

# AFAS



AFAS: African American Studies Librarians Section  
Association of College and Research Libraries - ALA

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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

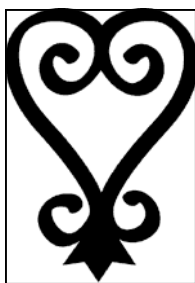
This has been a pivotal year for AFAS and other sections of ACRL. We have experienced a comprehensive technology upgrade to our web pages, revisions of section brochures and a complete overhaul of the way we sign up volunteers—and we made it through! As the song goes, “*Change makes you want to hustle!*” and that is just what we are doing, hustling and juggling many tasks to keep AFAS viable and inviting to those interested in African American Studies Librarianship.

I am pleased with achievements of the AFAS Executive Committee to fulfill key ACRL strategic initiatives. This year, we were successful in getting two action plans approved and funded to enable AFAS to have a presence at the 2007 Association for the Study of African American Life and History conference in Charlotte and the 2008 meeting of the National Council of Black Studies set for Philadelphia. In addition to any proposals AFAS librarians will submit to these meetings, we will have an exhibit table and conference bulletin listing to promote our role in the field of African American Studies.

The **Oxford University Press Black Studies Center** and **Black Classic Press** are sponsoring refreshments at the 2007 AFAS Annual Conference program and it promises to be a huge success as

librarians continue to express interest in the workshop. Many are talking about the great things they have read about our facilitator, National Archives and Records Administration archivist and genealogist, Reginald Washington. Please remember this workshop is limited to just 50 participants, so get there early to sign up. I look forward to seeing many of you this summer in Washington DC and I thank you for your participation in making this year a successful one for AFAS.

In closing, let us honor the memory of Dear Sister Audrey Taylor, AFAS Secretary 2006-07, by recruiting and mentoring young librarians in AFAS. In addition, let us honor all those who came before us by promoting professionalism and productivity in African American Studies Librarianship.  
**SANKOFA!**



*Akilah Shukura Nosakhare*, Chair 2006-2007

Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History  
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

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## LOOKING AHEAD: AFAS 2007-2008

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to serve as the incoming Chair of African American Studies Section (AFAS) of ACRL. During the past seven years I've witnessed the activities of AFAS grow through dedicated work from our committees and professional partnerships. African American Studies is a vibrant and worthy discipline that requires our continued support. Many of you have published books, articles, and volunteered your curatorial expertise for exhibits that document the lives of African Americans while initiating crucial projects such as the African American Funnel Project with the Library of Congress. This work is important and your contributions help further the research and scholarship of African American Studies. African American Studies programs,

departments, and learned societies continue to evolve and I believe we must remain vigilant in our pursuit to evolve as a section.

Our past chairs have done an incredible job articulating their vision and passion to the section and I hope to do the same. I would personally like to thank, Akilah Nosakhire (2006-2007), Heather Martin (2005-2006), Myrtis Cochran (2004-2005), Lisa Pillow (2003-2004), Raquel Cogell (2002-2003), Carol Rudisell (2001-2002), & Dorothy Washington (2000-01). During their leadership AFAS began documenting our section leadership responsibilities with the development of our current leadership manual, secured partnerships with the professional organizations such as National Council for Blacks Studies (NCBS) and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History (ASALH), and developed long term research projects for the section.

These initiatives are expressions of the section's commitment to African American Studies.

My goals for this upcoming year include continuing efforts to strengthen partnerships with scholarly societies, and working with the Membership Committee to bolster our membership participation. Let's work together to ensure that African American Studies collections continue to be an integral part of public and academic libraries.

Carmelita Pickett, African American Studies Librarian/Research Archivist

Robert W. Woodruff Library

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## African American Pamphlet Collection

### Emory University

The Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library at Emory University houses several thousand 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pamphlets relating broadly to African American religion and politics. The cataloging of these pamphlets was made possible through a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Pamphlets are well-recognized, for example, as playing a pivotal role in advancing the cause of the American Revolution, and throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries they functioned as a cheap, fast, effective means of communicating ideas and promoting causes, whether social, political, or religious.

From the Reformation Era in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, pamphlet literature has been a critical means of mass communication. They have played a similar but less-studied role in the African American community. Pamphlets are a primary instance of "democracy in action." Because they could be

produced without the approval of the mainstream white press, pamphlets became the medium of choice for fast distribution of an unmediated literature composed by and for and often published within the African American community. They thus played an important role in the efforts of African Americans to write their own history, develop their own religious traditions, and produce their own literature. The primary focus in this project on religion and politics reflects the

importance of these dimensions of African American life during the past two centuries and the fact that African American churches served as both spiritual center and a locus for political activity.

To browse the collection use Emory's online catalog, [EUCLID \(http://www.library.emory.edu\)](http://www.library.emory.edu).

From the main EUCLID screen click on the Complex Search tab in the upper right-hand corner.

**Cont'd on p.3**

<b>BOOK REVIEW</b>
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**Pamphlet Collection**

cont'd from p. 2

Searching for the term “African American pamphlet” in the subject field will pull up the complete list of over two thousand pamphlets.

Here's a sample list of titles included in the collection:

Ford, James W. The Right of Revolution for the Negro People. New York: Harlem Section of the Communist Party, [between 1934-1944].

Herndon, Angelo. You Can't Kill the Working Class. New York: International Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, 1934.

Love, John L. The Disenfranchisement of the Negro. Washington, D.C.: The Academy, 1899.

Lumer, Hyman. What are we doing in the Congo? New York: New Outlook Publishers & Distributors, 1965.

Miller, Kelly. Political Captivity of the Negro. Washington, D.C.: Murray Bros. Press, 1910.

Trosky, Leon. Leon Trosky on Black Nationalism and Self-Determination. New York, N.Y. Pathfinder Press, 1970.

Mudgal, Hucheshwar G. Marcus Garvey: Is He the true redeemer of the Negro? London: African Publication Society, [1972].

White, Charles. Free Angelo Herndon. New York City: Youth Publishers, 1934.

Submitted by: Carmelita Pickett, African American Studies Librarian/Research Archivist,  
[cnpicke@emory.edu](mailto:cnpicke@emory.edu)

**The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal** by Afua Cooper; HarperCollins Publishers, LTD., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 2006

*“Said her name was Marie-Joseph Angelique, she was 29 years old. She was born in Portugal. She is the slave of Widow Franchville...”*

...so recorded Montreal court scribes of the slave woman, Marie Joseph Angelique who was accused of setting the fire that destroyed Old Montreal on April 10, 1734. Angelique was tried and convicted in the Montreal lower court and her subsequent appeal before the Conseil Superieur was denied clearing the way for her execution. On June 21, 1734, Angelique was hanged, her body burned and her ashes were thrown to the winds as ordered by French Colonial law.

Piecing together this intriguing story is award-winning historian of African Canadian Women's Studies and University of Toronto professor, Afua Cooper. Cooper examined rare colonial government and court records to discover that Angelique's story is historically significant because it represents the first known slave narrative in North America. In addition, it is the earliest story of a Black woman in colonial Canada, thus making it important to the genre of Black literature in North America as it predates other first person narratives by 40 years.

**The Hanging of Angelique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal** is the product of fifteen years of extensive research to recount the story of a unhappy and resistant slave woman. However, in telling the story of Angelique the hidden legacy of slavery in Canada was brought to light thereby crushing the myth of Canada as the “Promised Land” for fugitive slaves from the United States.

Dr. Afua Cooper is a winner of the Joseph Brant History Prize and leading scholar of African Diaspora Studies in Canada. She has taught Canadian and Caribbean History at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University. She is also a celebrated dub poet and was named as one of twenty-five notable international women by *Essence Magazine*.

**Official Acknowledgment of Audrey Taylor's Legacy of  
Service to the African American Studies Section of the  
Association of College and Research Libraries of the American  
Library Association**

It is with great sadness that African American Studies Section (AFAS) of ACRL acknowledges the sudden death of our dear colleague from the University of Houston and Secretary-Elect Ms.

**Audrey Jeanette Taylor.**

Ms. Audrey Taylor earned a MLS from the University of Texas in 1976. Her academic background includes two Bachelors of Arts degrees from the University of Houston, one in Psychology and the other in Sociology. Ms. Taylor's professional library experience and service has been in the area of government documents and most recently distance education.

In 1987 Ms. Taylor became of member of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) and later joined AFAS in 1996 when she became a member of the Policy and Research Committee. Within two years, Ms. Taylor joined the AFAS Executive Committee as Member-at-Large. In 2000, Ms. Taylor served as AFAS Secretary and was elected Secretary again in 2006. Other service to the library profession included membership and committee participation in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, University Libraries Section of ACRL, Reference & User Services Association, and the Texas Library Association.

Ms. Taylor's dedication and faithful service to the African American Studies Section of ACRL and the profession will be sincerely missed.

**Audrey Taylor's service on ALA and ACRL committees:**

1989-1990: GODORT Membership Committee

1990-1992: LPSS Publications Committee

1993-1997: RUSA Collection Development and Evaluation Section

1996-1998: AFAS Policy and Research Committee

1998-1999: AFAS Executive Committee, Member-at-Large

2000-2001: AFAS Executive Committee, Secretary

2002-2003: BCALA Executive Board

2005-2006: AFAS Nominating Committee

2006-2007: AFAS Executive Committee, Secretary

2006-2008: DLS Liaison Committee

*With Deepest Sympathy,*

**The 2006-2007 AFAS Executive Committee**

Akilah S. Nosakhere, Chairperson of AFAS

Carmelita Pickett, Vice Chairperson, Chair Elect

Rebecca Hankins, Secretary

Sibyl E. Moses, Member-at-Large

Heather Martin, Past Chairperson

<b>PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT</b>
<b><i>Federal Documents in African American Genealogical &amp; Historical Research</i></b>

**A Workshop**

With

**Genealogy Specialist****Reginald Washington**

National Archives &amp; Records Administration

American Library Association Conference

Washington, DC

**Saturday, June 23, 2007**

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Limited to 50 participants**

Reginald Washington

National Archives and Records Administration

**REGINALD WASHINGTON** is an archivist/genealogy specialist with the Research Support Branch (NWCC1) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). He lectures frequently on records and research procedures at the National Archives and has served as the African American Genealogy Specialist at NARA for the past nine years. He has spoken at Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society conferences, National Genealogical Society, Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Institute on Genealogical Research, the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, and numerous local genealogical societies and clubs. Mr. Washington has conducted numerous workshops on the use of Federal records for African American genealogical research, and his articles have appeared in *Prologue*, *The Record*, *Ancestry*, and the *Negro History Bulletin*. Mr. Washington gave congressional testimony in support of The Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act of 2000 that authorized 3 million dollars for the preservation of more than 1000 linear feet of field office records of the Freedmen's Bureau. He is a past member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THEIR  
BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH EXHIBITION**

HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE

Of New Jersey

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the director and Board of Trustees of The Newark Public Library, and **Dr. Sibyl E. Moses**, guest curator, on the occasion of the opening of the Library's Black History Month exhibition entitled "The Creativity and Imagination of African American Women Writers in New Jersey." As the representative from the 10th Congressional District, I am very proud of my long affiliation with the library and the valuable services they render to our community.

The exhibition at Newark Public Library celebrates the diversity and richness of published works created by African American women in New Jersey. The exhibition documents an important aspect of New Jersey's cultural history, and brings this information together in one place and

at one time, for the people of Newark and for all residents of New Jersey. I applaud The Newark Public Library for interpreting their collections for all to see.

I also commend **Sibyl E. Moses**, the guest curator, for her achievements and many years of commitment and service to the people of New Jersey. She is an outstanding citizen, whose leadership is recognized nationally and internationally in the field of library and information science. For more than 20 years, she has identified, preserved, and promoted an awareness of books published by African American women in New Jersey. Her book, *African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-2000: A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographic Guide* (Rutgers University Press), upon which this exhibition is based,

won recognition from the American Association for State and Local History and by The New Jersey Center for the Book.

I am pleased to join all those in attendance at the opening of the exhibition, in wishing the Director and Board of Trustees of The Newark Public Library, and **Dr. Sibyl E. Moses**, continued success for the work they are doing to preserve and promote an awareness of African American history in New Jersey.

The above citation is excerpted from the **Congressional Record**, dated January 30, 2007, from the **Extensions of Remarks** section, pages E216-E217.

### BCALA/IFLA General Conference

The Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA) has planned a trip to South Africa to coincide with the 73<sup>rd</sup> IFLA General Conference and Council. The trip will take place from August 16 – 31, 2007. After working closely with several travel planners BCALA has designed a trip that aims to broaden one's historical and cultural understanding of South Africa. It is our hope that you will join us on this sojourn.

South Africa, with its complex social history has shown the world its capability for forgiveness and transformation. Considered a country of "extremes" it is at once progressive and developing. A trip to South Africa is unforgettable and inspiring. In preparing the activities of this trip, BCALA plans to show you some of these very facets of this beautiful country.

In addition to being able to enjoy the Durban library tours and cultural activities that are established events at the IFLA conferences, this trip will also take you to Cape Town and Johannesburg. Of the many planned activities, some of the highlights include a visit to a local school library outside Durban, tours of Nelson Mandela's former home in Soweto, the Apartheid Museum, and the historical Robben Island, a safari drive, and a visit to the Lesedi Cultural Village.

Join the Black Caucus of the American Library Association Delegation to the IFLA Conference in Durban, South Africa. This is only the second time that IFLA has met in Africa. Meet and interact with librarians from across the globe as we explore the beauty and complexity of South Africa.

For more information, please visit the BCALA website at [www.bcala.org](http://www.bcala.org).

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#### **H.R. 390: Preservation of records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act**

Building on *The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000*, H.R. 390, introduced by Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco), calls for the establishment of a national database in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to preserve records of servitude, emancipation, and Post-Civil War reconstruction and provide extended access for researchers of the American Africana experience.

This new legislation will enhance current efforts by NARA to protect important historic documents and increase public access to them. In a January 2007 news release, Congressman Lantos acknowledged the importance of these federal records to African American genealogical research and his legislation requires the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to provide grants to states, colleges and universities, and genealogical associations to preserve records and establish similar databases.

On January 22, 2007, The House of Representatives passed H.R. 390 with a total of 414 Ayes, 1 Nays, 19 Present/Not Voting. The Lantos legislation was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs which is chaired by Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. Illinois Senator Barack Obama also serves on the Committee and would likely support this popular initiative.

To ensure the success of H.R. 390, AFAS members are invited to write, call or email Congressman Lantos, and your area congressperson for supporting this important legislation. Acknowledgments may be sent to Committee Chair Senator Lieberman and Committee member Senator Obama reminding them of the significance of H.R. 390 to Africana studies researchers and genealogists.

To Learn more about H.R. 390 and the efforts to preserve the family records of the descendents of enslaved Africans please visit the following websites:

[Http://thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov).

[Http://www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us)

[Http://www.washingtonwatch.com](http://www.washingtonwatch.com)

[Http://lantos.house.gov](http://lantos.house.gov)

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The *AFAS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editor, preferably in electronic format.

The *AFAS Newsletter* is sent to all AFAS members at no additional cost. Claims and address changes should be sent to the above address, Attention: Membership.

### AFAS OFFICERS 2006/2007

Akilah Nosakhere, Chair  
Carmelita Pickett, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect  
Heather Martin, Past Chair  
Rebecca Hankins, Secretary  
Sibyl Moses, Member-at-Large

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