



# BLACK INK BOOK FESTIVAL 2017

Award-winning Author Kwame Alexander  
Headlines 2017 Black Ink Book Festival



Alexander is the author of 24 books, including poetry, prose, and picture books. In addition to winning the Newberry Award for the most distinguished contribution to American

literature for children, his book *The Crossover* also received the Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor and other recognitions.

Alexander believes that poetry can change the world, and he uses it to inspire and empower young people through his Writing Workshop. A regular speaker at schools and conferences in the U.S., he also travels the world—including Singapore, Brazil, Italy, France, Shanghai, and recently, Ghana—planting seeds of literary love.

Charleston, S.C. – Kwame Alexander, *New York Times*-bestselling author and 2015 Newberry Medal recipient, will be the featured speaker at this year's Black Ink: A Charleston African American Book Festival.

**Alexander will join at least 50 black authors and hundreds of readers for the second annual festival on September 23, 2017,**

**from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Main branch of the Charleston County Public Library, 68 Calhoun St. The event is free and open to the public.**

Alexander is the author of 24 books, including poetry, prose, and picture books. In addition to winning the Newberry Award for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, his book *The Crossover* also received the Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor and other recognitions. The book is “a mix of free verse and hip-hop poetry that will have broad appeal,” according to a starred review in the *Bulletin* of the Center for Children’s Books. “This will inspire budding players and poets alike.”

Alexander believes that poetry can change the world, and he uses it to inspire and empower young people through his Writing Workshop. A regular speaker at schools and conferences in the U.S., he also travels the world—including Singapore, Brazil, Italy, France, Shanghai, and recently, Ghana—planting seeds of literary love.

“We are thrilled that Kwame, one of the most inspiring authors in America today, will join us for our second festival,” announced Brittany Mathis, director of the Charleston Friends of the Library, one of the sponsors of the festival. Other sponsors include the South Carolina Humanities Council, the YWCA of Greater Charleston, the Rotary Club of Charleston, the YMCA of Greater Charleston, CharlestonGood, and the Avery Research Center.

“We are also grateful that the Charleston County Public Library has agreed to host the festival,” she continued. “Last year, at Burke High School, we were able to draw almost 500 readers. This year, with the support of the library, we expect many more.”

*Black Ink: A Charleston African American Book Festival’s mission is to support local Black writers, creating a space*

*for them to share their work, discuss their craft, and expose readers of all ages to the great variety of African American authors in the area. It will feature author sessions, workshops/seminars, and entertainment.*

**RSVP & Spread the Word on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/events/1908830459382906>**

**Volunteer for Black Ink Book Festival 2017:**

**<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4eadaa22a0f49-black>**



Poster Art by John Christopher Wright II

John Christopher Wright II lives in North Charleston, S.C., and is a sophomore at Fort Dorchester High School. His gift and passion for visual art was discovered by his parents when, at age three, he drew an exact replica of Sponge Bob Squarepants. He has participated in art programs and/or classes ever since and has won numerous awards and recognitions. A mural which he created is displayed at the entrance of his high school. John Christopher has created a You Tube channel displaying his artwork, with a following of more than 5,000 subscribers; and he customizes, for payment, clothing items for family members and friends. He enjoys studying history and science, playing sports video games, and hanging out with his friends. He is an active parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church. His parents are John C. and Leonis S. Wright.

## Black Ink 2017 Authors and their Books

- LaShonda Alexis, *Journey through the Eyes of a Teen Mom* (memoir)
- Authoress Anoshi, *Soul Mates: Meeting of Twin Flames* (Romance); *Gemini Breed* (Vampire Romance); *Queen of Spades*, *King of Heart*, and *Trump Tight* (Psychological Suspense Series)
- Carolyn Blake, *Inspired by Experience: Recipes for the mind, body and soul* (inspirational, cooking)
- Adelai Brown, *Be Blessed Daily; Anchored: Daily Words of Prayer* (inspirational)
- Alphonso Brown, *A Gullah Guide to History: Walking through Black History* (history)
- Cleo Scott Brown, *Witness to the Truth: My Struggle for Human Rights in Louisiana* (history), *Raceology 101: Essays on Race for Understanding, Introspection and Change* (essays)
- Kimberly Brock Brown, *Real Women, Real Leaders* (leadership); *Here I Am! Chef Kimberly's Answer to the Question, "Where are all the female and minority chefs?"* (memoir, cooking)
- Troy Brown, *Lois and the Red Balloon, Xavier's Book of Sometimes, Feathers* (children's illustrated)
- Teresa Browning, *Why I Kept my Past a Secret, Now That the Secrets Are Out!*, *Living Free of the Secrets, A Black Man's Pain* (fiction)
- Nicole Burgess, *Kayla's Crown and Glory* (children)
- Shaniqua Nakell Chinnis, *A Dope Boy's Heartbeat, Married to the Hustle: A Thug Luv Anthology, When a Boss Nigga Wants You* (fiction)
- Lornabelle Gethers Coakley, *Honey Bea's Everlasting Gifts: Gullah Stew fuh de Spirit; Contradiction, Controversy of the Joy and Pain in Living in South Carolina*
- Yvonne Commodore, *Where Were All these Fears Hiding?; I*

*Know Why My Daughters Are Crying: A Father's Response* (inspirational)

- Erica Cureton, *Fall In Love With A Man Like Jesus* (fiction)
- Natalie Daise, *Gullah Geechee Wisdom Cards* (inspirational)
- Shys Debiocci, *2 Ways 2 Hustle: Which Way Do You Go?* (fiction)
- Oneshia Diamond-Green, *Beauty for Ashes; Red Lights and Blues; and If I Must* (fiction)
- Regina Duggins, *Black Magic* (poetry)
- Bria Felicien (B. Fel), *Ready: A Novella, Winter Wonderland* (short stories, romance)
- Ella Fleming, *Her Widow's Peak* (novel)
- Damon Fordham, *True Stories of Black South Carolina* (history); *Voices of Black South Carolina* (history); *Mr. Potts & Me: The Power of Storytelling* (fiction)
- Jason Franklin (Max Lit), *Soul Therapy: A Collection of Works Inspired by the Life of Max Lit* (spoken word)
- Herb Frazier, *Behind God's Back* (history); *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel* (history)
- Savannah Frierson, *Escort to Tenderness; Go with Your Heart*, and many more (romance)
- Donloyn LeDuff Gadson, *The Belief in Wings: Evolving from Self-doubt to Personal Power* (for teen girls)
- Shaytee Gadson, *Hallelujah! In Hollywood: A True Hollywood Story* (history)
- Carletta Gathers, "Soar" (poetry), *To My Daughter* (for young ladies), *Wonder Woman* (single mother guide)
- Tiffany Glover (Jayne Phlow), *Get a Grip: Spilled Ink from my Soul; Phiyah Phlows; Spillin' da Phiyah* (spoken word)
- Christine Hampton (and Rosalie Washington), *The History of Lincolville, South Carolina* (history)
- Joyce Hansen, *I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly; The Captive; "Bury Me Not in a Land of Slaves: African*

*Americans in the Time of Reconstruction*; and many more (YA fiction and nonfiction)

- Ebony Hilton, *Ava's Big Move* (children)
- Maya C. Houston, *Journey The Soul of A Poet* (poetry)
- Jacinta Howard, *Blind Expectations*, *Finding Kennedy*, and more (romance)
- Nesha Jenkins-Tate, *Perfecting the Dance: Soulful Lessons about Love, Faith, and Courage* (inspirational)
- Nadine Johnson, *Peace; I Am; I Love; Last Night I Dreamt series*, *Bing vs. the J-Crew* and *LOVE* (children)
- Kyndra Joi, *Princess Aynika: Tales of a Gullah Princess* (children)
- Brittany Lawrence, *Share Your Toys and Not Your Body; Ladies While We're Still Single; Not Approved; Come Sit on My Lap*
- Yusef Michael Marshall, *The Heart of the Stepfather* (nonfiction)
- Latoya McDonald, *Out Loud! My Story of Abandonment, Hope and Faith* (inspirational)
- Quanie Miller, *The Truth about Vivian* (mystery); *The New Mrs. Collins: A Southern Paranormal Novel*; *It Ain't Easy Being Jazzy* (romantic comedy)
- Vyce Moses-Johnson, *Shattered, Covered, Restored* (fiction); *Still Miracles* (memoir)
- Horace Mungin, *Truth and Absurdities: Social and Political Commentary*, *Poetic Portraits: The African People of San Juan Hill* (memoir), ... *Or Does It Explode* (fiction), and many more
- Crystal Myers, *Brown Sugar; Chocolate Storm; Caramel Dream; 'Tis the Season* (fiction)
- Daniel Nelson III, *I: The Presence of Light; I: The Emolian Empire, I: The Withering* (fantasy)
- Sybil Nelson, *Priscilla the Great Presents Twin Shorts* (and many other Priscilla the Great titles); *Dark Marco, Volumes 1 and 2; Ebonee and Ivory* (all children); *Pride and Prejudice in Space* (science fiction); and many titles under Leslie DuBois

- Aliyma Njie, *Perceptions of a Misplaced Afrikan Volume 1* (spoken word)
- Arnold Powell, *Most Likely To ...* (fiction)
- Bernard Powers, *Black Charlestonians* (history); *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel* (history)
- Angie Ravenel, *Makeup 101 with Angie Ravenel*
- Mary Rodwell, *Love Is Not Black or White; The Girl Who Lived Behind the Fence, The Great I Am/El Gran Yo Soy* (self-help)
- Alexis Salters, *Speaking Inspirations From Within* (inspirational)
- Mattie P. Sanders, *Look Beyond the Smile* (child abuse, memoir)
- Daniel M. Smith Jr., *African-Americans and Charleston: Histories Intertwined* (history, photography)
- Stacie Thompson, *The Words That Heal Encouragement For The Soul* (inspirational)
- Alicia Turner, *Hey Ugly, Pinky Promise: Breaking the Code of Silence* (children)
- Christine Washington, *Brainstorming; Chains; Unfairly Tales* (poetry)
- Synthia Williams, *Trust Me With Your Love, Love Me As I Am* (romance)

### **2017 Committee Members**

Kim Bowlin (Charleston County Public Library)

Todd & Jacara Chas (CharlestonGOOD)

LaVanda Brown (YWCA of Greater Charleston)

Dena Davis

Savannah Frierson (Avery Research Center)

Stephen G. Hoffius

Maya M. Hollinshead

Darlene Jackson (Charleston County Public Library)

Brittany Mathis (Charleston Friends of the Library)

Georgette Mayo (Avery Research Center)



Chase B. Quinn  
Georgetta Reese  
Paul Stoney (YMCA of Greater Charleston)

## 2017 Festival Sponsors

