

WINTER 2021

REMCO NEWS



ETHNIC MINORITY CONCERNS
SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN LIBRARIES
NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Welcome from the Chair

With everything that has happened in the year 2020 one can say that we have reason to be melancholy in mind and spirit. We are still in a time of political and social discourse. We are still dealing with a pandemic that seems to have no end. In times like these, I think of a quote from the Chinese philosopher Lao-Tzu.

“If you are depressed you are living in the past.If you are anxious you are living in the future.If you are at peace you are living in the present.”— Lao Tzu

As we move forward into the year 2021 let us move with the presence of the present in mind. Let us be aware and mindful of what is happening at this very moment. Let us learn to balance our past, present, and future but understand that we only truly live in our present. In the present is where we concur life. The present is giving us as agents in a service field to be a beacon of civility to the public in which we serve. I’ve asked this before and I’ll ask it again, “How will you be the beacon of civility in a time of change, and how will you do it through REMCo?”



*Marcellaus A.
Joiner*

Greetings from Vice-Chair

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Vice-Chair over the last year. I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits despite today's social and political unrest, both domestic and international. REMCo will continue to use its voice to stand against police brutality and social injustices that plague the lives of minority groups in America. It is my hope that you're using this time to protect your mental health, search for things to keep your mind and hands occupied, and rest when you can. In addition to maintaining your mental health at home, be sure to prioritize your tasks at work, search for professional development opportunities in areas you wish to improve and use downtime to focus on your center.

In the midst of everything that is happening around us, REMCo has a lot to be grateful for. We're working on new projects that will continue to bring issues and concerns of ethnic minority librarians to the forefront. New collaborations are in the works as we continue to steer the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion to the masses. Today's shift in politics and social justice has shown that there is still much more work to be done. We must continue to stand up and have our voices heard. You deserve to be treated with respect and dignity despite your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, and economic status. If you would like a list of anti-racism resources, please visit our webpage.

As many of you have noticed, REMCo has been working earnestly to bring you virtual professional development opportunities that will help you stay connected during the pandemic. We've seen record numbers in our webinar registration and attendance, views on our YouTube page, and engagement on our social media platforms. Your recommendation to increase our social media presence has also materialized and we are happy to report that we now have a Facebook page (Round Table for Minority Ethnic Concerns- REMCo) as well as an Instagram page (NC. REMCo). If you haven't already, please follow us for the most up to date information regarding events, webinars, and news that we share. Lastly, thank you to all those who continue to support REMCo and our efforts to create an equitable path for Black Americans, Indigenous People, and other people of color.



*Brittany N.
Champion*

Advocacy in Libraries

A new legislative season is on its way. When the President outlines his new budget, the latest cycle of advocacy starts. How does library advocacy help my library? That's a great question. Library advocacy gives voice to communities that are underserved and in need. Library advocacy entails building relationships with elected officials at every level of government to ensure that library voices are at the table when legislation is passed that affects libraries. It's an important and vital function of librarianship. Providing legislators with library success stories allows advocates to help shape their understanding of the economic, cultural, and community values of libraries at all levels of government. It also sets up advocates to ask for support from legislators that often includes funding. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides federal funds to libraries. These funds have been critical this year as libraries forge ahead in providing services during a pandemic. IMLS awarded libraries and museums \$13.8 million in CARES Act Grants. Two NC libraries were the recipients of CARES Act Grants this year:

- Chapel Hill Public Library was awarded \$150,000 to bring computers, Wi-Fi, and assistance directly to the community by creating a robust laptop lending program, paired with increased Wi-Fi at public facilities and in communities of need.
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Library was awarded \$492,000 to create and pilot its Neighborhood W.I.S.P. (Wireless Internet Service Provider) Network to increase internet access in the county's West Boulevard corridor. Nearly 41 percent of households in this area lack internet access and 35 percent live in poverty.

The aforementioned grant will impact the community I serve, so this one feels personal. Being able to provide citizens in this corridor with free internet is crucial especially when many low-income students do not have the access needed to learn virtually. Library advocacy makes it possible for agencies like the IMLS to provide funding that benefits communities we serve. Why am I sharing this information with you?

Because we're always looking for new advocates. And you can help by:

- Consider joining the NCLA Legislative and Advocacy Committee. This year is special as our team recently became a formal NCLA section. We now have voting privileges that will allow us to have more of a say in shaping advocacy. It's a great way to learn the ins and outs of advocacy. It's also a great way to meet elected officials.
- Familiarize yourself with advocacy resources. You don't have to go far to find resources that can help you. The Legislative and Advocacy Committee's website contains great information including resources and tips on how to get involved. You can also find a wealth of stories from libraries across the state. ALA has also developed a handbook that can answer any and all advocacy questions.
- Look for the legislative alerts that will come from the Legislative and Advocacy Committee. You will most likely see a slew of alerts coming from the committee once the appropriations cycle begins. We'll ask you to make phone calls, send emails, or reach out on social media. We'll also provide you with a script to deliver via these communication methods. There is strength in numbers. The more voices that legislators hear from, the more likely they will act on legislation. The more advocates we have, the merrier!

For any of you who have acted as advocates, we appreciate your ongoing support. We look forward to working with you in the new year. For those of you who are interested in serving as an advocate, I'd be happy to further discuss how you can help. NC libraries enrich communities in unbelievable ways. With your help, NC libraries can aspire to even higher heights.

LaJuan S. Pringle
Co-Director, REMCo
Co-Chair, NCLA Legislative and Advocacy Committee
ALA Committee on Legislation, Grassroots Subcommittee
Branch Leader
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library – West Boulevard
lpringle@cmlibrary.org
He, him, his

REMCo Cultural Conversations

REMCo, like similar library sections has been working towards building our members professionally through virtual professional development opportunities. With extensive planning and recruitment, we chose to highlight librarians of color who have actively sought ways to create innovative avenues to serve both their internal and external communities. Despite failures, learning curves, and budget concerns, librarians collaborated with management to ensure their team's morale remained strong and that they felt supported. In addition to maintaining traditional communication, librarians shared ways to keep patrons digitally supported and connected to their library's resources and services. As a result, their teams were able to provide uninterrupted programs and community outreach.

Our first installment of 2020s REMCo Cultural Conversations featured Dr. Claire Heckel, project coordinator of People Not Property: Slave Deeds of North Carolina, a digital library on American Slavery. Dr. Heckel shared the history of the project and extended the opportunity for registrants to assist. The second installment featured Forrest Foster*, former Director of Library Services at Fayetteville State University, Kelvin Watson, Director of Libraries at Broward County Libraries, and Shannon Jones, Director of Libraries at the Medical University of South Carolina. Each director shared how their leadership experiences had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This installment was the highest attended webinar of the series, with a total of 144 participants and 222 registered. Our third installment included librarians who discussed the changes in the planning and the execution of successful virtual author talks. Featured librarians gave insights on how to market author talks, outreach initiatives, and how to manage budgetary concerns.

The author talk discussion featured Judy Allen Dodson, Librarian Archivist of Olivia Raney Local History and Research Library, Gloria Kelley, Dean of Library Services at Central Piedmont Community College, Jessica Buck, Librarian I of Escondido Public Library, and Alan Bailey, Professor & Head of Services at J. Y. Joyner Library at East Carolina University. Leander Croker and Claudia Alemàn closed out the series with insightful advice on curating and managing social spaces for librarians of color. Both Croker and Alemàn were passionate about the importance of maintaining a space for us to grow, network, and collaborate with others.

Each installment served the community in a different capacity and introduced new perspectives on a variety of topics that directly affect libraries today. Thank you to all those who participated in our 2020 series. We look forward to seeing you at our 2021 installments of the Cultural Conversations series.

*Forrest Foster is currently serving as Assistant Dean of Library Services at F.D. Bluford Library, North Carolina A&T State University.

By: Brittany N. Champion
Vice Chair, REMCo
Instruction & Outreach Librarian
Pitt Community College
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She/her/hers

2020 REMCo Executive Board

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Joan Hill, Secretary & Treasurer, ijhill@livingstone.edu

Leander Croker, Co-Director, lcroker@dconc.gov

Lajuan Pringle, Co-Director, lpringle@cmlibrary.org

Jewel Davis, Past Chair, davisja5@appstate.edu

Call for Roadbuilder's Award Committee

The Roadbuilder's Award recognizes ethnic minority librarians in library education, academic, public, school, and special libraries, who have served as pioneers in librarianship and also as positive role models. This award recognizes ethnic minority librarians who exemplify courage, integrity, perseverance and have contributed to the field of librarianship for their specific category. The categories include library education, academic, public, school, and special librarianship.

This is a great opportunity to help highlight Librarians of Color (LOC) who have made a great impact on their communities. If you feel that you would like to help serve on the committee, [please complete the form](#) by Friday, January 29th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brittany Champion at bnchampion711@my.pittcc.edu.

Thank you to our past Roadbuilder's Award committee members Marcellaus Joiner, Angel Truesdale, Kate Engelbrecht, and Ericka D. Hill.



Roadbuilder's Award winners with incoming chair from left to right: Dr. Anthony Chow, Liliet Council, Brittany Champion standing in for Shamella Cromartie, Marcellaus Joiner, and Derrick Flood bottom left



REMCo Education Spotlight

Jeuron Dove is a native of Greensboro, NC, and current MLIS student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he will graduate in Spring 2021. He received his bachelor's degree in journalism from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Mr. Dove's passion for librarianship dates back to childhood when he took a trip to the Eden Public Library to check out multiple copies of the Encyclopedia Brown mystery books. He has worked as a circulation volunteer for the Greensboro Public Library and reference intern for UNCG's Jackson Library. His areas of interest include adult literacy, digital literacy, collection development/management and archives.

Mr. Dove believes all libraries have the potential to enrich the lives of the communities they serve. He is a student member of the American Library Association, Black Caucus of the American Library Association and North Carolina Library Association.

In his free time he enjoys writing and collecting pop culture memorabilia.



Jeuron

Dove



Carlos

Grooms

Carlos Grooms is a University Library Technician at North Carolina State University's F.D. Bluford Library. He attends North Carolina Central University's School of Library and Information Science. Mr. Grooms will receive a master's degree in Library Science in the areas of Academic and Digital Librarianship, and he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Winston Salem State University. He has a combined seventeen years of public and academic library experience. At Greensboro Public Library, Carlos taught basic computer literacy classes to support local strategies designed to close digital divides in surrounding communities. He assisted in implementing library programming and services that promoted lifelong learning and community development.

At F.D. Bluford Library, Carlos works in the Research, Instructional, and Engagement Services department. His primary roles are providing academic support to the university community using library resources, coordinating and scheduling library instruction classes and one-on-one information sessions, and troubleshooting technologies in collaborative learning spaces.

In addition to Mr. Groom's primary duties at F.D. Bluford Library, he serves as co-chair of the Community Engagement Committee, a member of the Scholarly Communications Committee, and he also serves as a representative of the University Staff Senate. Carlos is excited about working as a professional librarian within North Carolina, focusing on areas of study in social sciences, scholarly communications, digital preservation of history and cultural heritage, and information literacy frameworks.

Carlos has been acknowledged for promoting awareness of library services and archival resources to the university and surrounding communities. In 2018, Carlos was a finalist for the University Award for Excellence in Customer Service and was a recipient of F.D. Bluford Library's Servant Leadership Award. In 2019, Carlos was awarded the Kaleidoscope Program Diversity Scholarship by the Association of Research Libraries. In 2020, the UNC Staff Assembly awarded Mr. Grooms the Janet B. Royster Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Grooms understands that a dynamic library can impact an individual's quality of life, and he looks forward to serving the communities of North Carolina as a public servant and steward of information resources.



*Lashaunda
N. Rodgers*

REMCo Education Spotlight

Lashaunda Rodgers completed her Masters of Library Science degree at North Carolina Central University in August 2020 and has elected to participate in the virtual graduation ceremony in December. Rodgers has been employed with Durham County Library since 2006. She is currently working as a Senior Library Asst. / Page Supervisor for Main Library. Dream is to work in Teen Services, specifically providing programming about college preparation and additional life skills to prepare for adulthood.

REMCo Spreads Awareness

Bridging the Digital Divide: Library Communities Respond
Presented on October 23, 2020



Leander Croker, Co-Director, and Jason Howard, Adult Services Librarian, led the discussion on bridging the digital divide. When public libraries closed their physical locations due to COVID-19, in-person programming shifted entirely to the virtual space. Librarians, once again, had to adapt to the needs of the public. As a result, librarians are implementing new skills to deliver rich and valuable programs.

While creating content for meaningful programs is second nature to librarianship, recording and editing video programs is daunting. This presentation will teach librarians how to use free or low-cost resources to enhance the quality of their virtual programs.

If you have expertise in a subject you believe may be of interest to our members, please consider contacting us to present a webinar. We want to support you and provide a platform for you to present your knowledge.

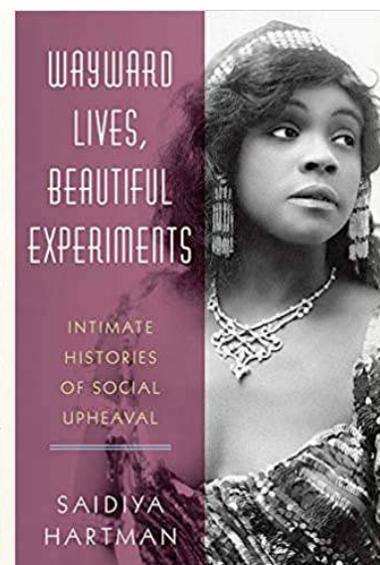
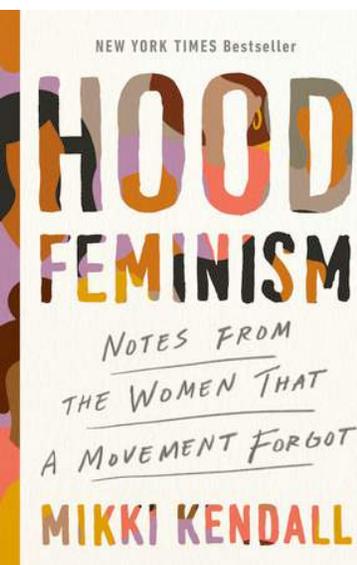
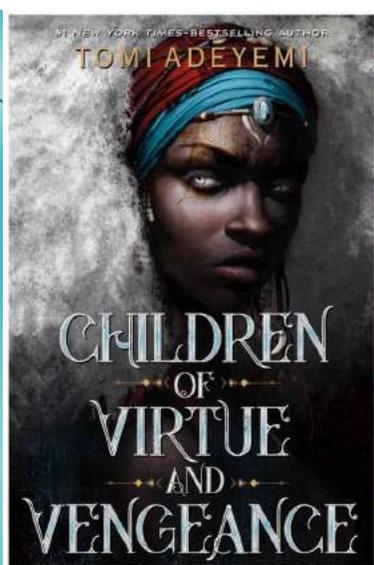
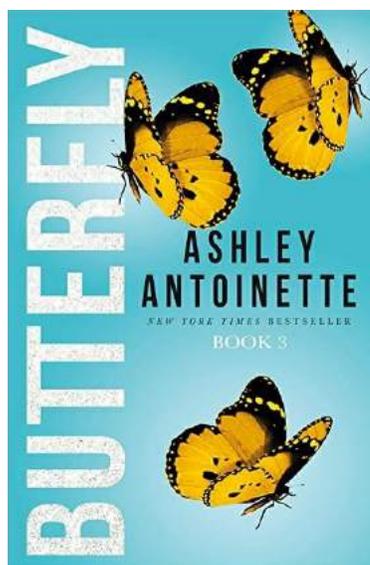
MLK Sunrise Celebration

In 1967, Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a speech entitled “The Other America” to Stanford University. This speech cites two stark realities for American citizens. Dr. King Jr. speaks of one America as “overflowing with the milk of prosperity and the honey of opportunity. This America is the habitat of millions of people who have food and material necessities for their bodies; and culture and education for their minds; and freedom and human dignity for their spirits.” According to Dr. King Jr, this America allows young people to “grow up in the sunlight of opportunity.” But there is the Other America. Dr. King Jr. says the Other America “has a daily ugliness about it that constantly transforms the ebullency of hope into the fatigue of despair.” This America is besieged by unemployment, poverty, and despair. As we fast forward to today, one asks if The Other America is still relevant today? In 2011, Michael Moore revealed that the Forbes 400 boasted more wealth than the bottom 50% of U.S. households combined. With an even timelier topic, we also know that the African American and Latinx communities are disproportionately affected by police violence. The Other America seems just as relevant today as when Dr. King Jr. first spoke of it.

The American Library Association, Social Responsibilities Round Table, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force, and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association will host its first-ever virtual Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration, scheduled for Monday, January 25, 11:00 am (EST). The keynote for the celebration will be V.P. Franklin, author of *The Young Crusaders: The Untold Story of the Children and Teenagers Who Galvanized the Civil Rights Movement*. The Call-To-Action will be delivered by Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress and Past ALA-President. The event will be livestreamed on ALA’s YouTube Channel. The theme of the event is The Other America. This program is being planned in conjunction with Beacon Press, and OCLC. As a co-chair of this event, I would like to invite all of you to join us on the 25th. This is a rare opportunity to experience an event that has become a hallmark celebration of the annual Midwinter meetings. We’re excited to provide access to the event for everyone, regardless of whether you register for the virtual 2021 Midwinter Meeting. Please join us if you can!

LaJuan S. Pringle
Co-Director, REMCO
ALA, SRRT, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Task Force,
Chair

REMCo Reads



If you have expertise in a subject you believe may be of interest to our members, please consider contacting us to present a webinar. We want to support you and provide a platform for you to present your knowledge.

REMCo Cultural Conversations

If you haven't registered for our next two REMCo webinars, please do. Visit the NCLA Conference calendar for more details.



REMCo Cultural Conversations
presents
A Journey into International Librarianship



Take a journey with us as REMCo explores librarianship in Nigeria. Damilare Oyedele, Library Advocate and Librarypreneur, is the Co-Founder & Chief Executive of Library Aid Africa. Oyedele will enlighten us on issues that affect library communities in Nigeria, including one that plagues us at the moment, the digital divide. He will also share his struggles with lack of access to technology and other resources. Please join us for our two-part webinar series.

[Advocating for Technology and Literacy](#)
Date: Monday, January 25, 2021
Time: 1:00 pm EST (8:00 pm GMT)

If you have any questions, please contact Marcellaus Joiner at marcellaus.joiner@highpointnc.gov. More details and registration information can be found on the [NCLA Event Calendar](#).

Damilare Oyedele
Twitter: damoyedele
Instagram: damoyedele
Facebook: Library Aid Africa

Advocating for Technology and Literacy

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Take a journey with us as REMCo explores librarianship in Nigeria. Damilare Oyedele, Library Advocate and Librarypreneur, is the Co-Founder & Chief Executive of Library Aid Africa. Oyedele will enlighten us on issues that affect library communities in Nigeria, including one that plagues us at the moment, the digital divide. He will also share his struggles with lack of access to technology and other resources. Please join us for our two part webinar series.



REMCo and STEM-LINC
Presents
Branching into STEM: Expanding Retention and Improving Diversity in STEM Librarianship



REMCo and STEM-LINC have partnered to create a space of conversation on how to improve diversity and retention efforts in STEM librarianship.

Keynote presentation to be led by Krista Schmidt of Hunter Library

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Time: 10:30 am- 12:00 pm

Krista Schmidt,
Keynote Speaker,
Panelist
Hunter Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC

J. Denice Lewis,
Panelist
Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Shaun Rutherford,
Panelist
Wayne County Public Library, Goldsboro, NC

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Panelists include Krista Schmidt of Western Carolina University, J. Denice Lewis of Z. Smith Reynolds Library, and Shaun Rutherford of Wayne County Public Library.