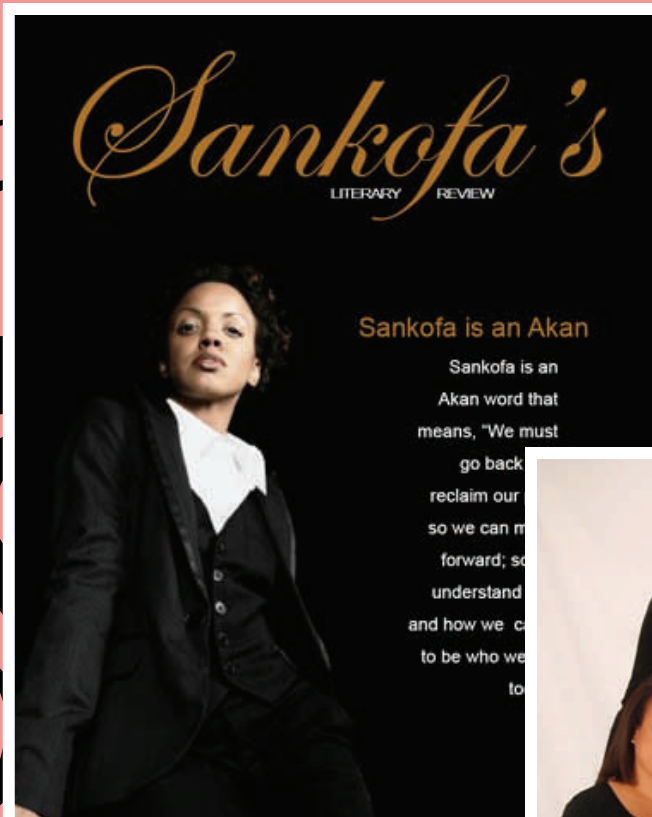




Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

Book and Social Club Tribute



**Celebrating
the women
and men who
create
bestselling
books!**



**New Year
Edition
2011**



Bookclubs are Important to Us!



The words "book club" conjures up visions of middle-aged women gathering to gossip, discuss books and to chat about their ordinary lives over wine and cheese. However, this is far from the truth as organized, independent book clubs of all sorts have recently gained attention across the country. We now have a network of social clubs, youth groups, savings clubs and non-profits as members of The Sankofa Literary Society!

Reading is a passion to be proud of and we have a wonderful selections of groups to prove it! We are here to give these groups the recognition they deserve! Please join Black Pearls Magazine in welcoming the published authors, avid readers, book reviewers, radio show hosts, organized bookclubs and social networks that create bestsellers.

Featured Bookclub Top:

Tina Moss President of BLACK P.E.A.R.L.S. Book Club

On the Front Cover:

Sankofa Literary Society, Dallas Girlfriends Bookclub and Tulsa Sipping Sisters Bookclub

On the Back Cover:

Deep in Thought Bookclub, Girlfriend Bookclub ATL Chapter and Jackie Lawson from the Sweet Soul Sisters, Maryland

Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection



Give the Gift of Knowledge!

Black Pearls Magazine is proud to announce the launch of the 2011-2012 "Give the Gift of Knowledge Campaign," bringing readers and authors together to help improve literacy. Yearly, we encourage readers to purchase books to give as gifts.

Each year thousands of people - educators, concerned parents, community leaders, authors, poets and publishers - devote their time and resources to presenting the reader with great books! However, too many outstanding books do not get the attention and reader support that they deserve.

It is our mission to connect readers with these hidden gems and bring them books that will change their lives. Instead of giving expensive gifts that don't add value or shape lives --- let's "Give the Gift of Knowledge" and help to strengthen our future generations!

About Ella Curry

Ella Curry is the president of **EDC Creations Media Group**. She brings more than 20 years of PR and marketing experience to clients in film, music, publishing and corporate event planning, earning her a reputation as a respected leader in the publishing industry. EDC Creations produces virtual events, social networking opportunities, and provides innovative web media outlets, which aided in creating strategic alliances with bookclubs, authors, social network partners, and business owners around the world.

EDC Creations Media Group is dedicated to serving authors and companies in need of creative and rewarding marketing strategies that will make their business grow. We can leverage the power of the media and Internet to promote their books or business and its "brand" to the consumers . Offering the self-published and independently published author the same quality of exposure as the traditionally published author.

Ella Curry is the producer of the **Black Authors Network Radio Show**. Through the internationally syndicated online BAN Radio Show, Ella has interviewed community leaders and celebrities such as: The View's Emmy® award-winning co-host, Sherri Shepherd, Byron Pitts Emmy® award-winning journalist for 60 Minutes, literary legends Dr. Maya Angelou, Sonia Sanchez, Queen Latifah and Hill Harper.

Join Ella and her team in Giving the Gift of Knowledge! Visit her main website for EDC Creations for more details at: www.edc-creations.com



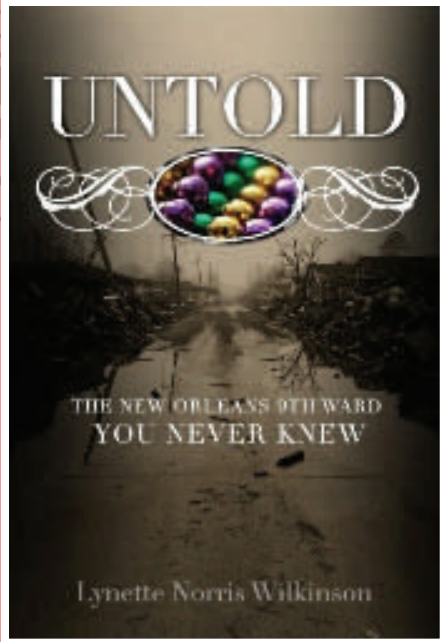
Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

Top Book Suggestions Non-fiction

- 🏆 Whatever It Takes by Paul Tough
Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America
- 🏆 DIE FREE: A Heroic Family History by Cheryl Wills
- 🏆 52 Weeks of Wow Faith by Mary E. Banks
- 🏆 Souls of My Sister by Dawn Marie Daniels and Candace Sandy
- 🏆 The Little Black Book of Success by Elaine Meryl Brown
- 🏆 The Grace of Silence: A Memoir by Michele Norris
- 🏆 Claudette Colvin : Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose
- 🏆 Extraordinary, Ordinary People by Condoleezza Rice
- 🏆 Conversations with Myself by Nelson Mandela
- 🏆 Sistergirl Devotions by Carol Mackey
- 🏆 Bitch Is the New Black: A Memoir by Helena Andrews
- 🏆 Love Brought Me Back by Natalie Cole
- 🏆 The Conversation by Hill Harper
- 🏆 From Ghetto to Greatness by Kevin "Coach" Brown
- 🏆 The Truth as I See It by Nakia R. Laushaul
- 🏆 Amazing Grace: A Tribute to You by Donna Michele Watford
- 🏆 Lessons Learned: Loving Yourself as a Black Woman by Tinisha Nicole Johnson

Purchase books from this list at the EDC Creations Bookstore

<http://astore.amazon.com/sanklitesoci-20>



EDC Creations Book of the Year

UNTOLD: The New Orleans 9th Ward You Never Knew

by Lynette Norris Wilkinson

New Orleans native **Lynette Norris Wilkinson** gives a glimpse into the lives of 16 Hurricane Katrina survivors from the Lower 9th Ward where she grew up. **UNTOLD: The New Orleans 9th Ward You Never Knew**.

Some of the first images you saw of New Orleans under water during Hurricane Katrina were the mangled houses and cars, and drowned bodies of the people from the Lower 9th Ward. Before Hurricane Katrina, few had even heard of this close-knit, predominately African American community nestled less than five miles from world-famous Bourbon Street .

The author says, “I watched it all unfold on TV from my home near Dallas that morning. As the waters rose, my heart sank. This was my home, my neighborhood, my people. How could I not use my gifts to tell their story?”

Sure, other books have been written about Hurricane Katrina survivors, but this one is different. Here’s why: UNTOLD focuses specifically on the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans.

- **UNTOLD** features survivors of all ages, men and women.
- **UNTOLD** seeks to shed some positive light on a very dark time.
- **UNTOLD**, approximately 100 pages, is an easy read but packed with powerful stories.
- The author grew up in the Lower 9th Ward community. The book is not written by an outside source.

The Lower 9th Ward remains devastated—still—but it is struggling to survive. Proceeds from this book will be donated to organizations that are helping the residents of the Lower 9th Ward recover.

Purchase the book from Lynette Norris Wilkinson

Website: <http://hurricanekatrinastories.com>



Lynette Norris Wilkinson

Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

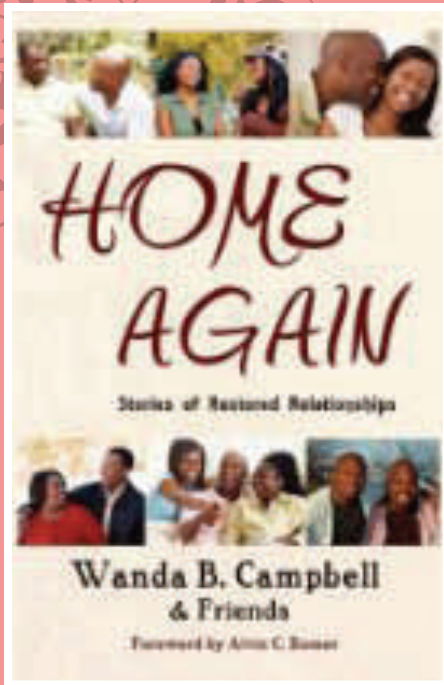
Top Book Suggestions Fiction

- 🏆 Substitute Me by Lori L. Tharps
- 🏆 32 Candles: A Novel by Ernessa T. Carter
- 🏆 Little Bee by Chris Cleave
- 🏆 'Till You Hear From Me by Pearl Cleage
- 🏆 Perfect Peace by Daniel Black
- 🏆 Family Ties by Ernest Hill
- 🏆 The Kitchen House: A Novel by Kathleen Grissom
- 🏆 God Ain't Through Yet by Mary Monroe
- 🏆 Samson by Jacquelin Thomas
- 🏆 Love Me Tonight by Gwynne Forster
- 🏆 Stealing Candy by Allison Hobbs
- 🏆 Eye for an Eye by Dwayne S. Joseph
- 🏆 Take Your Pleasure Where You Find It by J.D. Mason
- 🏆 Buying Time by Pamela Samuels-Young
- 🏆 True Confessions by Electa Rome Parks
- 🏆 Dirty Divorce 1 & 2 by Miss KP
- 🏆 Black Water Rising by Attica Locke
- 🏆 The Bite of the Mango by Mariatu Kamara

Purchase books from this list at the EDC Creations Bookstore

<http://astore.amazon.com/sanklitesoci-20>

Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection



Home Again with Wanda B. Campbell & Friends

Home Again: Stories of Restored Relationships -- Home Again is a compelling journey into the relationships that matter most: family, friends and self. Each story is founded on natural love, but will require the Father's love to heal the brokenness. Travel with husbands and wives, brothers, sisters, friends and families as they maneuver through life's hurts and betrayals while leaning on a power greater than themselves.

Meet the authors:

Wanda B. Campbell (Author), Dijorn Moss (Author), Tyora M. Moody (Author), Trinea Moss (Author), Maurice Gray Jr. (Author), Shenette Jones (Author), Bernard Boulton (Author), Tavares S. Carney (Author), and Dr. Linda F. Beed (Author)

Purchase Your Copy of the Book Today!

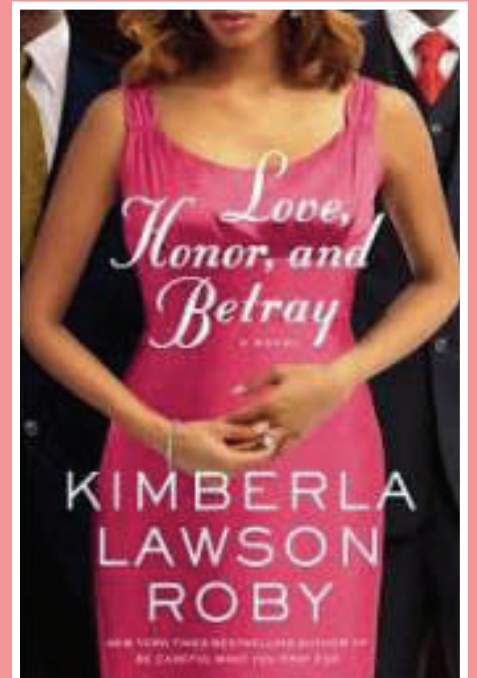
ISBN-13: 978-0979045813

Love, Honor, and Betray by Kimberla Lawson Roby

The infamous Reverend Curtis Black's sordid past is no secret, as his wife, Charlotte, is well aware. But when Curtis' long-time mistress and mother of his illegitimate two-year-old, dies, he and Charlotte have no choice but to raise Curtina together. While the living, breathing reminder of her husband's infidelity infuriates Charlotte, Curtis couldn't be happier to finally have his whole family together.

Despite her best efforts to keep her feelings hidden, Charlotte resents Curtina, taking her emotions out on the young girl. When confronted about her behavior Charlotte starts spending time away from home, all the while getting closer to her ex-boyfriend. Curtis appears to devote himself to his parish and the new church they're building, but is he really focusing his attention on the female parishioners trying to lure him into bed?

Suddenly Curtis and Charlotte find themselves slipping into dangerous territory, and not even Curtis' seven-figure salary can prevent what is about to happen.



Purchase Your Copy of the Book Today!

ISBN-13: 9780446572453

Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

Living Legacies!



Pamela Samuels Young is the Essence bestselling author of *Murder on the Down Low*, *In Firm Pursuit*, *Every Reasonable Doubt* and the newly released *Buying Time*. The former journalist and Compton native is the fiction writing expert for BizyMoms.com and is on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

Tell us about your passion for writing.

I definitely have a passion for writing. Nothing else could explain my willingness to sit in front of my computer for ten hours a day or my eagerness to rise at four in the morning to write before going to work. I enjoy creating characters and putting them in precarious situations. I want readers to get wrapped up in the mysteries I create, to love, hate and root for my characters, and to close each book and feel as if they got their money's worth.

Finish this sentence: My writing offers the following legacy to future readers...

I want to help destroy the publishing industry's belief that only African American readers will read stories with African American characters. People who love mysteries want a compelling story. My primary goal is to write entertaining thrillers with diverse characters and a storyline that keeps readers turning the page.

Find out more about Pamela and her books at:

www.pamelasamuelsyoung.com

Buying Time by Pamela Samuels Young

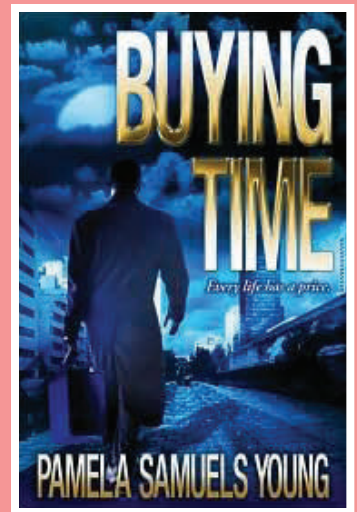
Angela Evans should be on top of the world. She's a smart, attractive prosecutor who's about to marry a successful judge. But the closer Angela gets to saying "I do," the more she wants out. Then she meets Dre, a street-smart brother who's nothing like her stuffy fiancé Cornell. Angela eventually calls off the wedding, but Cornell can't accept the rejection. He turns violent in a way Angela never could have imagined. Dre comes to her rescue, but Angela soon learns that he's hiding a shady past, and her world falls apart all over again.

Pick up a Copy Today at Amazon

<http://tinyurl.com/buyingtimeamazon>

ISBN-10: 098156271X | ISBN-13: 978-0981562711

Read an excerpt at: <http://www.pamelasamuels-young.com>



Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

Intimate Conversation with Literary Legends the Go On Girl! Book Club



Go On Girl! Book Club was founded in February 1991 by Monique Greenwood, Lynda Johnson and Tracy Mitchell, three co-workers from New York City. The organization grew as members moved to other states and wanted to begin GOG chapters in their new cities. Today, Go On Girl! Book Club is one of the largest national reading organizations in the U.S. for black women with over 300 members in 31 chapters in 13 states including New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, Illinois, Virginia, Indiana, South Carolina, Texas, Alabama, North Carolina, Washington, D.C.

(Photo taken by Ella Curry June, 2009 at Black Bookclubs Rocks Award. GOG won the Literary Legends award.)

What is the mission of the Go On Girl! Book Club? What are your group goals?

Key among the **Go On Girl!** goals is encouraging the continued publication of works by authors of African descent. The reviews to the authors and their publishing houses ensure the club's message is heard: "African-Americans do indeed read, so keep the quality books coming. This is not just a trend!"

The mission of **Go On Girl! Book Club** is to support the development of literature by authors throughout the African Diaspora. To that end we maintain on-going communication with authors and publishers of each book on our reading list to let them know our praise and and rage for each title. Go On Girl! Book Club's chapters support their respective communities through book drives, reading to the elderly and incarcerated, breast cancer walks, charity fundraisers as well as organizing Jr. Go On Girl! Book Club chapters for young girls.

What legacy do you think Go On Girl! Book Club will leave for those watching in the community?

We believe that **Go On Girl! Book Club's** legacy will be the support and guidance that we provide to black authors and publishers and the inspiration that our longevity and size gives to other book-clubs.

In 2009, Go On Girl! Book Club won the Literary Legend award from the Black Book Club Rocks Foundation for 18 years as a national reading organization for black women. In 2011, Go On Girl! Book Club will host its 20th anniversary celebration at its 19th annual author awards event.

The festivities will take place from May 20 - 22, 2011 in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott at Metro Center. All authors, bookclubs, publishers, bloggers, journalists who love black literature are invited to attend, For more information visit www.goongirl.org.

Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

Living Legacies!



Electa Rome Parks lives outside Atlanta, Georgia and is the best-selling author of seven acclaimed novels, *The Ties That Bind*, *Loose Ends*, *Almost Doesn't Count*, *Ladies' Night Out*, *These Are My Confessions* (anthology) *Diary of a Stalker* and *True Confessions*. Dubbed a "book club favorite," avid readers have embraced Electa's true to life characters that tackle prevalent and heavy hitting issues that take them on an emotional roller coaster. Electa is currently following her passion and working on her next novel and first screenplay.

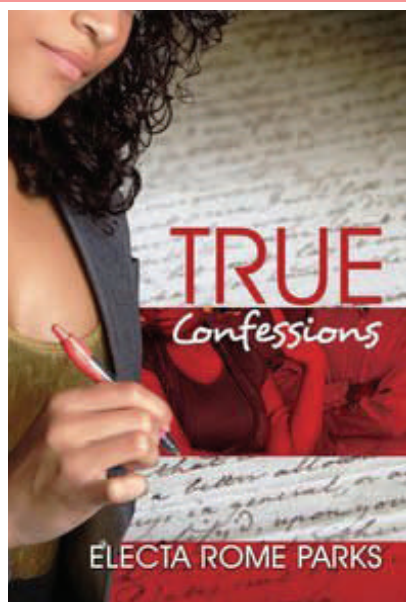
Besides the actual writing process, what is the most gratifying aspect of being a writer?

Hands down, the most gratifying part of being an author has been meeting and greeting new and interesting readers who are embracing my stories and e-mailing me and writing me and meeting me at signings and telling me how much they've enjoyed my books! We talk about my characters like they are old friends. No matter how many times I've experienced this, it always makes my day. Puts a big Kool-Aide smile on my face (LOL).

Their (the readers) feedback and reactions totally validates that my craft is a gift from God! If I can touch a number of people with my stories or even if I only entertain them and they don't walk away with a life lesson, then I've still done my job.

As you know, my stories are typically relationship based, very drama filled with an ounce of spice thrown in, well maybe a pound of spice thrown in, and they usually cover a topical issue that is prevalent in today's society. Believe me, I have so many characters screaming inside my head, waiting to tell their story, that I feel like the lady from the movie *Sybil* (LOL). So, bottom line, I pray and claim that my readership base will continue to grow and I'll have wonderful opportunities to meet many more fans.

To find out when and where Electa will be in your area, check out her website at www.electaromeparks.com.



True Confessions by Electa Rome Parks (ISBN-13: 978 1601622396)

Twenty-eight year old Kennedy Logan is gorgeous, educated, talented, and in love. Unfortunately, Drake Collins has other ideas about the true state of their relationship. Kennedy hopes to turn him around; Drake just wants to turn her out sexually. Kennedy is also searching for her biological mother, who gave her up at birth. She wants answers and she has tons of questions. The enormous weight of these predicaments leads to a failed suicide attempt. Her overprotective and overbearing mother, Dorothy Logan, moves in with Kennedy and makes it her mission to get her daughter's life back in order. The first step is getting rid of Drake Collins once and for all, but that's easier said than done. Drake has no intentions of going anywhere. Through very personal, funny, and graphic entries, readers will share her confessions. Brace yourselves for a very steamy journey!

Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

Intimate Conversations

Girlfriends Book Club Dallas Chapter



Give us a little history on your organization.

My name is Shameka Latimer, President of **Girlfriends Book Club Dallas Chapter**. GBC was founded in 2004 by Tamika Shamberger, CEO in Sacramento, CA. Dallas Chapter Officers are: Shameka Latimer- President/Secretary, Tonya Henderson-Smith-Vice President and LeTanya White-Kennedy- Treasurer. GBC Dallas was founded in July 2009 and is the fifth out of seven chapters. As of now we have a total of 8 member.

What is the mission of the group?

Our mission is to promote sisterhood and utilize this book club for self, as a stress reliever and a motivational tool. We look forward to working with all local and mainstream authors as much as possible to promote their novels.

What impact has reading had on your life?

Reading has been a stress reliever for us. It helps to take our mind off of things we may be going

through. Reading has opened me up to new author and great discussions.

What impact has being in a organized group had on your life?

GBC has been more then just a book club it has been a outlet for may of me. All of us women face challenges everyday be it at home or in the work place. When we get together we open up our hearts to each other. This organization has lead me to meet some women. Its like having an extended family.

What is your favorite genre of books? What are the key factors that make a book remain on your mind long after you read the last page?

This is a tough question. We enjoy Contemporary, Memoirs, Biography, Self help, Mystery, Romance, and other genres. Since we all have different personalities it vary's. Key factor that makes a book stay on our mind would be books that relate to our everyday lives are the ones that remain on our minds.

Do you think the writings of today's authors are leaving the same legacy as authors from other generations?

Yes, I do think the authors of today are leaving the same legacy as authors from other generations and some are leaving even better ones.

How do you feel about electronic books such as downloads for Kindle, Nook or iPad, etc?

As far as electronic book, I think its convenient and great. I think it depends on the person because some people want to collect the books they have read and some don't.

Deep In Thought Bookclub

"Embracing Literature and Sisterhood"
-- Takisha M. Tillie - Founder/President



Deep in Thought Book Club was established July 2008 in Jacksonville, Florida by Takisha Tillie as a means for women to come together to discuss various topics while encouraging literacy. We are an elite group of women who embrace literature and sisterhood through unity of purpose, social interaction, and intellectual conversation.

The group meet the first Saturday of each month at 5:00 pm with the exception of holidays where we meet the following week. We discuss a variety of books elaborating on family values, life experiences, women issues as well as world topics. The *Deep In Thought* meetings consist of fun activities and lively discussions all in a relaxing environment. Club meetings are just one resource for women to get away from everyday life to relax, laugh, and play in a social environment.

The club consist of 11 members at this time and have a 12 member cap per chapter. As we continue to grow, our plans are to branch out to have a chapter in several cities across the country. The first book we read was by author Carl Weber.

☞ **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Sista Girl Book Club PA

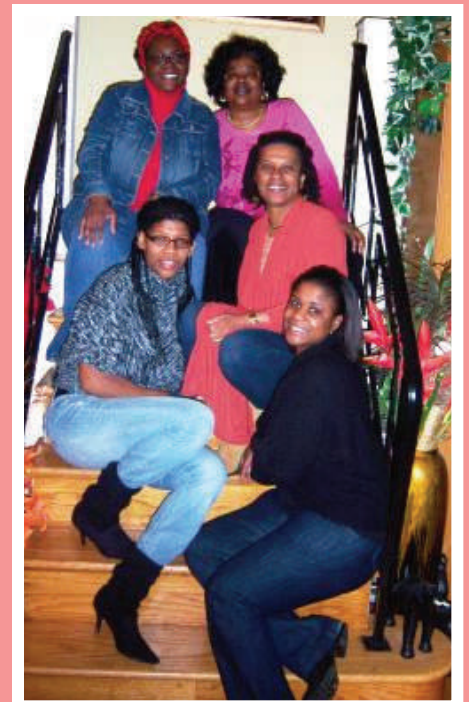
My name is Michelle Morris and I am the founder of *The Sista Girl Book Club*. I started my reading journey with the club September 2005.

We started with six members grew to ten members and today we a five member book club, and this size works for us. Members Max, Cap Alethia, Blanche and myself. We are located outside of Philadelphia, the city of brotherly LOVE!

My mission for starting of *The Sista Girl Book Club* was to read at least one book a month, our mission as a group is to introduce each other to new authors, embracing dialog and the gathering of the ladies, did I say "me" time? We each individually play a part in our communities through work and our personal lives, we want to help those who need help and are willing to help themselves.

I thank my sister Cap for giving me the book that started it all, "True To The Game." She gave me this book and told me to read it, I carried that book around for over 5 months. I broke down and started reading it and I was hooked on reading, I decided that I would read one book a month. Starting this book club has brought valuable lessons, reading, showing my kids that it's a good thing, sharing that with them and my friends. Setting goals and reaching them!

☞ **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>



Girlfriends Book Club, Atlanta

Germeko Murray, GBC Atlanta President



Our organization name is *Girlfriends Book Club* and we are the Atlanta Chapter. Our organization was founded in 2004 in Sacramento, CA. by CEO Tamika Shamberger. The Atlanta Chapter was founded in 2008 and we are the fourth of seven chapters. Officers of the Atlanta Chapter are Germeko Murray- President; Vegletta Cook-Lewis- Vice President, Sherica Tate- Treasurer and Stephanie Jett- Secretary. As of now we have nine members.

Our Mission: In the process of doing what we love which is reading we want to promote sisterhood. We would like to be a national known book club combating the stereotype that African American women can not get along, we would like show that it can be done in a positive way. You can find out more about all our organizations chapters at www.girlfriendsbookclub.com

Reading is Important: Reading is a comfort zone that sometimes takes you out of your element and it gives you a visual of situations and people that you may have never encountered or some you may know. Being in Girlfriends Book Club has allowed me to meet women from different backgrounds and experiences. I have also been able to participate in things that I would have not normally in return it has made me more open minded and appreciate sisterhood more.

☞ **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Our Reading Circle of Friends

Our *Reading Circle of Friends* (RCOF) was founded in 1995 by sixteen African American women bound by friendship, a love of reading and a commitment to support African American authors. We all live in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Most of us have been friends for more than 20 years and Circle members for at least 10 years. Seven of the current members are founding members of the Circle!

Our mission is to:

- encourage reading as a life long hobby
- heighten awareness of social and cultural issues
- provide a forum where friends share life lessons
- share our time and talents with our community
- serve as activists for social justice and global peace
- encourage African American women to find time for themselves
- read and promote books penned by African American authors
- inspire others to read by demonstrating our commitment to literacy



☞ **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

R.A.R.E. Book Club

Reading And Rapping Experience



R.A.R.E. Book Club (Reading And Rapping Experience) came to fruition on September 7, 1997 under the leadership of Salena Castle. There are a total of seven members, we have set a maximum of ten. Our President is Yolanda Marshall, one of the founding members...Secretary Latrice Dyson...Treasurer Tawanda Hardy.....Event Coordinator Sandra Brown.....Webmaster Lisa PuckettHistorian Sarita Baker.....Chaplain Sharlet Nunn. We are located in Memphis, TN. We meet once every six weeks to discuss the featured book (Black/African American authors only) chosen by a designated member.

R.A.R.E has an annual outing to celebrate its anniversary. We also periodically take in plays and movies together. We attended the National Book Club Conference for the first time in 2010. We so enjoyed it that we want to make it an annual trip.

Our mission is to infuse intellectual minds, strengthen sisterhood, offer time and service within the community and build lasting relationships through literary genre. our ultimate desire is to network with other book clubs, coordinate and host author's book signing events and all other literary influences as we promote the importance of literacy. We are scheduling reading time at some city schools.

🔗 **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

BSURE Book Club

(Brothers and Sisters United for Reading Enjoyment)

BSURE Book Club (Brothers and Sisters United for Reading Enjoyment) was founded in 2003. We began as 7 members and currently stand with 18 members strong. We are based out of Dallas and meet at various places throughout the metroplex. The current officers are as follows: Kellye Hillery (President), Arnecia Collins (Vice President), Patrice Alexander (Secretary), Carol Blakes (Treasurer), Veronica Morgan (Historian), Gloria Morrison (Financial Secretary), Carla Dixon (Event Coordinator), Mary Hamilton (Parliamentarian), and Phillip Salter (Financial Advisor).

Impact of Reading in a Group: Our members feel that being in a group of this size has had a great impact. Some feel they have grown by hearing the different perspectives on books that the members have. While others enjoy being around people of different backgrounds and being able to get out of the house for some relaxing fun.

Electronic Books: While it's understood that technology continues to advance, we still need our hardcover books. We will continue to read them and it is a concern that electronic books may cause some authors to not be financially successful and may decrease the need to even go to the public libraries.

🔗 **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>



Motown Review Bookclub



Motown Review Bookclub was founded in the fall of 1999. We decided on the name Motown Review, which is a play on Motown Revue, of the R&B era. The co-founders of the group were Jeanette Wallington and Sherri Stanley. We decided to form a bookclub after attending a literary event in Virginia Beach with Ruth Bridges. There we meet several bookclubs and some of our favorite authors, i.e Victoria Christopher Murray, Lolita Files, Valerie Wilson Wesley to name a few. We were delighted to find other avid readers.

Upon return home, we posted a notice at the DHS office we worked at and ask other if they were interested in forming a bookclub. We got a lot of responses, but the book club ended up with only four members for several years. We currently have six members. Membership is invitation.

Do you think the writings of today's authors are leaving the same legacy as author from other generations?

Yes, there are some such as Daniel Black whose books I think will be classics. They are thought provoking and very interesting reads that cover a wide scope of topics. Then there are others who are turning out poorly written, poorly edited books about a bunch of hogwash that when their phase is over, they will be soon forgotten.

☞ **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Divine Sister Book Club

Divine Sister Book Club was created April, 2009 as a tool to help escape day to day stress from work and home. Nevertheless, it was a way for a group of women to come together through reading to empower, to encourage and to inspire one another by expressing our thoughts and experience with each other. Needless to say ,we became more than a book club.

Divine Sister Book Club is located in Memphis, TN. We presently have eighteen members from age 26 years old to 57 years young. We meet monthly at various locations to discuss the book of the month, selected by the host for that month. We host at least three authors during the year, and we have our annual "Parade of Characters" in December. Our book club volunteers and provide community services at various agencies. Divine Sister Book Club (DSBC) will celebrate our two year anniversary with a Blast in April 2011. All members in the book club are assigned to various committees.

Our Mission is to empower, be proactive, and magnify a positive image of each committed member. We strive to form a strong sisterhood between women whose attribute is reading and supporting the talents of authors. We value a sense for caring for our community by volunteering our services.

☞ **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>



Women of Essence SC



We are the *Women of Essence Social Club*. I'm very new to the club and I love because the women that were in before me are great role models. I recently joined the group in July of this year. I am located in Houma, Louisiana about 45 miles from New Orleans.

Officers are: President - DeMona Harrison-Alexander; Vice President - Chevelle B. White; Secretary - Tuesday W. Pierce; Treasurer - Penny Thomas and Event Coordinators - Lisa James and Shanta Berry. **Members:** Natasha Edwards, Latoya Turner, Venessa Dunn-Collins, Shanta Phillips and Chandra Scott.

Is there anything you would love to see more of in literature and/or TV?

I would love to see more on the gay culture because it is definitely out there and you don't see much of it on TV, movies or in literature. I would also love to see more on strong families, because that is something that is very much needed in our society.

Submitted by: Natasha Monique Edwards, Gray, LA

🔗 **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

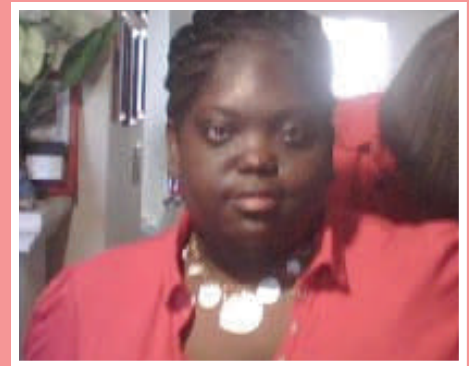
For Readers Only Book Club

For Readers Only Book Club of Morrow, Georgia was in the thought process for many years, but officially began on October 2, 2010. At our first meeting, along with my self we had eight ladies to join. A week later we had four more, with the committee and readers, we now have a total of fifteen members.

Our committee consists of the President & Urban Chapter Chairperson, Neisha Holloman; Administrator & Christian Chapter Chairperson, Anna Cunningham; Youth Chairperson, Nikeya Cunningham; Photographer, Deondre Holloman; Web Designer, Marvin Cunningham; Computer Support, Melvin Cunningham; Culinary Committee, Dion Holloman and Andreana Armour; more officers and committees are being formed in the beginning of 2011.

Our mission is to broaden our horizon and embrace the culture around us through fellowship, food and sharing good books. Keeping up with the latest books and meeting the writers that wrote them. We have not done anything in the community yet, but our goal is to attend local book signings, festivals, adopt a daycare, fun activities for kids and many other things. We want to do so much that our legacy will remain in the minds of the people of the community even after the founder and the original members are long gone.

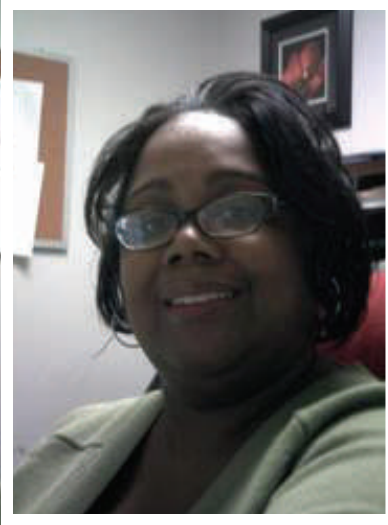
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Submitted by:

Anna Cunningham, Admin
For Readers Only Book Club

Sistahs of Urban Literature Karen Waiters, S.O.U.L. President



Sistahs of Urban Literature is a face to face book club that was formed in January 2009 in Winston-Salem, NC.

S.O.U.L. enjoys reading different genre of African American authors.

Our mission is to continue our appreciation of African American literature and support African American authors. The President is Karen B.

Waiters who is also the founder. Lashanda Hanna is the Vice President of the club. We have a total of twelve members which includes the officers.

What are the key factors that make a book remain on your mind long after you read the last page?

My favorite genre of books is fiction. I enjoy a story that can invoke many emotions within me. I appreciate the detail information the author has chosen to include in their work in which I can visually place myself there.

I have read some exciting prologues alone that have gotten me very interested in what type of story the author is getting ready to tell.

A good book is like a movie, if you can still picture the ending and wonder what if or you are still talking about certain characters after you have the read the book. If I am wishing for a part two of an author's work, they have definitely done their job.

Do you believe a character's culture, sexual orientation or religion is important to understanding their point-of-view in a novel? Why?

A character's background tells a lot of how the character is going to react. Culture affects a lot of people's motive on how they will react to a situation or life in general.

What impact has being in a organized reading group had on your life?

I have always been avid reader which led me to creating a book club. Being in a book club has allowed me to be exposed to even a larger genre of authors. I have read authors that I have never heard of and I have developed a great appreciation of our African American authors even more.

S.O.U.L. has allowed me to meet authors and network with other book clubs. Our book club has allowed me to have a desire to introduce young girls to reading. We are currently organizing a summer book club for girls in 2011.

I look forward to continuing to fellowship with a great group of women that I consider friends.

Submitted by: Karen Waiters, S.O.U.L. President

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<http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Butterfly Book Club



The *Butterfly Book Club* officially started on May 7, 2003. We are located in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to us becoming an official book club, the founders of the book club (Afonda Johnson and Mala Robinson) discussed books over the telephone. Mala and I would go to the library, choose the same book, and after we finished reading the book we discussed it over the telephone. Over a period of time, we decided that it would be more interesting to start a book discussion group. Therefore, we had our first book club meeting on May 7, 2003. The first book that we discussed was, *Reinventing the Woman* by Patty Rice.

We currently have seven members. Our officers are: President – Afonda Johnson; Vice President – Danielle McKnight-Zellner; Secretary – Alva Cunningham-Collins; and Treasurer: Shannon Cunningham.

Our mission statement is: “To inspire reading and the discussion of various literary works of African-American authors, while providing an atmosphere that fosters sisterhood and unity.” Our book club is limited to women, but we do not exclude anyone based on her race or color. Our first objective is to promote reading and communication within our organization and our community. And our second objective is to promote unity within our group as well as into the community.

🔗 **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Indulge Book Club, DC

Indulge Book Club was started December 2005. We are located in Washington, DC. We currently have ten members. *Indulge* Coordinator/Founder is Micole Marbury, Secretary is Marcia Horton, Activities Coordinator Latarsha Reid, Photographer Chaquita Goode, *Indulge* little readers facilitator Mailka Watkins.

We started *Indulge* because we love to read and we wanted an outlet from our daily lives and to fellowship with friends. We are a group of individuals who meet every 1st Sunday at various member homes from 4pm to 6pm for book discussions.

We are varied in age and are of numerous backgrounds. We are passionate readers who have been reading together for five years in December, 2010. The mission of the group is to free our minds from the stresses of life and indulge ourselves in great books, food and conversation. *Indulge* was not originally establish for community service purposes but in the upcoming years we plan to start promoting the importance of reading.



🔗 **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

Readers Journey Book Club Karen Brundage-Johnson President



In 2004, I founded the *Readers Journey Book Club Network* as there were no author events being offered at local book stores in Atlantic County, New Jersey. Various book clubs support the events that are

held on a quarterly basis with attendance up to 25 attendees/members.

In May 2008, The *Readers Journey Book Club Network* was featured in *Essence Magazine* with author Gloria Naylor (*The Women of Brewster Place*). I love to read and it is so wonderful to be in the company of other avid readers who share the passion for reading books.

The mission of the *Readers Journey Book Club Network* is to bring together book clubs, reading groups and book lovers in the Atlantic County New Jersey areas to fellowship and experience African-American author discussions with well known and up and coming authors, and poets. We generally meet at a local bookstore .

Authors who have attended include Gloria Naylor, Virginia DeBerry and Donna Grant, Haki R. Madhubuti, Kristin Hunter, Toby Tompkins, Gail Ramsey, Anya Nicole, Mark Anthony, Zelda Lockhart, Allison Hobbs, and Zane. Author Dolan Perkins –Valdez will join us in the early part of 2011.

Tell us about your work in the community.

For me the Readers Journey Network is a community service initiative. By creating these events, book clubs

are inspired, motivated, challenged and broadening their horizons through the author discussions.

I am also an author and speaker. I co-authored the *Beyond the Body! Developing Inner Beauty*. This book is a must-read for women who wish emotional support on their life journey.

Topics include Living a Life of Purpose, Positive Self-Talk, Overcoming Fears, Handling Emotions, and 15 Strategies for Overcoming Negative Thinking.

What legacy do you think your club will leave for those watching you in the community?

I believe the legacy I will leave is that these free events were inspiring and though provoking to people of all walks of life.

Do you feel as if African Americans are represented in a good light in today's books?

I would like to see African-American couples and families represented more in media and books related to African -American culture and history. African-Americans are not represented enough in prime-time TV programs with positive images.

Is there anything you would love to see more of on the social networks, in literature and TV?

I'm of the Baby Boomer Generation. Any books written about, for or by Baby Boomers are interesting to me. I plan to write a fictional book about Boomers.

Submitted by: Karen Brundage-Johnson

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Sister's United Book Club



Sister's United (SU) Book Club is an African American Women's Book Club organized to learn and experience the world of African American Literature in a fun, exciting, and enlightening atmosphere among our peers. We were established January 2002 in Jacksonville, Florida. Our current membership is at nine and following are officers—President: Sherrell Moore, Vice President: Vanessa Thomas, Secretary: Cassandra Matthews, Treasurer: Yvette Stallings and Historian: Angie Brown.

Our mission is to promote and Support African American authors. Our goal is to collectively gain knowledge of the African American experience, collaborate through literary dialogue, build sincere and loving relationships and serve the African American community by promoting literacy and sisterhood.

What impact being in an organized group had on your life?

This group has been more than just a book club, it's been an outlet for us as women to discuss life and its challenges as well as benefits. Our book club emulates the true meaning of sisterhood.

🔗 **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Lovely Ladies Book Club

Lovely Ladies Book Club was founded in November 2008. We are located in Minnesota and we meet the 2nd Saturday of every month. At the present time we have 9 members and we are continuously growing. Our purpose of coming together was to broaden our horizons in all areas of literature and meet new people while doing so. We are a women's only group who take pride in our meetings and discussions times while we also actively participate in the community. We love the variety of books that each member brings to the group and we are always looking for new books to review. We have hopes of traveling to meet other book clubs around the world. Our officers are: President- Katrina Rhodes, Vice President- Jamila Reid and Treasurer- Bobbie Miller.



Do you feel as if African American are represented in a good light in today's media and books?

I think that there are some books that have a lesson to be learned and portray African Americans as good people but the majority of urban fiction books do not portray a positive outcome. They portray the African American males as drug dealers, hustlers, pimps and so on while the African American women are portrayed as hoes, groupies, gold diggers, and uneducated. The media has a more positive outlook than books when it comes to African Americans.

What type of activities do you enjoy as a group?

Our group volunteers three times a month at different organizations such as Feed my Starving Children, local food shelf's, senior citizen homes, schools, boys and girls clubs, and much more. Giving back to the community is very important to all our members.

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Black Pearls Magazine Legacy Collection

S.A.G.E. Bookclub Sistahs Acquiring Goals Through Excellence



In November, 2002, a group of basketball mom's got together and started *SAGE* at the suggestion of one Mary Johnson of Germantown, MD. Since then, *SAGE* has grown to a total of eleven active members. While there is no president, **SAGE** is guided by our two remaining founding members, Mrs. Acqueetta Ragland-Higdon and Ms. Carlette "Sissy" Laing, both of whom reside in Germantown, MD the remainder of our members reside throughout Montgomery County, Frederick County and Prince George's County, Maryland

SAGE has a strong sense of community. We feel it is important, not only as a group, but as individuals that we "give back" to society, to our community. We do our small part largely in the months of September and December with our school supply drive and adopt a family, respectively.

Ms. Laing, eagerly coordinates our charitable efforts. She locates needy schools, contacts the officials, and then takes charge of our delivery efforts – usually capped off with a celebratory brunch.

As you can see we require energy to do our community service and we do not hesitate to take time out to get our nourishment and to be in each other's company! Community service can be so rewarding. Our Secret Santa charitable activity operates in a similar

fashion. The families in crisis are suggested or referred to us from a local school counselor. We divide up the shopping responsibilities and then we get together again – this time for a potluck, gift-wrapping event! Delivery to the family is done discreetly, so the parents of the children can give the gifts as if they had purchased them. We really enjoy this fundraiser the most!

What impact has reading or being in a organized group had on your life?

We find that when reading in an organized group, it requires us to respect our differences in taste, as well as, appreciate our similarities in reading materials. We do not always like the book of the month, but because the love and respect that we share, it requires us to be flexible and tolerant. We have realized that flexibility, tolerance, patience and true sisterhood is required for the cohesiveness and continued success of our book club.

What defines a good book for you?

Initially, *SAGE* wanted to support only black authors as we hear constantly how black authors do not receive much support from their own community. So in our small way, we tried to do our part to support our own community. However, we have found we also enjoy "other than black" authors as well. Some members find books that tell the story of social struggles and obstacles that reflect morality issues of love and fidelity are considered a "good read." While others enjoy stories with villains and heroines as great page-turners, all of the *SAGE* members appreciate books that have in their conclusion, moral and ethical lessons, to be considered on an individual scale. That is a GOOD book!

We have enjoyed page turners by authors such as: Trice Hickman, Mary Monroe, Eric Jerome Dickey, Kimberla Lawson-Roby, Beverly Jenkins, GiGi Gunn, Walter Mosley, Dolen Perking –Valdez, Lutisha Lovely and last, but certainly not least, the late E. Lynn Harris.

☞ **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Ladies of the Round Table



Ladies of the Round Table or LRT as we affectionately call it, began with a vision of Veronica Jackson wanting to start a book club. She asked a few co-workers and the group was formed. We all shared a passion for reading and possess different opinions on subject matters. We began in November 2009 and during this first year a president was not appointed. We govern ourselves by a set of bylaws that each member helped to organize. Our secretary is Tyliekia Webb and our Treasurer is April Stewart. LRT is located in Memphis, Tennessee and has eighteen members.

The mission of LRT is to build strong sisterly bonds with each other and extend that love into the community. We have collected and donated household items and food to the Ronald McDonald house in Memphis, TN. We recently took part of a photo shoot campaign, "Think Pink", where all monies raised were given to the Susan G. Komen fund for Breast Cancer Awareness. Our upcoming goals for 2011 are to complete three (3) projects in the community.

What impact has reading or being in a organized group had on your life?

LRT has impacts my life by being a great social network that allows me to step outside of the box by reading books that I normally would not have chosen. It has given me a broader perspective on authors.

🔗 **Read more here:** <http://tinyurl.com/bpmclubs>

Women of Character

Welcome Jenelle of the *Women of Character Book Club*.

WOC: I was introduced to Christian fiction in 2004 by an angel in disguise, Pamela, who suggested that I read Jamellah Ellis' book, "That Faith, That Trust, That Love." This novel was given to me at a time in my life when I was going "THROUGH IT" both spiritually and emotionally! It was as if the Lord spoke directly to me through this novel.

Soon after, I began reading so much that it had become like oxygen; I needed it to survive. This divine intervention caused a new-found interest in Christian fiction, which was very empowering and inspirational because I was able to see myself in many of the characters with a spiritual lesson being revealed in each one. I believe that because of the seed that was sown into my life, it is now my ministry to share the word of God by blessing others with the opportunity of experiencing God's love through Christian fiction.

WOC: *The Women of Character Book Club* is located in Orlando, Florida and was 'born' in 2005, with the makings of eight women. The interest and excitement of the group members sort of fueled a reading frenzy and is continually growing by word of mouth. We are a group of women of all ages from different backgrounds, but share a common bond- we love the Lord and enjoy reading Christian Fiction. The fellowship and new friendships that have been formed have really been a blessing.

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The **W.O.C** is also a safe haven, a place where members can share their joys and sorrows, it's a sisterhood built on faith, bound by our desire to go beyond the boundary of books and see what God is speaking into our hearts and minds. It is for this reason that I think we have been able to maintain and grow.

The **W.O.C** has allowed me to experience sisterly fellowship with women who understand that we are all 'Water Colored Pearls' (a novel written by Stacy Hawkins Adams that was our 2007 book of the year).

Life Changing Books



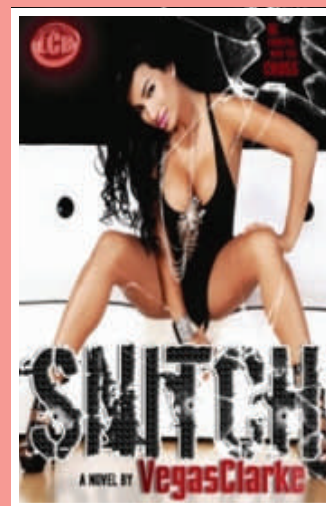
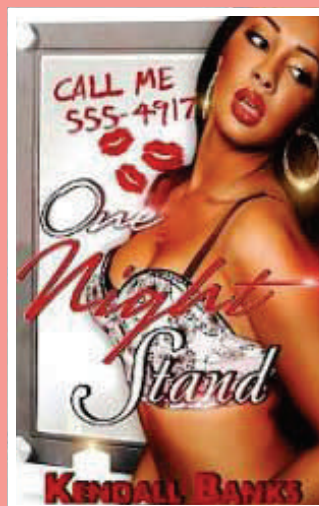
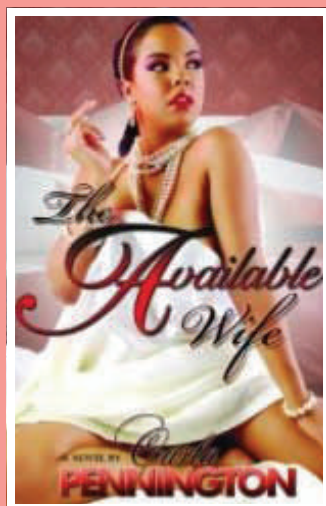
2011 New Releases

www.lifechangingbooks.net

Life Changing Books, better known as LCB, established in 2003 is quickly becoming one of the most respected Independent Trade Publishers amongst chain stores, vendors, authors and readers. Life Changing Books offers a variety of exciting African-American literature including Contemporary Fiction, Women's Fiction, Urban and Street Literature, Erotica, and a host of other fiction categories.

CEO, Azarel, launched the company with the release of her self-published title, *A Life to Remember*, and from there she has continued to add best selling authors onto her label. Currently, LCB has sixteen authors and offers outside distribution to selective projects. The success of LCB is a team effort combined with our outgoing authors, and management team.

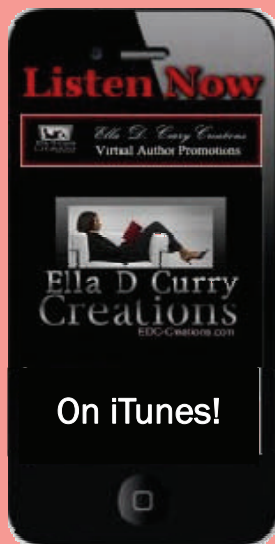
As of 2008, LCB has joined forces and constructed progressive relationships with both wholesale and retail establishments across the United States of America and abroad. We've topped the charts with some of our *Essence Magazine* best-selling titles such as *Millionaire Mistress*, *Secrets of a Housewife*, *Bruised 2*, and *Deep*. Visit **Life Changing Books** today at- www.lifechangingbooks.net



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Book and Social Club Tribute



Next month check us out for 20 more exciting bookclubs and books! Coming to you monthly with the most stimulating conversation on the planet!

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Thanks!

Ella Curry