

About Tom Dent 1932-1998

Poet, essayist, oral historian, dramatist,
cultural activist, noted figure in the Black Arts
Movement

Born into a prominent New Orleans family;
Graduate of Morehouse College

Co-founded the Umbra Workshop and its poetry
magazine, *Umbra*; Co-founded and directed New
Orleans Free Southern Theater; Co-founded the
literary journal *Callalo*

Wrote the controversial prose narrative
The Ghetto of Desire; one act plays: *Negro Study
No. 34A* and *Snapshot books*; *Magnolia Street*,
Blue Lights and *River Songs*, and *Southern Journey*

About The African American Resource Center

The African American Resource Center
(AARC) offers patrons access to information
on people of the African Diaspora.

Located on the second floor of the Main Li-
brary, the AARC offers a variety of materials
for research in African Studies in print, elec-
tronic and microfilm formats, and includes
collections for scholarly use as well as books
for children.

The materials in the AARC are for in-house use
only and cannot be checked out.

With Support From



Louisiana Center
for the Book
Louisiana State Library



African American Resource Center
New Orleans Public Library
219 Loyola Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112-2044
(504) 596-2597

Web Site: nutrias.org

The New Orleans Public Library will make every effort to provide
interpretation of library programs for the hearing-impaired.
To request this service, please call 596-2597.

2004

Tom Dent Literary Festival



November 4-6, 2004
Main Library
219 Loyola Ave.
596-2597

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African American
Resource Center

NEW ORLEANS  PUBLIC LIBRARY

All programs are Free and Open to the Public

Schedule of Events

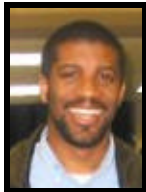
2004 Tom Dent Literary Festival

Thursday, November 4 Storytelling with Chakula



Actor, director, and writer Chakula Cha Jua will delight children with stories drawn from the African tradition. School groups, please call the AARC to reserve attendance.

10:30 a.m.
Main Library Auditorium
219 Loyola Ave.



Poetry Night featuring Jarvis DeBerry

Writer, poet and *Times Picayune* columnist Jarvis DeBerry will share his perspective on contemporary African American poetry. DeBerry is a recognized fellow of the Cave Canem literary society and has had poems published in several anthologies. Join us as DeBerry enlightens the audience with samples and reviews of today's African American poetry.

6:30 p.m.
Main Library 1st Floor
219 Loyola Ave.

Langston Hughes Contest

As part of the Poetry Night program the winners of the 2004 Langston Hughes poetry contest will be announced. Special thanks to Dr. Monique Guillory, Jackson State University; Dr. Jerry Ward, Dillard University; and Ms. Anitra Brown, Editor of the New Orleans Tribune newspaper, for judging this year's contest.



Friday, November 5 Authors Showcase

This year's Authors Showcase features writers Cleo Scott Brown and Freddi Williams Evans. Brown will discuss the struggle for civil rights in East Carroll parish, while Evans shares her research on Congo Square.

Cleo Scott Brown is the daughter of John H. Scott, a civil rights activist who fought for the civil rights of African Americans in Carroll parish. A native of Louisiana and a resident of South Carolina, Brown will share her father's story as discussed in his memoirs, *Witness to the Truth*. She will also discuss the impact the struggle has had on her life as a child of the civil rights movement.



Residents of New Orleans probably have frequented Congo Square on several occasions, but how many know the significance of this landmark that once was a gathering place for African slaves? Freddi Williams Evans has spent the last four years culling the shelves of archives and other research institutions for information and will discuss her findings at the showcase.

She is the author of the children's book *A Bus of Our Own*, and also facilitates creative arts programs for special education students in Jefferson Parish.

6:30 p.m.
Main Library 1st Floor
219 Loyola Ave.

Saturday, November 6 Tom Dent Forum

featuring
Jarita Davis



This year's Tom Dent forum features speaker Jarita Davis, a former student of writer Ernest Gaines, who has taught creative writing at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Davis, who spent a summer in Cape Verde and whose dissertation focused on its literature, is currently working on a book of poems about Cape Verdean culture called *As Minhas Mornas*. This New Englander, who works as a technical editor for Johnson Controls Natural Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, will be right at home in the south as she shares her literary works with the audience. Her work will be critiqued by local scholars, Dr. Danille K. Taylor, Dean of Humanities, Dillard University, and Dedra Johnson, Assistant Professor of English at Dillard University.

2:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium
219 Loyola Ave.