

HBF2020 AUTHOR PROGRAM, Saturday, July 18

OPENING STATEMENT

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 3:00 p. m.

Max Rodriguez – Publisher & Founder, *QBR The Black Book Review* and the Harlem Book Fair

SPOTLIGHT ON KENSINGTON PUBLISHING FEATURING DAFINA'S 20TH YEAR SHOWCASE

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 3:05 p. m.

Esi Sogah – Executive Editor, Dafina Books

WELCOME

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 3:10 p. m.

Bob McNeil – Event Host

WHAT WOMEN KNOW & THE STORIES THEY TELL: A PANEL DISCUSSION

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 3:15 p. m. – 3:40 p. m.

Moderator: **Esi Sogah**, Executive Editor, Dafina Books

Panelists: **Kiki Swinson** (*Property of The State*); **Cheris Hodges** (*Owner of A Broken Heart*); **Tiffany Warren** (*All the Things I Should Have Known*)

Their stories range from sexy and suspenseful to heartbreaking and wise. Join this panel of popular and highly acclaimed authors as they discuss the issues and passions that drive their stories.

WHY I WRITE – AUTHOR DONNA HILL – *The Other Sister*

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 3:42 p. m. – 3:52 p. m.

Considered one of the early pioneers of the African American romance genre, Donna Hill has been honored with numerous awards for her writing, including the RT Career Achievement Award, the AAMBC Trailblazer Award, the Zora Neale Hurston Literary Award and the Gold Pen Award. She has been featured in *Essence*®, the New York Daily News, USA Today, Today's Black Woman, and Black Enterprise.

WHY I WRITE – AUTHOR KIMBERLA LAWSON ROBY – *Here and Now*

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 3:54 p. m. – 4:04 p. m.

Kimberla's novels deal with corruption within the church, drug addiction, gambling addiction, infidelity, social status, single motherhood, breast cancer, infertility, sibling rivalry and jealousy, domestic violence, sexual abuse, mental illness, care-giving of a parent, racial and gender discrimination in the workplace, sexual harassment, and overweight issues to name a few. Roby's "Reverend Curtis Black" books regularly hit the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *USA Today* bestseller lists. Roby is the 2013 NAACP Image Award Winner for Outstanding Literary Work (Fiction)

Interview: MIA MIATA (*Adult Educator*) with Lynn Pinder (TAKE ACTION!

Publishing) - *A Heart for GED: Instructors Speak*

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 4:05 p. m. – 4:25 p. m.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to teach an ABE/GED class? This collection of short stories, creative essays and poems offers first-hand accounts by ABE/GED instructors of some of their funniest, scariest and most inspirational teaching moments. Get ready to shake your head in wonder or laugh out loud as this little book tugs at your heart strings!

AUTHOR TALK: PASTOR STEVEN L. TURNER

The Other Pulpit: Life Lessons of a Leader

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 4:26 p. m. – 4:36 p. m.

The Other Pulpit is an inspired, long overdue writing released to set free and inspire others to value the power of forgiveness. A nation of forgotten and discarded children of illicit, church affairs and relationships, many of us were unable to be raised in the same home or even be acknowledged by society or the church at large. Left behind without the means to survive, many of us saw great cathedrals and dynasties created for the "first families" and other favored cliques. Treated as outcasts and spiritual lepers, we received only what was considered the emotional scraps off the table. Like casualties of war, we were left for dead!!!!

ROMANCE SPRINGS ETERNAL: A PANEL DISCUSSION

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 4:37 p. m. – 5:02 p. m.

Moderator: Esi Sogah, Executive Editor, Dafina Books

Panelists: Vanessa Riley (*A Duke, the Lady, and a Baby*); Rebekah Weatherspoon (*A Cowboy to Remember*); Rochelle Alers (*The Seaside Café*)

Is romance fiction escapist literature or deeply rooted wisdom of the heart? Their many millions of readers might say both. Join these popular romance novelists in discussing matters of the heart and why they believe *romance springs eternal*.

AUTHOR TALK: CHENELLE B. PRICE

Wise Up Challenge: Keys to Living a Wealthy, Successful and Fulfilling Life in Jesus Christ

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 5:03 p. m. – 5:13 p. m.

The Wise Up Challenge was created to impact people of all ages and backgrounds and serve as a devotional that motivates and inspires God's people. Take charge of your life by taking the challenge to explore how godly wisdom gives us access to the keys of living a wealthy, successful and fulfilling life in Jesus Christ!

INTERVIEW: MARY B. MORRISON (*Careful What You Click For*) with **ESI SOGAH**, Executive Editor, Dafina Books

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 5:14 p. m. – 5:29 p. m.

Mary B. Morrison writes juicy, fast-paced reads and this standalone romantic thriller features intriguing hooks, including catfishing, a love triangle, single life in Atlanta and experiences of successful women fighting to get ahead. A recipient of the AAMBC Francis Ray Trailblazer Award and an RT Book Award nominee, Mary B. Morrison is a SheSource Expert and host of The HoneyB Morrison Show on Worldstar Hit Radio and Celebrity Media TV. Mary B. Morrison's novels have been *Essence*® bestsellers, and *When Somebody Loves You Back* and *She Ain't The One* were *New York Times* bestsellers.

AUTHOR TALK: SHERABIM JOY

After the Benediction: A Novel (2020 Christian Indie Award winner)

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 5:30 p. m. – 5:40 p. m.

Evangelist Jacey Joyner is admired by many. She appears flawless. After the benediction; however, Evangelist Joyner struggles with suicidal thoughts. Refusing the facade, she is on the verge of resignation. Yet, one ordained encounter changes everything.

AUTHOR TALK: JEROME WATERS

Capital of Maryland: The Original Annapolis Street Bible

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 5:42 p. m. – 5:52 p. m.

Capital of Maryland: The Original Annapolis Street Bible is about a boy raised by a single mother who goes to the streets for answers. They force him to make adult decisions that land him in and out of the penal system. *Capital of Maryland 2: Unwritten Laws, Code of the Streets* is the sequel. Coming home from Federal prison and faced with the everyday obstacles by being black in America, Lil' Booh tries to guide three kids out of a losing game. At the same time, he's trying not going back to his old ways because the game is sucking him back in.

INTERVIEW: TOMMY DAVIDSON, *LIVING IN COLOR: What's Funny About Me*, with MAX RODRIGUEZ, Publisher and Founder – QBR The Black Book Review and the Harlem Book Fair

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 5:53 p. m. – 6:13 p. m.

Tommy Davidson, an original cast member of *In Living Color*, recounts his powerful life story, beginning with being literally discarded in a garbage bin, starving and near death. He was rescued and raised by his adoptive white mother, alongside his white sister and brother. He writes about not knowing he was black until he was older, being forced to defend his blackness because he had a white mother. He takes readers from being discovered at The Apollo Theatre, to tryouts for *In Living Color* to its cast of notables (Keenan Ivory Wayans, Jim Carrey, Jennifer Lopez, Jamie Foxx, David Allen Grier, among many!) to its place in television history.

AUTHOR TALK: DEXTER & DELISHA EASLEY

Letters from the Heart: A Dad and his Daughter's Journey

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 6:14 p. m. – 6:24 p. m.

Letters from the Heart is a daring and bold account of the relationship challenges between father and daughter, Dexter and Delisha Easley. Both struggled for years to overcome a variety of complicated issues that damaged their relationship, utterly tearing it apart. The book chronicles – through a series of letters between the two of them - the issues they faced and how they finally found their way to back to each other.

BLACK LIFE MATTERS: RETHINKING VOTER RIGHTS, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, AND THE QUALITY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP – A PANEL DISCUSSION

DATE: Saturday, July 18

TIME: 6:25 p. m. – 6:50 p. m.

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: **Tiffany Cross** (*Black Voters; Black Voices (Say It Loud: Black Voters, White Narratives and Saving Our Democracy)*); **Amaka Okechukwu** (*To Fulfill These Rights: Political Struggle Over Affirmative Action and Open Admissions*);

Christopher Bonner (*Remaking the Republic: Black Politics and the Creation of American Citizenship*)

The pursuit of quality of life is a cultural mainstay of the American Promise. Historically, however, African American access to that promised success has been thwarted by ingrained bias, unearned privilege, and even outright exclusion. This panel explores the problem, its impact, and its solutions.

INTERVIEW: MARY MONROE (*Across the Way*) with ESI SOGAH, Executive Editor, Dafina Books

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 6:51 p. m. – 7:06 p. m.

Mary Monroe is a natural when it comes to conveying Southern ideals and what happens when characters are in conflict with the expectations of their family and community. *Across the Way* is a story of how proximity to others can foment envy, a cautionary tale about the grass being greener elsewhere, and an exploration of how our origins can either drive us forward or hold us back. Mary Monroe is a 2017 recipient of the J. California Cooper Memorial Award.

TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE: REVERSING RACE BIAS IN EDUCATION, POLITICS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY – A PANEL DISCUSSION

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 7:07 p. m. – 7:37 p. m.

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: **Ruha Benjamin** (*Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*); **Bakari Sellers** (*My Vanishing Country Memoir*); **Tyrone C. Howard** (*Why Race & Culture Matter in Schools: Closing the Achievement Gap in America's Classrooms*); **Alondra Oubre** (*Science in Black and White*)

Systemic and institutionalized race bias have insulated a white majority from acknowledging complicity or responsibility in righting the social ills and imbalances that line the roadway to American wealth, success, and well-being. Join this panel of forward thinkers in their discussion of personal insights, challenges, and solutions that lie ahead.

AUTHOR TALK: JERALD LEVON HOOVER

My Friend, My Hero

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 7:38 p. m. – 7:48 p. m.

My Friend, My Hero is the first of a four-part series titled, *The Hero Book Series*. *He Was My Hero, Too*, *A Hopeful Hero*, and *Hoop Hero* are the other titles that make up the set. Each title has the word 'hero' embedded in it for the purpose of Jerald wanting young people, in particular, to see the hero in themselves through the lives of the identifiable and relatable characters.

AUTHOR TALK: DR. MARY WASHAM

Wait! 7 Checks B-4 I Do

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 7:49 p. m. – 7:59 p. m.

Whatever your relationship status, *Wait! 7 Checks B-4 I Do* is for you! This is a book about LIFE—everyday life—and what it takes to survive in the 21st century. You will be inspired, enlightened, intrigued, replenished, and excited. Discover powerful relationship keys for greater awareness of the thoughts, feelings, and actions of others. Also, get practical insight for creating vibrant and enduring relationships.

INTERVIEW: TRACY CLARK (*What You Don't See*) with **MAX RODRIGUEZ**, Publisher and Founder – *QBR The Black Book Review* and the Harlem Book Fair

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 8:00 p.m. – 8:15 p. m.

Tracy Clark is the author of the Cass Raines Chicago Mystery series, featuring ex-cop turned PI Cassandra Raines. Her debut, *Broken Places*, made Library Journal's list of the Best Crime Fiction of 2018 and was short listed in the mystery category on the American Library Association's 2019 Reading List. She received Anthony Award, Lefty Award and Shamus Award nominations for her series debut, *Broken Places*, which was also shortlisted for the American Library Association's RUSA Reading List, named a CrimeReads Best New PI Book of 2018, a Midwest Connections Pick, and a *Library Journal* Best Books of the Year.

AUTHOR TALK: SIOBHAN ST. JOHN

Scars Left to Heal

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 8:16 p. m. – 8:26 p. m.

Siobhan St. John is currently the Assistant Cheerleading Coach and Spirit Program Event Coordinator at The Ohio State University. Siobhan is a former dancer and captain for the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Brooklyn Nets Dance Team, where she danced for 8 seasons. Siobhan has traveled the world dancing in Spain, France, China, the Philippines, Germany, and Turkey. She is a cancer survivor, who beat the odds at a young age, and went on to become a professional dancer and collegiate cheerleading coach.

AUTHOR TALK: QUEST DELANEY

All He Wanted to Do Is ... Remember

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 8:27 p. m. – 8:37 p. m.

In 2015, Quest Delaney suffered a traumatic brain injury. When Quest awakened, his memory was gone. It took 4 1/2 years of recovery for him to regain some of his physical abilities and his memory. It was horrifying not to recognize his loved ones, not knowing how to communicate; all of his verbal skills, all of his creativeness, and personality traits were gone. *Remember* is based on real events. Quest lost all his memory but one, his journey to heaven.

AUTHOR TALK: DEMETIRA TAITT

A Method to the MAGIC

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 8:38 p. m. – 8:48 p. m.

Don't think "outside the box", just get rid of the box! That is the first step to realizing that there is truly an incalculable degree of self-discovery that will unfold before you, once you set your mind – and body – free from the captivity of the "think outside the box" mentality. Most importantly, what the Universe has for you is for you. It already has your name on it. Nothing can stop it. Not even a "box". So, just get rid of it.

AUTHOR TALK: PATRICK HOWELL

DISPATCHES FROM THE VANGUARD: The Global International African Arts Movement versus Donald J. Trump

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 8:49 p. m. – 8:59 p. m.

Dispatches from the Vanguard channels the global soul's hunger for freedom from authoritarian control. Partnering with dozens of Pulitzer Prize winners, *New York Times* bestsellers, poet laureates, TED speakers, and influencers including Ishmael Reed, Tyehimba Jess, Rich Fresh, Nikki Giovanni, Nnedi Okorafor, Chester Higgins, Tori Reid and Jaki Shelton Green, *Dispatches* offers a poignant, high-frequency rebuke of Donald J. Trump and his ruthless amoral presidency.

SPOKEN@NITE

Hosted by Bob McNeil

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2020

TIME: 8:46 p. m. – 9:16 p. m.

Spoken@Nite, a new, exciting, and on-going performance poetry web series, will launch as the final Saturday event of the 2020 Harlem Book Fair. Featuring Spoken Word artists from around the globe, Spoken@Nite will ignite passion, inform and entertain, and set the mark for stage poetry today.

HBF2020 AUTHOR PROGRAM, Sunday, July 19

OPENING STATEMENT

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 1:00 p. m.

Max Rodriguez – Publisher & Founder, *QBR The Black Book Review* and the Harlem Book Fair; **Lynn Pinder**, Chief Visionary Officer, Christian Authors on Tour (CAOT)

WELCOME

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 1:10 p. m.

Bob McNeil – Event Host

WRITING AS A TOOL FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY I – Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Lynn Pinder**-Chief Visionary Officer/Christian Authors on Tour (CAOT)

Authors: **Tracee Lydia Garner** (*A Current Affair*), **Sandra Thompson Williams** (*The Last Three Tickets to Heaven*), **Pastor Kevin Wayne Johnson** (*Leadership with a Servant's Heart*)

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 1:15 p. m. – 1:35 p. m.

As Christian authors, we have a call on our lives to write for more than entertainment. The real-life testimonies (non-fiction) and the creative stories/parables (fiction) we share in our books help introduce readers to biblical principles that help them lead Christ-FULL lives.

AUTHOR TALK: Carla Maxwell Ray

Five Pillars of a First Class Life

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 1:35 p. m. – 1:45 p. m.

Five Pillars of a First Class Life serves as a guide to help individuals and families live purposeful, peaceful and financially secure lives. It offers practical tools and anecdotes that offer insight on how to accelerate healthy finances while finding and fulfilling what we are designed to do. This book is a journey toward sustainable fiscal stability, increased generosity, purpose driven living and spiritual growth.

AUTHOR TALK: Deirdre Renee Gardner

Living with the “C” & Behind the Scene

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 1:50 p. m. – 2:00 p. m.

This book chronicles a very real expression of the pain, suffering, devastation, and havoc that cancer can bring into the lives of those who are going through or will go through this battle. The author, Deirdre “Dee” Garner, is a licensed clinical social worker who has worked in the field of victim services for over 25 years.

AUTHOR TALK: Dr. Charlene Knight – *Moral Injury: Shattered, Wounded, Broken – Bags Packed “Undeniably” Without Consent*

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 2:00 p. m. – 2:10 p. m.

This book brings forth the plight of women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, past, present and current, including those who are now veterans. It chronicles a part of their story of endurance and overcoming trauma. The published author, Dr. Charlene Knight, uses writing to foster and acknowledge women as soldiers and veterans. Her purpose is to educate, encourage, enlighten, enrich, endorse and empower these women while focusing upon the atrocities they have incurred and endured as women, as soldiers and as veterans.

WRITING AS A TOOL FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY II – A PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Lynn Pinder, Chief Visionary Officer/Christian Authors on Tour (CAOT)

Veronica E. Berry (*Meliah Job’s Wife*); **Apostle Frank A. Willett** (*The Hour Glass: Is This the Last Hour?*); **Meagan Carner** (*CRAM – Christian Resource & Academic Manual – Math and Life Science Workbooks for Kids*)

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 2:10 p. m. – 2:30 p. m.

As Christian authors, we have a call on our lives to write for more than entertainment. The real-life testimonies (non-fiction) and the creative stories/parables (fiction) we share in our books help introduce readers to biblical principles that help them lead Christ-FULL lives.

AUTHOR TALK: George A. Yorkman, Jr.

Finger of God: The Story of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange and the Formation of the Oblate Sisters of Providence

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 2:35 p. m. – 2:45 p. m.

In 1828, thirty-five years before the Emancipation Proclamation, Elizabeth Lange of Santiago de Cuba and her companions, who were refugees from San Dominique, operated a free school for the sole purpose of educating free students of color. Although Maryland at the time was a slave state, it was one of the few states that allowed free Catholic students of color to receive worship and teaching. This book tells the story of that school and how God orchestrated the formation of the first community of Black nuns in the history of America.

AUTHOR TALK: Dwight DeRamus

Disappearing Dads (2019 Human Relations Indie Book Award Winner)

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 2:45 p. m. – 2:55 p. m.

Disappearing Dads examines how weak or absent fathers cripple the ability of both sons and daughters to reach their own identity and define their roles in healthy relationships. *Disappearing Dads* helps families to understand the impact of fatherlessness in our homes, churches, and communities. The impact creates wounds in our relationships with others and chaos in our communities, and a continuation of generational curses. This book is a must read for everyone.

Disappearing Dads will lead you on a journey from brokenness to restoration.

THE WORLD IS TALLER THAN ME: WRITING FOR YOUNG READERS – A PANEL DISCUSSION

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 3:00 p. m. – 3:30 p. m.

Moderator: Kathy Siekierski, Literary Consultant

Panelists: Debbie Gonzalez (*A Walk with Cooper; A Game with Cooper*); Judith Falloon-Reid, (*Antarctica Adventures with a Jamaican On Ice*); Kalynn Bayron (*Cinderella is Dead*).

It takes great listening, a willingness to remain vulnerable, and great empathy to look at the world from the bottom up. Join this panel of authors as they share their worlds through unfiltered eyes of the readers they serve.

AUTHOR TALK: Nikki Grimes

Southwest Sunshine

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 3:35 p. m. – 3:50 p. m.

For decades Nikki Grimes has brought joy to young readers with her words and poetry. She is a *New York Times* bestselling author and the recipient of the Children's Literature Legacy Award, the Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children. Her distinguished works include the Printz Honor and Sibert Honor book *Ordinary Hazards*; NAACP Image Award nominee *Planet Middle School*; Coretta Scott King Award winner *Bronx Masquerade*; Coretta Scott King Author Honor books *Jazmin's Notebook*, *Talkin' About Bessie*, *Dark Sons*, *The Road to Paris*, and *Words with Wings*, which was also named an ALA Notable Book; and *What Is Goodbye?*, an ALA Notable Book. www.nikkigrimes.com

AUTHOR TALK: Renée Watson

Ways to Make Sunshine

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 3:55 p. m. – 4:10 p. m.

Renée is the Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Award-winning author of the novels *Some Places More Than Others*, *Watch Us Rise*, co-written with Ellen Hagan, *Piecing Me Together*, *This Side of Home*, *What Momma Left Me*, *Betty Before X*, co-written with Ilyasah Shabazz, and two picture books: *Harlem's Little Blackbird* and *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen*. Renée is the founder of I, Too, Arts Collective, a nonprofit committed to nurturing underrepresented voices in the creative arts.

AUTHORS READ ALOUD

Debbie Gonzalez (*A Walk with Cooper*; *A Game with Cooper*)

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 4:15 p. m. – 4:25 p. m.

Cooper is very excited to get started. He can almost taste the treats. In this story, he engages his senses and draws on his imagination for his favorite game. Daddy joins the fun. Cooper loves to play with him. Daddy happily humors him by creatively setting the stage. Children of all ages, who appreciated his energy and enthusiasm in *A Walk with Cooper*, will surely fall in love with this one.

Judith Falloon-Reid (*Antarctica Adventures with a Jamaican On Ice*)

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 4:25 p. m. – 4:35 p. m.

Antarctica Adventures with a Jamaican on Ice is a children's book that features beautiful images and chronicles the author's journey through Antarctica complimented by a fictional cartoon character, Pedro the Penguin, who reveals interesting facts about the region throughout the book. Designed for children ages 4+, the rhyming text is easy to read. However, there are facts about the fauna and region that make *Antarctica* a great child and adult read. More than a story with brilliant pictures, *Antarctica* serves as a learning tool to broaden the horizons and knowledge of children and adults.

Kalynn Bayron (*Cinderella is Dead*)

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 4:35 p. m. – 4:45 p. m.

Kalynn is a debut author and classically trained vocalist. This Own Voices and LGBTQ retelling fast forwards 200 years after Cinderella found her prince, and where there is no more happily ever after. Teen girls are now required to appear at the Annual Ball, where the men of the kingdom select wives based on a girl's display of finery. Sixteen-year-old Sophia would much rather marry Erin, her childhood best friend, than parade in front of suitors. At the ball, Sophia makes the desperate decision to flee, and finds herself hiding in Cinderella's mausoleum. There, she meets Constance, the last known descendant of Cinderella and her stepsisters. Together they vow to bring down the king once and for all - and in the process, they learn that there's more to Cinderella's story than they ever knew . . . @KalynnBayron.

PROGRAM CLOSE – Max Rodriguez

DATE: Sunday, July 19, 2020

TIME: 4:45 p. m.