TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN

AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKLIST

THE BROADSIDE PRESS LEGACY OF
DUDLEY RANDALL
The Detroit Public Library, encouraged by the positive response to this annual publication, continues the tradition of the African American Booklist for 2015 and beyond. This bibliography provides a selected list of books by and/or about African Americans. The works of fiction and nonfiction for adults, children and young adults were reviewed and recommended by librarians of the Detroit Public Library.

The African American Booklist began as a way to commemorate Black History Month and since that time has continued to feature the accomplishments of African Americans in the literary world. Our booklist has become an annual tradition in the community and continues to be a highly anticipated publication for book lovers all across the nation.

**ADULT LITERATURE SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Vickie Baker  
Stacy Brooks, Co-Chair  
Christine Peete, Co-Chair  
Jackie Sullen

**JUVENILE-TEENS BOOKLIST SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Lurine Carter, Chairperson  
Tonya DuPree, Contributor  
Carole Hale  
Tracy Massey

**AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKLIST PRODUCTION**

Khamisi Banford  
A.J. Funchess  
Romondo Locke  
Alma Simmons

Cover Photo: Leni Sinclair

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM ..........................................................................................................4  
LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR .............................................................................5  
THE BROADSIDE PRESS LEGACY OF DUDLEY RANDALL .......................................................7  
THE UNDAUNTED VOICES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN POETS: LOOK BACK IN WONDER! .... 10  
AFRICAN AMERICAN POETRY ...................................................................................................20  
FICTION ........................................................................................................................................25  
NON-FICTION...............................................................................................................................28  
ARTS...........................................................................................................................................29  
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS ...............................................................................................................29  
CAREER AND FINANCE .............................................................................................................31  
HEALTH........................................................................................................................................31  
HISTORY .......................................................................................................................................31  
INSPIRATIONAL ..........................................................................................................................32  
LIFESTYLE/ENTERTAINING .......................................................................................................32  
POETRY ..........................................................................................................................................32  
RELATIONSHIPS ..........................................................................................................................33  
SPORTS RELATED ......................................................................................................................33  
TODAY’S ISSUES ........................................................................................................................34  
FORETHCOMING TITLES IN 2015 ..............................................................................................35  
YOUTH BOOKS ..........................................................................................................................36  
PICTURE BOOKS .........................................................................................................................36  
JUVENILE FICTION .......................................................................................................................36  
JUVENILE NONFICTION ..............................................................................................................37  
JUVENILE BIOGRAPHY .............................................................................................................38  
TEEN FICTION ............................................................................................................................38  
SERIES .........................................................................................................................................39  
TOO NEW TO REVIEW ...............................................................................................................39
Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Lyric by: James Weldon Johnson

One hundred years after DPL opened its doors in 1865, Detroit Dudley Randall, a poet and a librarian, founded Broadside Press, an institution that has played a significant role in establishing a place for the African American poetic voice for fifty years. Mr. Randall launched Broadside Press by publishing poets that included Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Walker, Margaret Danner, Robert Hayden and Sterling Brown. His legacy was further enriched by presenting the works of Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Haki Madhubuti, Etheridge Knight, Audre Lorde and Keorapeste Kgositsile.

During my years as a librarian at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland, one of the most requested books by library users was The Black Poets, an anthology edited by Dudley Randall. I think Mr. Randall’s introduction of the book described why at that time it was by far the best anthology of black poetry. He noted that “the claim of the THE BLACK POETS to being a partially definitive anthology is that it presents the full range of Black American poetry, from the slave songs to the present day. It is important that folk poetry be included because it is the root and inspiration of later, literary poetry. Not only does this book present the full range of Black poetry, but it presents most poets in depth and in some cases presents aspects of a poet neglected or overlooked before.”

It’s an amazing thing when “coincidence” brings opportunity. When I realized that DPL and Broadside Press would both celebrate major anniversaries this year, it was the perfect opportunity to provide a theme for our “Sesquicentennial Special Edition” of the 2015 African American Booklist: “The Undaunted Voices of African American Poets: Look Back in Wonder.” We thank poet and scholar Gloria House, Ph.D., and the entire Broadside Press Board of Directors, for the guidance, creativity and enthusiasm brought to this effort.

As you read the thoughtful, insightful and passionate essay about Dudley Randall, the brief history of African American poets and make a selection from the poetry list, perhaps you will think about poetry in a different way, learn something you did not know, or recall your earliest exposure to this creative form.

Please visit the Detroit Public Library and check out the recommended poetry titles, along with the fiction and non-fiction books, included in this “Sesquicentennial Special Edition” of our African American Booklist.

Standing on a rich tradition,

Jo Anne G. Mondowney
Executive Director
n any given summer morning, a neighbor might glance at the young boy Dudley Randall huddled atop the porch awning of his Russell Street home on Detroit’s Eastside. There in the shade of a tree, the shy boy studied the great poets of the past. Young Randall’s parents, a minister and a school teacher, introduced him to the best of European literature and the treasures of African American culture. His father, an activist member of the NAACP, took him to the speeches of great race men like Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois and James Weldon Johnson, the thought leaders of the period. In this nurturing environment, Randall embraced his calling as a poet. In 1927, one of his sonnets won publication on the “Young Writer’s Page” of the Detroit Free Press. He was thirteen years old.

Randall graduated from Eastern High School in 1930. Two years later, he found work in the foundry of Ford Motor Company’s Rouge plant. Subsequently, he was employed by the post office until 1943, when he was inducted into the U.S. Army. Returning to Detroit in 1946, Randall took various jobs, one of which was in the reference department of Detroit’s Main Library; but his focus was on earning the bachelor’s degree in English at Wayne State University and the master’s degree in library science at the University of Michigan.

Randall’s career as a reference librarian took him to Lincoln and Morgan State universities, then back home to a post in the Wayne County library system. Broadside poet Albert Ward remembers meeting Randall at cultural programs at Parkman Branch Library in the late 1960s. As a youngster, Ward was inspired by his neighborhood encounters with this exceptional, gracious African American male poet librarian!

Randall retired as a librarian from his post at the University of Detroit Mercy, where the installation of a National Literary Marker commemorates the eminence of his contributions as a librarian and poet. His training as a librarian influenced every detail of Randall’s work — from the scrupulous editing and promotion of other poets’ writing, to setting down the exquisite lines of his own poems. The fusion of his wide-ranging knowledge as a librarian with his poet’s aesthetic sensibilities engendered a rare talent. Perhaps it was this combination of artistic and literary sophistication that called him to the roles of editor, publisher, mentor of poets, and founder of Broadside Press.

In an article published in the Black Academy Review in 1970, Randall wrote: “We Africans in the United States are a nation of 22 million souls, larger than Athens in the age of Pericles or England in the age of Elizabeth. There’s no reason why we should not create and support a literature which will be to our own nation what those literatures were to theirs.”

Guided by this vision and mission, Randall created Broadside Press as a solitary project, perhaps not realizing how demanding the work would become. When his friend, the Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Gwendolyn Brooks, wanted to know his title within the Broadside Press organizational structure, Randall replied, “Since ... in my spare time and in my spare bedroom I do all the work from sweeping floors, washing windows, licking stamps and envelopes, and packing books to reading manuscripts, writing ads and planning and designing books, you could just say that Dudley Randall equals Broadside Press.”
Randall began by producing 8.5” by 11” broadsides that featured a single poem, an idea he borrowed from the Russians after a trip to the Soviet Union. The publishing of “Ballad of Birmingham,” Randall’s poem on the bombing deaths of four little girls in a church during the civil rights movement, launched Broadside Press in 1965. By the mid 70s, the Broadside collection had grown to over 100 publications, including single broadsides, books, audio tapes, LPs, and posters, which were in demand by individuals, book stores, universities, and libraries around the world. The protest against the inhumanity of southern racism expressed in “Ballad of Birmingham” conjoined Broadside Press with the African American freedom fight of the 1960s. Liberation struggles were being waged throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, with the African American civil rights and Black Power movements constituting a significant flank of this global uprising. Broadside Press flourished as the institutional anchor and center of African American literary production during this period.

Several generations of African American poets are represented in the Broadside Press repertory. The first includes Randall himself and his peers, Naomi Midgett, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Walker, Margaret Danner, Robert Hayden, and Sterling Brown. These poets’ works laid the foundation for the wave of writers who won recognition in the 1960s – 70s -- Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Haki Madhubuti, Etheridge Knight, Audre Lorde and South African Keorapetse Kgositsile (now the Poet Laureate of South Africa) -- poets who had been turned away by mainstream publishing houses, who might have remained unknown if Randall had not published their work. In addition, there is the constellation of talented poets published by Broadside from the 1980s to the present.

Broadside Press publications reflect the most important issues of African American political and cultural life from World War I to the 21st century, expressed in a diversity of literary forms, including revolutionary manifestos, exquisite love songs, humorous toasts, and yearnings for freedom. By demonstrating both the fine quality of poetry emerging in the African American community as well as the fact that there was indeed a substantial reading audience for that poetry, Randall made an invaluable contribution to the literary heritage of the United States, the African diaspora, and the world.

Randall was finally exhausted by his efforts to build the Press while continuing to work fulltime as a librarian. He retired in 1988, leaving the Press under the guardianship of volunteers at the Alexander Crummell Center for Worship and Learning, a progressive mission congregation of the Episcopal Diocese. Returning with a swell of energy, he published several new books, and established the Broadside Press Poets Theatre, which continues today, in collaboration with the Dudley Randall Center for Print Media at the University of Detroit-Mercy, offering poets the opportunity to hone their writing and performance skills.

During his mature years, Randall and his wife, Vivian, shared a comfortable ranch home on Old Mill Place in Detroit’s Russell Woods neighborhood. When he decided it was time to relinquish control of the Press, Randall sold it to his friends and Russell Woods neighbors, Hilda and Don Vest. Hilda applied her experience as an educator and poet, Don, his expertise as a retired auto company executive, to the management and advancement of the Press. During their tenure, the Vests published more than a dozen new titles. In 1998, they passed ownership to a collective of Detroit educators and poets, who are committed to upholding Randall’s legacy: affirmation of the beauty of African American culture, editorial excellence, and profound respect for artistic differences among African American writers.

Mayor Coleman A. Young appointed Randall the first Poet Laureate of the City of Detroit in 1981, praising him as the “Father of the Black Poetry Movement.” Literary scholar, Professor Julius Thompson, extolled Randall’s achievement in the following manner:

“All his prior work in developing as a writer and training in library science would be harnessed to give birth to the most important publishing company ever created by an African American, to promote the publication, distribution and enjoyment of Black poetry. In a period of great hardship he sacrificed much in terms of his own personal comforts to help hundreds of writers lift their voices. American culture is much richer today because of Dudley Randall and Broadside Press.

Dudley Randall -- soft-spoken, thoughtful, compassionate, possessing a quiet, delightfully wry sense of humor -- passed away after a struggle with cancer on August 5, 2000. We honor him as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Broadside Press.

Sources:


Text: Gloria House, Ph.D.
LOOK BACK IN WONDER!

The Undaunted Voices of African American Poets

The creation of beauty through language has persisted over centuries as a vital aspect of African culture, where there is reverence for the power of words. African cultural traditions of music, ritual and performance accord deep respect to the gift of eloquent speech. To the priest or shaman whose words may attain the supernatural, the griot, keeper of the community’s memory and legends, the storyteller. In contemporary African American society, we see these ancient roles reenacted in the preacher, the rhythm and blues or gospel star, the poet, the rapper and spoken word artist.

O BLACK AND UNKNOWN BARDS

Africans enslaved in this country composed music and poetry to sustain their bodies and spirits. Work songs and humorous or caustic commentaries on plantation life passed from one innovator to another. The music popularly referred to as African American spirituals – called the “sorrow songs” by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois – represents a significant stream of this widespread anonymous creativity. James Weldon Johnson, author of the African American National Anthems, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” celebrated the genius of those Africans, “the black and unknown bards,” who conceived the profoundly beautiful music and lyrics:

O black and unknown bards of long ago,
How came your lips to touch the sacred fire?
Heart of what slave poured out such melody
As “Steal Away to Jesus?”

Who heard great “Jordan, Roll?” Whose starward eye
Saw chariot “swing low?” And who was he
That breathed that comforting, melodic sigh,
“Nobody knows de trouble I see?”

These songs and the oral folk literature that emerged during slavery attest to the persistence of African American culture was forged.

SMALL GIRL, MOMENTOUS VOCATION

The legacy of formal, written African American poetry begins in colonial America with Phillis Wheatley, a little Senegalese girl kidnapped in 1761 and enslaved by a Boston tailor and his family. In less than a decade the brilliant child had mastered English, Latin and Greek, and produced the volume of poems that would become the first published book by an African in this country. The elite of Boston society remained in disbelief that the child had mastered English, Latin and Greek, and produced the volume of poems that would become the first published book by an African in this country. The elite of Boston society remained in disbelief that the child had mastered English, Latin and Greek, and produced the volume of poems that would become the first published book by an African in this country. The elite of Boston society remained in disbelief that the child had mastered English, Latin and Greek, and produced the volume of poems that would become the first published book by an African in this country.

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois

Photo - Addison N. Scurlock

Paul Lawrence Dunbar

British poets of the time. Though religious themes and exalted references to Greek and Roman mythology prevail in Wheatley’s poetry, a keen protest against injustice does appear in some lines. In a poem addressed to William, Earl of Dartmouth, then governor of Massachusetts, she refers to her own uprooting from Senegal and the sorrow her parents must have suffered as experiences which explain why she wishes freedom for everyone:

...I, young in life, by seeming cruel fate
Was snatch’d from Afric’s fancy’d happy seat:
What pangs exorcizating must molest,
What sorrows labour in my parent’s breast?
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seiz’d his babe belov’d
Steel’d was that soul and by no misery mov’d
That from a father seizéd his babe belovéd

Wheatley’s few years of freedom as an adult brought her no more joy than her enslaved childhood. She was unhappily married, and her two children died in infancy. She succumbed to poor health and poverty when she was 31 years old.

Though a few African American poets managed to publish sparsely in the decades following Wheatley’s life, it was Paul Laurence Dunbar who next achieved national recognition. With the publication of his third volume of poems, Lyrics of Lowly Life, in 1898, Dunbar became the first African American poet to be enthusiastically received by both Black and White reading audiences.

Dunbar’s poetry is treasured for its preservation of the rhythms and subtleties of early African American speech, often called “Negro dialect,” and for its intimate renderings of African American everyday life. However, Dunbar grieved that American poetry audiences favored his Negro dialect, folk-based poetry over his poems of greater literary sophistication.

Dunbar was writing in the aftermath of the devastating upheavals of the Civil War and Reconstruction, a time when African Americans gropped for firm grounding in U.S. society. Perhaps the social instability and disorientation felt during this period contributed to Dunbar’s melancholy and disappointment as an artist.

His well-known poem, “Sympathy,” compared the predicament of the African American poet to that of a bird who beats his wings against the bars of the cage that imprisons him. In the concluding stanza of the poem, he wrote:

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,
When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore, --
When he beats his bars and would be free;
It is not a carol of joy or glee,
But a prayer that he sends from his heart’s deep core,
But a plea, that upward to Heaven, he flings --
I know why the caged bird sings!
THE SPIRIT OF THE “NEW NEGRO”

During the era of the Harlem Renaissance, poets gained the political clarity and greater sense of confidence in the future that Dunbar might have sought. They belonged to the period of the “new Negro,” that more self-assured African American who, rejecting definition by the dominant society, insisted on determining for himself his place and potential within the national life. Such poets as James Weldon Johnson (mentioned above), Countee Cullen, Claude McKay, Jean Toomer, and Langston Hughes responded to and influenced the major cultural, philosophical and political issues of the day -- including African American cultural identity, civil rights and discrimination, labor rights and international affairs.

McKay, the firebrand of the period, is best remembered for his mastery of the sonnet, a fourteen-line poem with strictly prescribed patterns of meter and rhyme, associated traditionally with sentimental themes. In “Tropics in New York,” McKay follows conventional expectations in a sonnet of longing for the sumptuously beautiful natural world of his Jamaican childhood. However, in “If We Must Die,” he sets the sonnet form ablaze with indictments of American racism and inequalities. This poem became a manifesto of the period:

If We Must Die

If we must die, let it not be like hogs
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot.

If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!

O kinsmen, we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one deathblow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we’ll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

Harlem Shadows,

Countee Cullen, a highly-educated Harlem scion, caught painfully in the space between allegiance to Western culture and acceptance of his African heritage, also observed European poetic conventions in his work. Grappling with unresolved questions of racial and cultural identity, he penned some of the most exquisite lines of the Harlem Renaissance. In one of his best-known poems, he ponders why God would instill in an oppressed person the inspiration to be a poet:

Yet do I marvel at this curious thing:
“To make a poet Black, and bid him sing!”

Color, 1925

I, too, sing America
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow
I’ll be at the table
When company comes
Nobody’ll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,”
Then.
Besides
They’ll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed –
I, too, am America.

From The Weary Blues, 1926

WHEN IT IS FINALLY Ours, THIS FREEDOM

Though generations of African American writers have bemoaned the debilitating weight of racism, the record shows that this struggle has not prevented, but rather intensified and empowered their literary production. They believed there would be better days ahead:

...We shall not always plant while others reap
The golden increment of bursting fruit....
We were not made eternally to weep.
Cullen, “From the Dark Tower”

Langston Hughes remains the most beloved of the Harlem Renaissance poets. His popularity continued from the 1920s to his death in 1967, a long span during which his works represented African American experience with unfailing authenticity. His poems "talked the talk" that his people understood, while striking familiar jazz and blues notes and poetic imagery in which African Americans saw themselves. He was revered by the many poets whom he mentored as he pursued his own prodigious literary production.

I, too, sing America
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow
I’ll be at the table
When company comes
Nobody’ll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,”
Then.
Besides
They’ll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed –
I, too, am America.

From The Weary Blues, 1926

Sterling Brown, Dudley Randall, Gwendolyn Brooks and Robert Hayden began their careers as poets during the 1930s and 40s. Their works reflect the preoccupations of their generation – the effort to realize one’s gifts, and to cultivate home, family and other essential institutions in America’s urban centers, despite the harsh conditions of racism, economic depression and war.
Their poetic styles varied widely. Brown, a Harvard graduate, professor and literary critic, wrote poems of straightforward simplicity, featuring African American folk heroes, humor and music. Randall’s poetry featured a rhythmic, measured voice, which we hear in this poem written for Mayor Coleman Young:

**Detroit Renaissance**

Cities have died, have burned, yet phoenix-like returned to soar up livelier, lovelier than before. Detroit has felt the fire yet each time left the pyre as if the flames had power to restore. Together we will build a city that will yield to all their hopes and dreams so long deferred. New faces will appear too long neglected here; new minds, new means will build a brave new world.

Gwendolyn Brooks, author of more than 15 volumes of poems, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1950, chiseled and polished her words to make sparse, incisive statements. Here she remembers Malcolm X’s powerful impact on the nation:

**Malcolm X**

Original.

Ragged-round.

Rich-robust.

He had the hawk-man’s eyes.

We gasped. We saw the maleness. The maleness raking out and making gutteral the air and pushing us to walls.

And in a soft and fundamental hour

A sonnet devout and vertical

Begulled the world.

He opened us—who was a key, who was a man.

Robert Hayden, quiet University of Michigan professor and practitioner of the Bahai faith, wrote studiously contrived lines of gravity and wisdom. His poem honoring the great abolitionist exemplifies his mastery:

**Frederick Douglass**

When it is finally ours, this freedom, this liberty, this beautiful and terrible thing, needful to man as air, usable as earth; when it belongs at last to all, when it is truly instinct, brain matter, diastole, systole, reflex action; when it is finally won; when it is more than the gaudy mumbro jumbo of politicians, this man, this Douglass, this former slave, this Negro beaten to his knees, exiled, visioning a world where none is lonely, none hunted, alien, this man, superb in love and logic, this man shall be remembered. O, not with statues’ rhetoric, not with legends and poems and wreaths of bronze alone, but with the lives grown out of his life, the lives fleshing his dream of the beautiful, needful thing.

**BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS, BLACK POWER, BLACK ARTS**

The radical social and political changes of the 1960’s, engendered by protests against the Vietnam War, the Southern civil rights movement, and the influence of Third World independence struggles, ushered in a new constellation of African American poets. These artists rejected Western cultural and political domination. They shaped a new aesthetic based on African arts, cultural, and spiritual traditions. This new insistence on self-determination grew into the Black consciousness and Black power movements that swept the entire African diaspora. African Americans achieved a new acceptance of their African physical features; they adopted African clothing, artifacts, music, dance and religion, and marked this wave of affirmation with the popular slogan, “Black is beautiful!”

Most celebrated among the poets of Black consciousness and Black Power were Sonia Sanchez, Haki Madhubuti, Audre Lorde and Amiri Baraka. They all upheld the major tenets of these movements, but special interests distinguished their writings.

An early concern of Madhubuti and Sanchez was to make their poetic styles approximate more closely the rhythms and color of popular African American speech. Lorde’s poetry emphasized solidarity with Third World liberation efforts, advanced the causes of the women’s liberation, and revealed the challenges faced by African American lesbians. Baraka’s fierce revolutionary political convictions, which he demonstrated through activist organizing in numerous arenas of national life, earned him the deep respect of his peers, and laid a foundation for the poets who have followed.
Ka ‘Ba
Amiri Baraka

A closed window looks down
on a dirty courtyard, and black people
call across or scream across or walk across
defying physics in the stream of their will

Our world is full of sound
Our world is more lovely than anyone’s
tho we suffer, and kill each other
and sometimes fail to walk the air

We are beautiful people
with african imaginations
full of masks and dances and swelling chants
with african eyes, and noses, and arms,
though we sprawl in grey chains in a place
full of winters, when what we want is sun.

We have been captured,
brothers. And we labor
to make our getaway, into
the ancient image, into a new

 correspondence with ourselves
and our black family. We need magic
now we need the spells, to raise up
return, destroy, and create. What will be

the sacred words?

21st CENTURY: NEW DIRECTIONS

The young poets who emerged as the 21st Century approached followed their passion wherever it called them, as their elders had established once and for all, yes, Black is beautiful and political power may, indeed, be realized through African unity. The intellectual work to reclaim African civilization and reestablish it on the world stage had been launched and was being advanced steadily by new Diasporan scholars. Poets could turn their attention elsewhere, or to more nuanced treatments of racial concerns --- to seeking grounding in the realm of metaphysical experience, to moving in synch with natural rhythms and cycles, and to envisioning the integration of political and spiritual realities. Such themes pervade the brilliant work of Saul Williams, Jessica Care Moore and Nikky Finney, winner of the 2011 National Book Award in Poetry.

The Wind’s Song (Excerpt)
Saul Williams

The square root of a kiss is a hum
i hum under my breath when I contemplate
the drum of your heartbeat
and my heart beats for your breath
i revel in the wind for mere glimpses...

I love
as instruments come to life through breath
the wind sends my high notes to indigo communions
with Coltrane’s “Favorite Things”
...this is my body
which is given for you,
this is my blood
which is shed for you...

my love like the wind, uncaged
blows time into timeless whirlpools
transfiguring fear and all of its subordinates
(possession, jealousy, fear)
into crumbling dried leaves.....

From The Seventh Octave, 1998
I Am FAME Missed
Jessica Care Moore

Collard green trees grow
In Herman Gardens Projects
on Detroit’s westside
Red kool-aid tongues
hide sweat inside invisible squares
Where hoops wait for new nets
bets are made against my life
can’t imagine a man loving me
or becoming somebody’s wife
I want to be recognized in all my ugly
want the rain to ask me for fresh water
I am every daddy’s little girl
A single-mother’s daughter
And the sun comes out even when the electricity is cut off
Lay out my favorite blue jeans every day for morning
Bet you I can out-run you to the corner
I search for sage
or rose smells in my skin
cross my heart and hope to out live
give out haiku high fives
showing off my dirty hands
Around here I have many fans
Waving at me when I make appearances
On the front porch
From The Words Don’t Fit in My Mouth

The development of four African American publishing companies has brought the work of African American poets into greater visibility in the United States and abroad. Dudley Randall’s Broadside Press, founded in Detroit in 1965, led the way. Third World Press, established in Chicago by Haki Madhubuti (known in the 1960’s as Don L. Lee), followed in 1967. Dr. Naomi Madgett, current Poet Laureate of Detroit, joined her friend Dudley in a passion to bring the works of African American poets to wider audiences, launching her Lotus Press in 1972. Detroiter Jessica Care Moore, whose poetry spans the literary and spoken word/rap worlds, created Moore Black Press in 1997, to feature emerging poets of her generation. These four companies have contributed significantly to African American literary production by providing attractive, independent outlets for talented writers. Following the retirement of Dr. Madgett, Lotus Press and Broadside Press will merge as Broadside Lotus Press in 2015.

Sources:

Text: Gloria House, Ph.D.
James Baldwin

Jimmy’s Blues and Other Poems.

Beacon Press, 2014.

This new collection, based on the beloved author’s two books of poetry, includes narrative and lyrical poems, all ringing with profound insights into the African American experience in the U.S., and the brilliant mastery of language for which Baldwin is revered.

Amiri Baraka


A collection presenting the full range of work by this icon of the Black Arts era, beginning in the 19th Century mulatto friendship between Beethoven and the 19th Century mulatto violinist, George Bridgetower.

Ras Baraka

Black Girls Learn Love Hard,


This collection, inspired by and honoring the poet’s younger sister, a casualty of domestic violence, provides beautiful, confident, powerful insights into issues troubling contemporary African American communities. Recently elected Mayor of Newark, NJ, this poet is one of the most compelling voices of the hip hop generation.

Kwame Dawes

Duppy Conqueror: New and Selected Poems.

Copper Canyon Press, 2013.

Intimate, affectionate reflections on the everyday experiences of Africans throughout the Diaspora, by a prolific poet who was born in Ghana, raised in Jamaica, and is now a widely respected writer and professor in the United States. (Duppy, a Jamaican patois word, means ghost or spirit. “Duppy Conqueror” is the title of a song by Bob Marley.)

Rita Dove

Pulitzer Prize Winner, Past Poet Laureate of the U.S. Poet Laureate of the Virginia Commonwealth.


An intriguing book-length poem exploring the fiery, short-lived rhythms and subtleties of dialect that Tubman might have spoken. An intriguing book-length poem exploring the fiery, short-lived rhythms and subtleties of dialect that Tubman might have spoken.

Nikki Giovanni

Poems.

Beacon Press, 2014.

This collection reflects upon significant figures and events in the poet's personal life and in the life of the nation – including the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Sohier Hammad


Influenced by the voices of major African American poets, this passionate Arab-American poet of the hip hop generation invites readers to recognize the commonalities of political and cultural injustice besetting African Americans, Palestinians and other people of color.

Yusef Komunyakaa

Pulitzer Prize Winner


In addition to the homage to Charlie Parker, poems in this collection represent the lifetime span of the poet’s impressive work.

Quraysh Ali Lansana

They Shall Run: Harriet Tubman Poems.


A portrayal of Harriet Tubman’s extraordinary spiritual gifts, character and heroism in liberating hundreds of African Americans from slavery – with the poet striving for authenticity in the rhythms and subtleties of dialect that Tubman might have spoken.

Haki Madhubuti


Third World Press, 2011.

Winner of the American Book Award, 2011.

This collection, based on the Black Arts era, shared a unique literary and personal relationship. In this collection of poems, Madhubuti pays tribute to Ms. Brooks’ great legacy.

Bob Marley

Sunlight Through Bullet Holes.

Jamaica. 2014

Witnessing the times and daily challenges of life in her hometown of Trench Town, the poet responds with her characteristic wit, love and hope, paying homage to local artists and those who resist injustice.

Sterling D. Plumpp

Home/Bass: Poems.

Third World Press, 2014.

Winner of the American Book Award, 2014.

Plumpp takes us into the rich everyday culture of African Americans along that passage connecting the rural South and Chicago. We hear the language and lore of this Southern culture transplanted, all accompanied by the steady beat of the Blues.

R. Flowers Rivera

Heathen.


Winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award, 2015.

Exploring a wide range of subjects from mythology to mundane, everyday tasks, this poet transforms the ordinary into an exciting extraordinary…inviting the reader to return to her poems time and time again.

Gwendolyn A. Mitchell

Honoring Genius and Justice.

Third World Press, 2014.

Winner of the American Book Award, 2014.


This collection reflects upon significant figures and events in the poet’s personal life and in the life of the nation – including the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Haki Madhubuti

Best-selling poet beginning in the Black Arts era, shared a unique literary and personal relationship. In this collection of poems, Madhubuti pays tribute to Ms. Brooks’ great legacy.

Jessica Care Moore

Sunlight Through Bullet Holes.

Jamaica. 2014

Witnessing the times and daily challenges of life in her hometown of Trench Town, the poet responds with her characteristic wit, love and hope, paying homage to local artists and those who resist injustice.

Sterling D. Plumpp

Home/Bass: Poems.

Third World Press, 2014.

Winner of the American Book Award, 2014.

Plumpp takes us into the rich everyday culture of African Americans along that passage connecting the rural South and Chicago. We hear the language and lore of this Southern culture transplanted, all accompanied by the steady beat of the Blues.

R. Flowers Rivera

Heathen.


Winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award, 2015.

Exploring a wide range of subjects from mythology to mundane, everyday tasks, this poet transforms the ordinary into an exciting extraordinary…inviting the reader to return to her poems time and time again.
Sonia Sanchez
Morning Haiku
Deeply moving haiku poems celebrating great artists, political organizers, historic figures and friends of this cherished poet, whose major role in African American poetry began during the Black Consciousness movement of the 1960’s. Some critics have suggested that this is the poet’s most beautiful work.

Matthew Shenoda
Tahrir Suite: Poems.
Triquarterly, 2014.
A book-length poem exploring themes of home, place and belonging in relation to the ongoing revolutionary upheaval in Egypt, and its impact on communities throughout the African diaspora.

Natasha Trethewey
Congregation.
A collection of poems rooted in the culture of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, reflecting the folk wisdom of the poet’s friends and family, who remained faithful to the region following Hurricane Katrina.

Saul Williams
Former Poet Laureate of California
Seventh Octave.
The first collection of a truly brilliant hip hop generation poet, full of stunning imagery, and a captivating, exhortative voice calling us into future ways of seeing and being.

Al Young
Something About the Blues.
Sourcebooks, 2008.
A poet who integrates blues and jazz in his poetry. Young includes tributes to Ma Rainey, Lena Home and other notable artists in this publication, which includes a CD of the poet’s performance with music accompaniment.

Natasha Trethewey
Congregation.
2015

POETRY ANTHOLOGIES

Boyd, Melba J. and Liebler, Michael, eds.
Abandon Automobile: Detroit City Poetry.
A comprehensive, ethnically representative collection of works by several generations of Detroit poets.

House, Gloria, Weatherston, Rosemary, and Ward, Albert, eds.
A Different Image: The Legacy of Broadside Press.
Winner of the Notable Book Award of the Library of Michigan, 2005. This collection features selected poems by five African American poets, who, originally published by Broadside Press during the Black Consciousness period, later won acclaim as major literary figures, nationally and internationally.

Madgett, Naomi L., ed.
Art by Carl Owens. Poems in recognition and appreciation of the struggles and accomplishments of African American men, written by African American women poets of several generations.

CHILDREN’S BOOKS

Gwendolyn Brooks
Winnie
Poetry for children about South African leader, Winnie Mandela, written by the Pulitzer Prize winning African American poet.

Cedella Marley
Every Little Thing

This list was compiled by Gloria House, Ph.D.
Angel, Ahyiana
Preseason Love
Simon and Schuster, 2014
Scottie moves from Los Angeles to New York to gain more experience in her career but finds herself making the same mistakes in her personal life as she had in the past.

Ashley & JaQuavis
Cartel 5
Urban Books, 2014
After the sudden deaths of the men in the family the women take over the business.

Bennett, O.H.
Recognition
Bolden, 2014
A woman attempts to discover if the husband she believed to be dead is alive and living on the streets.

Billingsley, ReShonda Tate
What’s Done In the Dark
Simon And Schuster, 2014
A one time indiscretion changes the lives of two families.

Bond, Cynthia
Ruby
Random House, 2014
A beautiful woman attempts to escape from her painful past.

Bowen, Michele Andrea
Pastor Needs a Boo
St Martin’s Griffin, 2014
A former FBI agent, now pastor falls in love with a single mom while considering running for bishop.

Burt-Murray, Angela
Games Divas Play
Thomas & Mercer, 2014
A journalist moves to New York to start an exciting new job but is caught up in her best friend’s personal drama.

Butler, Octavia E.
Unexpected Stories
Open Road Media Sci-Fi & Fantasy, 2014
Two never-before-published stories from the archives of one of science fiction’s all-time masters

*Published as an EBook available in Overdrive

Campbell, Wanda
Back to Me
Urban Christian, 2014
A woman tries to find inner peace after she commits what she believes is an unforgivable sin.

Carter, Stephen L
Back Channel: A Novel
Alfred A Knopf, 2014
College co-ed assists in preventing a nuclear holocaust.

*Published as an EBook available in Overdrive and Hoopla

Clarke, Breena
Angels Make Their Hope Here
Little Brown, 2014
A young woman escapes from slavery and tries to find safety and happiness in a multi-racial New Jersey community.

Cush, Jean Love
Endangered
Harper-Collins, 2014
A mother struggles against the system to save her son from prison.

Dickey, Eric Jerome
A Wanted Woman
Dutton, 2014
An expert assassin finds that she has been double crossed after an assignment goes wrong.

*EBook and Audiobook available in Overdrive

Francis-Sharma, Lauren
’Till the Well Runs Dry
Henry Holt, 2014
A Trinidadian immigrant comes to the USA for a new start in life only to find new and different frustrations.

Gay, Roxane
An Untamed State
Black Cat, 2014
Mireille’s world is shattered when an unspeakable crime occurs after her father fails to act in time.
Howard, Ravi
Driving the King
Harper, 2015
An iconic singer repays a childhood friend for saving his life by giving him a job as a driver when he is released from prison.

James, Marion
A Brief History of Seven Killers
Riverhead Books, 2014
A fictional account of the assassination attempt on legendary reggae artist Bob Marley and the political fallout that follows.

Jenkins, Beverly
Destiny’s Captive
Broadway Books, 2014
A sailor falls in love with the sister of the shipmate who saved his life during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Jenks, Claudia
Animal III: Revelations
St. Martin’s Griffin, 2014
A man buys his freedom from a hardened ship’s captain.

James, Marion
When ‘Queen’ discovers the son she gave up when she was a teenager was murdered she hits the streets to extract her revenge.

Mccollors, Ti
Tuesday Night Love: Days of Grace
NAL, 2014
A couple rely on help from their best friends in an attempt to rebuild their marriage.

Morrison, Mary B.
If You Don’t Know Me
Dafina-Kensington, 2014
Marley fights to regain the love and trust of her husband.

Moloney, Peter
Red Now and Laters
Explicit Ink, 2014
Two former fashion models get over their egos and fall in love.

Mosley, Walter
The Perfect Deception
Simon and Schuster, 2014
A young up and coming lawyer is invited to join a dangerous secret organization.

Morrison, Mary B.
A Pinch of Ooh La La
NAL, 2014
After discovering, in a very public manner that her fiancé was cheating, Abby doubts that she can trust love again but crazy family and friends show her otherwise.

Talley, Dwayne Alexander
Grace Book 1
Whitaker House, 2014
A man buys his freedom from aío Creek Indian master, forging a legacy that his granddaughter builds upon.

Morrison, Mary B.
The Perfect Deception
Simon and Schuster, 2014
The mayor’s ex-wife is used as a scapegoat and a pawn in the circumstances surrounding her death.

Smith, Dwayne Alexander
Forty Acres
Simon and Schuster, 2014
Her Last Wife
Dafina-Kensington, 2014

Mink, Meesha
Kiss the Ring: An Urban Tale
Simon and Schuster, 2014
When ‘Queen’ discovers the son she gave up when she was a teenager was murdered she hits the streets to extract her revenge.

Mccollors, Ti
Tuesday Night Love: Days of Grace
NAL, 2014
A young up and coming lawyer is invited to join a dangerous secret organization.

Morrison, Mary B.
A Pinch of Ooh La La
NAL, 2014
After discovering, in a very public manner that her fiancé was cheating, Abby doubts that she can trust love again but crazy family and friends show her otherwise.

Talley, Dwayne Alexander
Grace Book 1
Whitaker House, 2014
A man buys his freedom from aío Creek Indian master, forging a legacy that his granddaughter builds upon.

Mccollors, Ti
Tuesday Night Love: Days of Grace
NAL, 2014
A couple rely on help from their best friends in an attempt to rebuild their marriage.

Morrison, Mary B.
If You Don’t Know Me
Dafina-Kensington, 2014
Marley fights to regain the love and trust of her husband.

Moloney, Peter
Red Now and Laters
Explicit Ink, 2014
Two former fashion models get over their egos and fall in love.

Mosley, Walter
The Perfect Deception
Simon and Schuster, 2014
A young up and coming lawyer is invited to join a dangerous secret organization.

Morrison, Mary B.
A Pinch of Ooh La La
NAL, 2014
After discovering, in a very public manner that her fiancé was cheating, Abby doubts that she can trust love again but crazy family and friends show her otherwise.

Talley, Dwayne Alexander
Grace Book 1
Whitaker House, 2014
A man buys his freedom from aío Creek Indian master, forging a legacy that his granddaughter builds upon.

Mccollors, Ti
Tuesday Night Love: Days of Grace
NAL, 2014
A couple rely on help from their best friends in an attempt to rebuild their marriage.

Morrison, Mary B.
If You Don’t Know Me
Dafina-Kensington, 2014
Marley fights to regain the love and trust of her husband.

Moloney, Peter
Red Now and Laters
Explicit Ink, 2014
Two former fashion models get over their egos and fall in love.

Mosley, Walter
The Perfect Deception
Simon and Schuster, 2014
A young up and coming lawyer is invited to join a dangerous secret organization.

Morrison, Mary B.
A Pinch of Ooh La La
NAL, 2014
After discovering, in a very public manner that her fiancé was cheating, Abby doubts that she can trust love again but crazy family and friends show her otherwise.

Talley, Dwayne Alexander
Grace Book 1
Whitaker House, 2014
A man buys his freedom from aío Creek Indian master, forging a legacy that his granddaughter builds upon.

Mccollors, Ti
Tuesday Night Love: Days of Grace
NAL, 2014
A couple rely on help from their best friends in an attempt to rebuild their marriage.

Morrison, Mary B.
If You Don’t Know Me
Dafina-Kensington, 2014
Marley fights to regain the love and trust of her husband.

Moloney, Peter
Red Now and Laters
Explicit Ink, 2014
Two former fashion models get over their egos and fall in love.
BEST OF 2014 - Non-Fiction

Charles M. Blow
Fire Shut Up in My Bones
Houghton Mifflin, 2014

Pearl Cleage
Things I Should Have Told My Daughter
Atria Books, 2014

Jeff Hobbs
The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League
Scribner Book Company, 2014

Rick James & David Ritz
Glow: The Autobiography of Rick James
Atria Books, 2014

Edward Lewis & Audrey Edwards
The Man from Essence: Creating a Magazine for Black Women
Atria Books, 2014

Antoinette Tuff & Alex Treniowski
Prepared for a Purpose: The Inspiring True Story of How One Woman Saved an Atlanta School Under Siege
Bethany House Publishers, 2014

Clair, Maxine
Imagine This: Creating the Work You Love
Bolden, 2014

Life coach and author offers advice for achieving empowerment and self-fulfillment.

Duke, Bill; Sheila Moses
Dark Girls
Amistad Press, 2014

Beautiful and lush photography collection featuring women who share their insights on dark skin.

Eshun, Ekow; Kehinde Wiley
Kehinde Wiley: The World Stage Jamaica
Stephen Friedman Gallery, 2014

Contemporary portraiture artist depicts modern Jamaicans in 17th and 18th century British life.

Herron, Matt; John Dittmer
Mississippi Eyes: The Story and Photography of the Southern Documentary Project

Photographs document the turbulent and pivotal summer of 1964.

Kopano, Baruti N.; Tamara Lizette Brown; Phillip Brown
Soul Thieves: The Appropriation and Misrepresentation of African American Popular Culture
Palgrave MacMillan, 2014

Frank discussion of how black popular culture is used in white mainstream commercialism.

Light, Alan
Let's Go Crazy: Prince and the Making of Purple Rain
Atria Books, 2014

Details the road from vision to reality Prince traveled to create the legendary movie and soundtrack.

McNally, Dennis
On Highway 61: Music, Race, and the Evolution of Cultural Freedom
Counterpoint LLC, 2014

Fascinating history of the founding fathers and mothers of the popular musical form known as “the blues” and its origin in the Mississippi Delta.

Page, Alan Charles
Enter the Wu-Tang: How Nine Men Changed Hip-Hop Forever
Love Gunman Media, 2014

In-depth look at the iconic group’s early history and why their music garnered a cult like following in the hip-hop community.

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS

Angelou, Maya
Rainbow in the Cloud: the Wisdom and Spirit of Maya Angelou
Random House, 2014

Gathered from the late poet’s many works, this collection shares her wisdom and keen observations on various topics.

Bailey, Phillip; Keith Zimmerman
Shining Star: Braving the Elements of Earth, Wind & Fire
Viking Adult, 2014

Memoir offers glimpses of the genesis of both an iconic singer and an innovative band.

Baram, Marcus
Gil Scott-Heron: Pieces of a Man
St. Martin’s Press, 2014

Biography of the socially conscious poet and musician often thought of as a forefather of hip-hop.

NON-FICTION

ARTS/CULTURE

Bracey, John H; Sonia Sanchez; James Smethurst
SOS—Calling All Black People: A Black Arts Movement Reader
University of Massachusetts Press, 2014

Researchers describe the cultural shift in the arts community beginning in the 1960’s.
**NON-FICTION (con’t)**

Benson, George; Alan Goldsher
*Benson: The Autobiography*
Da Capo Press, 2014
From prodigy to award-winning artist, Benson's memoir details his inspiring rise to fame.

Blow, Charles M.
*Fire Shut Up in My Bones*
Houghton Mifflin, 2014
Honest and courageous portrayal of a young man's search for identity, truth and healing.

*EBook available on Overdrive*

Braxton, Toni
*Unbreak My Heart: A Memoir*
It Books, 2014
Songstress candidly discusses her journey through health issues, bankruptcy and plastic surgery.

Brown, Carolyn J.
*Song of My Life: A Biography of Margaret Walker*
University Press of Mississippi, 2014
Fascinating life story of the author of dramas acclaimed as Civil Rights milestones.

Brown, Daryl; Michael Chabries
*My Father the Godfather*
Waldorf Publishing, 2014
In-depth look at the prominent politician's rise from humble beginnings to his place on the national stage.

Cleage, Pearl
*Things I Should Have Told My Daughter*
Ala Books, 2014
Writer offers a candid look at her inner life through journal entries.

*Copied* *Book available on Overdrive*

Clayburn, James E.
*Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Baddly Bly*
University of South Carolina Press, 2014
In-depth look at the prominent politician's rise from humble beginnings to his place on the national stage.

Copeland, Misty
*Charisse Jones Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina*
Touchstone, 2014
Unflinching look at one of the most talented and yet misunderstood pianist's musical roots, his famous collaborations and his struggles and triumphs.

Hancock, Herbie; Lisa Dickey
*Herbie Hancock: Possibilities*
Viking, 2014
Authoritative biography covers the life of the preeminent jazz pianist's musical roots, his famous collaborations and his struggles and triumphs.

James, Rick; David Ritz
*Glory: The Autobiography of Rick James*
Atria Books, 2014
Entertaining and unvarnished look at the complicated life of the late award-winning artist and pioneer of funk.

Joseph, Peniel
*Stokely: A Life*
Basic Civitas Books, 2014
Chronicles the life of the iconic civil rights leader best known for his call for black power.

Norman, Jessye
*Stand Up Straight and Sing!*
Basic Civitas Books, 2104
Through examination of the entertainer and how her social consciousness and sex appeal impacted her career.

Norman, Jessye
*Stand Up Straight and Sing!*
Basic Civitas Books, 2014
Chronicles the life of the iconic civil rights leader best known for his call for black power.

Whitaker, Mark
*Costby: His Life and Times*
Simon & Schuster, 2014
Account of the comedic icon's career, personal dramas and his impact on American race relations.

**CAREER AND FINANCE**

Harvey, Steve
*Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success: Discovering Your Gift and the Way to Life's Riches*
Amistad, 2014
Presents methods to achieve your economic goals and life's mission by recognizing, nurturing and capitalizing on your inherent talents.

*Radio broadcast on CD*

Lewis, Edward; Audrey Edwards
*The Man from Essence: Creating a Magazine for Black Women*
Ala Books, 2014
From idea to inception, innovative entrepreneur tells the story of the often turbulent and personally brutal journey of an iconic American brand.

**HEALTH**

Simmons, Russell
*Success Through Stillness: Meditation Made Simple*
Gotham, 2014
Ancient technique can be used to achieve one's highest personal potential.

*Radio broadcast on CD*

Whitaker, Mark
*Costby: His Life and Times*
Simon & Schuster, 2014
Account of the comedic icon's career, personal dramas and his impact on American race relations.

**HISTORY**

Cobb Jr., Charles E.
*This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible*
Basic Books, 2014
Journalist and former SNCC field secretary asserts that non-violence and armed self-defense were complementary tools used to achieve the goal of civil rights.

Gates, Henry Louis
*Finding Your Roots: The Official Companion to the PBS Series*
University of North Carolina Press, 2014
Prominent figures trace their ancestry using DNA and research.

Glaude, Jr., Eddie S.
*African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction*
Oxford University Press, USA, 2014
Explores the religious life of African Americans and the various roles of the black church.

Smiley, Tavis; David Ritz
*Death of a King: The Real Story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Final Year*
Little Brown and Company, 2014
An emotional portrayal of the civil rights leader as he dealt with depression and the unforeseen rejection of his once admired ideology.

*Radio broadcast on CD*

Tuck, Stephen
*The Night Malcolm X Spoke at the Oxford Union: A Transatlantic Story of Anti-Racist Protest*
University of California Press, 2014
Explores the significance of this historic debate and its impact on race relations in America and the United Kingdom.
Du Bois, W E B
Darkwater: Voices for Within the Veil
Martinhoe Books, 2014

Reprint of the 1920 collection of poignant poems and essays addressing political and social reform.

Jones, Saeed
Prelude to Bruise
Coffee House Press, 2014

Several themes, including sexuality, gender and family are addressed in this collection.

Moten, Fred
Little Edges
Poet experiments with “shaped prose,” arranging works in rhythmic blocks to create an audio-visual pattern for readers.

Rankine, Claudia
Citizen: An American Lyric
Graywolf Press, 2014

Prose, essays and images culled from contemporary media and art are assembled to present a poetic discourse on racism.

Reisman, Rosemary M. Canfield
Prose, essays and images culled from contemporary media and art are assembled to present a poetic discourse on racism.

Prelude to Bruise
Coffee House Press, 2014

Several themes, including sexuality, gender and family are addressed in this collection.

Turn your life forward.

Life coach takes women on a journey of self-discovery and self-appreciation.

Actor shares his struggles with his sexuality in this 13-poem collection.

A young woman overcomes bullying while coming to terms with her sexuality in this coming of age story.

Lazebny, Roland
Michael Jordan: The Life
Little, Brown & Company, 2014

Unvarnished account of the man and the brand.

Madden, Bill
1954: The Year Willie Mays and the First Generation of Black Superstars Changed Major League Baseball Forever
Da Capo Press, 2014

Although Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, it was not until seven years later that the impact was realized.

Strawberry, Daryl; Tracy Strawberry; A.J. Gregory
Imperfect Marriage: Help for Those Who Think It's Over
Howard Books, 2014

Personal accounts of the trials in a marriage, and how their insights can help improve yours.
Williams, Richard; Bart Davis
Black and White: The Way I See It
Atria Books, 2014
Father and coach shares how his upbringing and unorthodox methods produced two of the greatest athletes in history.

TODAY’S ISSUES

Banks, David; G. F. Lichtenberg
Soar: How Boys Learn, Succeed and Develop Character
Atria / 37 Ink, 2014
Author asserts that parental support and community involvement are proven methods to successfully educate young men of color.

Bryant, John Hope
How the Poor Can Save Capitalism
Berrett-Koehler, 2014
Famed physician calls for a return to traditional values to cure the nation’s ills.

Carson, Ben; Candy Carson
One Nation: What We Can All Do to Save America’s Future
Sentinel, 2014
Famed physician calls for a return to traditional values to cure the nation’s ills.

*EBook available on Overdrive

Daniels, Cora ;
John L. Jackson, Jr.
Impolite Conservations: On Race, Politics, Sex, Money, and Religion
Atria Books, 2014
Alternating chapters present disparate conversations on hot button topics.

Funk, John;
Hans Von Spakovsky
Obama’s Enforcer: Eric Holder’s Justice Department
Broadside Books, 2014
A scathing look at the former head of the most powerful law enforcement agency in America.

Gay, Roxane
Bad Feminist
Harper Perennial, 2014
Collection of essays examine the complexities of race and gender in the 21st century.

Hobbs, Allyson
A Chosen Exile: A History of Racial Passing in American Life
Harvard University Press, 2014
Recounts the stories of African Americans who passed as white and the benefits and repercussions of their decision.

Hobbs, Jeff
The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League
Scribner Book Company, 2014
Chronicles the life of a gifted student who struggled to maintain his identity in disparate worlds.

Shipp, Robin;
Nick Chiles
Justice While Black: Helping African-American Families Navigate and Survive the Criminal Justice System.
Noted journalist collaborates with a defense attorney to present a primer for plotting a successful course through the legal system.

Smith, Candis Watts
Black Mosaic: The Politics of Black Pan-Ethnic Diversity
New York University Press, 2014
Discusses the varying political identities in the black community and their roots.

Stevenson, Bryan
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
Spiegel & Grau, 2014
Author unveils the flaws in the American justice system that punishes the poor and disadvantaged disproportionately while calling for more humane methods of dealing with offenders.

West, Cornel;
Christa Buschendorf
Black Prophetic Fire
Beacon Press, 2014
Enlightening exploration of six key historic African Americans.

NON-FICTION (con’t)

McCrone, Tari; Alvin
Cherish The Lord

North, Jerrel; McCrae
Passion for South: A Memoir of Life, Love and Faith in South Africa

Hughes, Langston; Arnold Rampersad; David Roessel; Christa Fratantoro (Eds.)
Selected Letters of Langston Hughes

Santiago, Wilfred
Michael Jordan: Bull on Parade

McKissack, Jerry
Eyes on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, the First Lady of the Black Press

Baldwin, Lorraine
 NASCAR Book: From the Dirt Track to the World

Solomon, Asali
Disgruntled

Love, Reggie
Power Forward: My Presidential Education

Tyson, Mike
Undisputed Truth

Santiago, Wilfred
Michael Jordan: Bull on Parade

Solomon, Asali
Disgruntled
Williams, Oneeka  
*Dr. Dee Dynamo's Meteorite Mission (Dr. Dee Dynamo Books)*  
Mascot Books, 2014  
A picture book that pairs fun science projects with fanciful stories.  
*Age: 3 – 6*

Dempsey, Kristy  
*Dr. Dee Dynamo's Dream*  
Pibloem; First Edition, 2014  
A girl from Harlem dreams of becoming a prima ballerina in the early 50's.  
*Age: 5 – 8*

Flake, Sharon G.  
*Unstopabble Octobia May*  
Puffin, 2014  
A boy and his classmates decide to sabotage the tryouts in the talent show by only offering the third grade's worst magic acts.  
*Age: 6 – 8*

Woods, Brenda  
*The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond*  
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014  
A young girl's mixed heritage frustrates her after experiencing name-calling and assumptions directed at her by those living in a predominantly white neighborhood in Seattle.  
*Age: 9 – 12*

**JUVENILE FICTION**

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem  
*Streetball Crew Book One: Sasquatch in the Paint*  
Disney-Hyperion; 2014  
A sudden growth spurt in height transforms a science geek into a star basketball player.  
*Age: 8 – 12*

Campbell, Isaiah  
*The Troubles of Johnny Cannon*  
Kaneeka's goal in life is to become the Hula – Hoopin' Queen; until weekend chores, and a neighbor’s birthday party changes everything.  
*Age: 6 – 10*

McQuinn, Anna  
*Lego Loves Baby Time*  
Charlesbridge, 2014  
Mother and son enjoy quiet moments during story time.  
*Age: 4 – 5*

Warner, Sally  
*EllRay Jakes Rocks the Holidays!*  
Puffin, 2014  
A young boy is proud of himself until his father reminds him that his skin color makes a difference when trying to “blend in.”  
*Age: 3 – 6*

**JUVENILE NONFICTION**

Balden, Tonya  
*Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America*  
Holiday House, 2014  
A creek Indian freedmen in 1920 is given a land allotment with oil deposits that leads to enormous wealth.  
*Age: 10 – 14*

Flake, Sharon G.  
*Unstopabble Octobia May*  
Puffin, 2014  
A boy and his classmates decide to sabotage the tryouts in the talent show by only offering the third grade's worst magic acts.  
*Age: 6 – 8*

**PICTURE BOOKS**

Beatty, Daniel  
*Knock Knock: My Dad’s Dream for Me*  
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
A strong close loving relationship between father and son is disrupted after he leaves the family to find for themselves.  
*Age: 3 – 6*

Balden, Tonya  
*Beautiful Moon: A Child's Prayers*  
Abrams Books, 2014  
A little boy offers simple prayers for the homeless, the hungry, and others.  
*Age: 4 – 5*

McQuinn, Anna  
*Lego Loves Baby Time*  
Charlesbridge, 2014  
Mother and son enjoy quiet moments during story time.  
*Age: 4 – 5*

Warner, Sally  
*EllRay Jakes Is Magic*  
Puffin, 2014  
A boy and his classmates decide to sabotage the tryouts in the talent show by only offering the third grade's worst magic acts.  
*Age: 6 – 8*

Kanefeld, Teri  
*The Girl from the Tar Paper School: Barbara Rose Johns and the Advent of the Civil Rights Movement*  
Harry N. Abrams; , 2014  
In 1951, the unfair conditions in a segregated high school led to the first public protest demanding racial equality.  
*Age: 9 – 13*

Mullenbach, Cheryl  
*Double Victory: How African American Women Broke Race Gender Barriers to Help Win World War II*  
Chicago Press, 2013  
An overview of the efforts of women of color who integrated the workforce in military positions during World War II.  
*Age: 10 – 12*

**STAT #5: Most Valuable (STAT: Standing Tall and Talented)**

Woodson, Jacqueline  
*Brown Girl Dreaming*  
Penguin Group, 2014  
Author shares her life experiences growing up in the 60s & 70s during the Jim Crow era in prose.

Wyckoff, Britt Edwin  
*The African-American Heart Surgery Pioneer: The Genius of Vivien Thomas (Genius Inventors and Their Great Ideas)*  
Enslow Elementary, 2013  
History of the first person of color without a doctorate to perform open heart surgery on a white patient in America.  
*Age: 10 & up*
YOUTH BOOKS (con't)

JUVENILE BIOGRAPHY

Benson, Kathleen
Draw What You See: The Life and Art of Benny Andrews
Clanton Books, 2015
Finding inspiration from his childhood drawings of workers in southern cotton fields, despite hardships and struggles his work is finally accepted.
Age: 4 – 8

DePrince, Michaela
Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina
Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2014
A candid description of the physical and emotional struggles of becoming a high – performing classical ballerina dancer.
Age: 12 & up

Greenly, Larry
Eugene Bullard: World’s First Black Fighter Pilot
NewSouth Books, 2013
The story of an aviator’s life from birth to his combat experiences in World War I and II.
Age: 10 – 13

Nolan, Nina
Mahalia Jackson: Walking with Kings and Queens
NewSouth Books, 2013
A tribute to an artist of exceptional musical talent and determination.
Age: 8 – 10

Norwich, Grace
I Am #12 LeBron James
Scholastic, 2014
An account of one of the best basketball players of all times.
Age: 3 – 7

Ransome-Cline, Lesa
My Name Is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth
Atheneum Books, 2014
A historical biographical offering of the life of an activist, educator, and speaker.
Age: 6 – 10

Turner, Ann
My Name Is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth
HarperCollins, 2015
A historical biographical offering of the life of an activist, educator, and speaker.
Age: 6 – 10

Weaver, Todd
Kings and Queens
Holiday House, 2014
A tribute to an artist of exceptional musical talent and determination.
Age: 8 – 10

Weatherford, Barton Carole
Leontyne Price: Voice of a Century
Knopf, 2014
The life of a ground breaking opera singer from the segregated South.
Age: 5 – 9

TEEN FICTION

Alexander, Kwame
The Crossover
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014
True stories of how two famous basketball players of all times.
Age: 12 & up

Sewell, Earl
Boyfriend Shopping
Harlequin, 2014
A young girl must risk falling in romance as part of the everyday experiences for some young teens of color.
Age: 12 & up

Moore, Stephanie Perry
The Sharp Sisters: Something of It
Saddleback Publishing, 2014
Successful singer/songwriter works to maintain college status and relationships with friends and family.
Age: 14 & Up

Grovehill Giants, Book 4
Moore, Derrick
Saddleback Publishing, 2014
Sixteen year old Jessie is confronted with family problems, homosexual parents, and a biracial complex.
Age: 14 & Up

Grimmett, Todd
The Who Leaves a Trail of Glitter Is Never Forgotten
Candlewick, 2015
A fictionalized first–person narrative of moments in the life of a famous icon.
Age: 10 – 14

Williams, Julie
Drama Queens in the House
Roaring Brook Press, 2014
A young girl must risk falling in romance as part of the everyday experiences for some young teens of color.
Age: 12 & up

Reid, Kimberly
A Langston Prep Mystery
Saddleback Publishing, 2014
Daughters of political candidate try to find their individuality.
Age: 14 & Up

Nia-vi, Abrams, Amir
Hollywood High: Put Your Diamonds Up
Hollywood High: Lights, Love and Lip Gloss
Kensington Publishing Corporation, 2014
Rich, pampered young diva compete to be on top.
Age: 14 & Up

Gottsefeld, Jeff
Campus Confessions: Fraternity
Kensington Publishing Corporation, 2014
Successful singer/songwriter works to maintain college status and relationships with friends and family.
Age: 14 & Up

London, Kelli
Beware Of Boys: Charly’s Epic Fiasco
Hollywood High: Lights, Love and Lip Gloss
Kensington Publishing Corporation, 2014
Rich, pampered young diva compete to be on top.
Age: 14 & Up

Moore, Stephanie Perry & Moore, Derrick
Scream Loud/quiet Strength: Grovehill Giants, Book 3
Saddleback Publishing, 2014
Sixteen year old Jessie is confronted with family problems, homosexual parents, and a biracial complex.
Age: 14 & Up

Moore, Stephanie Perry & Moore, Derrick
Real As It Gets: Rumor Central
Kensington Publishing Corporation, 2014
Successful singer/songwriter works to maintain college status and relationships with friends and family.
Age: 14 & Up

Billingsley, Reshonda Tate
Real As It Gets: Rumor Central
Kensington Publishing Corporation, 2014
Successful singer/songwriter works to maintain college status and relationships with friends and family.
Age: 14 & Up
## 2015 CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</td>
<td>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</td>
<td>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</td>
<td>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</td>
<td>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 30 31</td>
<td>29 30 31</td>
<td>29 30 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</td>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</td>
<td>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
<td>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 27 28 29 30</td>
<td>26 27 28 29 30</td>
<td>26 27 28 29 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</td>
<td>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</td>
<td>7 8 9 10 11 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
<td>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
<td>14 15 16 17 18 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</td>
<td>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</td>
<td>21 22 23 24 25 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 29 30 31</td>
<td>28 29 30 31</td>
<td>28 29 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
<td>S M T W T F S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
<td>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</td>
<td>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</td>
<td>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</td>
<td>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</td>
<td>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>29 30</td>
<td>29 30 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IMPORTANT MILESTONES

- **BOOKMOBILE: 75 YEARS**
  - 1940-2015
- **BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION: 100 YEARS**
  - 1915-2015
- **DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY: 150 YEARS**
  - 1865-2015
- **JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS: 50 YEARS**
  - 1965-2015
DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION

Carole Jasper Quarterman, President
Victoria Inniss-Edwards, Vice-President
Jean-Vierre Adams, Secretary
Franklin G. Jackson
Judge Edward M. Thomas

Herman Davis, Ex-Officio

Jo Anne G. Mondowney
Executive Director

FUNDDED BY
THE DETROIT LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

WWW.DETROITPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG