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WLS To Kick-Off Black History Month With Literary Tea

POSTED BY WESTCHESTER.COM
THURSDAY, 08 JANUARY 2009



Tarrytown, NY - The Westchester Library System (WLS) will hold its 11th annual African American Writers & Readers Literary Tea on Monday, January 19, 2009 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Abigail Kirsch's Tappan Hill in Tarrytown, NY.

The Literary Tea,

which kicks off a month-long celebration of African American history, literature, and culture throughout the County's 38 public libraries, is co-sponsored by the Westchester County Chapter of The Links, Inc.

"WLS' annual Literary Tea affords us the perfect opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the significant literary contributions made by the African American community," said John Smith, WLS Interim Director. "The enthusiasm of the authors, sponsors, and committee members, coupled with the importance of the topic, makes this a truly special event in Westchester."

This year's event will be hosted by Melvin Burruss, Esq., President of the African American Men of Westchester, Inc., with Honorary Chair Cheryl Brannan, President/CEO of Sister to Sister International, Inc. Ticket prices for the 11th annual African American Writers & Readers Literary Tea are \$75 for general admission and \$100 for Tea Friend, which includes admission to a pre-event reception and photo opportunity with the authors. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call (914) 231-3226 or visit www.westchesterlibraries.org.

Authors to be honored at the 11th annual WLS African American Writers & Readers Literary Tea include:

Kimberly Seals-Allers is an award-winning journalist, a respected personal finance expert, and a public speaker. Seals-Allers most recently served as a senior editor at Essence magazine. Previously she was a reporter and staff writer for Fortune magazine. Seals-Allers has also worked at the New York Post and the Times (London) and has written for Ladies' Home Journal, Real Simple, The Independent (London), and numerous other newspapers and magazines. She is also the founder of www.mochamanual.com, the fastest-growing online lifestyle destination for moms of color. She currently resides on Long Island, NY with her husband and two children. Her latest book, The Mocha Manual to Turning Your Passion into Profit, offers the step-by-step answers you need to create a bona fide business.

Asha Bandele is an award-winning author and journalist. A former features editor for Essence magazine, Asha's articles and essays have appeared in a broad array of publications, from Vibe to the New York Times. Her first book, Absence in the Palm of My Hands, a collection of poems, received wide critical acclaim, as did her next two books, the award-winning memoir The Prisoner's Wife (1999) and her novel, Daughter (2003). After an appearance on HBO's Def Poetry Jam in 2005, she returned to poetry with the much-anticipated The Subtle Art of Breathing. Her latest work, Something Like Beautiful, is a poetic, passionate, and powerful memoir about the hard realities of single motherhood. Asha is the recipient of Columbia University's Revson Fellowship and has appeared on Oprah, 20/20, Anderson Cooper 360, and countless other local and national outlets. She lives in Brooklyn, NY with her daughter Nisa.

Tonya Bolden, a magna cum laude baccalaureate of Princeton University with a master's degree from Columbia University, has devoted the lion's share of her writing talent on books for the young. Her many books include Marithea: A

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Nineteenth-Century American Girl, a Coretta Scott King Honor Book and [James Madison](#) Book Award winner; the lavishly illustrated [George Washington Carver](#), which [School Library Journal](#) declared "a welcome addition to all biography shelves;" and [MLK: Journey of a King](#), winner of the 2008 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children.

New York Times Bestselling Author Kimberla Lawson Roby has published eleven novels which include: One in a Million, Sin No More, Love & Lies, Changing Faces, The Best-Kept Secret, Too much of a Good Thing, A Taste of Reality, It's a Thin Line, Casting the First [Stone](#), Here and Now, and her debut title, Behind Closed Doors, which was originally self-published through her own company, Lenox Press. Her novels have frequented numerous bestseller lists, among them The New York Times, The Washington Post, Publishers Weekly, Essence Magazine, Upscale Magazine, Emerge Magazine, Blackboard, Barnes and Noble, [Amazon.com](#), Wal-Mart, The Dallas Morning News, and The Austin Chronicle. Ms. Roby received the Blackboard [Fiction Book](#) of the Year Award in 2001 for Casting the First Stone. She is also the 2006 and 2007 recipient of the Female Author of the Year award presented by the African-American Literary Award Show in New York. Her twelfth title, The Best of Everything, will be released on January 13, 2009.

The Westchester Library System is located at 540 White Plains Road, Suite 200, Tarrytown, NY 10591. For a complete list of programs and events throughout the Westchester Library System, visit the WLS website at www.westchesterlibraries.org.

About the Westchester Library System

The Westchester Library System (WLS) includes 38 member public libraries located throughout the County and is one of New York State's 23 public library systems. WLS and its member libraries have a total collection of 5.4 million items, including 3.7 million books, as well as audio recordings, videocassettes, DVDs, print serials, and other materials. The mission of the Westchester Library System is to ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County. The Westchester Library System serves as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community. We provide model programs, affordable and easy-to-use [information technology](#), and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities.

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