

BCALA NEWS

Black Caucus of the American Library Association



Art by:
Joann
Elliott-Pugh

Volume 47 / Issue 1 / 2021

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FROM
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Nichelle M. Hayes MPA, MLS is currently the Vice-President & Newsletter Editor for Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) . She is a blogger at [The Ties tha Bind](#) where she discusses genealogy and keeping families connected. She’s a guest columnist for the Indianapolis Recorder. In her spare time she’s a genealogist, community leader and avid gardener. She can be reached at blogger@the-ties-that-bind.com.

Seeking a Newsletter Editor

BCALA is looking for a Newsletter Editor as well as additional Newsletter Committee members. The BCALA newsletter is an outstanding way to share your findings and other information with the members of BCALA. Please email vice-president@bcala.org if you are interested in this exciting opportunity.

ABOUT US

Black Caucus of the American
Library Association Founded 1970
The Newsletter of BCALA

P.O. Box 174, New York,
NY 10159-0174
Website: www.bcala.org
Email: publications@bcala.org
Career Ads: jobs.bcala.org

President
Shauntee Burns-Simpson MLIS

Editor & Vice-President
Nichelle M. Hayes MLS, MPA

Newsletter Committee
V. Dozier
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BCALA Mission
The Black Caucus of the American
Library Association serves as an
advocate for the development,
promotion, and improvement of
library services and resources to
the nation’s African American
community; and provides
leadership for the recruitment
and professional development of
African American librarians.

Established in 1970, the Black
Caucus of the American Library
Association (BCALA), was formed
to serve as an advocate for the
development, promotion, and
improvement of library services
and resources to the nation’s
African American community;
and to provide leadership for
the recruitment and professional
development of African American
librarians.

Founding Members
Thomas E. Alford Sr.
E.J. Josey
Effie Lee Morris

FROM ONE BLACK LIBRARIAN TO ANOTHER



by **Toccara D. Porter**
Digital Reference/Interlibrary Services Librarian
Tennessee State University

Before beginning my first year of library school in the fall of 2004, that summer frequent visits to my local public library in Louisville, Kentucky were made to find books about Black librarians. To my delight titles like *Library Service to African Americans in Kentucky, from the Reconstruction Era to the 1960s*, *The Black Librarian in America*, and *What Black Librarians Are Saying* were available. These texts detail the achievements of Black librarians

“

THERE IS SO MUCH VALUE IN THE COMMUNITY OF BLACK LIBRARIANS TO CELEBRATE; FROM OUR HISTORY, SURVIVAL, LAUGHTER, AND OUR MANY GIFTS AND TALENTS.”

in the 20th century and address the struggles brought on by racism and segregation in America; which impacted our pursuit of library education and professional activities like the involvement in state library chapters. I learned about E.J. Josey who came across the pages like a superhero. Josey was a staunch activist for equality, an author, and one of the prominent voices that spearheaded the formation of the Black Caucus of the ALA. I also learned about the existence of Historically Black Institutions that had established library schools from the Hampton Institute, Clark Atlanta University, and North Carolina Central University. Being exposed to this history through self-study was critical because this information was not provided in my library courses.

In reflecting back on that time my thoughts moved to the present day about the value of celebrating the community of Black librarians. Let me explain. When attending conferences and Black librarians are present I excitedly want to initiate conversation and ask how are you? What is the work experience like at your library?



Effie Lee Morris at ALA Midwinter, Chicago 1970. One of the founders of BCALA.

E.J. Josey speaking on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.



The presence of Black librarians at these venues affirms for the Black librarian that has no other Black peers in their workplace that we are not alone in the field. The first time I attended a BCALA/NCAAL conference I had never seen so many Black librarians in one space. It felt good and made me smile.

But, also from the interactions had with and in observing other Black librarians, communicating with openness is also important. We must continue to have honest conversations despite disagreement, or difficult conversations that when not had, stunts our growth and leads to splintering. It takes openness to say to our veteran leaders in the field that I have followed your work throughout my career and it is an honor to meet you. In the same vein we need experienced librarians to openly welcome the participation of different voices and not feel that doing so threatens one's position or standing. It takes openness for Black librarians to say to one another that we need you. It takes openness to share our contributions with one other not to compete but to engage in positive exchanges to support one another.

There is so much value in the community of Black librarians to celebrate; from our history, survival, laughter, and our many gifts and talents. I consider myself fortunate to be a Black librarian, and I am inspired and comforted even more when there are other Black librarians in the room.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

RESOURCES TO HELP IMPROVE WELLNESS

by Apryl C. Price

In recent years, there have been articles that document the low morale experience of those in the field of library and information science, leading to negative emotional, cognitive and physical effects. These issues are more severe for racial and ethnic minority librarians. Librarians of color are faced with microaggressions, racism, bullying, incivility, and toxicity in and outside of the workplace. These subtle or not so subtle derogatory incidents negatively affect us psychologically and emotionally, librarians have stated it ruins morale and causes stress and anger. This frustration can hinder productivity and impact health (Alabi, 2015; Cooke, 2019; Kendrick & Damasco, 2019). Working in the field of library and information science is not as easy as people assume. Furthermore, the current pandemic news and political landscape does little to assuage these negative experiences, it probably exacerbates the stress already present.

Regularly facing these stressors can make burnout a reality for many in the field. Finding ways to combat burnout is paramount to continuing a productive career and happy life, so it is always good to work on improving personal wellness and

self-care techniques. Although it will take a great deal of changes to fix the major issues, administrators should take heed and encourage wellness in the workplace. This would create an environment more conducive to productivity and collegiality, thereby helping to reduce some of the stressors library workers face. However, personal well-being is greatly dependent on self-care. Good mental and physical health can soften the impact of these stressors and help deal with them in a more efficient way. Discovering the appropriate ways to improve well-being may take time, but there are many resources that can help guide a successful path. Here are some resources that can help us to stay psychologically and physically healthy.



ALA-APA WELLNESS

One of the best resources to start your self-care journey with is the [ALA Allied Professional Association \(ALA-APA\) Wellness website](#). The site provides resources to support healthy well-being by focusing on eight areas. Its "8 Elements of Wellness" are Emotional, Environmental, Financial, Intellectual, Occupational, Physical, Spiritual, and Social. There are carefully curated lists of web sites and books available to support wellness for each element. Resources are added to the list regularly to keep up with the changing environment, like links

to articles about sustaining work-life balance during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a section for stories written by library workers, which provide a personal look at various journeys to wellness.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

If there is a need for more guided help learning to manage personal well-being, try the National Library of Medicine's [Wellness in the Library Workplace](#) course. Although the National Library of Medicine (NLM) normally offers training for library programming, this course is specifically geared

towards helping library workers improve their well-being and work environment. It is a two week course that helps participants learn the benefits of a healthy workplace, changes that can be made individually and organizationally, and provide resources that will help guide the wellness journey. The objective of this course is to help build a solid foundation for learning about improving well-being. Additionally, this course is also eligible for continuing education credit via the Medical Library Association.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

RESOURCES TO HELP IMPROVE WELLNESS CONTINUED

by Apryl C. Price

BLK AND FIT

[Blk and Fit](#) is a health and wellness website that offers articles on fitness, nutrition, mental health, and a general healthy lifestyle. No need to be afraid to jump directly into a fast paced yoga class, Blk and Fit offers articles that teach poses step by step. The web site also has articles that describe specific poses that can help boost immunity or subdue carpal tunnel syndrome. The fitness section also includes regular exercises that can be done at home. Blk and Fit provides information on foods and nutritious recipes that support physical and mental health as well. Insightful articles are posted daily, so checkout their website or get updates via Instagram and Twitter.

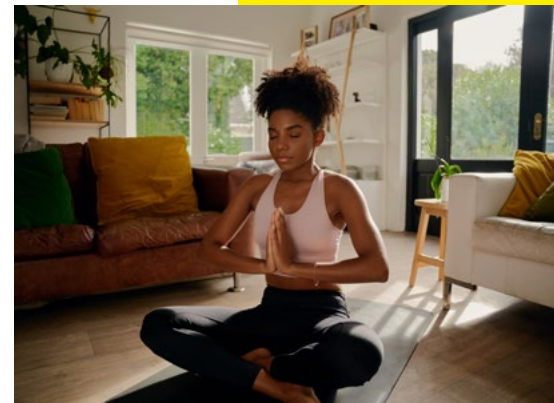
HEADSPACE

[Headspace](#) is an application that is focused on mindfulness meditation. This app essentially teaches users how to meditate. The belief is that with the help

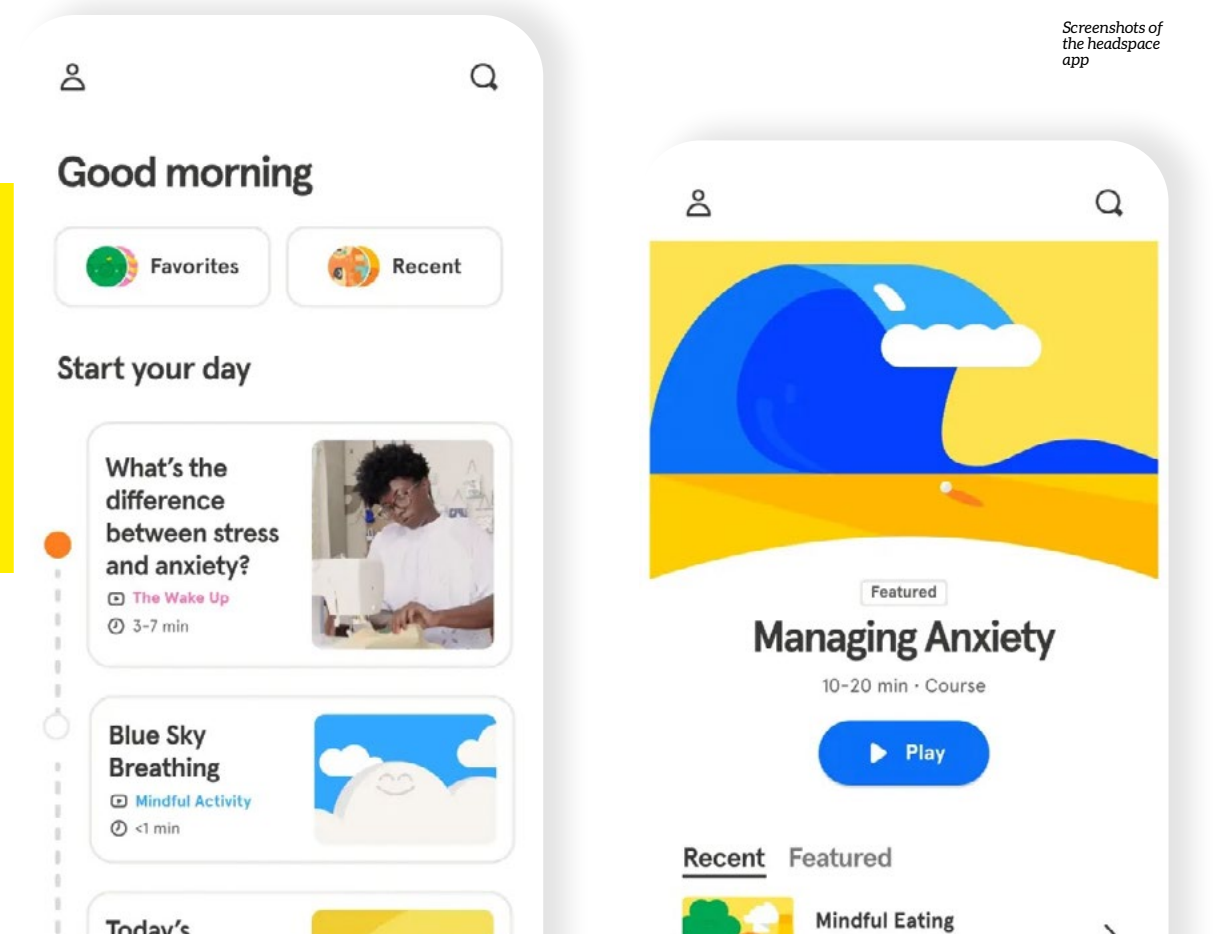
of mediation people should have less stress and better sleep. There have been many studies over the years that recognize the effective management of stress through mindful meditation. A study by Bowers (2018), found that mindfulness should be practiced in the workplace to encourage more positive organizational behaviors such as attentional focus. According to the Headspace website, it “reduces stress in 10 days”, “improves focus by 14%” in four weeks, and “increases happiness by 16%” in ten days. Headspace offers meditations for sleep, anger, anxiety, focus and many other areas. The app boasts millions of users, and can be used on a computer, phone or tablet. The meditation sessions can be downloaded for offline listening too. There is a yearly or monthly fee to fully use this app. However, some libraries offer free access to this resource, so check with the library before subscribing.

SLEEP CYCLE

[Sleep Cycle](#) is an alarm clock app that examines sleep and wakes the user at an appropriate time. According to the web site, the app tracks your stages of sleep and “wakes you up during light sleep”. “Sleep Cycle uses sound analysis to identify sleep states, tracking your movements in bed.” If help getting to sleep is needed, the app includes guides, stories, music, and sounds in their resource called Sleep Aid. It is widely known that sufficient sleep is very important to good health, use this app to help feel well rested. The app can be used on a phone or tablet. There is a Freemium and Premium option that includes a yearly fee to fully use this app. However, the free option includes the sleep analysis and wake up features. As a bonus, if additional help is needed for drifting off to sleep, try downloading a free twenty-five minute recorded meditation called “Honor Yourself” narrated by Sean “Diddy” Combs



Caption describing photo goes here



Screenshots of the headspace app

on [Audible](#). In this new release, Diddy uses gratitude prompts and breathing exercises to lead the listener into relaxation and sleep.

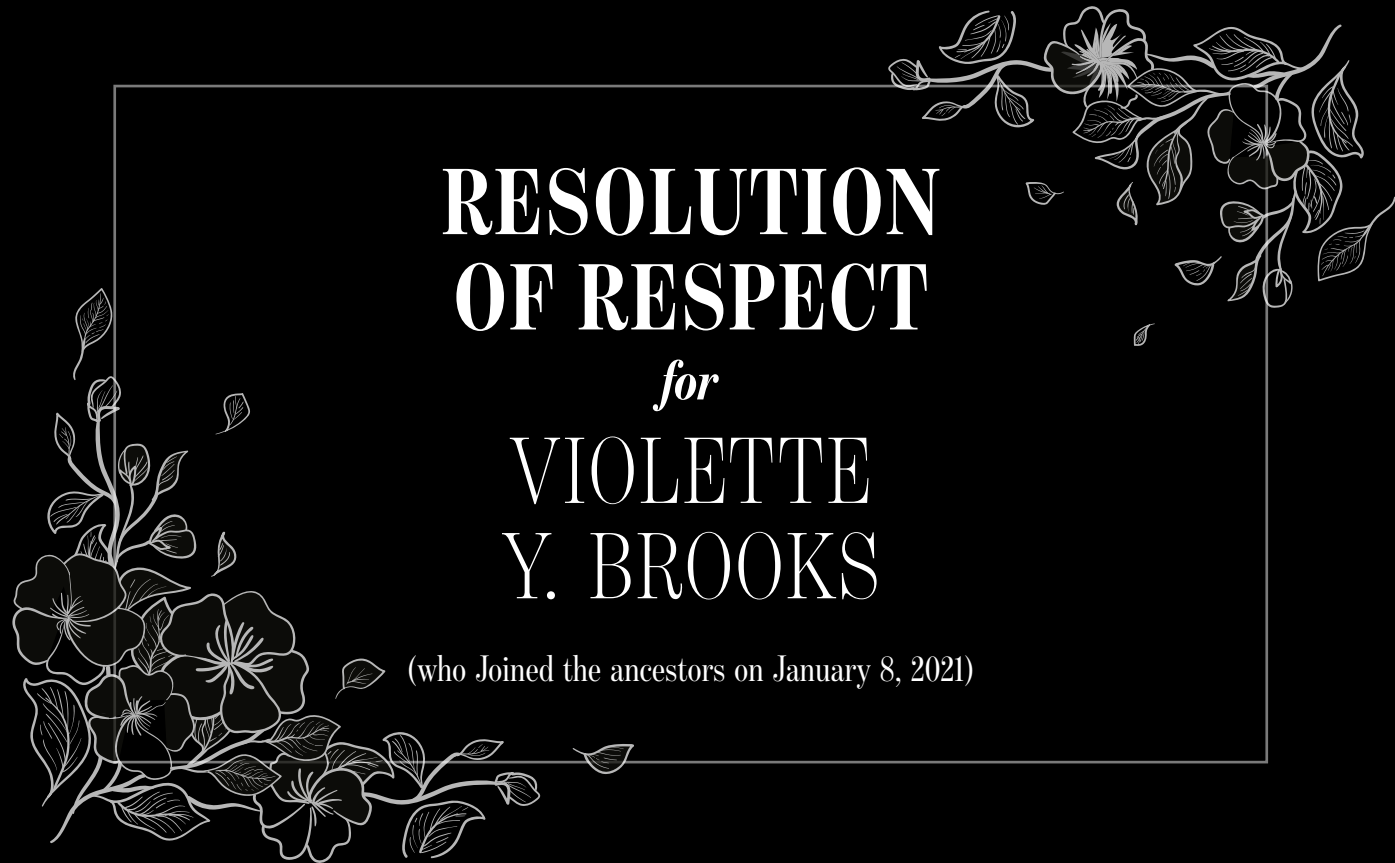
STREAKS

Try using [Streaks](#) to develop good healthy habits. Streaks enables creation of a to do list with up to twelve tasks. The streak is extended as tasks are completed everyday. Therefore the user can form new habits by working on tasks daily. Add yoga or mindfulness meditation to a to do list to develop the habit, in this way Streaks can be very helpful in improving well-being. Tasks can also be set up for specific days of the week, because not everything needs to be done daily. Streaks is available on iPhone, iPad, Mac, and Apple watch.

This is just a short list of resources that can help reduce stress and anxiety to improve wellness. Developing and sustaining a regimen that supports a healthy well-being is vital to enjoying a long career and happy life. Take the self-guided approach by using the ALA-APA Wellness and Blk and Fit resources or take the Wellness in the Library Workplace course to get expert guidance. Try out the various applications to figure out what works. Incorporate useful resources and tools into an established wellness plan or start anew, with a path to reduced stress and anxiety. Share any newly gained knowledge with colleagues and administrators to encourage more wellness in the workplace.

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RESOLUTION OF RESPECT *for* VIOLETTE Y. BROOKS

(who Joined the ancestors on January 8, 2021)

*“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, **Violette Y. Brooks**, and added it to the Friendship Chain of His Kingdom; and

Whereas, Ms. **Violette Y. Brooks**, a 1971 graduate of Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, who, as a student, was involved in naming the student union building after Malcolm X; and who is also a 1974 graduate of Governors State University, Chicago, Illinois, where she earned a Master's of Arts degree in Communications; who has been a steadfast friend, devoted colleague, a respected high school and academic librarian, social activist, loyal church worker, and long-time member and invaluable

supporter 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 church, her community, and her colleagues throughout this nation; and,

Whereas, **Violette Y. Brooks** joyfully and diligently provided leadership and service to the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Inc.**, the largest, most powerful, and longest sustaining organization of African American librarians, library workers, publishers, and library trustees, by serving as the Local Chairperson for the National Black Caucus' 20th Anniversary, and also serving as the 20th Anniversary Gala Chairperson in 1990; Violette also supported the programs and

activities of the Chicago Chapter of the Black Caucus of the Library Association, Inc.; and,

Whereas **Violette Y. Brooks**, an unyielding promoter of reading, literature, and award-winning children's books by African American authors and illustrators amongst all individuals and especially for African American communities throughout the United States, who also provided strategic leadership in the Special Library Association and as a lifetime member of the American Library Association by positioning herself in key positions beneficial to the library profession, and especially to the race. Of particular significance, Violette was: (1) a member of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable (SRRT) of ALA; (2) chairperson for the Coretta Scott King Task Force

Annual Breakfast, 1985–1995; and, (3) committee member in the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), 1985–2000; and,

Whereas, **Violette Y. Brooks** lent her gifts to the nation as a school and academic librarian, serving more than forty years in various professional positions as: Librarian for the Freshman-Sophomore Library, Bloom Township High School, Chicago Heights, Illinois, 1971; Media Specialist, Leo High School, Chicago, Illinois, 1973-1980; Reference Librarian, Chicago Transit Authority, 1980-2001; Reference Librarian, Kennedy King College, Chicago, Illinois, 2002-2010. In each of these positions Violette assisted and empowered her library's users to address their critical information needs; and,

Whereas, **Violette Y. Brooks**, further lent her intelligence, passionate spirit, and professional skills, to us, as a tireless communicator as she read several newspapers every day and frequently shared and sent

newspaper clippings of interest, to her colleagues and friends; Violette also chaired the “Book Table” on Sundays at her church, St. Mark United Methodist Church, Chicago, where members of the congregation selected books to read or share. Violette's untiring devotion to these and other activities greatly inspired and enhanced the knowledge and joy of friends and colleagues.

With such an illustrious career of service, and a job exceedingly well done, it is clearly understood how a shining link in the name of our dearest sister, **Violette Y. Brooks**, has been, most deservedly, added to the Friendship Chain of God's Kingdom, and

Whereas, the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), Inc.**, the entire library profession, and communities throughout this nation who have benefitted from her work, have sustained a great loss in the home going of **Violette Y. Brooks**, therefore be it

Resolved, that we eulogize her memory by trying to bring into our own lives... that excellence, professionalism, and inspirational spirit, coupled with sustained commitment, love, and purpose that made her life a worthy pattern for our emulation, and that we earnestly try to live as purposely and unselfishly as did **Violette Y. Brooks**; and be it further

Resolved, that the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc., expresses its sincere sympathy to the extended and church families of **Violette Y. Brooks**, that we place a copy of this resolution in the permanent archives of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc., and that we also send a copy of this resolution to the members of **Violette Y. Brooks'** family, church, and the Kennedy King College 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
One by one our caucus is forming
Let our deeds be pure and noble
So that when the links are welded*

*from the golden chain of life;
In the Father's House above.
May our lives be not in vain
Complete again will be the chain.”*

Respectfully submitted,

The Officers and Members of The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.

Shauntee Burns-Simpson

**Shauntee Burns-Simpson
President**

New York, New York
January 13, 2021

Officers:

Shauntee Burns-Simpson, (The New York Public Library, New York, New York), President

Nichelle M. Hayes, (The Indianapolis Public Library, Indianapolis, Indiana), Vice President

Brenda Johnson-Perkins, (Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, Maryland), Secretary

Michele T. Fenton, (The Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana), Assistant Secretary

Brandy McNeil, (The New York Public Library, New York, New York), Treasurer

Richard E. Ashby, Jr., (F.O.R. Sto-Rox Public Library, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania), Immediate Past President

History Committee:

Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D., (Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.), Chair

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

CONGRATULATIONS BLACK CAUCUS!!!

Cheers! Applause! Cheers! The Black Caucus of the American Library Association has so much to celebrate. From outreach to professional development to advocacy to programming, we have so many reasons to be "BCALA Proud".

Colleagues, thank you for joining the 11th National Conference of African American Librarians, titled "Culture Keepers XI the Sankofa Experience: Inspired by Our Past, Igniting Our Future". It's because of your participation that we can say this conference was a success. Although we couldn't meet in person, many of us still walked away with that warm feeling that only NCAAL can give. Thank you to everyone who worked on NCAAL XI. Co-Chairs, Keith Jemison and Dr. Tracey Hunter-Hayes had the difficult task of pivoting an in-person conference to all virtual in a couple of months with no framework to refer to, and got it done with the help of our amazing members. Thank you to the Committee Chairs and Members, your time and dedication was truly remarkable and I'm so happy to have worked with all of you. Thank you to all of the sponsors including Netflix for being our main sponsor for the conference and to School Library Journal for sponsoring the pre-conference. We celebrated our past, recognized where we

are and what we want moving forward, and now it's time to put the plan in place.

The Caucus' strategic plan is now our main focus for this upcoming year. It's extremely important that our work ahead be intentional so we can celebrate another 50 years. I'm so proud to be part of this work but we will need the input of our members because this organization belongs to all of us. So stay tuned and be on the lookout for surveys and town halls.

In August, BCALA was featured in the special edition of USA Today. This print and digital publication has been seen by millions and connected us with so many organizations committed to racial equity. Thank you to Judy Webb, Chair of Publicity and Promotion of NCAAL XI, for designing the full page ad.

Later this year, our commemorative book, "The Black Librarian in America: Reflections, Resistance, and Reawakening" will be out. It's currently available now for pre-order on www.rowman.com. All members get 30% off with promo code: 4F21BLA. This deal expires on December 31, 2021. Thank you to everyone for contributing to our organization's ongoing initiatives to promote LIS among African Americans.



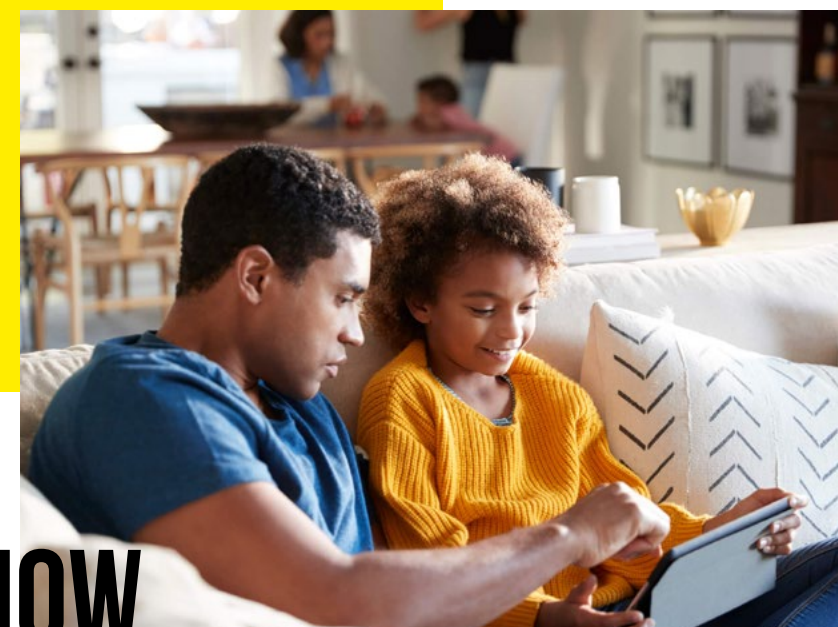
BCALA continues to serve as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation's Black communities. It's the mission that brings us together no matter what phase in our career we are in or what type of organization we work for. Let's continue to support each other within the profession and invite people to be part of the mission.

As I continue my work in the final year of my presidency, I want to show my gratitude to everyone that helped me along the way. Vice-President, Nichelle M. Hayes thank you for always being down for me and being the peanut butter to my jelly (huge grin). Thank you to the Committee Chairs, the Executive Board, and all the members. Your emails, phone calls, letters, and social media postings showed how important this organization is to you and I thank you all for the time, energy, support, and even push back because it got us to where we are today. We have more work to do. So please be well, be strong, and be BCALA Proud!

Shauntee Burns-Simpson
BCALA President

DID YOU KNOW

FREE WIFI: LIFT ZONE INITIATIVE SPONSORED BY COMCAST



Father helping son with homework



by Monica Porter

Did you know that Comcast has a free WiFi initiative called Lift Zone? Comcast is partnering with local community centers and providing the centers with free internet access for underrepresented communities nationwide. The initiative complements the Internet Essentials program in which free WiFi is provided to low income families' homes and assist schools as well as libraries to continue service to youth. This community connection service provides

another location for students to study without distractions and a safe place to continue their education. Lift Zone developed out of the response to COVID-19's impact on home internet use.

Expected this year, free Lift Zones will be implemented in many cities, which including Baltimore, Illinois (Chicago), Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), Maryland (Baltimore), New Jersey (Trenton), Georgia (Atlanta), Colorado (Denver) California (Fresno and San Francisco), Washington (Seattle), Texas (Houston) and 12 locations in Detroit, Michigan to name a few. In addition, over 70 schools so far have partnered with this initiative and Comcast in providing this free access. These spaces are available during normal operational hours for young people to access. Also, another "did you know" is that Learning Hubs (Remote or Community Learning Labs in some cases) have also been established in many communities for youth to have access to free WiFi for

distance learning. The Learning Hubs have been made possible due partnerships amongst local social organizations, businesses, and churches in having local community use their WiFi services.

I think Lift Zone is an initiative for academic and public libraries to become involved with. We can be vital to this program by providing research and writing skills, online services and mentorship. We can also provide academic support to all concerned: students, parents and teachers.

If you would like more information, go to [website](#). If there is something you would like to share with your colleagues that you think is interesting, please [share with us](#).

DOROTHY L. GUTHRIE

2021 RECIPIENT OF THE
CORETTA SCOTT KING-VIRGINIA
HAMILTON AWARD FOR
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

by Carolyn L. Garnes

Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award
for Lifetime Achievement Jury member



Dorothy L. Guthrie
recipient of the Coretta
Scott King-Virginia
Hamilton Award for
Lifetime Achievement

Dorothy Guthrie is the recipient of the 2021 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. Guthrie is an award winning retired school library administrator, an author, a school board member and a foot soldier in the advocacy and promotion of African American books for children. A respected children's literature advocate, Guthrie has labored on the front lines of the struggle to advance, identify, and cultivate books that promote and affirm the rich historical perspective of African Americans. She infuses Coretta Scott King Award-winning books into programs that engage libraries, schools, and communities. Her work, *"Integrating African American Literature in the Library and Classroom,"* inspires educators with African American literature. Guthrie founded the first African American museum in her home, Gaston County, NC.

Guthrie's advocacy for the inclusion of CSK Books inclusion prompted three local government divisions to champion this cause by issuing proclamations about the importance of reading these award winning books. She is the author of *Integrating African American Literature in the Library and Classroom*, a book that allows teachers and librarians to better motivate, inform and help students discover the richness of African American literature.

Guthrie resides in Gastonia, North Carolina with her beloved husband, Bobby where she is entering her fourth term on the local school board. She has been active in Coretta Scott King Book award committee and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association for many years. She has served on the BCALA executive board and co-chair of the 10th National Conference of African American Librarians in Atlanta, GA.

The Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement is named in memory of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton. She wrote more than 35 books throughout her career, including "M. C. Higgins, the Great," for which she won the 1975 Newbery Medal. During her lifetime, Hamilton received numerous awards including the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the Atlanta Globe-Horn Book Award and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY CHAMPION AWARD



by Ida D. McGhee

CRITERIA: This award is conferred on an intermittent basis to an individual who most successfully advances the cause of libraries on a local, regional, or statewide basis through work to support libraries and library awareness.

On Thursday, May 28, 2020 during their annual Rhode Island Library Conference, this year held virtually, BCALA retired member, Ida D. McGhee, was awarded the 2020 *Library Champion Award*.

Ida accepted the award on behalf of the founders of Cornucopia of Rhode Island: A Library Community of Color (CORI) and its members.

CORI was established when Ida retired and relocated from Connecticut to Rhode Island in the summer of 2004. She met with Dr. Michael Havener, the past dean of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. He enlisted

Dr. Donna Gilton, a professor with the program and she enlisted attorney, Denise Dowdell who is also a librarian in Rhode Island. The four of them met for months to set the groundwork for CORI. In September 2005, CORI went live with a gathering at URI's University Club to formally introduce CORI. The guest speaker was Andrew Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako) past president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. In the spring of 2006, CORI presented at RILA's annual conference with a presentation by Dr. Carla Hayden, past president of ALA and now Librarian of Congress.

As they say, the rest is history. CORI continues to try to recruit librarians of color to the profession, to mentor, to present diverse programs, to be of support to the library community and to enhance diversity not only in RI but also throughout the nation.

Visit [CORI's blog](#) for details.

CORI continues to recruit librarians of color to the profession, to mentor, to present diverse programs, to be of support to the library community, and to enhance diversity not only in Rhode Island but also throughout the nation.



Young inventor working with 3D printer

3D PRINTING: AN EXCITING INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG PATRONS

by Annelisa J. Purdie

INTRODUCTION

At the New York Public Library, as with many public libraries, one of our main goals has always been to inspire a sense of lifelong learning among our patrons. As a children's librarian, a personal goal of mine has always been to expose children to new experiences and technologies, and to help them think about the world around them in different ways. I recently facilitated a program in which I again accomplished this goal, doing so in a way that was exciting, relevant and extremely appealing to our young patrons at the Countee Cullen branch. Watching them make new discoveries and gain confidence in themselves was a rewarding experience, one that I hope will stay with them as they continue their journeys through life.

DISCOVERING NEW TECHNOLOGY

Three-dimensional, or 3D, printing is the process of using a digital program to make a solid object, with varying levels of detail. The process works similarly to that of a laser printer, requiring a connection to a computer. However, the 3D printer is designed with an open rather than enclosed space, allowing for the removal of the final product. I first heard of 3D printing about six or seven years ago, when the first printers for home and casual usage became available. The Library's Youth Tech department, which specializes in educating young patrons about fun and innovative ways to use technology, offered a training session for youth specialists who were interested in bringing the program to their branches. Having previously attended a

“
**EVERYWHERE
SHOULD HAVE
ONE OF THESE.
I WISH IT (THE
PRINTER) WAS
HERE ALL THE
TIME.**

- YOUNG PATRON, AGED 11.

3D PRINTING: AN EXCITING INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG PATRONS CONTINUED

by Annelisa J. Purdie



In-progress
Statue of
Liberty model

number of YouthTech's trainings in the past; I excitedly signed up for this one, anticipating learning more about the history and process of the medium. Throughout the course of the session, I and the other attendees learned about the history of three dimensional printing, the components of the machine, including how to load the plastic filaments that the objects are composed of, and the digital program Tinkercad™, where children could "sketch" out their designs before sending them to the printer. Each attendee received a 3D printer from the company MakerBot™ for their branch with the appropriate materials and spools of plastic filaments and other materials that would be loaned out to us for a period of three months. We were to use our branch's laptops to help the children save and print their designs. Before the programs started, the YouthTech coordinators came to the library to ensure that the printers worked with the branch's computer system, as well as give us a chance to ask any final questions.

IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM

The program took place at the branch in December 2019 and January 2020, on three out of four Mondays of the month. Afternoons in December were set aside for teens and tweens, while January was set aside for younger children, although I found that there were a mixture of ages in each session. In the month leading up to the program, I created a flyer and posted information about it on the library's website, and promoted the program through my usual outreach events. I also created a sign-up sheet so as to cut down on any potential crowding, as I thought that the prospect of a 3D printer would cause a great deal of interest. When the children came, I started with a basic overview of what we were going to do with the program, explaining that they would be using their imagination to create something that was tangible. For the first session of the month, I explained how to use the Tinkercad™ software to move, detail and size their objects, while also showing them child-safe websites with other free designs.

The subsequent sessions were devoted to the actual printing of the objects and further design. During the program sessions, the distinct whirr of the printer drew other children and teens into the room, as well as a number of adults, many of whom took pictures of the printer in action. Throughout the week, I kept the printer running in order to print out the attendees' models, sometimes adjusting the measurements to make them more stable. As the models were completed, I saved them to give to the children, either at the next program session, or whenever I saw them throughout the normal library day. I also gave children, teens and parents the links to different 3D design websites, showing them how they could access them on other devices such as their phones. For safety purposes, the children weren't allowed to remove the finished (and still hot) models from the printer. I carefully did so while explaining to them the importance of proper handling.

COMING AWAY WITH WONDER

From the beginning, the children and teens were enraptured by the printer and what it represented, and couldn't wait to start the program. Many of them already had some knowledge about what a 3D printer can do; the chance to see and use one in person helped them visualize the process. They asked detailed questions about the relationship between the design programs, the computer and the printer itself. They were also fascinated to learn about the myriad ways that 3D printing is used in different industries, such as creating food and prosthetics. Some of the more fiscally-minded asked how much the machine and the filaments cost, stating "That's not THAT bad" when I told them the price. They adapted quickly to the software, with the more experienced learners helping their fellow attendees get more

comfortable with rotating and shaping their objects. The children were surprised when I told them at the outset of the program that they would be able to keep everything they made; realizing this gave them more confidence as they browsed through the different designs and tweaked their own. As they familiarized themselves with the process, the children experimented with more layered, complex objects, going from spelling out their names and the names of friends, to creating miniature replicas of more functional items, or some unique, multilayered abstract designs. They made chess pieces and robots and animals, sharing ideas with one another and cheering on their peers' success. They brainstormed further uses for the printing technology. They called their parents on their phones during the sessions and sent pictures while their work was in progress.

What struck me the most about the program, as well as made me proud, was the generous nature of the children's creativity. While they did construct models for their own use, much of what they created was intended for others: parents, siblings, friends who weren't able to come to the library. Even without prompting, they wanted to share something of this wonderful technology with those who were important to them. By thinking of others and sharing their gifts, these young patrons demonstrated a mastery of one of the important aspects of future advancement; using their skills and the innovative technology to provide a service to others. The children grew even more encouraged when thinking about their loved ones' reactions to their efforts. Watching them eagerly learn throughout those two months will stay with me as one of the best memories of my career. And I am elated that I was able to offer them this opportunity.

Thank you for attending **NCAAL XI**



by **Nichelle M Hayes**
VP BCALA

The National Conference of African American Librarians (NCAAL) Culture Keepers XI | SANKOFA EXPERIENCE: Inspired by Our Past, Igniting Our Future 2021 (Tulsa) is in the books. What an amazing conference, that was brought to fruition by an amazing team! Kudos to Keith Jemison, Dr. Tracey Hunter Hayes, Twanna Hodge, Dr. Fannie Cox and our wonderful President Burns-Simpson. It was virtual but still felt like we were all together. How fortunate we were to be able to gather for 6 days to expand upon our professional knowledge.

During this time we were able to learn, share & network. I hope you were able to pay it forward and share some of your insights with your colleagues who were unable to attend.

Our conference Theme was the Sankofa Experience. Sankofa comes from an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. The meaning is "learning by looking to the past". We stand on the shoulders of librarian giants namely, Effie Lee Morris, E.J. Josey, Lillian Childress Hall, Ann Allen Shockley and many many more.

The last two years have been challenging to say the least. Let us try to take these challenges and turn them into lessons that will help us in the future. As we reflect on recent events let us center self-preservation and seek joy on a daily basis to renew ourselves.

If you weren't able to attend NCAAL XI I highly recommend registering for the replay. The registration information is in this newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who utilized our digital photo booth. There are photo booth pictures in this issue.



Member
Kim Jones Ewers



NCAAL XI
*was truly a
historic time
for historic a
people.*

#BCALAProud

MARQUITA GOOCH-VOYD

LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR



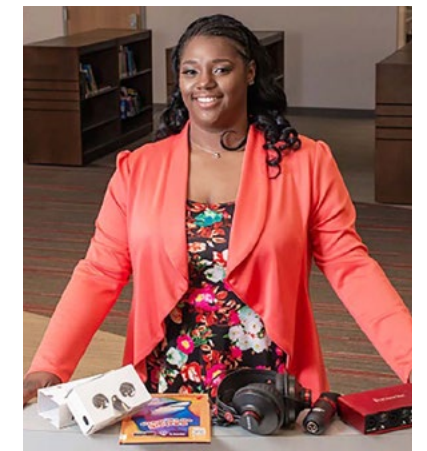
by Deborah Hakes
Georgia Public Library Service



“

Since [my team members] are on the frontlines, I always want to know their ideas for how to best implement programs. I think they appreciate being included.”

Marquita Gooch-Voyd,
2020 Georgia Public
Librarian of the Year



Gooch-Voyd shows off virtual reality and music equipment used in library programs and classes.

Marquita Gooch-Voyd has been named public librarian of the year. As assistant director of the Clayton County Library System, she implemented a hotspot checkout program for patrons, improved the library's technology so that they could move their programming seamlessly online when COVID-19 shutdowns occurred, grew the library's presence on social media to bring in new patrons, and shared best practices for her peers by serving on committees and presenting statewide and nationally.

"She has been instrumental in teaching us the latest technology so that we can take that information back to our community," said her co-worker Erica Ware. "She makes it simple and easy for us to understand. Also, she is always

serving in some aspect in the American Library Association, Public Library Association, and Georgia Library Association. She is a great example for a young librarian."

Georgia Public Library Service is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Georgia Public Library Awards, which honor the people and places that have made a profound difference in their communities through public libraries.

Marquita is the first person of color to receive the honor.

"I'm so proud of our library staff and supporters across the state, who, despite the challenges of operating during a global pandemic, found new ways to help patrons access books, resources, internet, and so much more," said State Librarian Julie Walker. "Their efforts to ensure that our libraries were able to continue and enhance their meaningful, vital work have allowed Georgians to achieve their goals at any stage in life. It is clear that public libraries remain at the heart of Georgia's communities."

Award winners are selected from nominations submitted by library patrons, trustees, Friends, and staff, showcasing the best and brightest who serve in public libraries throughout the state. This year marked the most nominations ever

received, reflecting the significant impact libraries have had in their communities.

The [Cherokee Regional Library System](#) has been awarded **Library of the Year**; Marquita Gooch-Voyd, assistant director of Clayton County Library System is **Librarian of the Year**; [Dr. Steve Whatley](#), former board chair and longtime trustee for Newton County Library System is **Champion of the Year**; and [Thomas Jones](#), retired director of Middle Georgia Regional Library System, received the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

LIBRARY OF THE YEAR

The Cherokee Regional Library System has been recognized as [Library of the Year](#) for their efforts to meet the needs of their community before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their four branches, with approximately 30 staff members, serve a population of around 86,000 in Dade and Walker counties in northwest Georgia.

"It's important to us that we not only provide basic library service but that we look around our community and stand in the gap in as many areas as we can," said Director Lecia Eubanks. "We continue to be the place in our community for high-speed Internet access, communal meeting spaces, high quality family programming, preservation of our local history and a safe place to just hang out."

Some of the library's recent projects include:

- Providing digital library cards to Walker County Middle School students and waiving any existing fines for students who already had a card to ensure immediate access to the library.
- Doubling their daily open hours so more people could safely utilize the library, including those from communities up to 50 miles away who traveled because their home libraries remained closed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Providing a safe, quiet place for patrons to utilize high-speed internet inside and outside the library.
- Collaborating with the sheriff's office and Bank of Dade to reduce recidivism through an enrichment program called Next Chapter, which promotes digital literacy, economic self-sufficiency, and stable living for inmates of the Dade County Jail.
- Launching a Time with Teacher program, where community members can set up a free one-hour tutoring session at the library with a certified teacher. The library averages over 200 sessions per month.

Library leadership understood the important role the library plays in the lives of their community, and they crafted a strategy for their branch to remain open throughout the pandemic, with important safety protocols in place.

"The demand for library services was so great in our community that the Walker County Government committed additional funding to double library daily operational hours," said Walker County Commissioner Shannon Whitfield. "

1-hour tutoring session within one of our four branches in the Cherokee Regional Library Systems



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Since September, students have utilized over 240 tutoring sessions, while visitation at the library branches as a whole has broadened over 33 percent. Computer, WiFi, and study room use have also experienced significant increases.

- Walker County

LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

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her co-worker Erica Ware. "She makes it simple and easy for us to understand. Also, she is always serving in some aspect in the American Library Association, Public Library Association, and Georgia Library Association. She is a great example for a young librarian."

Gooch-Voyd supervises two branches and 17 staff. She is responsible for maintaining the technology budget and grants, providing system-wide training on new and updated technological software and hardware, creating and facilitating technology-based classes, and managing the headquarter library's makerspace and classes.

Marquita Gooch-Voyd, 2020 Georgia Public Librarian of the Year

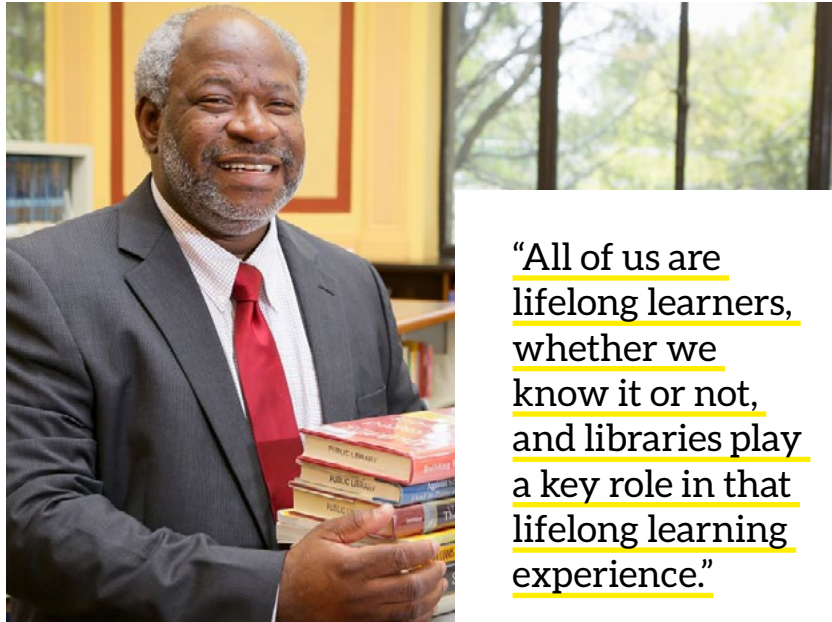


"The Clayton County Library is and has always been a staple in the community," said Gooch-Voyd. "We are a place of exploration and innovation, and a place to try new things. Even during the pandemic, we are trying our best to give 110 percent to our patrons. I am privileged to play a role in helping our community thrive during these difficult times."

Gooch-Voyd began her library career at the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library system as a senior library assistant and then social media and web page coordinator at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, where she honed her skills for creating memorable community based programming and events. She relocated to Maryland and began working as a school librarian for the District of Columbia Public Schools. Currently, she serves as the assistant director for technology and training for the Clayton County Library System and is the Vice President of Marketing for the Georgia Library Association.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Thomas Jones,
former director,
Middle Georgia
Regional
Libraries



“All of us are lifelong learners, whether we know it or not, and libraries play a key role in that lifelong learning experience.”

Georgia Public Library Service is pleased to award a [lifetime achievement honor](#) to Thomas M. Jones, retired director and jack-of-all-trades for Middle Georgia Regional Library System. He also served on the PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services) executive committee from 2008-2011. Throughout his career he was an advocate for library users and supporter of his fellow library staff members and colleagues.

“Thomas Jones was an innovative leader who impacted library services in the entire state of Georgia,” said Janice Habersham, trustee at the Middle Georgia Regional Library System.

Jones started as a library page with Middle Georgia Regional Libraries in 1972. Over the next 42 years, he served in many different roles. After earning his library degree in 1980, he began his professional librarian journey as a reference librarian. In 1986, he transitioned to leading the technical services department until 1994, when he became the head of information and technology services and remained there until 2007.

While he later served as the deputy director and then director of libraries for Middle Georgia Regional Libraries, his time as head of information and technology services provided a foundation for his most significant contributions to the library system and state efforts.

It was during that time that he served as project manager for the pilot project for Georgia Library Information Network. This project introduced the processing of Inter-Library Loans, representing the first time that libraries across Georgia used computers to work collaboratively, using dial-up internet. When the statewide library card and interlibrary loan system, PINES, launched, Jones was involved in early implementation and catalog integrity.

“He was always a voice of reason, someone who understood the big statewide picture and good at translating local data into formats that would work for all of PINES,” said David Singleton, director of Live Oaks Public Libraries.

Until his retirement in 2014, Thomas continued to serve on various statewide committees and was a longtime member of the Georgia Library Association. He also successfully obtained

local and national technology grants to improve Internet service in the Middle Georgia Regional Library branches and to update the library’s genealogy collection, which has become the gold standard for genealogy rooms in Georgia public libraries.

“Jones’ many small steps over his 42-year career has earned him the recognition of an early technology adopter and significant contributor to Georgia public library patrons and staff,” said Jennifer Lautzenheiser, director of Middle Georgia Regional Library System.

[Georgia Public Library Service](#) empowers libraries to improve the lives of all Georgians by encouraging reading, literacy and education through the continuing support and improvement of our public libraries. Georgia Public Library Service is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

JENE BROWN PRESIDENT-ELECT

OF THE CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (CLA) AND LONG-TIME BCALA MEMBER

by **Linda Jolivet**

Reference Librarian at Laney Community College and Berkeley City College.



Jene Brown

Jene Brown is just as passionate about the library profession today as she was when she began her career 25 years ago. She has developed into a highly effective and influential leader with a passion for equity, community partnerships and outreach programs.

Ms. Brown currently serves as Associate Director of Engagement & Outreach for Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). She directs and oversees and supports systemwide Friends Groups and Volunteer & Outreach Services; works with the community to advance community partnerships with non-profit organizations, local groups, Neighborhood Councils, and other groups. Fostering good community relations is the most important goal in all her work. She is responsible for the implementation of library administrative and programmatic initiatives, services, and programs around civic engagement.

She is an active member of the Library’s Exhibitions Team and responsible for developing and

implementing the community-based literacy project Read While You Wait and the Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship, a mentorship program which introduces college students to librarianship.

She was recently appointed (September 2020) as the Library’s Racial Equity Officer, and leader of Changing Tones, LAPL’s core team working on the Cultivating Racial Equity and Inclusion (CREI) initiative.

In past positions, Jene served as a Senior Librarian/Branch Manager as well as a Children’s Librarian with LAPL. She obtained her n UCLA Master of Library & Information Science (MLIS) from the University of California Los Angeles, (UCLA), and her BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz in Psychology.

As President-Elect of the California Library Association, Jene will only be the second African American to lead the statewide library organization. Here in California,

we are excited about her historic election. Her vision for CLA is to bring together all types of librarians within the profession, including academic and special librarians and to increase membership of librarians of color in the organization.

Jene is a long-time member of the Black Caucus and has attended many of the BCALA national conferences, served on the BCALA program committee, the BCALA E.J. Josey scholarship committee and the executive board of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards. Jene says she “loves the comradery she feels from the Black Caucus members at the conferences and looks forward to a return to in-person BCALA conferences.”

Ms. Brown is also active in the BCALA California affiliate, the California Librarians’ Black Caucus, (CLA) and received The Joyce Sumbi Emerging Leadership Award from CLBC in 2015.

FREEDOM LIBRARIES

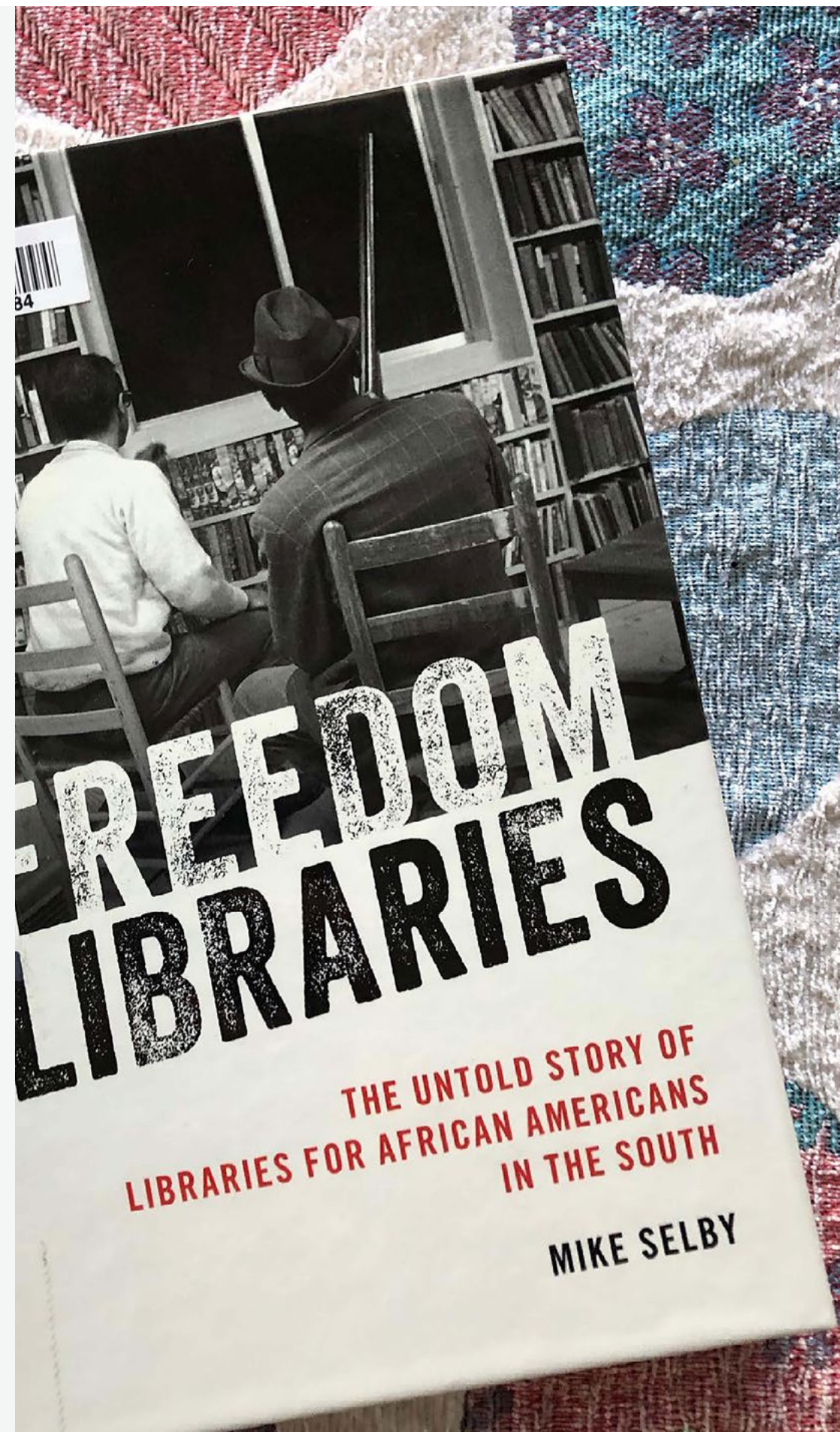


Rhonda Evans

Assistant Chief Librarian, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, in the summers of 1964 and 65, Civil Rights groups, such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), organized The Freedom Summer — training volunteers to travel into the Deep South to fight voter suppression and register African Americans to vote. As part of the Freedom Summer volunteers, also organized Freedom Libraries, which are the subject of the book, *Freedom Libraries: The Untold Story of Libraries for African Americans in the South* by librarian and historian Mike Selby. The purpose of the Freedom Libraries was to provide library access to African Americans who were denied access to public libraries, and to increase literacy as a means to defeat the literacy tests that were often part of voter suppression tactics.

Although eighty libraries came out of the Freedom Summer, *Freedom Libraries* focuses on Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Philadelphia. Selby balances the many challenges volunteers faced when setting up the Freedom Libraries against the powerful impact the libraries had on the Black communities in the South. The book opens with the story of the McDonald family, a Black family in Alabama with ten children, who volunteered part of their home to house a Freedom Library. The Klu Klux Klan destroyed the library by shooting up the home in the middle of the night setting the stage for the violence including murder, that befell many of these libraries. But Selby also shows the ingenuity used to find spaces, gather book donations, and set-up library programming with little to no resources.



A highlight of this book is a thoughtfully written background on the fight for library access by African Americans, citing the many arrests and protests that are largely left out of the stories from the Civil Rights Movement. Selby even includes a detailed timeline of, “African American Library Actions.” This background also includes the lack of support from the broader library community, illustrating the lack of involvement from different organizations such as state-level library associations, southern White librarians, and even the American Library Association. Selby also discusses some of the internal conflict that surfaced as the Black Power Movement gained momentum. As the mantra, ‘Black is Beautiful!’ began to take hold, the approach of the Freedom Libraries shifted and the use of the mostly White group of volunteers was questioned. In response to these changes, Selby makes the important decision of including the story of the Philadelphia Freedom Library, which, unlike the libraries organized in the South, was solely a product of the Black Power Movement.

Freedom Libraries, unlike other histories covering libraries during the Jim Crow and Civil Rights era, narrows its focus on a specific event in library history that has largely been ignored by Civil Rights and library historians alike. This book tells an important story, and with its well-researched background can open the door to those who wish to learn more about the fight for library access by the African American community.

"One Gotta Go" Gotta Go



by Jason Alston
University of Missouri

We've all seen it. You're going down your social media feed when an interesting meme comes to your attention. The meme stands out because it features four of your favorite Black television shows, Black movies, actresses, comedians, musicians, albums or culinary specialties. Then, you see those three troubling words at the top of the meme: "one gotta go."

I've long been bothered by a particular elitist mindset among Black scholars and pseudo-scholars toward Black artistic expression and accomplishment. Black entertainment is low-hanging fruit honestly. It takes no sophistication for someone like Boyce Watkins to target a piece

of Black entertainment – say the television show ["Empire"](#) – and claim that it lacks artistic (or any) value because they imagine some form of harm that it does to the Black race. It's as though the same race that has survived slavery, Jim Crow, institutionalized racism, police brutality and the Central Intelligence Agency flooding our communities with crack cocaine could ultimately be undone by a television program.

These wannabe scholars simply dissect the Black talent expression until they can invent some reason to object to it. They then facilitate a full-on naïve moral panic among those duped into finding their clumsily cobbled-together, banter profound. And it plays in Peoria; the clout chasers, the paranoid, and the self-appointed protectors of the Black race, quickly come in to join the "pile on" against the Black art under scrutiny. They'll claim it brainwashes Black people, or negatively influences us, or it poorly portrays us, or whatever the flavor of the day is.

"This scrutiny of Black art never actually betters the plight of the Black American. But it does devalue the contributions that those involved in its creation have made to the culture."

(Credit: LARA SOLANKI/NETFLIX © 2021)



(Credit: LARA SOLANKI/NETFLIX © 2021)

The devaluation of Black artistic expression is offensive to me as a Black information professional. I know that with enough dissection and imagination, one can manufacture a reason to brand anything in the entertainment realm "problematic." But it's usually much ado about nothing.

Enter "one gotta go." When those memes are shared, they typically spawn pseudo-intellectual conversations wherein Black people pull out all the stops to determine which Black thing "gotta go." How is this determined? By speaking negatively of the Black things featured with the strange goal of convincing onlookers that one is of such low value that it should be hypothetically excluded from history. Superficially, it seems a fun exercise. But what's actually happening is we are reaching into the depths of our minds to create disdain for the talent expression of our own. It's the devaluation of Black accomplishment. Ultimately, it merely serves white supremacy. Erasure is the tool of the colonizer; our tools should be uplift and appreciation.

"No more 'one gotta go.' It's all our history and legacy. It all stays!"



"Written submissions are not necessarily the opinion of BCALA or the Editor."

BCALA^{NEWS}

P.O. Box 174, New York
NY 10159-0174
www.bcala.org
publications@bcala.org
Career Ads: jobs.bcala.org