

**2017-2018 ALA CD#41\_62118\_ACT**  
**2018 ALA Annual Conference**

**Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation**

Whereas the system of “Jim Crow” laws and customs officially existed into the 1960s—a century after the official end of slavery in the United States; <sup>1 2</sup>

Whereas virulent racism, disenfranchisement, Black Codes, and racial segregation laws imposed a rigid system of officially sanctioned racial segregation in virtually all areas of life, including access to public libraries; <sup>1 2</sup>

Whereas, despite the work of African American librarians, including but not limited to Clara Stanton Jones, E.J. Josey, Albert P. Marshall and Virginia Lacy Jones, and the allies who stood with them to fight segregation, a large majority of the nation’s library community failed to address the injustices of segregated library services until the 1960s; <sup>3 4 5</sup>

Whereas, in many cases the American Library Association participated, both passively and actively, in the disenfranchisement of African American librarians, depriving them of the resources of professional association;

Whereas the American Library Association continued to accept segregated public libraries as members into the 1960s; <sup>3 4 5</sup>

Whereas the American Library Association filed no amicus curiae briefs in any of the local, state, and national lawsuits filed in the 1950s and 1960s to desegregate public libraries;<sup>3</sup>

Whereas the nation’s library press reported nothing about the 1939 Alexandria (VA) Library sit-in by five young African Americans that took place two months after the American Library Association passed a Library Bill of Rights; <sup>3</sup>

Whereas a sincere and heartfelt apology is an important and necessary first step in the process of reconciliation;

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<sup>1</sup> United States. Cong. House. Apologizing for the Enslavement and Racial Segregation of African-Americans. 110th Cong. 2nd sess. H. Res. 194. (2007-2008). 154 Cong. Rec. H7224. Washington: GPO, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> United States. Cong. Senate. Apologizing for the Enslavement and Racial Segregation of African-Americans. 111th Cong. 1st sess. S. Res. 26. (2009-2010). 155 Cong. Rec. S6761. Washington: GPO, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Shirley A. Wiegand and Wayne A. Wiegand, *The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism*, (Baton Rouge, 2018), LSU Press.

<sup>4</sup> John Mark Tucker, *Untold Stories: Civil Liberties, Libraries, and Black Librarianship*, (Champaign, IL, 1998), Publications Office, Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

<sup>5</sup> Cheryl Knott, *Not Free, Not for All*, (Amherst, 2015), University of Massachusetts Press.

## **Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation/2**

Whereas an apology for decades of injustices cannot erase the past, but a recognition of the wrongs committed and injustices ignored can help the nation's library community confront the ghosts of its past: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association

- (1) Acknowledges the fundamental injustice, cruelty, and inhumanity of racially segregated libraries;
- (2) Apologizes to African Americans for wrongs committed against them in segregated public libraries;
- (3) Commends African Americans who risked their lives to integrate public libraries for their bravery and courage in challenging segregation in public libraries and in forcing public libraries to live up to the rhetoric of their ideals;
- (4) Welcomes all African Americans to libraries, recognizing in particular those who were forced to use segregated libraries;
- (5) Encourages libraries to defend, in their policies and in their actions, the *ALA Code of Ethics* principle 1 – “We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests;”<sup>6</sup>
- (6) Will review policy documents and internal procedures to ensure Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles are reflected throughout, and;
- (7) And be it further resolved that this resolution be printed in full in American Libraries and publicized widely via all media channels.

Mover: Sara Dallas, ALA Councilor-at-Large  
Secunder: Jessica J. Schomberg, Councilor-at-Large

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<sup>6</sup> Code of Ethics of the American Library Association.

## Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation/3

### Seconders:

Trevor A. Dawes, ALA Executive Board, At-Large	Danielle Jones, Oregon
Aaron Dobbs, LITA	Jessica Jupitus, At-Large
Martin Garnar, IFRT	Em Clair Knowles, At-Large
Eboni M. Henry, At-Large	Laura Koltusky, SSRT
Sonia Alcantara-Antoine, At-Large	Majed Khader, West Virginia
Oscar Baeza, At-Large	Leroy LaFleur, ACRL
Matt Beckstrom, Montana	Sherry Machones, Wisconsin
Gladys Smiley Bell, At-Large	Mike Marlin, ALA Executive Board
Kathy Carroll, At-Large	Dale K. McNeill, Texas
Stephanie Chase, PLA	Virginia (Ginny) B. Moore, At-Large
Virginia Alexander Cononie, South Carolina	Beth Munk, Indiana
Roberto Delgadillo, At-Large	Muzhgan Israfil Nazarova, At-Large
Karen E. Downing, ALA Executive Board	Larry Neal, At-Large
Emily Drabinski, At-Large	Kimberly A. Patton, At-Large
Vicki M. Emery, At-Large	Lessa K. Pelayo-Lozada, ALA Executive Board, At-Large
Jennifer Ferriss, New York	Raymond Pun, At-Large
Erica Findley, At-Large	Karen Quash, At-Large
Elizabeth Fox, South Dakota	Rachel G. Rubin, At-Large
Ed Garcia, At-Large	Romelia Salinas, At-Large
Selina Gomez-Beloz, At-Large	Edward Sanchez, At-Large
Mario M. Gonzales, At-Large	Michael Santangelo, At-Large
Mel Gooch, At-Large	Karen G. Schneider, At-Large
Terri Grief, At Large	Jahala D. Simuel, At-Large
Dorcas Hand, At-Large	Eric Suess, At-Large
Megan Hodge, At-Large	Daniella Smith, At-Large
Patricia M. Hogan, SRT	Amy Steinbauer, At-Large
Grace M. Jackson-Brown, At-Large	Ann K. Symons, GLBTRT
Jennifer Jamison, At-Large	Stephanie D. Tolson, Missouri
Sara Kelly Johns, At-Large	Janice Welburn, At-Large
Kyla M. Johnson, At-Large	

### Endorsers

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)  
Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)  
Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS)  
Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC)  
Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)  
Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA)  
Public Library Association (PLA)  
Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)  
United for Libraries (Trustees, Friends, Foundations)  
Young Adult Library Services (YALSA)  
American Indian Library Association  
Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services  
Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA)  
Black Caucus of ALA  
Chinese American Librarians Association  
Joint Conference of Librarians of Color

## **Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation/4**

### **REFORMA**

Arkansas Library Association  
Arizona Library Association  
Colorado Association of Libraries  
Connecticut Library Association  
District of Columbia Library Association  
Hawaii Library Association  
Idaho Library Association  
Illinois Library Association  
Michigan Library Association  
Minnesota Library Association  
Mississippi Library Association  
Missouri Library Association  
Nebraska Library Association  
New Hampshire Library Association  
New Jersey Library Association  
New Mexico Library Association  
New York Library Association  
North Carolina Library Association  
Ohio Library Council  
Pennsylvania Library Association  
Rhode Island Library Association  
South Carolina Library Association  
Utah Library Association  
Virginia Library Association  
Ethnic and Multicultural Exchange Round Table (EMIERT)  
Federal and Armed Forces Libraries (FAFLRT)  
Intellectual Freedom Roundtable (IFRT)  
International Relations Round Table (IRRT)  
Games and Gaming Round Table (GAMERT)  
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT)  
Library History Round Table (LHRT)  
Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT)  
New Members Round Table (NMRT)  
Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)  
Sustainability Roundtable (SustainRT)  
ACRL – Professional Values Committee  
ALA Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE)  
ALA Committee on Diversity  
Chapter Relations Committee  
Wayne Wiegand, ALA Member – Resolution Working Group  
LaJuan Pringle, ALA Member – Resolution Working Group  
Nicole Shabazz, ALA Member – Resolution Working Group

## **Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation/5**

ALA Member Endorsers

Joyce Rambo

Rosaline Odom

Tara Thibault-Edmonds

Candace Morgan

Satia Marshall Orange

Jessica MacPhail

Tamika Price

Rene Tanner

Heather Martin

Eunice Anderson

Julie Ann Winkelstein

Celeste Bocchicchio-Chaudhri

Vince Sovanski

James K, Teliha

Susan Polos

Sukrit Goswami

Allan M. Kleiman