



NEWS RELEASE

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Authors, Illustrator to Explore Literary Legacy of Coretta Scott King Award

As we prepare to celebrate Black History Month, three award-winning panelists will join [Wake County Public Libraries](#) to discuss the history of the Coretta Scott King Award and the literary legacy of African American children's books. The program will take place on Jan. 27 at Cameron Village Regional Library in Raleigh.

"It's a great opportunity to bring people together to talk about what this special award means to all readers, especially African American children," said panel moderator [Judy Allen Dodson](#), a librarian and archivist at the Olivia Raney Local History Library. "We'll also explore what must happen to preserve and foster this legacy—and the challenges that exist."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the [Coretta Scott King Book Awards](#). They honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his wife, Coretta, for her courage to continue working for peace after her husband's death.

These awards are given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values.

The panelists, all Coretta Scott King Award-winners, include:

- [Shelia P. Moses](#), author, “The Legend of Buddy Bush;”
- [Kelly Starling Lyons](#), author, “Ellen’s Broom;” and
- [Gordon C. James](#), illustrator “*Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut.*”

Hear their thoughts on the significance of the award’s 50th anniversary, what distinguishes a good children’s book, how the legacy of African American children’s literature has evolved and more.

The event will run from 2 – 4 p.m., and include refreshments, book signings and crafts. Learn more and register [here](#).

About Wake County Public Libraries

The mission of [Wake County Public Libraries](#) is to promote the love of reading and to foster the pursuit of knowledge for the residents of Wake County. In fiscal year 2018, our 22 libraries were visited more than 3.43 million times, and 235,251 people were active library cardholders.

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