



**BLK AUTHOR**

**EXPO**

**BRINGING AUTHORS & READERS TOGETHER**

**SUITLAND**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2024**



## about this artwork

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This artwork, titled **Oshun's Hand**, is inspired by the West African deity Oshun, the orisha of rivers, fertility, love, and sensuality. Known for her deep connection to fresh waters and her love of honey, Oshun is honored with honey offerings by those seeking to connect with her. This piece visually captures the essence of Oshun through a hand dripping with honey, symbolizing her sweetness and power. Created to celebrate the beauty of African culture and mythology, Oshun's Hand invites viewers to explore the richness of West African spiritual traditions.



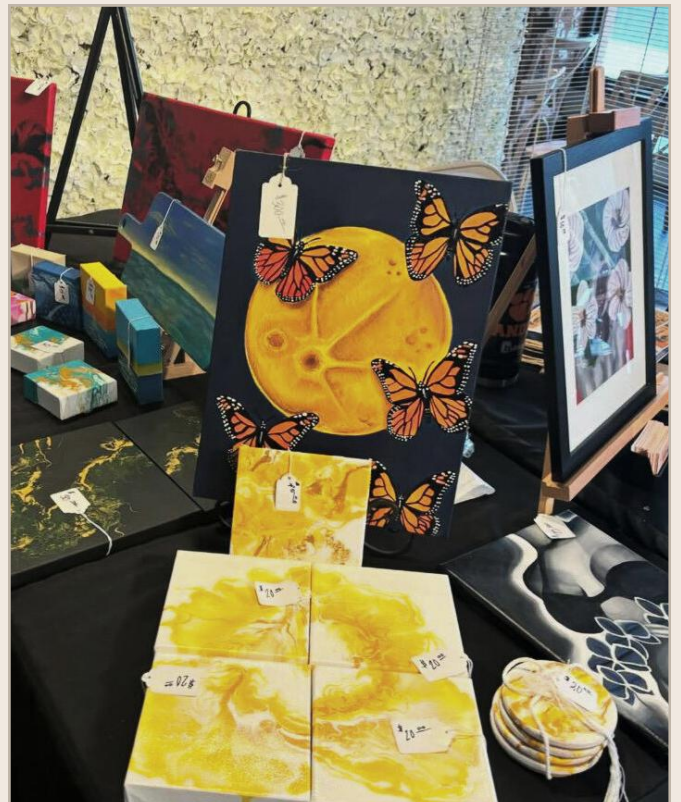


artist  
**andre  
griffin**

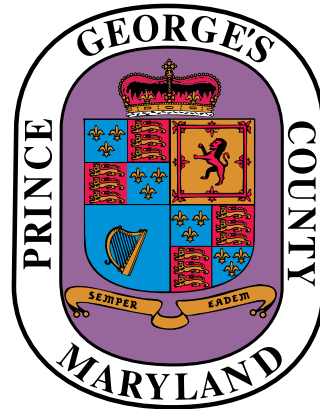
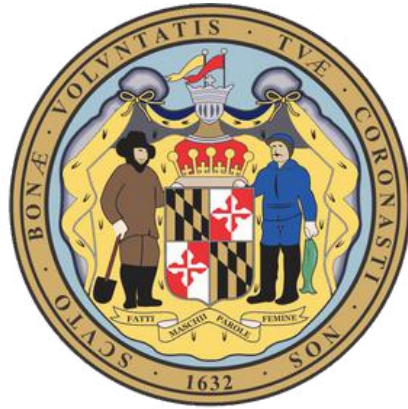


**bold.  
cultural.  
abstract.**

**AG ARTISTRY, LLC**  
**@agartistry.llc**



# WELCOME TO SUITLAND, MD



THE STATE OF MARYLAND

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

THE CITY OF SUITLAND

WELCOME YOU TO

**BLK AUTHOR**

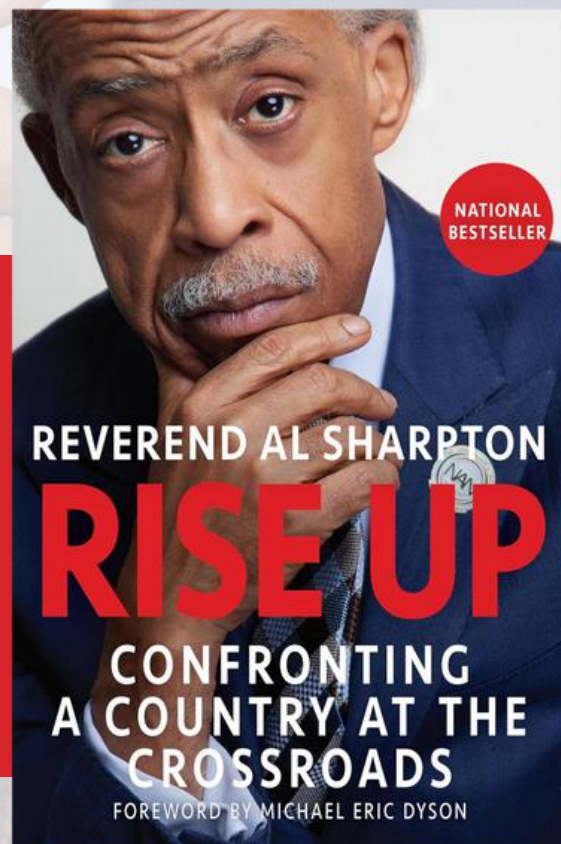
**EXPO**

**BRINGING AUTHORS & READERS TOGETHER**  
**SUITLAND**



*Special Thank You*

**REVEREND AL SHARPTON  
FOR DONATING AUTOGRAPHED  
COPIES OF HIS BOOK  
TO THE BLK AUTHOR EXPO**



NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.  
CHAIR

ANDREA FLETCHER HARRISON  
1ST VICE CHAIR

KEVIN M. HARRIS  
2ND VICE CHAIR



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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DELEGATION



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DENI TAVERAS  
KYM TAYLOR  
KAREN TOLES  
VERONICA TURNER  
KRISSELDA VALDERRAMA  
JAMILA J. WOODS  

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STAFF  
LATOSHA COLEMAN  
DYLAN HARVEY

On behalf of our Delegation,

We are happy to welcome you to the BLK Author Expo, hosted within our very own Prince George's County. This event offers our community exposure to literary works created by African Americans of diverse backgrounds and experiences, which helps highlight the value of reading through their extensive and varied showcase. Further, by providing the platform to showcase the rich narratives crafted by African American authors, the expo creates the opportunity to foster critical conversations amongst the members of our county. As you've taken the opportunity to participate in this event, we sincerely thank you, as taking the time to enlighten and uplift yourself serves to brighten and uplift your community as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Williams".

Nicole A. Williams, Esq.,  
Chair, Prince George's County House Delegation



ANDREA FLETCHER HARRISON  
*Legislative District 24*  
Prince George's County

Economic Matters Committee

*Subcommittees*

Alcoholic Beverages

Banking, Consumer Protection,  
and Commercial Law

Worker's Compensation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 207  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3919 · 410-841-3919  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3919  
AndreaFletcher.Harrison@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



Greetings and welcome to the BLK Author Expo at Creative Suitland!

I am excited that BookButler Publishing Company (BBPC) is hosting this wonderful event again in Prince George's County, especially in my district. I applaud their efforts to educate our community about the literary contributions of a myriad of authors, including those from our local communities, and the value of literacy/literature. Our partnership will permeate this community and enable both young readers and adults alike to appreciate the value of reading.

Thanks for your attendance and enthusiastic participation to our citizens, guests, and friends, who have joined us for the Expo. Your involvement demonstrates the desire and appreciation for events that enlighten and promote excellence in our community as worthwhile.

Enjoy the Expo and please join us for future events.

With gratitude and service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea C. Harrison".

Delegate Andrea Harrison

Prince George's County, District 24

JAMILA J. WOODS  
Legislative District 26  
Prince George's County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 206  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3544 · 301-858-3544  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3544  
Jamila.Woods@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



It gives me great pleasure to welcome the BLK Author Expo to the Creative Suitland Arts Center, here in Suitland, Maryland. Special thanks to BookButler Publishing Company (BBPC) for hosting this wonderful event in Prince George's County. I applaud the efforts to educate our community about the literary contributions of a myriad of authors and the value of literacy/literature.

I welcome an opportunity to collaborate, educate and empower this community, enabling both young readers and adults alike to appreciate the value of reading. To our constituents, guests, and friends, attending the Expo, thank you for your attendance and enthusiastic participation. Your involvement demonstrates your desire, appreciation and commitment to fostering events that enlighten and promote excellence in our community.

Enjoy the Expo and please join us for future events.

Sincerely,

*Jamila J. Woods*



JULIAN IVEY  
*Legislative District 47A*  
Prince George's County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Oversight Committee on Personnel

*Vice Chair*

Public Safety and Administration



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 205  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3326 · 301-858-3326  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3326  
Julian.Ivey@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



Welcome to the 2024 BLK Author Expo,

I am thrilled that BookButler Publishing Company (BBPC) has chosen to host this impactful event once again in Prince George's County.

Reading is a powerful tool for expanding minds, fostering creativity, and cultivating a lifelong love of learning. By making reading accessible and exciting, we inspire the next generation to explore, imagine, and grow. This expo is an opportunity to celebrate the literary contributions of local authors and connect with them.

To all participants and guests joining us for the expo, your involvement signifies the desire for and appreciation of events that enlighten and promote excellence in our community.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Ivey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

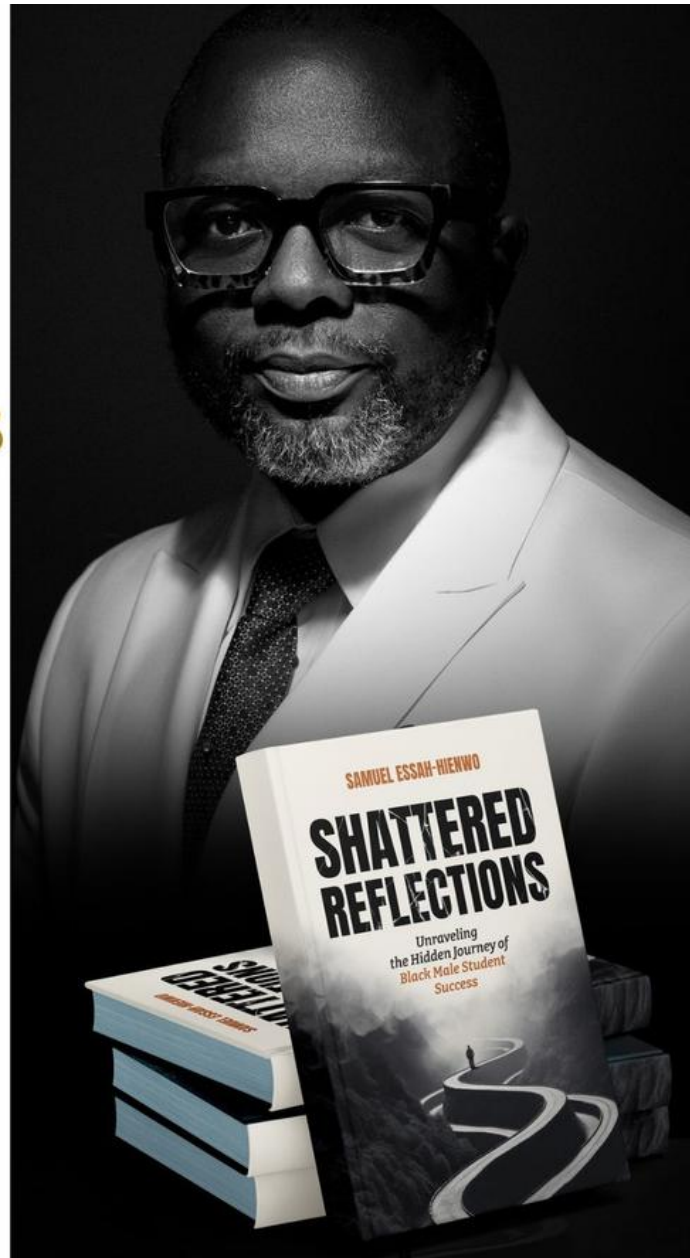
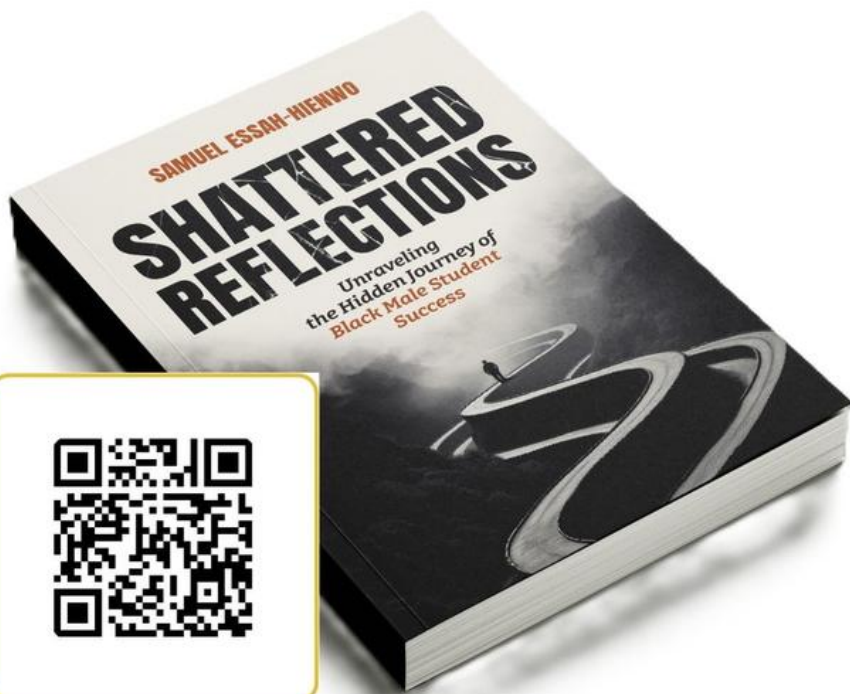
Delegate Julian Ivey Maryland House of  
Delegates, District 47A

# DR. SAMUEL ESSAH-HIENWO

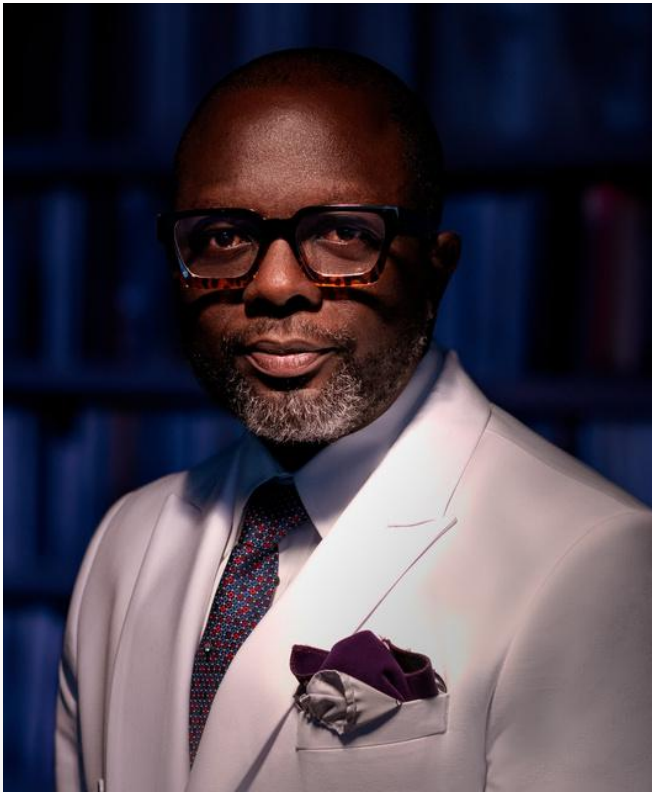


## Empowering Black Male Student Success

WITH SHATTERED REFLECTIONS







## Dr. Samuel Essah-Hienwo

Shattered Reflections shares the inspiring true story of Dr. Samuel Essah-Hienwo, a passionate academic and social reform advocate dedicated to breaking barriers and creating equitable opportunities for minority male students. Born in Ghana, Dr. Essah-Hienwo's commitment to education and systemic reform has made him a beacon of hope for marginalized communities, both in his homeland and abroad.

His journey began in Kumasi, Ghana, where, despite challenging odds, Samuel was motivated by the wisdom and resilience of his parents. He worked tirelessly to pursue higher education earning a degree

in Integrated Rural Arts and Industry at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. As he deepened his understanding of the issues minority students face, he recognized that systemic inequities extended far beyond his country.

Seeking further education in the United States, Samuel faced new challenges in navigating the complexities of race, education, and opportunity. He earned an MBA in Healthcare Administration and a Ph.D. in Public Policy Administration from Walden University, focusing on educational policy reform. As his influence in academia grew, Samuel emerged as a leading advocate for minority male students, conducting pioneering research on Black male student success and championing institutional change.

Through his work in college administration, Samuel has become a key figure in recruiting and retaining minority students. His story also offers intimate glimpses of his personal life, revealing his strong partnership with his wife, Wendy, and their shared commitment to raising their four children while driving positive change. Dr. Essah-Hienwo's journey paints a powerful picture of a man using his experiences as a catalyst for global reform, lifting others as he transforms the educational landscape.



***Proud Sponsor of BLK Author Expo Suitland***



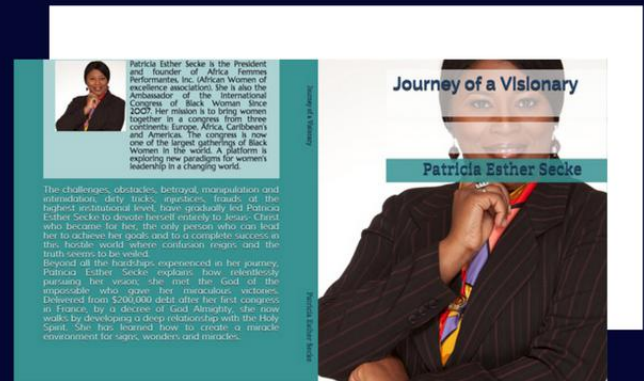


# JOURNEY OF A VISIONARY

## An Inspiring Journey of Faith, Resilience, and Reconnection.

### Journey of a Visionary

This captivating memoir takes you through Patricia Secke's personal journey of overcoming challenges, betrayal, and institutional injustices. With unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, she found the strength to rise above these obstacles and achieve her dreams. A story of inspiration, spiritual growth, and resilience in a world where truth often feels veiled.



### Echoes of Our Ancestors: A Journey Through Central Africa's Slave Routes

Explore the rich history of 8 Central African countries in this series tracing the African past, slave routes, and cultural heritage. Through these pamphlets, readers embark on a journey to reconnect with their roots, uncover the past, understand the present, and build a brighter future. This collection is an essential guide for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of African history and heritage.



Follow [patriciaaesther.secke.3](https://www.instagram.com/patriciaaesther.secke.3)

**2403981093**  
Get Your Copy Today!  
[patricia.secke@outlook.com](mailto:patricia.secke@outlook.com)



# Patricia Esther Secke



Founder and President  
**Africa Femmes Performantes, Inc. USA**

**"Actions speak louder than words."**

Patricia Secke, originally from Cameroon, is a passionate advocate for reconnecting people of African descent with their roots and history. She has organized 16 International Congresses across Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, and America, earning recognition as the Ambassador of the International Congress of African Women.

In 2021, she co-founded Okema Global Return, facilitating Afro-descendants' reconnection to Africa and supporting investment in agriculture and healthcare. Her mission is to strengthen historic and economic ties between Africa, the Americas, and the Caribbean.

Patricia is the author of four books and a series of 20 pamphlets that trace African history and the slave routes in Central Africa. Her work educates and invites the African Diaspora to embark on a journey of reconnection with their roots and culture, empowering them to understand their past and build a brighter and stronger future.

Contact:

[Patricia.secke@outlook.com](mailto:Patricia.secke@outlook.com)

[www.okemaglobalreturn.org](http://www.okemaglobalreturn.org)

[www.congresfemmeafricaine.org](http://www.congresfemmeafricaine.org) (français)

[www.globalbusinessnetwork.info](http://www.globalbusinessnetwork.info)

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# HEROES OF HOPE

[www.spiritthedragonfly.com](http://www.spiritthedragonfly.com)  
Moe Grace



Helping children, families, and communities navigate



# GRIEF LOSS HOPE





# Moe Grace

## Igniting Transformation and Empowering Lives

Moe Grace, a Navy veteran turned transformative therapist, is committed to helping people shatter the barriers that keep them from realizing their fullest potential. With a mission rooted in resilience, Moe brings the discipline of military life and a profound understanding of the human spirit to empower individuals facing life's most difficult moments.

Following a distinguished military career, Moe felt a calling to serve in a new way. With a deep compassion for others and an unyielding drive to bring healing, Moe transitioned to therapy, equipping clients with the tools to break free from learned behaviors and societal pressures that stifle growth. At Motivate With Grace Counseling Services, Moe provides transformative support

for those feeling trapped or uncertain, empowering each individual to reclaim their journey with strength and purpose.

Central to Moe's approach is the question, "Who are you?"—a powerful prompt that encourages clients to explore identity, self-worth, and intrinsic value. This introspective process, paired with Moe's unwavering empathy, helps individuals find clarity, renew their self-worth, and courageously step forward into a life aligned with their true potential.

Moe's dedication extends beyond the therapy room, with active advocacy for mental health and trauma healing within communities. Through outreach, workshops, and Moe's forthcoming children's book *Becoming*, featuring the character Spirit the Dragonfly, Moe champions messages of love, hope, and resilience. *Becoming* is not just a story; it's a movement, a vision of healing that aims to uplift and empower children facing trauma.

As a leader in the mental health community and a beacon for transformative growth, Moe Grace is committed to sowing hope, one life at a time. Together, we can create a world where healing, growth, and resilience flourish, transcending adversity with grace and courage.

Join the movement—let's build a brighter tomorrow. [www.spiritthedragonfly.com](http://www.spiritthedragonfly.com)



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LitStar Book Awards | Michial's Cakes & Catering**



**Dr. Samuel Essah-Hienwo | Moe Grace  
Patricia Esther Secke**



**A&M Designs**

**Nolyne Publishing**

**Creative Suitland**



**SPONSORS**



### **SPONSORING AUTHORS**

Dr. Samuel Essah-Hienwo  
Moe Grace  
Patricia Esther Secke

### **FEATURED AUTHORS**

Alicia J. Evans  
April Goodwin-Gill  
AW Jackson  
Carthornia Kouroupos  
Craig A. Robinson  
Dane C. Hawkins  
Danielle N. Hall  
Danita Lynne  
Doris O. Cole  
Dr. Briana DeNeal-Findley  
Dr. Chichi Nwajei  
Dr. Rasheeda Arthur  
Edward Roy  
Gabriel Hamilton  
J Anthony Simmons  
James T. Hargrove  
Jessica Barnes  
Kai Jae  
Lauri Williamson  
Leila Butler  
Leslie R. Green  
Lisa R. Thomas  
Marco Montero  
Michael Ukoha  
Nalani Butler  
Nikki Davenport  
Racine Smith Williams  
Rev. Debra R. Bell  
Robert Hearne III  
Ruth Redmond  
Sherrita Berry-Pettus  
Sherry V. Epps  
Stephanie Randle  
TA Broady  
Tamika LeRay  
Wanda Russell  
Yvonne Balentine-Harris

### **EXHIBITING AUTHORS**

Chris Gamble  
Consuella Renay  
Dr. Beverly Allen-Hardy  
Dr. Tina Figueroa-Roach  
Freddie Rodgers Simmons  
Karen Bowlding  
Kathy Anderson  
Katrina  
Kevin L. Bouyer  
Kim C. Lee  
Leetress M. Burris  
Melanie D. West  
Millie Heyward (Emily Meggett)  
Nikki Pritchett-Johnson  
Ronesha Dennis  
Steven A. Butler Jr.  
Wendy T. Johnson

### **PRESENTING AUTHORS**

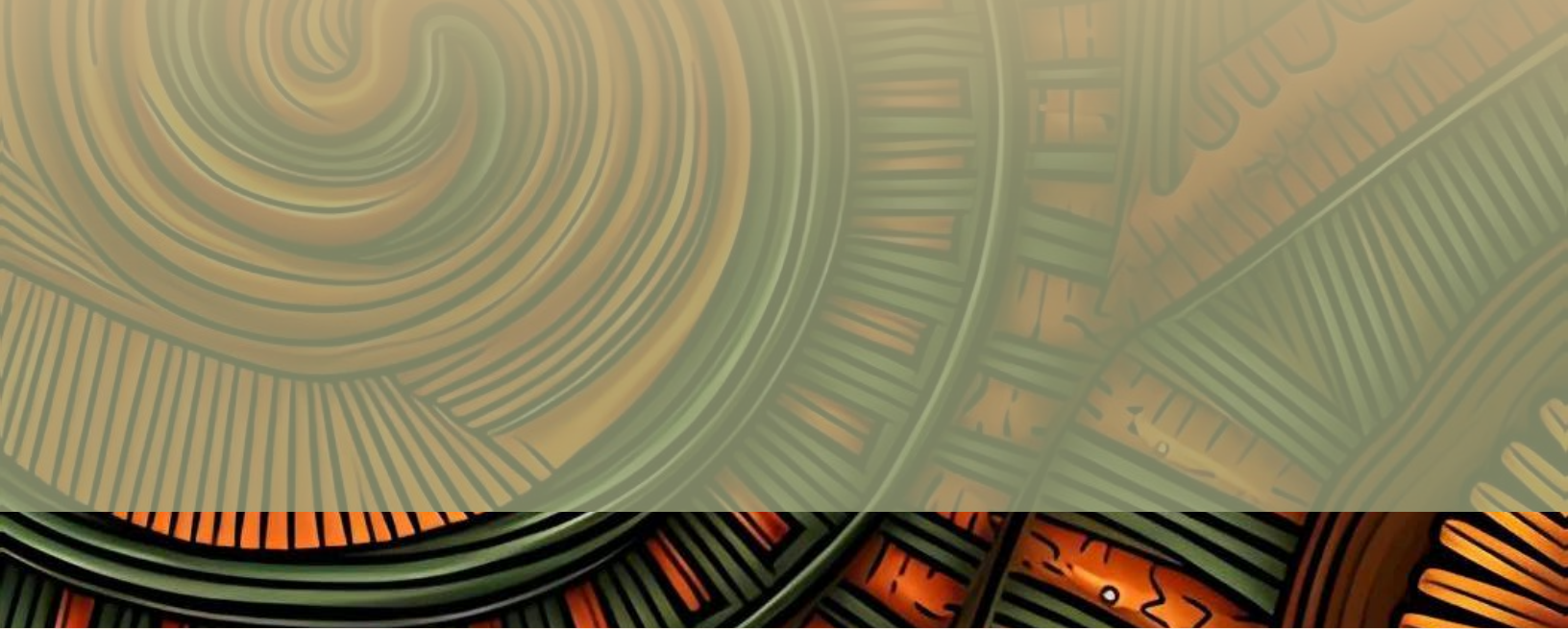
Alicia J. Evans  
Danita Lynne  
Dr. Jayé Wood  
Edward Roy  
Freddie Rodgers Simmons  
Graemme Denyce Boone  
Kenneth Whittington  
Nicole Lanier Montez  
Nikki Davenport  
Wanda Russell

### **RETAIL VENDORS**

A&M Designs  
Made by Maris J  
LaVie Natural  
MaMa Duke's  
Precious Armour Jewelry  
Wyldflower Beyond

**PARTICIPANTS**

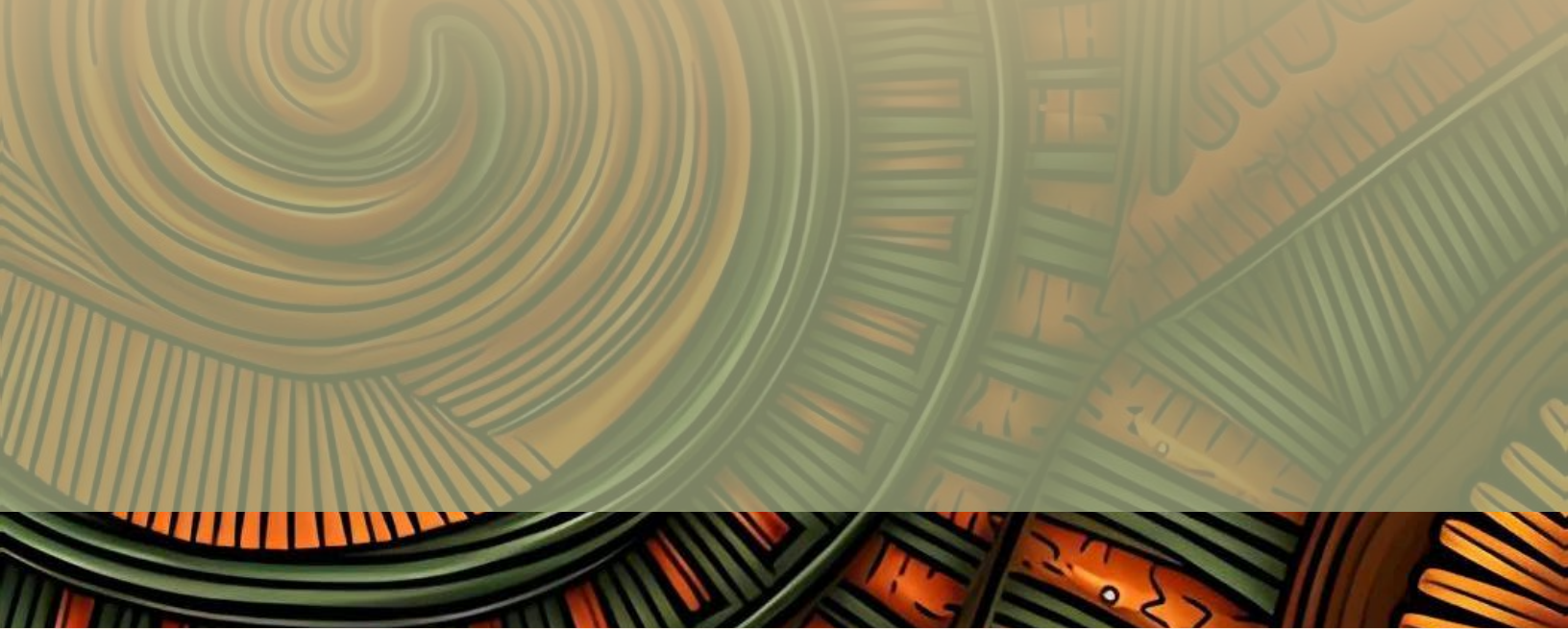




**BLK AUTHOR  
EXPO**  
BRINGING AUTHORS & READERS TOGETHER  
**SUITLAND**







# Featured Authors





# Nalani & Leila Butler



Award-winning authors **Nalani and Leila Butler** embarked on their literary journey at a young age, penning their first book, *Paige Saves the Day*, while in fifth and sixth grade. Now excelling as top-performing university students, they have remained passionate about writing. Their works address essential topics for children, including bullying, friendship, communication, and self-image, aligning with the publishing company's mission of "publishing with purpose." With a growing repertoire, Nalani and Leila aim to inspire readers across all age groups with meaningful, purpose-driven storytelling.

[thebookbutler.com/nalani-leila-butler](http://thebookbutler.com/nalani-leila-butler)

A gold laurel wreath badge with a crown at the top and a ribbon at the bottom. The text "AWARD WINNING AUTHORS" is written in a serif font inside the wreath.

AWARD  
WINNING  
AUTHORS



# Marco Montero

Award-winning author **Marco Montero** is a middle school-aged student in Virginia. After contributing to his older sister's second book, *Paige's Super Friends*, Marco was excited to co-author a book with them when he was in 3rd grade. His third book has been released, and he looks forward to writing more in the future.

Marco is also an athlete. He has won multiple wrestling titles and a championship with his football team.

[thebookbutler.com/marco-montero](http://thebookbutler.com/marco-montero)



AWARD  
WINNING  
AUTHOR



# Edward Roy



Born in Grady Hospital Atlanta, Georgia on a windy day in March of 1945 to Erma L. Hill; a loving single mother. This spoiled child learned at an early age how to use America's wicked racial policies for his own advantage. Raised in Harlem, he escaped the rabid call of its streets guided by a determined mother who refused to allow the streets to consume him. Mentored by Malcolm X and others, he graduated high school, enlisted in the US Army's Medical Corps, graduated college with the help of his mother's celebrated Number Business. Now, an author and retired from corporate America, he has been married for fifty-three years to Dale P. Galiber-Hill with two children and nine grandchildren.

He says, "I no longer play numbers on 115th Street, now I play numbers on Wall Street."

**Facebook:** [edward.roy.73@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/edward.roy.73)

**Instagram:** [bulletsinthefire.1](https://www.instagram.com/bulletsinthefire.1)

**Tic-Tok:** [bulletsinthefire.1](https://www.tiktok.com/@bulletsinthefire.1) 917 687-3282

**X (Twitter):** [edward roy@pvtroy](https://twitter.com/edward_roy)

AWARD  
WINNING  
AUTHOR



# T.A Broady

**T.A. Broady** is the visionary behind Creatively Inspired, LLC, a company born from her passion for writing. After the loss of her mother in 2018, T.A. pursued opportunities to write for e-magazines, create motivational videos, and reflect on her emotions through journaling. During the 2020 pandemic, she channeled her thoughts into poetry, using solitude to strengthen her faith and creativity. A writer, poet, and motivational speaker, she is also the creator of the *Reaching New Heights - 60-Day Affirmation Writing Plan*. T.A. holds a Bachelor's in Journalism/Public Relations from Norfolk State University and a Master's in Human Resources Management from Troy State University. She continues to inspire through her YouTube channel and creative work.

**Facebook: Creatively Inspired**

**Instagram: CreativelyInspired**





# Michael Ukoha



**Michael Ukoha** is a 1st generation Nigerian American with family origins in Ebem Ohafia Nigeria. Currently, residing in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area, Michael is a 2024 International Firebird Book Award winner for *Cruz's Cars*. A multifaceted physical therapist with a love of cars and his family, I wrote this children's book to capture a moment in time from my family to yours. A moment centered on bringing a smile to young readers and their families. "I hope you enjoy this story and this moment. Let's Ride!"

[cruzscars.com](http://cruzscars.com)

A gold laurel wreath badge with a crown at the top and a ribbon at the bottom. The text inside the wreath reads "AWARD WINNING AUTHOR" and "TOP" is written on the ribbon.

AWARD  
WINNING  
AUTHOR  
TOP



# Kai Jae

**Kai Jae**, a writer, actor, and lover of all things creative, is a fifth-generation Washingtonian and native of the District of Columbia who strives to be all that God intends for her to be. For years, she struggled with negative thinking and self-doubt, until one day, she decided to make herself uncomfortable. She stepped out of her comfort zone and truly explored the desires of her heart, including writing this inaugural novel, *40 and Waiting*. A graduate of Dartmouth College and Howard University, Kai Jae holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Public Administration.

[welldonepublishing.com](http://welldonepublishing.com)





# April Goodwin-Gill



**April Goodwin-Gill** is an Army veteran and highly respected DC area artist. She has won recognition and awards at the local and national levels. And unselfishly supports wellness and health in her community through her kindness, artwork, and creativity.

**[vetsinprint.com/aprilgoodwingill](https://vetsinprint.com/aprilgoodwingill)**



# AW Jackson

**AW Jackson** has been writing for over a decade and his interest in poetry sparked in high school after taking a poetry class. Since then he has fallen in love with poetry and writing in general. He is from Waldorf, MD. AW wrote his two published poetry books in hopes that the readers will use them as a tool to help guide to self-discovery. “I wrote these books to help people get through any difficult experiences they face in life. The intention is to help motivate the reader to believe in themselves.”

**Instagram: [williamthughts](#)**





# Ruth Redmond



**Ruth Redmond** is a former 27-year DC Firefighter, Breast Cancer Survivor, and Author of an inspirational memoir titled *Within the Fire, I Found My Voice*. Ruth is a native Washingtonian, mother of three daughters, and a fun-loving, energetic grandmother. She had a 27-year career with the DC Fire & EMS department before retiring. Her memoir reflects on her personal life and health challenges, detailing how these obstacles were accepted and overcome, including a breast cancer diagnosis while employed with the fire department.

**Facebook:** [ruth.cade.3](https://www.facebook.com/ruth.cade.3)



# Wanda Russell

**Wanda Russell** is a seasoned business professional with over 25 years of experience as a Financial Analyst, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of a Financial Education Consulting Enterprise, a former financial columnist for a weekly newspaper, and owner of a clothing & product line promoting high achievement she founded in partnership with her son. In Real Estate, she is an acclaimed, award-winning Realtor® with a top-ranked brokerage in DC, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia and a long-time member of many regional associations.

[mydualcareer.com](http://mydualcareer.com)





# Dane C. Hawkins



**Dane C. Hawkins** is a debut author and proud double graduate of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. Rooted in Washington D.C. while also spending a decade of his formative years in North Carolina, he aims to provide the unique perspective of both “Big City USA” and “Small Town America” while maintaining genuine black experiences in his writing. His passion lies in highlighting black culture in the face of stereotypes to explore the authentic motives behind characters’ actions. An avid comic reader since the age of 5, his strong imagination allows broad interest in writing stories across multiple genres.

**Instagram: [author\\_danehawkins](#)**



# Danita Lynne

**Danita Lynne** is an English professor, sign language interpreter, corporate trainer, voice artist, forgiveness advocate, and author. She owns English & Sign Language Masters, LLC, in Prince George's County. She is driven by her passion for languages and communication. Her ASL@Work courses improve workplace communication between hearing and deaf employees, covering basic ASL, deaf culture, and working with interpreters. Danita also authored *Top 10 Secrets of Contracting a Sign Language Interpreter* and *The Other Side of Unforgiveness*, expanding her corporate work to include conflict resolution. She enjoys live music, traveling, and is a single mom and caregiver for her mother.

**DanitaLynne.com**

**Instagram: @DLynneSpeaks**

**Facebook: @Danita Lynne**





# J. Anthony Simmons



The multifaceted, **J. Anthony Simmons** life and ministry are deeply rooted in music and faith. From the age of 7, he has been immersed in music, honing his talents which have led him to perform alongside notable artists such as Lauren Hill, Karen Clark Sheard, and Hezekiah Walker. His musical journey has taken him to prestigious venues and platforms including theaters, movie scenes, talk shows like *The View*, and competitions like *Star Search*. Beyond his musical accomplishments, Anthony is an author, preacher, and the founder of Agape Global Ministries, where he passionately spreads the Gospel through both music and preaching. His international ministry has touched lives across Europe and beyond, including performances in notable locations such as The Blue Note in Milan and live television at the Vatican. Anthony's commitment to ministry and music is evident in his prolific career, which continues to inspire and uplift audiences globally.

[theettengroup.com/janthony](http://theettengroup.com/janthony)



# Tamika LeRay

**Tamika LeRay**, known as "Ms. T" to friends and colleagues, is a fun-loving and energetic Speech and Language Pathologist with nearly 15 years of experience. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in Special Education and works for DC Public Schools, helping children and families succeed. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, karaoke, and spending time with her small dog, Reese. Passionate about writing, Ms. T creates interactive manuals, short stories, and poems, and is excited to share her latest book with readers.

**[myislandhomestx.com](http://myislandhomestx.com)**

**Instagram: [@myislandhomestx](https://www.instagram.com/myislandhomestx)**





# Robert Hearne III



**Robert Hearne III** is a 10 year old who is currently in the 5th grade. Robert enjoys spending time with his three younger siblings. He wrote his first book, *An Adventure Through the Solar System* at 8 years old. He has always had a passion for space, and with his extensive knowledge of the Solar System, he decided to write a book to teach other children about it. He dreams of becoming an astronaut when he grows up, hoping to one day travel to space. Robert also plans to keep writing and publishing more books in the future, so he can continue sharing his knowledge with others.

**Instagram: @RobertdhIII**



# Jessica Barnes

**Jessica Barnes** is an educator, writer, and mentor for youth and young adults. She has worked in the field of education for over ten years. Currently she works full-time as an elementary school teacher.

Her hobbies include volunteering with the Student Life Ministry, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, as well as the Women's Ministry at her church. She also enjoys cooking, baking, traveling, reading, writing, and exercising.





# Stephanie Randle



**Stephanie Randle** is the president and CEO of Ignite Change, a certified business strategist, and mindset coach. She helps startups, businesses, and individuals achieve their strategic goals through customized plans that provide clarity and direction. With over 20 years of coaching experience in the IT industry, she launched her practice in 2019 and frequently speaks on business topics for women entrepreneurs. Stephanie also co-founded Women and Girls Inspiring STEM Excellence (WISE), supporting Black and Brown women in STEM fields. She holds a master's degree in technical management, a bachelor's degree in computer science, and several certifications.

**[ignitechangenow.com](http://ignitechangenow.com)**

**Instagram: [ignitechange\\_now](https://www.instagram.com/ignitechange_now)**



# Gabriel L. Hamilton

**Gabriel L. Hamilton**, born in Manhattan, Kansas, and raised in Wichita, has served in the military for over 22 years. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Transportation and Logistics Management from American Military University. Gabriel is the author of two children's books, *Invested in Me* and *Life Lessons: Advice for a Kid Like Me*, with more in the works. Inspired by his experiences as a military leader, husband, and father, he focuses on teaching strong character, confidence, and mental strength to children. Gabriel enjoys outdoor activities, researching African historical figures, and spending time with his family.

[our-mothers-treasures.myshopify.com](http://our-mothers-treasures.myshopify.com)





# Doris O. Cole



**Doris O. Cole** graduated with honors from the University of Phoenix with a bachelor's degree in public administration. She has worked for over 13 years in Emergency Management (FEMA), working with survivors in disaster recovery. Her passion and love are serving others in need of support and encouragement.

**[authordoriscole.now.site](http://authordoriscole.now.site)**



# Leslie R. Green

An entrepreneur of 20 years, **Leslie Green** is a communications professional and the founder and CEO of Golden Life Ventures, LLC, a lifestyle and communications company. Through Golden Life Ministries, Leslie speaks and writes about the Christian faith. She also recently launched Golden Life Gear, which offers love-filled themes and spirit-lifting messages on high-quality apparel and accessories. Leslie is committed to living life boldly and to the fullest—what she calls the golden life—and desires to help others experience a golden and abundant life.

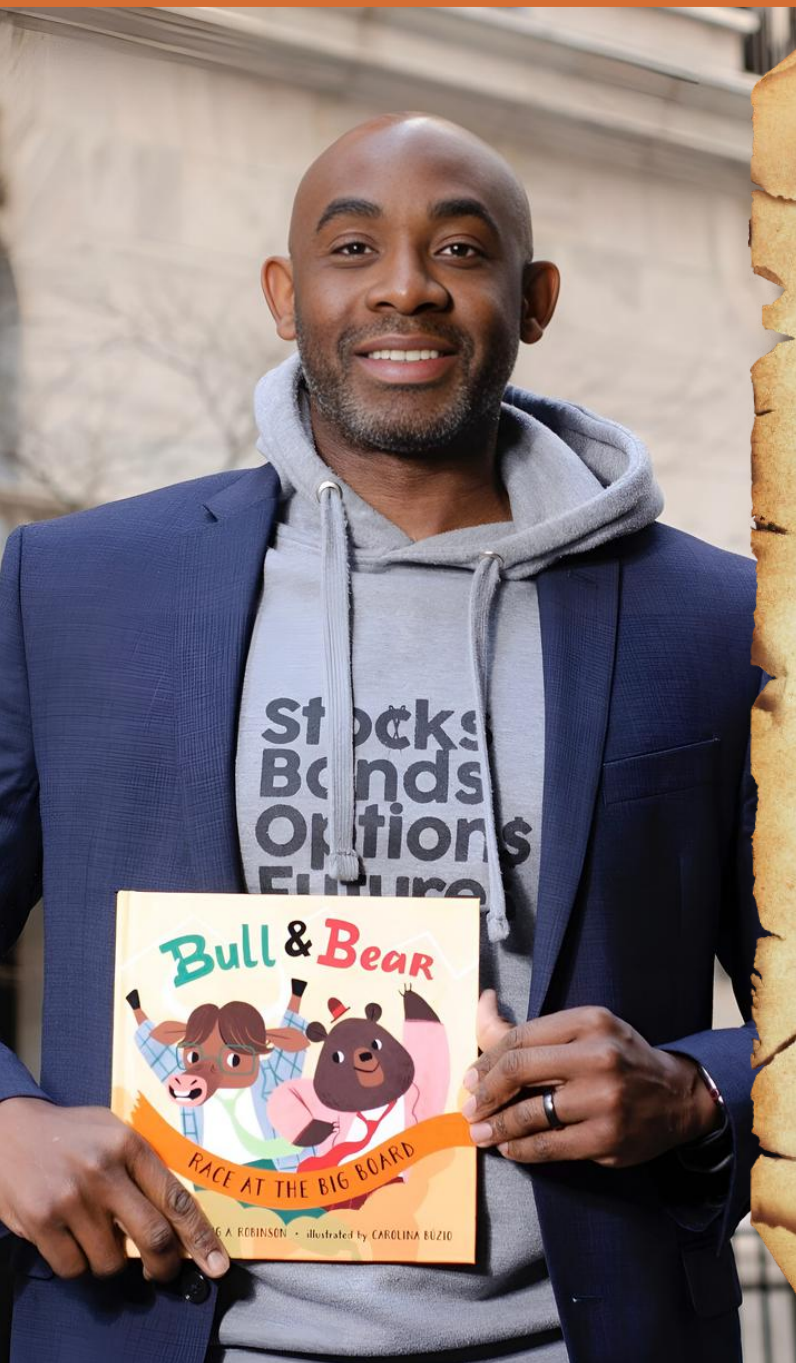
[ourmistakeshisplans.com](http://ourmistakeshisplans.com)

[goldenlifeventures.com](http://goldenlifeventures.com)





# Craig A. Robinson



**Craig A. Robinson** is a writer with over 20 years of investment management experience, overseeing portfolios worth over \$1.5 billion. He's a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia College Building Authority Board, co-founder of the Association of Public Finance Professionals of the DMV, and co-founding trustee of Sojourner Truth Public Charter School, DC's first public Montessori middle and high school. Craig holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MBA from Duke University. A father of three, he founded Nolyne Publishing to make financial education fun and accessible for children, helping them develop healthy financial habits.

**Nolyne.com**

**Socials: @nolynepublishing**



# Nikki Davenport

**Nikki Davenport** is the author of the Crown & Heart/Destination: Lytua series and has been writing love stories for as long as she can remember. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master's in Social Work. When she's not paddling with a dragon boat racing team of breast cancer survivors or working in education, Nikki is passionate about showcasing Black love in a positive light. Her bestselling debut romance, *International Incident*, was a 2023 finalist for the Audio in Color award. She lives in Northern Virginia with her husband, two teens, and two spoiled cats, and enjoys audiobooks and podcasts.

[nikkidavenport.com](http://nikkidavenport.com)





# James T. Hargrove



**James T. Hargrove, M.Ed.**, is an experienced Health and Physical Education teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools in Northern Virginia and a first-time author. With over 30 years of teaching and coaching youth sports at the elementary, middle, and high school levels across North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia, he has dedicated his career to nurturing young athletes.

James is committed to being the best husband, father, teacher, coach, and friend he can be. He strives to live each day to the fullest, always reaching for his maximum potential and inspiring others to do the same.

[thebookbutler.com/jamesthargrove](http://thebookbutler.com/jamesthargrove)



# Lisa R. Thomas

**Lisa R. Thomas, M.Ed.**, is the author of the Shapesville Elementary Book series. A Certified Professional School Counselor Specialist in Maryland, she mentors school counselors, consults with parents, and writes books focused on character and social development. With a degree in Psychology from Frostburg State University and a master's in School Counseling from Bowie State University, Lisa's work helps children boost confidence, self-esteem, and resilience in overcoming challenges.

[shapesvilleseries.com](http://shapesvilleseries.com)





# Carthornia Kouroupos



**Carthornia Kouroupos** is a professor at Rowan College of South Jersey. In addition to being an educator and humanitarian, her published works are featured in *The Year of the Poet IX*, *The Year of the Poet X*, *Letter Poems to Our Deceased*, and *Filling Gaps with Broken Pieces*. She is also the author of *Zoe the Clam* and *Zoe the Clam Goes to School* (also in Spanish), *Denny and the Wizard: It's a Fairytale*, and *Another Alexander*. Through her children's stories, Carthornia hopes to inspire children and adults be the best version of themselves.

[zoetheclam.com](http://zoetheclam.com)



# Danielle N. Hall

**Danielle N. Hall** is a Board Certified Christian Counselor, Mental Health Coach, and licensed minister dedicated to helping others find their divine purpose. A sexual abuse survivor, she founded V.O.I.C.E. (Victorious Overcomers Inspiring Christian Empowerment), a ministry supporting women who have experienced abuse. Danielle is the author of *Dew Drops: Refreshing for the Soul*, Amazon #1 Bestseller *Dirty Little Secrets & The Little White Lie*, and *Grace to Endure: You Don't Know My Story*. She has contributed to several collaborative projects and launched The R.O.P.E., LLC in 2023 to further her counseling and coaching work. An entrepreneur, Danielle runs SOL by Danielle, a greeting card service, and The Butterfly Effect by Danielle, a jewelry company. She also released her debut single *My Heart Is Yours* in 2022. A recently widowed mother of three, she balances family, work, and ministry.

**Facebook:** [writefrommyhearttoyours](#)



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# Dr. Briana DeNeal-Findley



**Briana DeNeal-Findley, DPA, LICSW, LCSW-C, LCSW** is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health expert. She has worked with children and families for over 10 years in multiple school districts and outpatient clinics. Dr. Briana is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Bee Network, which comprises a group of mental health practitioners in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Her dedication to child and family well-being is evident in her work. Dr. Briana provides strategies to children, families, and educators on how to regulate their emotions and develop healthy coping skills. Dr. Briana channels her mental expertise into stories that help children navigate life's many challenges.

**[thebeenetwork.org](http://thebeenetwork.org)**



# Sherry V. Epps

**Sherry V. Epps** is the author of the Dif'rent but not Dumb series. Growing up "hard of hearing" in a mainstream school, Sherry was once labeled "deaf and dumb" by a teacher who refused to accommodate her needs. This experience caused her to believe she was "dumb" until she learned that her disability did not limit her potential. Now, as a special educator with over five years of experience, she has seen firsthand how children with disabilities can thrive when given love, compassion, patience, and understanding. Her series champions the truth that all children, regardless of their differences, are gifted and capable of success.

**dif-rentbnd.com**

**facebook.com/profile.php?**

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# Dr. Rasheeda Arthur



**Dr. Rasheeda Arthur** is passionate about sparking a love for reading and expanding young readers' imaginations. Her debut children's book, *Little Amira, Big Adventures*, is the first of many stories she hopes will inspire young minds to dream big. Committed to fostering a lifelong love of reading, Dr. Arthur also encourages families to create enriching learning environments at home. She lives in Maryland with her husband and their two daughters, Amira and Saniya, where they enjoy exploring new worlds through books and celebrating the joy of literacy.

[rasheedaarthur.com](http://rasheedaarthur.com)



# Rev. Debra R. Bell

Reverend Debra R. Bell is an ordained minister and healthcare advocate focused on spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being. She speaks to diverse groups about the love of Jesus, helping individuals build personal relationships with Him and fostering harmonious connections with others.

Rev. Bell holds a Master of Divinity from Regent University and degrees in Human Resources Management and Health Care Administration from the University of Maryland. A dedicated Bible student, she exemplifies the scripture from Mark 9:23: "Anything is possible if a person believes."

She is the author of *The Dawn of a New Heart* and *The Ultimate Best Friend*, aiming to uplift spirits, educate minds, and lead souls to Christ.

[bejoyfulministries.com](http://bejoyfulministries.com)





# Dr. Chichi Nwajei



**Dr. Chichi Nwajei** is a renowned author, speaker, and personal development coach dedicated to helping individuals embrace their true potential and achieve success. With years of experience guiding others on their journeys of growth, she combines wisdom, practical advice, and motivation to inspire readers to dream big and overcome obstacles. Her powerful insights on mindset, belief systems, and resilience make her a trusted voice in personal transformation, empowering people to turn their visions into reality and reach new heights in life.

[drchichinwajei.com](http://drchichinwajei.com)  
[thepeacockhouse.com](http://thepeacockhouse.com)



# Lauri Williamson

**Lauri Williamson** is a licensed tour guide and owner of DC Tours and Events and Capital Gift Baskets. She grew up in New Jersey, moved to Washington to attend Howard University, and fell in love with the city. She enjoys creating experiences that both educate and enlighten visitors to Washington, DC.

[dctoursandevents.com](http://dctoursandevents.com)





# Racine Smith Williams



Long before the term, “Black Girl Magic”, came into being, **Racine Smith Williams** was the first Black gymnast to win the Maryland State All Around title in 1982. Racine grew up in Lanham, MD. and trained at Royal T’s Gymnastics Team in Crofton, MD. In 1984, Racine was the first Black gymnast to receive a full athletic scholarship to the University of Nebraska where she competed all four years. Racine was an Academic All-Big Eight and earned two Big Eight team championships along with finishing twice as a top ten team at the Division 1 NCAA National Championships.

Racine received her Bachelor of Science in Human Development from the University of Nebraska in 1989 and earned her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Bowie State University in 1992. Currently as a healthcare professional and professional organizer, Racine enjoys helping others live their best life. She enjoys traveling, crocheting, supporting the gymnastics community, and serving the community. Racine is married and has two adult children.

<https://a.co/d/cx5fKyn>



# Sherrita Berry-Pettus

**Sherrita Berry-Pettus, M.Ed.**, is a dedicated mom, educator, and author. A graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, she holds a Master's in Urban and Minority Education, a B.S. in Early Childhood Education, and a B.S. in Family Science.

Passionate about teaching and playing with her boys, Sherrita shares heartfelt messages with children of color, empowering them to recognize their inherent worth. She has authored four must-have books: *Rock On With Your Afro Puffs*, *Smile Bright Chocolate Prince*, *I'm Brown and I'm Smart*, and *I'm Brown and I'm Pretty*, all published in her first year as an author.

**[buildingconfidentscholars.com](http://buildingconfidentscholars.com)**

**Facebook: [MrsBerryPettus](https://www.facebook.com/MrsBerryPettus)**

**Twitter: [@MrsBerryPettus](https://twitter.com/MrsBerryPettus)**

**Instagram: [@mrsberrypettus](https://www.instagram.com/mrsberrypettus)**





# Alicia J. Evans



**Alicia J. Evans**, a resident of Hollis, New York, spent over 25 years as a New York City Transit Authority Bus Operator. A graduate of Queens College with a degree in English and a minor in Creative Writing, her passion for storytelling has earned her recognition, including an award for her short story *The Bay Window*. Alicia's work has also been published in LaGuardia Community College's *The Lit* magazine. She self-published her debut novel *I Deserve* in 2022 and her non-fiction work *How I Got Over – My Journey on Overcoming Loss* in 2024. When not writing, Alicia enjoys entertaining family and friends.

**Facebook:** Author Alicia J Evans

**Instagram:** spin\_a\_tall2tell

**TikTok:** @spin\_a\_tale2tell



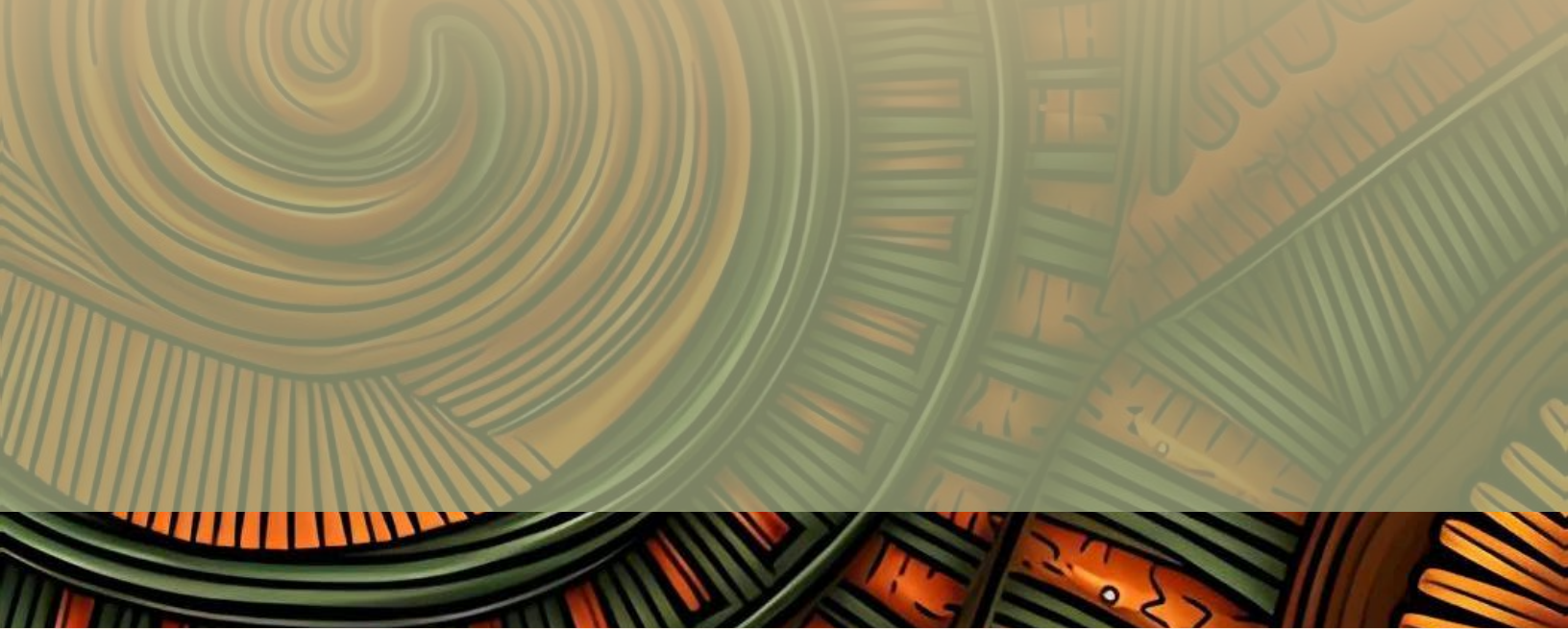
# Yuvonne Balentine-Harris

**Yuvonne Balentine-Harris** is the creator of the Adventures of Chloe Crumblebean book series and founder of C&G Imagination Playhouse, the premier entertainment company for teaching virtue to children in a fun way. Her latest book, *He's Still God: Keeping The Faith Through the Storm*, has been highly anticipated. She is a proud Army veteran and a dedicated deacon at her church. Her love of children spills over into teaching Sunday school, playing with her grandchildren, and reading to the children she wrote her books for. As a widow, she is no stranger to tragedy. It's this that drives her passion for the healing journey and God's presence through it all. She is a trained Grief Share facilitator and serves everyone with compassion and care.

[vetsinprint.com/about-9](http://vetsinprint.com/about-9)







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# Presenting & Exhibiting Authors!





# Presenting Authors

## Literary Lounge



### 11:15 AM | Freddie Rodgers Simmons

**Freddie Rodgers Simmons** delivers timeless knowledge in fresh, engaging ways for children, parents, and those who support them. Her approach brings learning to life with creativity and fun for all ages.



### 11:55 AM | Danita Lynne

**Danita Lynne** guides you through the process of forgiveness, showing that while it may not always be easy, it can be simple. Learn her proven strategies to tap into the power within you to forgive anyone, for anything.



### 12:35 PM | Wanda Russell

**Wanda Russell** explores the Dual Career Lifestyle, where individuals juggle side hustles with primary jobs. Drawing from her books *The Dual Career Real Estate Agent* and *The Dual Career Lifestyle*, she highlights the benefits and offers quick, practical insights for busy professionals.



# Presenting Authors

## Literary Lounge

1:15 PM

### The Author's Roadmap to Success Workshop

*For Aspiring Authors*



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**Morgan Holland** facilitates an interactive workshop for aspiring authors, offering expert guidance on writing, publishing, and marketing your book. With practical tips and industry insights, she equips participants with the tools to successfully bring their stories to life.



# Presenting Authors

## BOOKTALK LOUNGE



### 11:30 AM | Nikki Davenport

**Nikki Davenport** shares her powerful journey of overcoming breast cancer, drawing inspiration from Daft Punk and the ancient Japanese art of kintsugi. She also delves into her writing process, crafting funny and sexy Black-on-Black romance within a unique, all-Black literary universe.



### 12:15 PM | Alicia J. Evans

Discover the captivating world of romance with author **Alicia J. Evans**, where heartfelt love stories come to life, each filled with a touch of drama. Dive into her tales and experience passion, conflict, and unforgettable characters.



# Presenting Authors

## BOOKTALK LOUNGE



**1:00 PM | Karmen A. Booker**

Join Author and Attorney **Karmen A. Booker** for Legal Essentials for Authors and Writers, where she covers key topics like copyright registration, trademarks, and contracts. Gain crucial legal insights to protect your creative work and navigate the publishing industry with confidence.



**1:45 PM | Edward Roy**

Join **Edward Roy** for this engaging unveiling of the remarkable story of Erma Louise Hill, known as "New York Red," a groundbreaking Number Banker in Harlem who overcame racial and gender barriers. From her humble beginnings in Depression-era Georgia to running a multi-million-dollar operation connected to the Genovese Mafia, discover her journey of resilience, independence, and the factors that led to her downfall.



# Presenting Authors

## POETRY LOUNGE

Lounge opens at 1:30 PM



Nicole  
Lanier Montez



Kenneth  
Whittington



Dr. Jayé  
Wood



Graemme  
Denyce Boone

### **BBPC Presents the Power of Poetry Panel Discussion**

Join award-winning and bestselling poet/authors **Nicole Lanier Montez**, **Kenneth Whittington**, and **Dr. Jayé Wood** as they explore the journey of crafting a poem, the impact of emotion and personal experience, and share live recitations.

*Moderator: Graemme Denyce Boone (Award-winning poet/author)*

### **Open Mic Session**

Join us for an inspiring Open Mic Poetry Session, where poets of all levels share their voices and creativity. This dynamic event invites participants to perform original works, celebrating the power of words and expression in a supportive atmosphere.



# Exhibiting Authors



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Anderson**



**Karen  
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**Kevin L.  
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Burris**



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**Ronessa  
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**Dr. Tina  
Figueroa-Roach**



**Chris  
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**Millie Heyward  
(Emily Meggett)**



**Wendy T.  
Johnson**



**Nikki  
Pritchett-Johnson**



**Kim C.  
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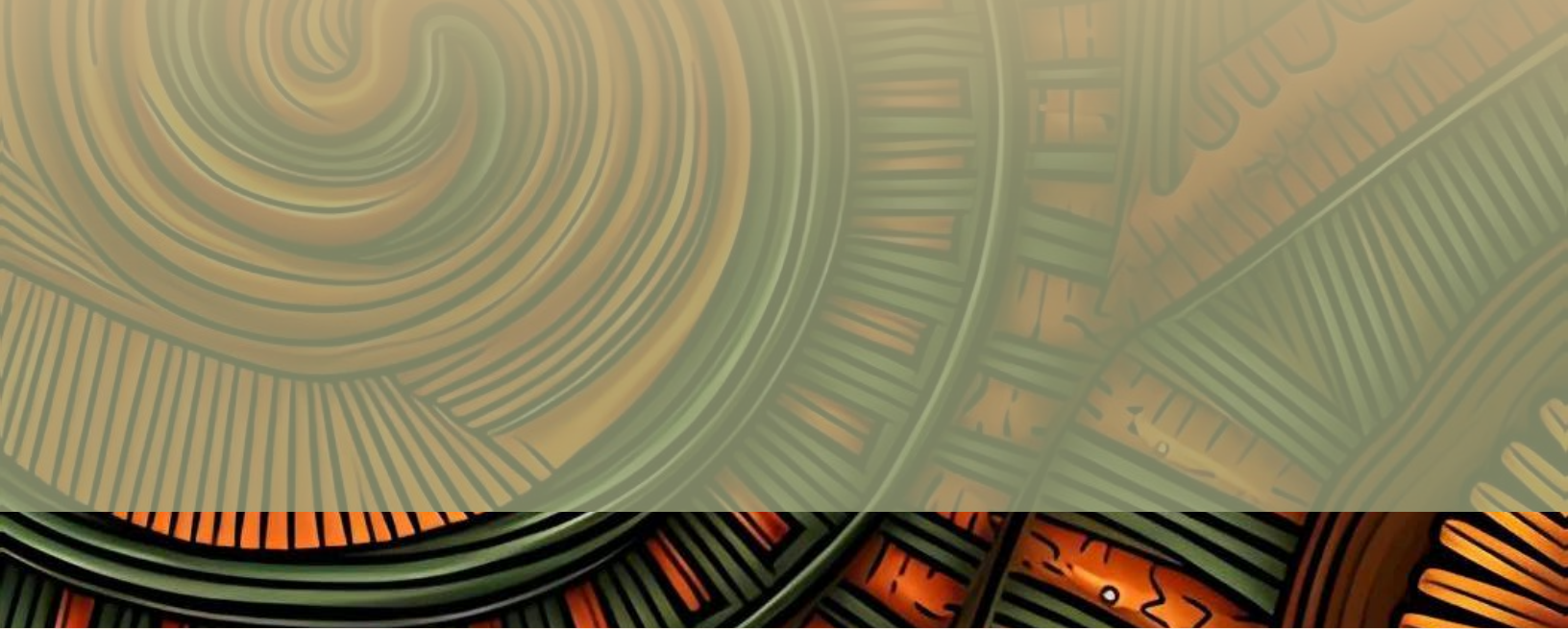
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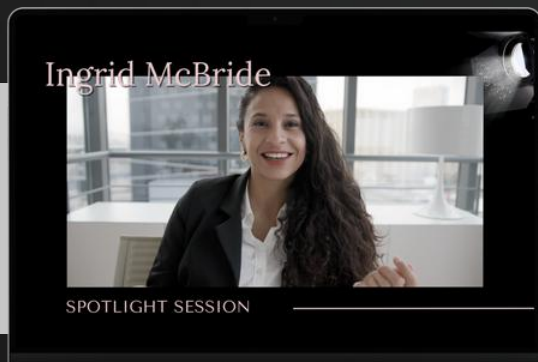
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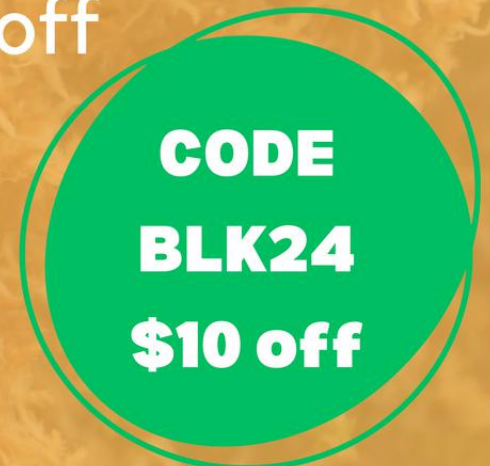
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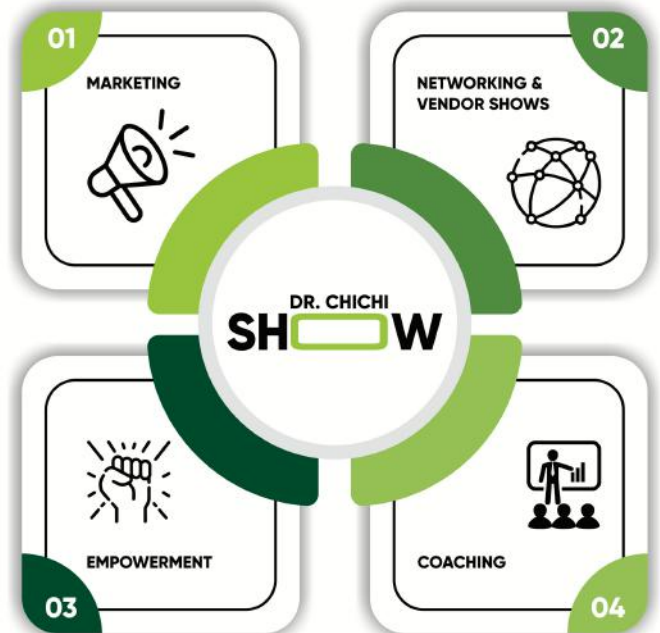
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### NIKKI PRITCHETT - JOHNSON

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is like no education at all" is a quote that Nikki Pritchett-Johnson lives by! A wife, mother of two amazing girls, a school counselor, and a mentor, she truly understands the importance of tapping into the social and emotional wellness of children for true success to be achieved. Nikki Pritchett-Johnson has long dreamed of meeting the emotional needs of children through literature and is finally turning those dreams into reality. Jump into her first book and you will truly hear her "gift of service" come alive.

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## PURPOSED THROUGH JOY BY NIKKI PRITCHETT-JOHNSON

### BOOK SUMMARY

Ever question your purpose for the day? Grace sure did! A mountain of problems crowded Grace's heart and mind stealing her very joy and caused her to question, "What is my purpose for today?" This charming story reminds children to never let the cares and concerns of the day rob them of the strength they need to succeed. With the support of her Nana, Grace learns to toss her heavy loads aside and get her joy back!

### MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

The marketing and publicity campaign for "Purposed through Joy" is being undertaken by the Fulton Books marketing department. Promotion of the book includes dissemination and delivery of a high volume of press releases, various Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook postings, and assorted online advertising campaigns.

"Purposed through Joy" is available for wholesale order through the Ingram Content Network.

### PURPOSED THROUGH JOY!

Author: Nikki Pritchett Johnson

Format: 8x10 paperback

Pages: 28

Paperback Price: \$14.95

ISBN (paperback): 978-1-63710-674-7

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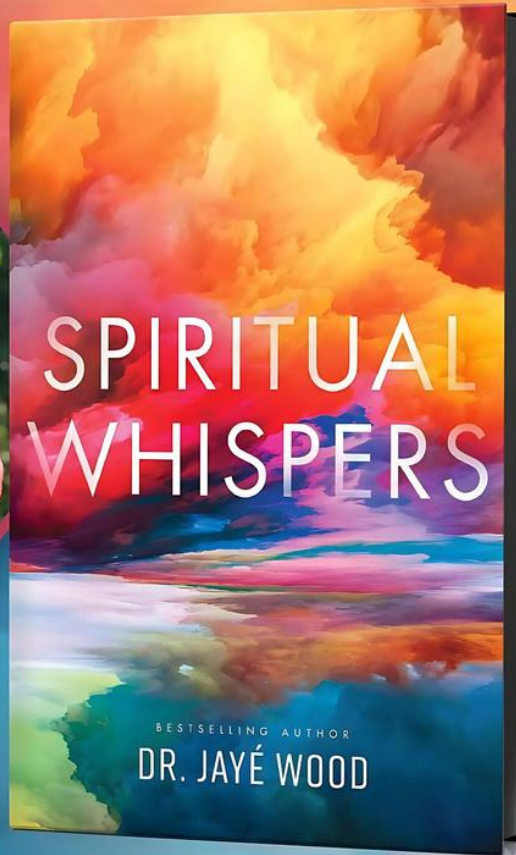
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YUVONNE VALENTINE-HARRIS ★ MICHAEL UKOHA

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Thank you for joining us.





