



For Immediate Release

Black Books Galore! Contest Winners Announced

On behalf of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's Committee on Services to Children & the Families of African Descent, Karen Lemmons, Co-Chair, and Wiley author and Honorary Chair, Eleanora Tate presided over the announcement of the winners of the BCALA-Wiley Black Books Galore! Contest at the BCALA annual meeting during the American Library Association 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando.

This contest encouraged children's librarians to create public library programs that raised awareness and interest in African American children's literature. Using titles from Wiley's *Black Books Galore! Guide to Great African American Children's Books*, librarians developed entries reflecting original, creative programming that increased community involvement and sparked the interest of children, parents, caregivers, and teachers in African American life and culture.

The contest ran from July 2003 through March 2004. The panel of judges consisted of the following distinguished children's librarians and award-winning authors: Karen Lemmons, Co-chair, Howe Elementary School; Tonya Bolden, author; Vivian Bordeaux, Bridgeport Public Library; Josephine Fulcher-Anderson, Ferguson Library; Ronald M. Gauthier, Alvar Branch, New Orleans Public Library; Sherelle Harris, Norwalk Public Library; Chrystal Carr Jeter, Cleveland Public Library; Malikah Dada Lumumba, Franko School; John S. Page, Jr., University of the District of Columbia; Toni Trent Parker, co-author and founder, *Black Books Galore!*; Sandra Payne, New York Public Library; Veronica L.C. Stevenson-Moudamane, The Danbury Library; and Bina Williams, Bridgeport Public Library. Entries were judged on the basis of creativity, thoroughness, clarity, and impact and participation.

Prizes included a collection of African American children's books and signed prints by award-winning children's illustrators Synthia Saint James, Dolores Johnson, and Pat Cummings. In addition, the first place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, a slide presentation by Toni Trent Parker, and a trip to the American Library Association 2004 Annual Conference in Orlando. All winning entries will be on display at www.bcala.org and www.blackbooksgalore.com.

Winners are: first place, Peter Menta, Children's Librarian, **Stetson Branch, New Haven Public Library**; second place, Nicole Frilling, Virtual Branch Librarian, **Kenton County Public Library**; third place, Renee Tobin, Children's Services Supervisor, **Rancho Cucamonga Public Library**.

Toni Trent Parker speaks about the importance of the contest and how the word is spreading. "As both a *Black Books Galore!* author and a contest judge, I found it tremendously exciting to see the range of creative ideas coming in from librarians all around the country," she says. "We've been able to put a totally new focus on African American children's literature."