

Spring 2022 Newsletter



Introduction

A Message from the Chair, Priscilla Dickerson

Greetings,

I'd like to express my gratitude to each of you as we continue to work together to further the mission of our interest group. Thank you for your involvement, collaboration, ideas, suggestions, and most importantly, your commitment. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed because we know and believe that by working together, we can and will make a difference in our library and in our communities.

In this issue, we'd like to announce our call for presentation proposals for the GLA-BC presentation at the Georgia Library Conference. We'd like to recognize you and the work you're doing to make a positive impact on your library community. For further information, please see the Call for Presentation Proposals (Page 2).

Take care of yourselves this summer!

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Need help? Want to contribute? Just need to talk?

We're here! You can reach us at blackcaucus@georgialibraryassociation.org.

Call for Proposals



The GLA Black Caucus (GLA-BC) will present lightning round presentations during the 2022 Georgia Libraries Conference, which will take place in Macon, GA, from October 12th to 14th. In conjunction with this year's conference theme of "You Belong: Because We are Better Together", the GLA-BC will focus on different ways of collaborating in library spaces through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens. We're looking for six speakers to present on a variety of topics, including outreach, mentorship, programming, and internal/external partnerships. Discussions will center around the who, what, when, where, and why of their collaborations, as well as the outcome of their effort to improving library services. **Presenters will give a six-minute presentation followed by a three-minute Q&A.**

Your proposal should:

1. Be between 200 and 250 words long.
2. Clearly outline the content of your presentation as it relates to your topic.
3. Discuss equity, diversity, and inclusion collaborations.
4. Include your name and position title
5. Include your library organization type (ex: academic, public, school, etc.).

Proposals should be emailed to blackcaucus@georgialibraryassociation.org by 11 p.m. EST on Friday, July 8, 2022. Those who have submitted a proposal will hear back from GLA-BC by the first week of September.

Upcoming Events

JUNETEENTH LECTURE SERIES

WITH
DR. KARCHEIK SIMS-ALVARADO
HISTORIAN IN HEELS

BRAVE **NU**



Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, the Historian in Heels, leads a two-part Juneteenth Lecture Series at the Atlanta University Center.

When: June 14th at 10 AM
Learn more [here](#).

REMEMBERING LOVE

A TRIBUTE TO BELL HOOKS

"Love is an action, never simply a feeling"
- bell hooks



MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022

Curated by renowned artist Charmaine Minniefield, this visual homage celebrates the life and legacy of iconic revolutionary writer, professor, feminist, and activist bell hooks.

Learn more [here](#).

Job Postings



Public Engagement/Outreach Services Librarian

The Flint River Regional Library System seeks an innovative full-time Librarian to engage organizations and individuals in the communities and develop and maintain partnerships to meet targeted goals. Find out more [here](#).



Archival Assistant - DeKalb History Center

This is an entry level position. The ideal candidate will have good research, writing, clerical, organizational and cataloguing skills. Find out more [here](#).



Collections and Resource Management Librarian

Reporting to the Director of Library Services, the Collections and Resource Management Librarian is responsible for managing the development and maintenance of the Hightower Library resources. Find out more [here](#).

Spotlight On: A 2022 MLIS Graduate



Lisa D. Randolph

Lisa Randolph is a 2022 graduate of Florida State University's School of Communication and Information. She graduated with a Master of Library Science and a Youth Services certificate.

What was your favorite class during grad school?

My favorite class was Graphic Novels, I'm a big kid at heart. My favorite project and interaction were with the last two classes I took, Grant Writing and Health Consumer Informatics. I gained friendships from both classes. After the class was over, we got together in person and had a blast. I also loved the Introduction to Information Technology class. I learned things about technology that I would love to teach to others in a classroom setting.

What is your biggest takeaway from pursuing your MLIS?

Stay the course, even through sickness (hospitalized twice), death (lost a few family members during COVID), money problems (ran out of Financial Aid and had to pay out of pocket for the rest of the program,) and working (full time at my public library).

What would you like to do after graduation?

I really would like to work as a Librarian in an academic setting or with a school. For now, I have worked in my present position at the public library for 13 years and with government as a Human Resources Specialist for 7 years. So, I have been working with Fulton County Government for a total of 21 years as this year. I had to go back to advance from Library Associate in the Library System.

Do you have any advice for future grads?

Never give up! I would like to encourage anyone to pursue the position you want no matter what. If you want to be a Librarian bad enough no obstacle or age will stand in your way. Many nights I was so tired, I had to do my homework to midnight, get up go to work then, work on my schoolwork some more.

Is there anything else that you would like to mention?

I was working as Library Associate. One day, I had already reached the 10-year mark working the same position. I decided if not now, when do I go back to school to get my Library degree? Why not do it? I loved the challenge and studying and working with younger people gave me the drive to finish. They gave me much love and respect! Do not wait too long! Life is too short to wonder what if. As Nike says, "Just Do It!"

In the News



Article:

"Why are Ohio libraries breaking up their African American collections?"

Read more [here](#).

"The concern for some is that African American Fiction sections are "othering" and marginalizing Black authors, doing a disservice to readers because they do not reflect the breadth of books by Black writers."



Library Journal names Marquita Gooch-Voyd a 2022 Mover and Shaker

Learn more about this Innovator [here](#).

Helpful Resources



Justice, Power, & Voter Engagement in Libraries

A recorded [webinar](#).



Cobb County Pride Month Book List

June is Pride Month! Show your support with [these books](#) that celebrate diversity, community, inclusivity, and understanding!



BCALA Career Center

This [website](#) is a resource that lists jobs from all over the country.

What's on the Shelf?



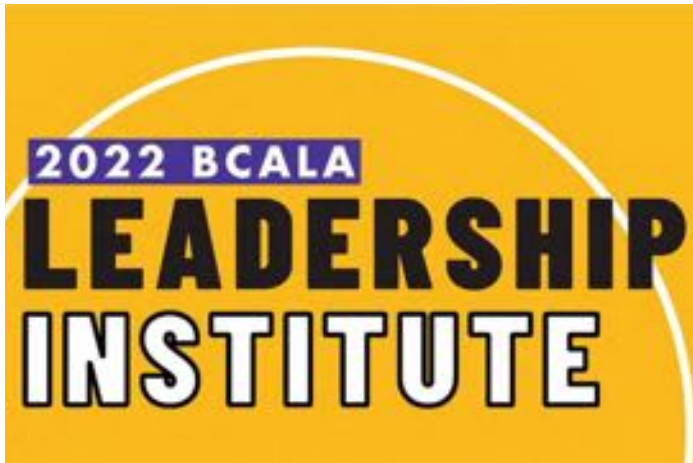
Review of *Crying in H Mart* by Gina Martin

My book club selected the book. I really enjoyed it, although it was a sad topic that hit close to home. It is about a young woman who loses her mother to cancer and holds tight to her memories of her mother in making and eating traditional Korean dishes that reminds her of her childhood.

My mother died when I was 16 years old. I can relate to finding a connection to my mother by making her recipes and sharing them with my daughters along with the stories from my childhood. I finished the book and enjoyed the author's ability to tell her story so intimately. I recommend it to those who enjoy reading non-fiction and learning about different cultures. I think everyone can relate to the emotion attached to the meals that bring their families together, that singular taste that reminds you of a person, place or occasion and the smile or tears that come when you take that first bite.

Would you like to be featured in "What's on the Shelf?"
Fill out this [simple form](#) and we will happily connect with you!

Recap: BCALA's Leadership Institute



From Tuesday, April 12th to Thursday, April 14th, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association held a Leadership Institute for black MLIS students and early career professionals. The goal of this institute was to "enrich and empower you to achieve your personal and professional leadership goals." Prominent figures such as Tracie Hall, who is the Executive Director of the American Library Association (and the first black woman to have the position since its founding in 1876), spoke on a myriad of different issues, from how to present your best self during the hiring process to the dire need to close the digital divide--especially in BIPOC communities.

Attendees were able to mingle with leaders from many different fields and backgrounds and get advice, commiseration, and good conversation. As an early career professional myself, it was an honor and a privilege to be surrounded by so much knowledge. The fact that BCALA provided funding for the hotel and several meals made the program very accessible for me. Plus, the accommodations were NICE. Attendees were put up in the same hotel where the institute was held, which was the 21c Museum and Hotel in Durham, NC. It was amazing to be able to finish up the sessions for the day and explore the city of Durham with a group of black library workers and talk about what we do.

After the institute was over, one of the attendees, Chyna Leocardio, started a [Discord](#) server for BIPOC Library students and librarians called [Legacy Librarians](#). I encourage you to not only join us there, but also to [keep up with BCALA's](#) future opportunities by [becoming a member](#). I personally almost missed out on this great opportunity--there's no need for you to.

