The Poor People’s Campaign,” it reflected his views on the Vietnam War and the ugly riots in ghettos, both of which ripped the nation apart.



I learned in school about the Montgomery Bus Boycott, that King had a dream, and that he was murdered. But I didn’t learn about his last campaign for economic equality until I was an adult.

King was born into the black elite of Atlanta, and he could have avoided discussions of poverty, as many others leaders have. But being black during segregation meant well-to-do African Americans stood shoulder-to-shoulder with working-class blacks, often living next door or across the street from the most impoverished people in their ‘hoods. This meant King not only observed the daily lives of business owners, educators, lawyers, and other professionals, but also felt the weary blues of domestic workers, Pullman porters, shoeshine men, and beauticians.

We dishonor King’s legacy when we lean heavily on his “dream” but ignore that the civil rights movement

relied on the commitment of poor black people who risked their jobs, homes, and safety, from Montgomery to Selma to Memphis, to create a more equal America.

Indeed, the full name of the March on Washington was “The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom,” because the ability to sit anywhere on the bus or at a lunch counter meant nothing if one could not afford to ride that bus or to buy a meal at that lunch counter.

This formed the crux of MLK’s argument when he put his Nobel Peace Prize and status as a national and global leader on the line and condemned the Vietnam War on April 4, 1967, exactly one year prior to his assassination, in an address at the renowned Riverside Church in New York City. In a speech that should be held in the same regard as the “I Have A Dream”



King not only observed the daily lives of business owners, educators, lawyers, and other professionals, but also felt the weary blues of domestic workers, Pullman porters, shoeshine men, and beauticians.

address, King not only criticized the war, but highlighted that we were sending poor blacks and poor whites to fight poor people in Vietnam.

He also called for “a radical revolution of values,” from profit and material things to people, and pinpointed the gross financial gaps between Americans. His wokeness around economic hardship had accelerated just two years before, during a visit to the Watts section of Los Angeles after the deadly rebellion that occurred there, prompting King to call riots “the language of the unheard.” It also drove him and his wife Coretta Scott King to move into a rundown building on the west side of Chicago, their very presence demonstrating the vicious cycles of poverty.

King’s Poor People’s Campaign was designed to confront poverty head on, bringing a rainbow coalition of black, white, Latinx, Native American, Asian, and others to Washington, D.C. There they set up the same kind of tents and shacks that we now routinely see in places like downtown Los Angeles, populated by a permanent homeless class.

When I recently visited L.A., I cried after witnessing countless people of every background and age in tents, sprawled on the ground, sifting through

bug-infested garbage cans for a meal. There was disease and stench and an overwhelming sense of depression, in the midst of high-rise condos and the Staples Center and great wealth. This is not in a nation overseas, this is in our America, this gross poverty, this gross despair.

Poverty is a form of violence. I know that firsthand, because I experienced it growing up poor with my single mother

in Jersey City, from the late 1960s into the early 1990s. Until I was seven, we shared a one-bedroom apartment in a rat-and-roach-infested building with one of my mother’s sisters and her son. My cousin slept in the same bed with his mother in the living room, while I slept in the same bed with my mother in the bedroom.

I grew up knowing about welfare, food stamps, government cheese, unpredictable heat and hot water, fear, and desperation. I remember hunger, and my aching stomach served as a constant reminder of what we lacked, of our daily struggle to survive. America did not hear the desperate cries for help from poor people like my mother, like my family.

We know the root causes of poverty, as they have forever been the same. It is the inhumane greed and neglect of those with means at the expense of the rest of us. It is being forced to live in poverty bubbles—ghettos, trailer communities, homeless encampments.

I inherited, like a family heirloom, the poverty my mother received from her parents.





Cover Photography by Michael Scott Jones

## Kevin Powell

Kevin Powell is the author of fourteen books, a civil and human rights activist, poet, journalist, public speaker, and filmmaker. His upcoming book is *When We Free The World* (First Civilizations Inc.), a collection of essays about the future of freedom, justice, and equality in America. You can pre-order the book at [firstcivilizations.net](http://firstcivilizations.net). In *WHEN WE FREE THE WORLD*, Powell presents a stunning and brutally honest survey of America, yesterday and today, and what he hopes for its future, through the window of his own very painful personal trials—as #MeToo, Black Lives Matter, mass shootings, immigration, and Donald Trump rotate in the background. The result is a deeply spiritual and emotional reminder of why freedom and justice and equality still remain so elusive for many, in this nation, on this planet. Inspired by the poetic dream montage of Langston Hughes, the prophetic letter sermon of James Baldwin, and Bobby Kennedy’s raw and naked eulogy speech for Dr. King, Powell has created a fearless literary and political manifesto that is a townhall meeting for an America seemingly at war with its own soul. With a passion and sensitivity that few writers of his generation can match, Powell tackles leadership, history, family, community, parenting, education, the legal system, racism, sexism, love, hate, forgiveness, mental health, and violence in all forms. And he challenges us, from beginning to end, on what that word “freedom” means, or ought to mean, for all human beings.



The poor are trapped in a horrible cycle of broken-down tenement buildings, minimal social services or resources, terrible public schools, and limited options to get ahead. Poverty breeds isolation. It leads to people preying on each other. It leaves many of us resigning ourselves to a life of misery, of merely surviving day-to-day.

As the late rapper Tupac Shakur once put it, we were given this world, we did not create it. I inherited, like a family heirloom, the poverty my mother received from her parents. We knew of no other reality, and the traumas and scars of being poor remain with me to this day, despite what I have been able to do with my life.

This is why King laid out a vision to confront poverty head on—as bold as his decision to travel to Memphis, Tennessee, the site of his assassination, in support of black garbage men who were on strike to demand safer working conditions, job security, and fairer wages.

This is why I wait, during every presidential campaign cycle, to hear candidates talk passionately about poverty, only to be disappointed.

We cannot continue to ignore King’s appeal to challenge economic justice and economic opportunity for all in our America. This is not to diss wealth or the wealthy. No one can control the circumstances of their birth, nor is there anything wrong with privilege, as long as that privilege is tied to a sense of humanity.

Just as King did to the end, we can direct our compassion toward those who hurt, as my family did, because of our background. We can practice what he called “a dangerous kind of selflessness.” We must care about each other, every single day of our lives. We must figure out practical solutions to address poverty, to address homelessness, or we will continue to be a nation that is spiraling dangerously out of control, morally and spiritually.

Reposted with permission from the author. Previously posted on [Progressive.org](http://Progressive.org).

## Initiative Emotional Emancipation (EE) Circles Facilitator Training Grants

**The purpose of this initiative is to provide our staff the opportunity to serve as a catalyst for emotional emancipation healing**

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. (BCALA) is pleased to announce the first BCALA and Community Healing Network, Inc. (CHN) Initiative Emotional Emancipation (EE) Circles Facilitator Training Grants. This training is sponsored by BCALA in collaboration with the Community Healing Network (CHN) and the Association of Black Psychologists (ABP) with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Additional grants will be provided as training sites are identified.

The purpose of this initiative approved by President Ashby and the Executive Board is to provide an op-



portunity for BCALA current eligible librarians and information science professionals to be trained to serve as catalysts for emotional emancipation healing, wellness, and empowerment in their local communities, and to leave with fresh insights and concrete emotional wellness skills to reduce racial stress and trauma in the workplace and beyond.

A Mass Emotional Emancipation Circle of Commemoration, Healing and the Training of Facilitators will be held at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia on August 20, 2020.





# Newsroom

## Mia's Magical Book Foundations Promotes Reading



On Saturday, April 13, 2019, Mia F. E. Clemons, a fourth grader, accepted her Community Service Award at the 45th Annual Mercer County Frontiers Club Awards Program Luncheon held at the Park Inn in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. The keynote speaker Dr. Erin Houston, chief executive officer of the Shenango Valley Urban League, praised Mia for some stellar goals and having achieved so much as a youth. At the age of eleven Mia F. E. Clemons joined history makers and became the youngest recipient of the Mercer County Frontiers Club Community Service Award.

Roland Barksdale-Hall, library director at the Quinby Street Resource Center and the Master of Ceremonies for the Mercer County Frontiers Club Awards Program, noted, "Mia's passion about books and reading offer a positive counterpoint to portrayals of youth in the media." He expressed how the exemplary story of Mia's Magical

Book Foundation was worthy of sharing with friends, and colleagues.

Mia rendered an eloquent acceptance speech, "For all my life, books taught me how to deal with conflict, gave me a wide vocabulary and facilitated a wonderful childhood. So, at the age of 7, I realized that some children had never picked up a book. On the days we distribute books, what I love most is the feeling that I did something right; the children are so enthusiastic; their smiling faces speak for themselves. With Mia's

Magical Foundation, it is my hope that every child in the world will have the pleasure of "Childhood."

Mia donates books to students in kindergarten through fourth grade because she feels that those years are important for students to develop good reading habits. She has donated books to a program called Team Danielle that established Little Free Libraries in her community.

What began with her just sharing books with friends

developed into Mia's Magical Book Foundation. Mia says, "Books are just magical." She says that words not only can be happy or sad, but can also broaden your imagination. She enjoys reading to students and enjoying with stuffed animals as props. She has supported her foundation through donations, book sales and personal funds.

Mia noted being the recipient of the community service award would cause her to "dream even bigger dreams about how Mia's Book Foundation can help even more children." She thanked the Mercer County Frontiers Club, those who have supported her and her foundation. Mia thanked her best friend, her grandmother, Mariam F. Sanders, and mother, Sandra Clemons, Esq., who were present. She added, "For example, in addition to our summer book distribution, this summer's summer business project will be to get a 501(c)(3) designation."

Mia closed with an inspirational quote from Anne Lamont, an activist, public speaker and author:

For some of us, books are as important as almost anything else on the earth. What a miracle it is that out of these small, flat rigid squares of paper unfold world after world after world, worlds that sing to you, comfort and quiet or excite you. Books help us understand who we are and how we are to behave. They show us what community and friendship mean. They show us how to live and die.

Mia's powerful delivery and poise earned a standing ovation. Her speech cause us all to pause and reflect upon the promise of our beautiful children.





By: Nichelle M. Hayes  
BCALA Newsletter Editor

**W**hile attending the recent ALA Annual Conference in Washington D.C. the editor of the BCALA Newsletter, Nichelle M. Hayes, sat down with Richard E. Ashby, Jr. and Shauntee Burns-Simpson. Ashby and Burns-Simpson are the President and Vice-President of BCALA. The two information professionals have a great camaraderie which enhances their ability to work as a team.

When Ashby was asked about his plans for the BCALA he remarked, "I look at BCALA and ALA like a game of chess. My plan is to get the pawn in the right position. It's all about the position of the members. How am I getting my members positioned. How am I getting the young people in the Caucus in leadership position. My job is to get us ready for the next 50

Burns-Simpson and Ashby pictured with the author of *Children of Blood and Bone*, Tomi Adeyemi during ALA Annual 2019. | Photographer N.M. Hayes

years. I want the caucus to be a sustainable organization."

When Burns-Simpson was asked about her vision for the future of BCALA she shared, "I would like to continue to bring the Caucus to the forefront when working with the other ethnic affiliates as well as work within other groups within ALA, YALSA & ACRL .

I would like to have a dual membership with other committees. I want to increase the number of membership we have. As well as getting more of our members to become a part of ALA Council & Board of Trustees. We want to be a force to be reckoned. We are forging a path for the next 50 years."

Ashby, "We have a 6 year plan. Shauntee & I have a joint administration."

Burns-Simpson, "We want [the transition] to be a seamless

process."

The discussion of legacies came up. Ashby said, "When people think of me, I'd like them to think of someone who gave all of himself to his Caucus, family and profession. He understood his shortcomings & strengths & used them to become a better person."

Burns-Simpson was asked where she sees the organization in the next 10 years. Without skipping a beat, "I see BCALA, taking over. I continue to see our members becoming ALA presidents. Our members [continuing] to be leaders in the library profession. I just see us being at the forefront of this whole equity, diversity and inclusion conversation. I see us being the leaders of those conversations. Right now we see a lot of unqualified people leading those conversations."

>>>

Q

with Burns-Simpson  
& Ashby

What are two pieces  
of advice for people  
just out of Library  
School?

Shauntee

- 1) Be respectful to everyone. Even your fellow students in library school. The profession is small. You might end up working with them.
- 2) Never stop learning. Develop your craft. Look at the people who came before you and learn. We have a rich history we need to take advantage of and learn from.

A

&

Richard

- 1) Look at where you want to be in 5 years. Set your goals 5 years ahead. Then set yourself to achieve your goals.
- 2) Professional development and networking. As an African-American Librarian you have to do twice as much as your counterpart. The Master's degree is not a degree in equality.

How can the members  
assist Team Ashby -  
Burns?

Richard

Our motto is "Step up and get involved." Take initiative.

What makes your  
team productive?

Richard

This isn't our first rodeo. We were president and VP in NY Black Caucus. We had a program at each meeting, brought in authors and illustrators, addressed issues within the profession & won Affiliate of the year.

Shauntee

Ashby won BCALA Librarian of the year. I was was president when we won affiliate of the year. "We work hard and play hard."

We are lucky to have Ashby & Burns-Simpson at the helm.



# Stories

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BCALA and NCAAL XI for August 2020 ~ Co-Chairs

The work we are doing is facilitating the “charge“ from the BCALA leadership to provide assistance and guidance to the volunteer committees for the production of a successful 11th national conference and 50th anniversary celebration of and for African American librarians and librarianship. We are providing the local arrangement hands-on expertise and national idea gathering for the implementation of profitable, informative, inspirational workshops and presentations which will honor our past, current and future contributions to librarianship and the world.



Keith Jemison serves as the Regional Manager of Rudisill Regional Library of the Tulsa City-County Library. Jemison has served in his current position since 1979.

Jemison birthed the idea of an African-American

Resource Center (AARC) at the library.

The AARC hosts major, nationally known authors and programming impacting the lives of many Tulsans. Biennially, the national Sankofa Freedom Award is given. The \$10,000 award from the AARC and Tulsa Library Trust, is given to a nationally prominent author whose life’s work positively address the range and complexity of cultural, economic and political issues affected the greater African-American community. He is a member of several state and national professional associations. His community involvement includes president of Theatre North, former commissioner City of Tulsa Arts Commission, founding member of the Rotary Club of North Tulsa, Greenwood Chamber of Commerce Planning Committee, and Tulsa Together.



Tracey Joel Hunter Hayes is the Director of Libraries at Delaware State University. Hunter Hayes is a 30-year career librarian with a proven track record as the first African Ameri-

can male American Library Association fellow, former tenured faculty member that creates new performance thresholds and build sustainable services in the Library and Information Science world. He has

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served on several ALA Presidential tasks forces and committees most notably for Dr. Hardy Franklin, and Dr. Betty Turock, whom launched, “The Spectrum Scholarship” from his fellowship survey and data. He began his librarian career as a Children’s Librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia with the support and training from Dr. Carla Hayden (University of Pittsburgh professor) and Dr. E.J. Josey (professor, advisor and mentor). He chaired the International Relations Committee’s Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award for several years and attended several IFLA conferences. His is a servant leader with a library philosophy of, ‘Welcome, which in library speak is ACCESS.”

KJ and TJHH  
Co-Chair of the 50th Anniversary  
BCALA and NCAAL XI for August 2020

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# Library Calendar 2020



February 25 - 29  
PLA  
Nashville

June 25 - 30  
ALA Annual  
Chicago

Aug 5 - 9  
NCAAL  
Tulsa

0021



Photographer | N.M Hayes

## I am blessed and proud to serve as president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA).

**A**s we prepare to celebrate our 50th year of advocating for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation's African American community; and providing leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians"

I am pleased to report our beloved BCALA is still the prominent organization Dr. E.J. Josey and our founders organized in January 1970.

During this administration we have added a scholarship for Support Staff. The Georgia Library Association Black Caucus

Round Table are now affiliates of BCALA as is the New York Black Librarians Caucus is now a round table of that states Library Association.

In the spirit of our founders and in line with our mission statement we have addressed a number of incidents regarding free access to libraries and resources in Long Island, New York and Washington, DC.

We have also developed a leadership summit with the five ethnic affiliates of American Library Association (ALA).

We launched a new NCAALXI website and will be rolling out a new BCALA website with a new look and user friendly format.

We have also developed a logo for our 50th anniversary.

We have members that have heard my call to "Step up and Get involved" through their hard work, BCALA submitted a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian National Forum grant preliminary proposal to host an NCAAL pre-conference forum entitled "Breaking Barriers: The Future of Black librarianship." If awarded, forty-five LIS students, professionals, and educators will convene to distill approaches for increasing BCALA's outreach to prospective and current Black/African American MLIS students. The forum will culminate in

1. the design of a toolkit of resources for librarians and educators to recruit Blacks/African Americans to the profession and
- 2 . the launch of an online, program-independent Black Caucus student group.

We have also submitted a preliminary proposal to the Institute of Museum and Libraries Services (IMLS) for a Planning Grant to explore the feasibility of conducting a national research project to assess Black History Month programming offered at public libraries. Although virtually every public library conducts such programming, the content, scope, and quality



vary, and little is known about how programming is developed. We should hear in February if we have been selected to submit a full proposal that would be due at the end of March 2020.

We are seeking to forge a collaborative relationship with American Indian Library Association (AILA).

In an effort to stabilize our leadership and prepare membership for leadership roles. I have asked the Constitution and bylaws committee to explore the feasibility of having a co-secretary. This will enable

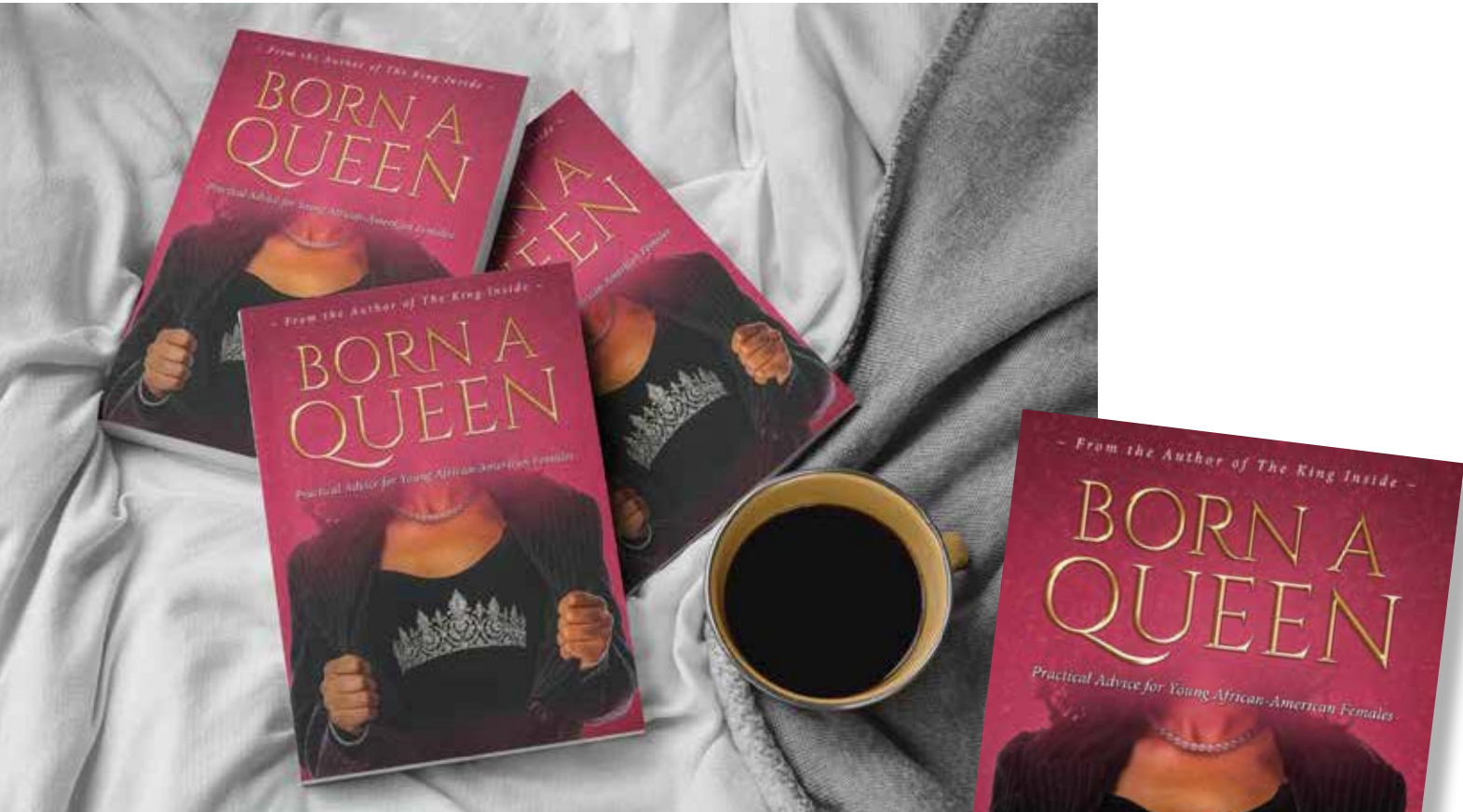
leadership to train and become familiar with caucus business practices.

Colleagues our future is bright, but the road ahead will not be easy. The very same reasons we were founded 50 years ago , still exist today. We have a lot of work to do. With BCALA serving in leadership positions in ALA, Current President Wanda Brown (BCALA past president) and President 2020-2021 Julian Jefferson (Active BCALA member) our impact is tremendous. We are ready to forge ahead and stay true to our cause.

Richard E Ashby Jr  
president@bcala.org  
With Literacy and Justice For All



# Book Review



## Born A Queen: Practical Advice for Young African-American Females

by Dr. Angelise M. Rouse

Especially 4 Me Publishing, 2018  
Paperback, 168 pages  
March 18, 2019

### A Necessary Guide For Black Girls In An Ever-Changing World

#### A review by Annelisa J. Purdie

The journey to self-discovery and self-love has always been a complex one. Navigating the terrain of finding

one’s identity as a young woman in the contemporary world can be daunting on it’s own; to do so as a young African-American girl can be especially challenging, due to a combination of societal and internal pressures. In Born A Queen, the companion book to The King Inside (Especially 4 Me Publishing: 2016,) Dr. Angelise Rouse seeks to remedy this search for guidance.

By taking an holistic, detailed approach to meeting these needs, Rouse’s book provides her readers with a toolkit to reach their highest potential, while simultaneously gaining confidence in their own abilities.

From the outset, Dr. Rouse’s writing establishes the direction of her book via her tone, which is simultaneously compassionate, realistic and encouraging. Much of the advice that she offers, which will be

discussed later, is not dissimilar from that which a young girl would hear from her mother, or older

relatives and friends of the family. Yet Dr. Rouse also acknowledges that the premise of her book stems from a place of potential scarcity; not all young women may have the benefit of that support network to guide them throughout their lives (Rouse, 12) or the awareness of different elements of cultural literacy to guide them through unfamiliar situations. However, she does not view this as a deterrent, but rather as an impetus to establish new patterns for one’s future. In the Introduction, she tells her readers that they are equipped with what they need to succeed in spite of potential pitfalls.

In spite of the negative stories and viral images attempting to degrade your character, I challenge you to focus on the inside and the rich cultural history that has destined you for greatness. Black women

are charting new courses in key career fields, whether STEM, business, medicine, education, entertainment, fashion, politics and social responsibility. Our numbers are growing and our network is stronger than ever before. With your commitment to advancing yourself in education, spirituality and self-care, there is no limit to what we can achieve as a collective group and be an unstoppable force. (Rouse xviii)

### Commit to Advancement

With your commitment to advancing yourself in education, spirituality and self-care, there is no limit to what we can achieve as a collective group and be an unstoppable force. (Rouse xviii)

The very title of the book reinforces this important concept about having the necessary tools. By

stating that young women are already born queens, rather than seeking to acquire queenly qualities, she assures them that the same power that they may see in others is their inheritance, too. (The title also subconsciously asserts that her readers are not pretenders or impostors to the throne.) Overall, the book functions both for those readers who are complete novices, as well as those who may have some experience in cultivating personal growth. For the former, the book provides the necessary building blocks to get started. And for the former, the book provides advice for them to maintain the skills and accomplishments that they have achieved, so that they do not lose them in the future.

The book’s subject matter is organized into chapters titled “Apps,” both an appeal to a tech-savvy audience

and a statement about the content’s essential nature. The titles of these chapters are aptly-called “Foundations,” and each of them appeal to a core aspect of a developing young woman’s life, such as the family, money, beauty, spirituality and health. The chapters are further broken down into details that provide anecdotes, and reflection exercises for its readers. At the end of each chapter, the main takeaways are summed up by bullet points, followed by the “Mirror, Mirror” sections, which are profiles of contemporary Black female role models from a variety of fields. Along with obvious choices like First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Rouse also focuses on emerging figures such as Stefanie Brown James and Kheris Rogers. A section for notes, mini-journal entries, inspirational quotes from prominent Black male and female figures, as well as resources for a myriad of relevant organizations round out the book at the very end.

Throughout the text, Rouse never shies away from some of the unique difficulties that her Black female audience will have to navigate, particularly in a current climate so heavily influenced by corporate culture and social media. While acknowledging the understandable appeal of instantaneous fame and the desire to be noticed, she warns her young readers about the dangers of giving in to such pressures, and the importance of using critical thinking skills to assess what is



being presented to them. On page 54 of the “Beauty Foundation” chapter (which also includes a timely discussion on colorism and featurism,) she states: “As teens, you are targeted by the media because they believe you are vulnerable and will buy into their messages. The media’s beauty standard is unrealistic and superficial. It deprives you of a true understanding of how to care for and dress your body.” To reinforce her points, Rouse frequently refers back to her initial statements about young girls tapping into their innate intelligence in order to weed out anything that is deceptive. The author also does her best to reach as many people as possible, taking into account their varying interests and skill levels. In the “Business Foundation” chapter, for example, she encourages all of her readers to take an active interest in their finances and business dealings, as well as to maintain awareness of their spending habits. However, she does not simply launch her readers into the world by saying: “Go forth my little lambs and start your own business: It’s THAT easy!” Instead, she offers a breakdown of the different types of business endeavors, both in the public sector and in the backend areas such as accounting or data processing (Rouse 93.) This is useful in that it allows the audience to reflect on their own interests and how they would fit with the potential businesses that they would like to develop.

One of the most refreshing components of the book is the focus on one’s emotional needs. In the “Self-Empowerment Foundation” chapter (which this reviewer admittedly enjoyed the most in the book,) Dr. Rouse emphatically tells her young audience that they do have a level of agency in this world, which can be a revolutionary concept to those who may not have heard such statements before. She further implores her readers to regain that which is their birthright, and that each individual is important in her own right.

Many people spend their entire life pleasing others, going along with the crowd, and trying to fit in. These people-pleasers lack self-empowerment skills to move past other’s goals and opinions of them. Your life belongs to you. You have the power to control key aspects of your life. Don’t give away your power to those who do not care about you, are not part of your future, and have done nothing to uplift or encourage you. Take back you power! (Rouse 46).

Some readers may take umbrage with Dr. Rouse’s insistence on the importance of the self, arguing that this viewpoint downplays the role that other societal factors, which the readers have no control over, play in influencing their lives. However, it is imperative to emphasize that Dr. Rouse never shies away from reality; instead, she follows in that long tradition of Black uplift by focusing on succeeding in spite of the odds, not retreating from them. And she has a profound understanding of the relevance of self-improvement being one’s primary goal, as one cannot be of benefit to others without first becoming the best them that they can be.

Although filled with useful information, the volume is a relatively slim one, which leads to this reviewer’s main criticism; one wishes that it were longer. Certain sections of the book warranted more pages in explanations, and one wishes that the author had used more space to continue offering her insight, as what fits into paragraphs could have been expanded into chapters on their own. In the aforementioned “Business Foundation” chapter, for example, the author discusses the benefits of investing in the stock market, particularly in brands that readers may utilize on a regular basis. However, it would have been beneficial to have more details about how the stock market works, even just a basic explanation or two, and how to get started in researching stocks that one would want to purchase. The same holds true for the “Health Foundation” chapter, which gives a basic overview of the importance of exercising and eating healthily. Notes about necessary nutrients, as well as some examples of exercises, also would have been helpful. However, none of this detracts from the overall message and flow of the text.

Born A Queen is a necessary guide for young Black girls in a changing world. The text is a welcome addition to any library, and provides new insight upon each reread. The love and protective instincts that Dr. Rouse has for her audience is evident throughout the book. One hopes that it will inspire a new generation of girls to discover that they are enough, just the way they are.



# WHEN WE FREE THE WORLD



KEVIN POWELL