**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; [[1]](#footnote-1) [[2]](#footnote-2)

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; 1 2

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; [[3]](#footnote-3) [[4]](#footnote-4) [[5]](#footnote-5)

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; 3 4 5

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;3

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; 3

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

**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;”[[6]](#footnote-6)

(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

Seconder: Jessica J. Schomberg, Councilor-at-Large

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

Seconders:

Trevor A. Dawes, ALA Executive Board, At-Large

Aaron Dobbs, LITA

Martin Garnar, IFRT

Eboni M. Henry, At-Large

Sonia Alcantara-Antoine, At-Large

Oscar Baeza, At-Large

Matt Beckstrom, Montana

Gladys Smiley Bell, At-Large

Kathy Carroll, At-Large

Stephanie Chase, PLA

Virginia Alexander Cononie, South Carolina

Roberto Delgadillo, At-Large

Karen E. Downing, ALA Executive Board

Emily Drabinski, At-Large

Vicki M. Emery, At-Large

Jennifer Ferriss, New York

Erica Findley, At-Large

Elizabeth Fox, South Dakota

Ed Garcia, At-Large

Selina Gomez-Beloz, At-Large

Mario M. Gonzales, At-Large

Mel Gooch, At-Large

Terri Grief, At Large

Dorcas Hand, At-Large

Megan Hodge, At-Large

Patricia M. Hogan, SRT

Grace M. Jackson-Brown, At-Large

Jennifer Jamison, At-Large

Sara Kelly Johns, At-Large

Kyla M. Johnson, At-Large

Danielle Jones, Oregon

Jessica Jupitus, At-Large

Em Clair Knowles, At-Large

Laura Koltusky, SSRT

Majed Khader, West Virginia

Leroy LaFleur, ACRL

Sherry Machones, Wisconsin

Mike Marlin, ALA Executive Board

Dale K. McNeill, Texas

Virginia (Ginny) B. Moore, At-Large

Beth Munk, Indiana

Muzhgan Israfil Nazarova, At-Large

Larry Neal, At-Large

Kimberly A. Patton, At-Large

Lessa K. Pelayo-Lozada, ALA Executive Board, At-Large

Raymond Pun, At-Large

Karen Quash, At-Large

Rachel G. Rubin, At-Large

Romelia Salinas, At-Large

Edward Sanchez, At-Large

Michael Santangelo, At-Large

Karen G. Schneider, At-Large

Jahala D. Simuel, At-Large

Eric Suess, At-Large

Daniella Smith, At-Large

Amy Steinbauer, At-Large

Ann K. Symons, GLBTRT

Stephanie D. Tolson, Missouri

Janice Welburn, 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

1. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. John Mark Tucker, Untold Stories: Civil Liberties, Libraries, and Black Librarianship, (Champaign, IL,1998), Publications Office, Graduate School of Library and Information Science. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Cheryl Knott, Not Free, Not for All, (Amherst, 2015), University of Massachusetts Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Code of Ethics of the American Library Association. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)