

## 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 Library, the AARC offers a variety of materials for research in African Studies in print, electronic 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.



Graduates, Normal Department  
New Orleans University, 1909  
From New Orleans Catalog, 1909



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER  
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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 504/596-2605.



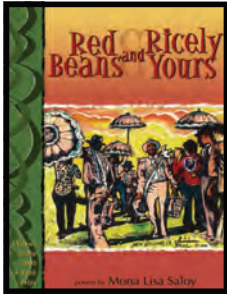
## 2009 TOM DENT LITERARY FESTIVAL



**NOVEMBER 5-7**

**PRESENTED BY THE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
RESOURCE CENTER**

## Thursday, November 5, 6:30 p.m. Poetry Night



### Dr. Mona Lisa Saloy

Author of the award winning book of poems, *Red Beans and Ricely Yours*, will share her poetic thoughts at this year's poetry session. A professor of English at Dillard University, Saloy received the Pen Oakland national literary award for *Red Beans* in 2006.

### Word Play NO

Led by poet Asia Rainey, the members of Word Play NO will give us a taste of urban poetry as artistically woven by today's contemporary African American poets.

### Nik Richard

Author of the book of poetry, *Love and Water*, a collection of poetry inspired by Katrina related events will do a cameo recitation of one of his poems. Richard is the recipient of the Film Your Issue NAACP award.

## Friday, November 6, 6:30 p.m. Authors Showcase

### Clifton Casteel

Using the struggles of an African American woman, Clifton Casteel forges a character who must confront the perceptions that society has placed on people of color throughout the years. *A Lady's Heart and Soul* follows the emotional and psychological conflict of an African American woman who falls in love with a white civil rights leader. Casteel is an educator and researcher in the Jefferson Parish school system and is Director of Student Activities at Xavier University. This is his first book.



### Dr. Keith Ferdinand

Before Hurricane Katrina we knew Dr. Ferdinand as a respected cardiologist in our community. With his new book, *Overcoming Katrina: African American Voices from the Crescent City and Beyond*, Ferdinand delves deep into the lives of New Orleanians displaced by hurricane Katrina and brings their heartfelt stories to life.

Along with **Dr. D'Ann Penner**, who conducted over 275 interviews with displaced New Orleanians following the hurricane, *Overcoming Katrina* charts the hardships faced by residents wanting to return to New Orleans. The author of several scholarly works, Dr. Penner is an oral historian focusing on how people respond to serial displacement. She is currently a scholar in residence at the Southern Institute for Education and Research at Tulane University.

## Saturday, November 7, 1:00 p.m.

## Tom Dent Forum

### Carlotta Walls-Lanier

The youngest member of the Little Rock Nine and author of *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School*, Walls Lanier demonstrates how her courage and accomplishment set the stage for further integration of the south.

Walls Lanier will share her story about pushing through extreme racism and hatred to achieve the goal of integrating Little Rock High.



She will be joined by **Lisa Page Frazier**, a Dillard University alumnae, award winning journalist and contributor to Walls-Lanier's book. Frazier, a former writer for the "Times Picayune" newspaper, is currently a reporter with the "Washington Post." Her 2006 collaboration, *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream*, is a New York Times bestseller.

## About the Tom Dent Literary Festival



The Tom Dent Literary Festival was established in 1999 as a tribute to the late New Orleans author Thomas Covington Dent. Dent was a mentor to many young writers both here and around the nation. While a student at Morehouse College, he served as editor of the student newspaper. While living in New York during the 1960s, he helped establish the Umbr Workshop and its poetry magazine "Umbr." This was the beginning of Dent's efforts to create literary venues for the voices of African American authors. He also co-founded, Callaloo literary journal and the Free Southern Theatre, where he both directed and wrote numerous plays.

The New Orleans Public Library began honoring this native son with an annual literary forum focused on the literary works of African American authors. Programs on African American poetry, storytelling and contemporary African American literature were added in later years. The event grew into a festival and by 2005 was on the cusp of expanding to other locations outside the library, until the city was spun into disarray by the effects of Hurricane Katrina. We hope that you will enjoy this year's literary festival as we move forward in the spirit of Tom Dent to continue to promote the works of our African American writers.

## With support from

