

# AVERY

SUMMER 2022 MESSENGER

A black and white portrait of an older Black woman with short, curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark jacket over a dark top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

## THE AVERY JOURNEY

BUILDING AN INSTITUTION FOR LONGEVITY

**LUCILLE SIMMONS WHIPPER:**  
**A Woman Reflected through Her Archival Collection**

AVERY BOOKSHELF

REMEMBERING James Eber Campbell

Avery News • Events • More





A Publication of the

## **AVERY INSTITUTE**

OF AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

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## **ON THE COVER**

The cover features the official House of Representatives photograph of Honorable Lucille Alethia Simmons Whipper (June 6, 1928–August 27, 2021).



Mrs. Whipper was a fascinating and undeniable example of resourcefulness, activism, and excellence. Her story covers so much ground, beginning with her birth on Charleston's East Side in the Ansonborough neighborhood, and graduating from Avery Institute as the class salutatorian in 1944. After completing her higher education courses with honors and using her expertise in various community-based arenas, Whipper became the College of Charleston's first African American administrator in 1972 and developed its first affirmative action plan. In 1985, she was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, serving through 1995. She was also the first Black woman to represent a Charleston County seat in the legislature. In

addition to that, Whipper was the chief mover, shaker, and strategist in the creations of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture and the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

In a feature article, Georgette Mayo, Avery Research Center's processing archivist, shares that Mrs. Whipper documented her life of service to her community and donated these materials to Avery Research Center. The Lucille Simmons Whipper Papers (AMN 1146) are contained in over 180 archival boxes organized and ready for researchers to gain a broader, more in-depth view of Lucille Whipper and to examine the life and work of this woman who opened doors, broke glass ceilings, and built institutions.

Mrs. Whipper was with us for ninety-three years, and we are indebted, grateful, and committed to keeping her legacy alive and uplifted in remembrance!



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## **AVERY RESEARCH CENTER** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **DR. TAMARA T. BUTLER**

Greetings,

Can you believe it? We are approaching the two-year mark! It's been almost two years since I joined the Avery Research Center's team as the executive director. In

those (almost) two years, we've: welcomed our informal COO into the world (Sevyn Calhoun), watched our faculty receive tenure (Aaisha Haykal), celebrated educators (Avery Teachers of the Year), and opened our doors to new visitors and long-standing supporters. It's been (almost) two years of building partnerships, relearning home, and "cultivating community" through programming, conversations, and engagements.

I come to the Avery Research Center as an educator. For six years, I served as a teacher educator—preparing future English Language Arts teachers to think with texts. We learned to engage the letters in support of the essays of Angela Davis, the poetry of Breana L. Roach, and the art of Xaviera Simmons as portals to justice and coalition. We learned that love is what moved the pens of Assata Shakur, James Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, and Audre Lorde.

As we continue to wade through the COVID-19 pandemic, we are forming different relationships with teaching, learning, schooling, and education. We are also forming different relationships with one another and ourselves. I pause here to ask: What is your relationship with the Avery Research Center?

For me, it is more than a place where I go "to work." The Avery Research Center is where I can be in conversation with all who are curious—lifelong learners, archivists, historians, students, researchers, educators, and ancestors. Last fall, I was asked to speak with a group of professionals from across the United States. I wanted to share the Avery Research Center that I know: the Avery Research Center as a site of listening. After days of talking with researchers; and Ms. Georgette Mayo (processing archivist) googling and scrolling through the finding aids on Archives Space; and sketching out ideas, I landed in Box 1 of "Various Collections." Photos and a nineteenth-century marriage certificate from the Hicks-Steele family. Attendance certificates of the Shaw School (I was in a Robert Shaw research frenzy for

two days). Clippings about tornado refugees. The history of Mosquito Beach. A folder about Mrs. Fredericka Jenkins-Andrews.

According to the finding aid, "She grew up in Charleston and graduated from the Avery Normal Institute in 1931 with a first- place honor in Pedagogy and class rank of Salutatorian." There she was, in the 1931 Commencement Program (view on the Lowcountry Digital Library):

Fredericka C. Jenkins: The Type of Women  
the World Needs To-Day—With Salutatory.

While I'm still curious to know more about her speech, I am intrigued by the philosophy of teaching in her 1973 "Nomination for the Teacher of the Year." She writes:

*I feel that a teacher is someone who is able to touch the mind of another and quicken it into possibilities; a teacher is one who is able to impart something; but more than this, a teacher is one who can inspire others.*

Although Mrs. Jenkins-Andrews joined the ancestors in 2010, she continues to inspire. At the Avery Research Center, we are a collective of critical teachers and good stewards. Her philosophy guided my presentation. From our Social Justice Food Gardens to our "Preserving the Black Family" presentation, we "quicken" the minds of all generations "into possibilities." We forge forward with the tools and ingenuity of Avery graduates, whose knowledge radiates from the bricks and wooden beams. We are transformed by the stories and memories that we collect, preserve, and promote.

I hope you will engage the Avery Research Center as a site of listening and learning. I also encourage you to sit with my previous question: "What is your relationship with the Avery Research Center?" Take time to reflect and reconsider. When you are ready, we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs (virtual, in person, and hybrid), hearing about the ways you will continue to support and promote our mission, and learning more about how Avery inspires you.

Thank you.

### **Dr. Tamara T. Butler with *Bicycling Boys* by William Henry Johnson.**

*Florence, SC, native William H. Johnson (1901–1970) is considered one of the foremost international modernists of the twentieth century.*



*Bicycling Boys* was on loan from the Avery Research Center Collection to Charleston, SC's, Gibbes Museum of Art for the "Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice" exhibition.





# LUCILLE WHIPPER

## A Woman Reflected through Her Archival Collection

by Georgette Mayo

**L**ucille Whipper lived as a multi-advocate person. How do I know this? By examining, processing, and reevaluating her archival collection. As a community and South Carolina state leader, Whipper was at the forefront of a dizzying array of educational, political, government, civic, and religious institutions and organizations. She was also a wife and mother. The Honorable Whipper led a life of service to her community and was intentional in what she saved to document her life. The result is approximately 180 boxes. In archival terms, 80.02 linear feet. For the researcher, one could initially become overwhelmed by the massive number of documents.

On deeper examination, one can view what is included and highlighted by perusing Whipper's finding aid. She knew the importance of retaining documents not only for herself and her family, but also for present and future researchers. With the goal of establishing the Avery Research Center—incorporated in 1980—to become a premier archival repository for the collection of African American materials focusing on South Carolina Lowcountry history, life and culture, she was introducing the Black community to the concept of donating documents of enduring value in an archive that would be appreciative to receive and properly maintain their papers. The best way to do this was to lead by example. It was only natural that Whipper was the first director of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture board, a position she held for a total of eleven years.

This article will provide a brief view of Whipper's collection and offer researchers insights that go beyond the archival finding aid's scope and content, highlighting four areas of Whipper's activity that some may not know, yet truly reinforce her stature as a leader.

### Community Education: "Operation Summer Catch-Up" Program

Funded by the City of Charleston's Office of Economic Opportunity, Whipper served as director of the "Operation Summer Catch-Up" program, a tutoring and enrichment program that began in 1967 at Saint Matthews Baptist Church, pastored by her husband, Reverend Dr. Benjamin Whipper. Beginning with forty-five elementary and high school students, the program's enrollment quickly expanded to 150 students who were studying at Burke High School.



Lucille Simmons Whipper, circa 1950s

Whipper's program was an enhanced version of the Head Start program established in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration with his "War on Poverty." Head Start was originally conceived as a catch-up summer school program for preschool children from low-income families to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and educational needs.

The "catch-up" students were instructed by experienced teachers and college students who functioned as program assistants. Under Whipper's helm, the program expanded to four centers in

Charleston County, and provided night tutoring to prepare students for college admission and job training programs.



## Civic, Community, and Social Involvement: The International Women's Year 1977

Prior to Whipper's election to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1985, she was recognized as a state leader. The International Women's Year 1977 was a celebration held throughout the United States in the summer and led up to the National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, in November of that same year. This observance was the first time in American history where the government funded meetings for women at the grassroots level to discuss legislative and executive matters. Topics included women's rights, child care, minimum wage, and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Whipper was among twenty-six women appointed by the National Commission on International Women's Year to the planning committee for the South Carolina observance. "The South Carolina Woman: Heritage to Horizons" was held June 10-11, 1977, in Columbia, South Carolina. She was elected as a delegate to represent South Carolina at the national conference

## Political Legislation: The Spousal Sexual Battery (H-3071) Bill

As a Democrat representing District 109-Mount Pleasant, one of Whipper's numerous South Carolina House of Representatives bills to pass unanimously in the Senate was the ground breaking marital rape legislation.

The Marital Rape Bill was initiated in part by Senator Herbert Fielding (S.47) in 1986 and was followed by Whipper's companion House bill in 1987. The bills spanned several legislative sessions due to initial objections and revisions. The proposed law would make it illegal for a man to rape his wife or threaten bodily harm, while either living together or separated, with or without a court order. Prior to the bill, a couple had to be legally separated for a spouse to be charged with rape. Whipper states this was not solely a "woman's issue"; it was "a family issue." The Spousal Sexual Battery (H-3071) bill, with amendments, was finally passed into law in 1991.



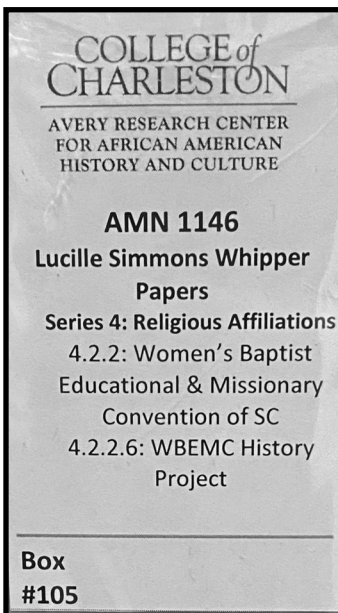
(l-r) Herbert U. Fielding, Lucille Whipper, David Jennings, McKinley Washington  
Photo circa late 1980s

## Documenting Religious History: The Women's Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention

Forever cognizant of documenting institutional history, Whipper was instrumental in securing a grant from the Humanities Council of South Carolina to record the history of the Women's Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. Her goal was to record Black women's religious organizational activities during tremendous social, economic, and political upheaval from 1888 to 2006.

Whipper served as project director for this project, collecting primary-source documents and recording oral histories. This initiative culminated in the publication of the book, *Born to Serve: A History of the Women's Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina* (2006).

The Honorable Lucille Whipper's archival collection is truly a legacy of her life's work. I encourage you to review Whipper's finding aid and to make an appointment to research the treasures in her papers.



(Image left): Label on a Lucille Simmons Whipper archival box  
(Image right): Lucille Simmons Whipper, circa 2015



# The AVERY Journey

## Building an Institution for Longevity

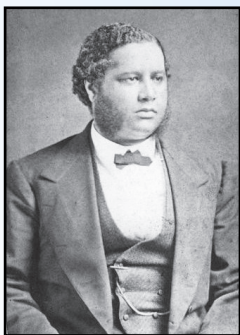
by Deborah A. Wright

**A**very's legacy spans over 150 years, from its beginning as the Avery Normal Institute to now as the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. Founded by members of the community, particularly Avery alumni, the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) partnered with the College of Charleston to save the historic Avery building and establish a center that collects, preserves, and makes public the rich history of African Americans in Charleston, the South Carolina Lowcountry, and beyond.

The Avery complex at 125 and 123 Bull Street on the Charleston peninsula currently houses the Avery Research Center. In addition to serving as the site of the Avery Institute, it was also the former home of Palmer Business College.

### EVERY INSTITUTE / EVERY NORMAL INSTITUTE

The Avery Normal Institute was one of "Charleston's most important African American institutions."<sup>1</sup> In 1865, the New York-based American Missionary Association (AMA) founded



Francis Cardozo

a private school to educate Black Charlestonians. The school offered a classical and college preparatory education, as well as a normal school teacher training component. Originally located in several buildings that had been confiscated by the federal government during Reconstruction, the school

also had several names: Tappan School after New York abolitionist and founder of the AMA, Lewis Tappan, and Saxton School after Union General Rufus B. Saxton, assistant commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau. The Cardozo brothers, Thomas and Francis, members of Charleston's antebellum free Black community,



became the school's first and second principals. Francis Cardozo campaigned to construct a permanent building and received a substantial gift from the estate of the late Reverend Charles Avery of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. With additional funds from the Freedmen's Bureau, the new school building was constructed, being dedicated on May 7, 1868. The school's name was now permanently Avery Institute.

By 1944, the AMA was no longer financially supporting Avery, and the school went from private to public, receiving city funding. In 1954, the Charleston County school board closed Avery and merged its students and faculty with Burke High School.

Avery had already made a major impact on the community it served, giving rise to an urbanized Black political, social, and educational leadership. The school's mission included primary and secondary education as well as a teacher training program. Many Avery graduates became teachers all over South Carolina, especially in the Lowcountry. Avery students and teachers were often active in the state's civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s even after the school closed.



Avery Institute circa 1940s



## Palmer Business College on Bull Street

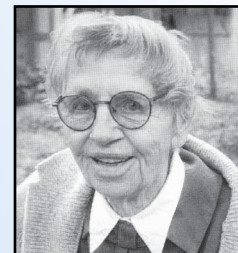


Charles E. Palmer purchased the Avery building in 1955 and reopened it as Palmer College, a small business school operating from 1955 until the late 1970s. At that point, Palmer College became part of Trident Technical College, which moved to North Charleston, and the building sat empty, falling into a state of serious disrepair.

Avery Institute building  
circa 1970s–80s

## Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture

Unsure of the vacated Bull Street property's fate, Dr. Margaretta Childs (1912–2000), a former College of Charleston archivist, approached Avery alumna Lucille Whipper with an earnest appeal to "Save the Avery Building."



Dr. Margaretta Childs



Lucille Whipper

Lucille Whipper (1928–2021), born in Charleston, South Carolina, and raised in the Ansonborough neighborhood on the city's East Side, was at that time head of human relations at the College of Charleston. She had transferred to the Avery Institute from Burke School in the ninth grade and graduated in 1944.

*In 1954, the year Avery closed, many believed that a great injustice had been done to the Black community. Considering the long years of the Institute's history . . . and the contributions of its graduates to the local, state, and national community, the audacity of the authorities was incomprehensible. But closed, it did!*

*What will happen to Avery? Condominiums? Destruction of the buildings? Another school?<sup>2</sup>*

Mrs. Whipper stated that during conversations, Dr. Childs pointed to the rich heritage of Charleston's Black citizens and discussed what it would mean if the site could be acquired, restored, and transformed into an archives to preserve the history of Black experiences in the Lowcountry.



Dr. Lee Drago describes Mrs. Whipper taking on the project with "real gusto."<sup>3</sup> She began her organizing efforts to "Save Avery" at meetings of the Charleston, SC, Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The Links is a national service organization of African American women that mobilizes its members to volunteer with community initiatives. The Links became steadfast supporters.

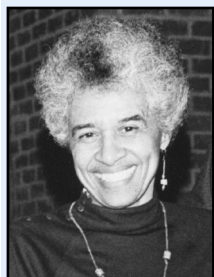
After a series of robust meetings, the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) was formed in 1978 and incorporated in 1980. Mrs. Whipper was its first president, Herbert DeCosta the first vice president. In June 1981, Whipper retired as director of human relations at the College of Charleston to work full time on the "Save Avery" project.

*Lucille Whipper choreographed a campaign that ranged from AIAAHC and the College of Charleston to the halls of power in Columbia, SC. She simultaneously juggled three interrelated issues: obtaining the site, establishing the archive and museum (the Avery Research Center), and funding both the AIAAHC and [the Avery Research] Center. Success demanded that she gracefully negotiate many intertwined and complex issues.*

*Whipper's communication skills were unmatched. She had an uncanny talent for immediately identifying obstacles and finding ways around them, and she was skilled at building networks.<sup>4</sup>*

Realizing the closing of Black institutions impacted not only Avery, Whipper was determined the AIAAHC would become more than an Avery alumni club. It had to be diverse. It had to represent the myriad of Black experiences in the Lowcountry.

Whipper led by consensus, keeping the mission in focus and working quickly to resolve differences. Aware the AIAAHC's strength would rest on those willing to serve the community, Whipper mobilized a strong core of activist volunteers. The volunteers, mostly retired and many of whom were educators, became the backbone of the AIAAHC. They took on administrative functions within the AIAAHC and began identifying and gathering archival collections. They started the *Bulletin* newsletter, which was crucial in recruiting members, keeping membership informed of AIAAHC activities, and disseminating local and national Black history.



Dr. Myrtle Glascoe

In 1985, Dr. Myrtle Glascoe was hired as director of the Avery Research Center. It would be close to five years before the actual Bull Street location would be an open and functioning location. Mrs. Whipper commended the continuing progress:

*The appointment of Dr. Myrtle Glascoe as director of the Avery Research Center and the completion of the final draft of agreement between Avery and the College of Charleston are evidences of our success in reaching one of the goals of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture; that is to establish an archive for the collection and preservation of the history of the Black experience in the low country [sic] of South Carolina.<sup>5</sup>*

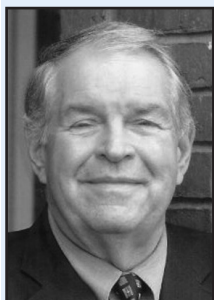
With much hard work, negotiations, networking, and strategy by Mrs. Lucille Whipper, the AIAAHC, and its core of loyal volunteers, the dream to save Avery was realized. The Avery building was purchased, beautifully renovated, and aligned with the College of Charleston. Former Avery Institute president Elmore Brown affirmed:

*The Avery Research Center, the brainchild of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture [...] it was the goal of the Institute to procure the building of the former Avery Normal Institute for the establishment of a center to preserve and make public the achievements and heritage of Afro-Americans in the Low Country [sic].<sup>6</sup>*

## Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture

In 1985, the Avery Research Center was established as part of the College of Charleston Libraries, and despite delays caused by Hurricane Hugo (1989), the building's grand opening was October 6, 1990. After twelve years of strenuous effort, the AIAAHC saw the culmination of its hard work.

Over the years, the AIAAHC, a separate nonprofit organization, has served as an advocate and support for Avery Research Center and is recognized and celebrated for making a difference in the creation of a reputable institution. Former College of Charleston president Alex Sanders said it well:



Alex Sanders

*[The] Avery [Research Center] serves as an invaluable resource for the study of the preservation of African American history and culture. As a result, we are all immeasurably enriched. I cannot think of anything at the College of Charleston of greater importance. We are remembering a history too long forgotten so that the shameful aspects of that history will never be repeated. At the same time, we are preserving the aspects of that history which [sic] reflects great credit on our citizens whose ancestors arrived from the continent of Africa. I am eternally grateful to all those who have contributed to making the Avery Research Center a reality. The College of Charleston can never thank them enough.<sup>7</sup>*

1 "Preface," Edmund L. Drago and W. Marvin Dulaney, *Charleston's Avery Center: From Education and Civil Rights to Preserving the African American Experience* (Charleston, SC: History Press: 2006)

2 Speech excerpts, Lucille Whipper, Lucille Whipper Papers, College of Charleston's Avery Research Center.

3 Drago and Dulaney, *Charleston's Avery Center*, p. 267

4 Drago and Dulaney, *Charleston's Avery Center*, p. 268.

5 Lucille Whipper, "The President's Message," *Bulletin*, Volume 3, Number 1 (Spring 1985)

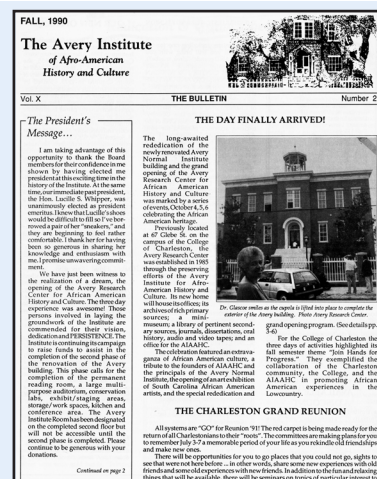
6 Elmore Brown, "The President Speaks," *Bulletin*, Volume 14, Number 3 (Fall 1993)

7 Alex Sanders, "What Avery Means to Us," *Bulletin*, Volume 21, Number 1 (Winter 2001)

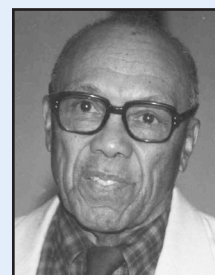
For more information:

•Edmund L. Drago, *Initiative, Paternalism and Race Relations: Charleston's Avery Normal Institute* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1990)

•Avery Institute website: <https://www.averyinstitute.us> and the Avery Research Center's website: <https://avery.cofc.edu>



*Bulletin*, Volume X, Number 2, Fall 1990



Elmore Browne



## AIAAHC BOARD ADVISOR SPEAKS...

*As I see it with the Board, the work of the early Board members—some who were graduates of Avery and some who were not but who were leaders in the community—they set the tone for the Boards that followed them.*

*Certainly, as a proud graduate of Avery, Class of 1951, and the senior person on the Board, I strive to do everything I can to enhance and continue the work of the previous Boards and especially the contributions of the late Honorable Lucille Simmons Whipper. Had it not been for her, there would not be an Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture. I encourage the Avery graduates (and we are now few in number, the ones that [sic] are still alive and especially my class), as I come in contact with them, I encourage them to join the Avery Institute, become a member, send a donation.*

*We've had some great executive directors, and I wish the current director the best; and anything I can do to make her job lighter and enhance the work of the Avery Research Center, I'm willing and able to do that. I am Avery until I die!"*

Mr. Walter G. Brown Jr., a retired educator, is a graduate of the Avery Institute, Class of 1951. Mr. Brown serves as the AIAAHC Board Advisor.

Mr. Walter G. Brown Jr. with former Avery Research Center executive directors: Dr. Myrtle Glascoe (l) and Dr. Patricia Williams (Lessane) Dockery (c) in the McKinley Washington Auditorium, 2014.

Dr. Myrtle Glascoe (1936–2019) served as executive director from 1985–1993. She was Avery Research Center's founding director. Dr. Patricia Williams (Lessane) Dockery served as executive director from 2010–2019.



## THE AVERY MESSENGER: A LOOK BACK

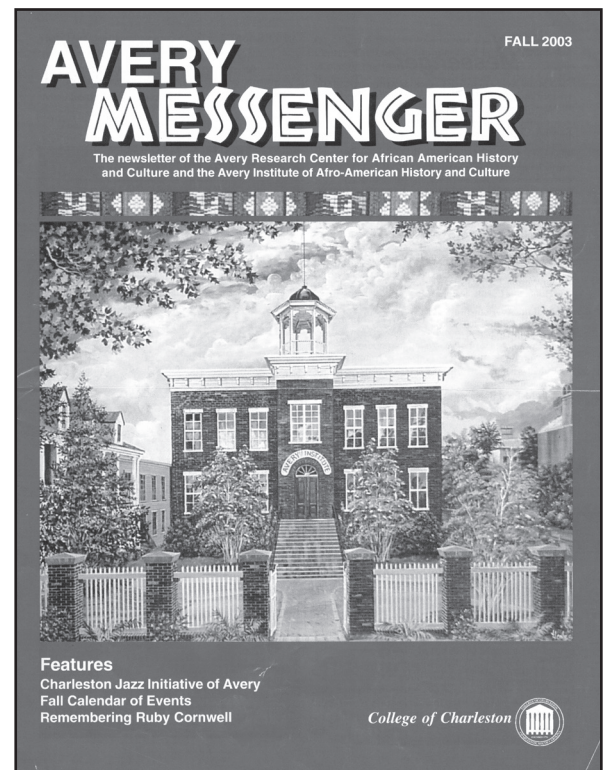
In fall 2003, the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) and the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture presented the premiere issue of their newsletter, *Avery Messenger*. A project of the AIAAHC, the *Avery Messenger* evolved from a collaboration between the two entities helmed by the Avery Research Center's director, Dr. Karen Chandler, and the AIAAHC's president, Roslyn Harper. In that fall 2003 issue, Dr. Chandler stated:



Dr. Karen Chandler

*Building on our legacy and historic partnership, the Avery Research Center and the Avery Institute are pleased to announce our inaugural newsletter, the Avery Messenger. In the past, we have communicated our work to you via our calendars of events and invitations, [our] newly designed website, and the Avery Institute's Bulletin. The legacy of the Bulletin will continue to exist in the Avery Messenger.*

The title of the newsletter, suggested by the Avery Research Center's then director of museum education and exhibits, Curtis Franks, was chosen in remembrance of the historic *Charleston Messenger*, a late nineteenth-century African American newspaper. Founded in 1894 by Francis P. Crum, a member of one of Charleston's well-known families, the paper was later bought by Reverend Daniel Jenkins in 1897. It existed as the Jenkins Orphanage's paper until 1946 when publication ceased.

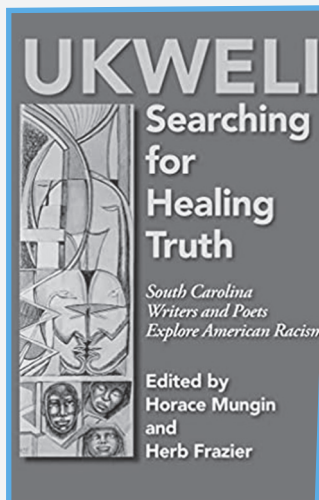


Cover of the fall 2003 premiere issue of the *Avery Messenger*. The cover features the painting of the Avery Institute building by Columbia, South Carolina, artist John Jones.

# AVERY Bookshelf

Whether you're an avid reader, an occasional reader, a casual reader, an intentional reader, or an audiobook listener, here are some suggestions from US to YOU.

## •Ukweli: Searching for Healing Truth, South Carolina Writers and Poets Explore American Racism

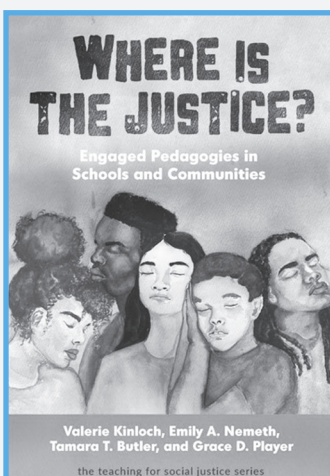


*Ukweli* is a collection of poetry, prose, essays, thoughts, and expressions that approaches the "search for healing truth" with historical evidence, logic, emotional beauty, and realism. The collection includes a gathering of some of the most innovative thinkers, activists, journalists, educators, writers, and scholars in and around South Carolina. The collection's editors are Horace Mungin, who transitioned in 2021 before the publication of the book, and journalist Herb Frazier.

Upon reading the 276 pages of historical evidence, raw logic, and cultural sharing, the reader will surely emerge more enlightened, educated, motivated, and primed for healing.

Cover art by Hampton R. Olfus Jr., foreword by Simon Lewis. Horace Mungin and Herb Frazier, editors. (Evening Post Books, 2022)

## •Where Is the Justice? Engaged Pedagogies in Schools and Communities



*Where Is the Justice?* showcases a creative, inspired, and revolutionary approach to connecting theory, classroom practice, art, poetry, and personal stories to influence social justice in theory and practice. The four authors share their stories of working with students, teachers, families, community members, and union leaders to create transformative practices within and beyond the classroom. This work provides a useful model for community activists and

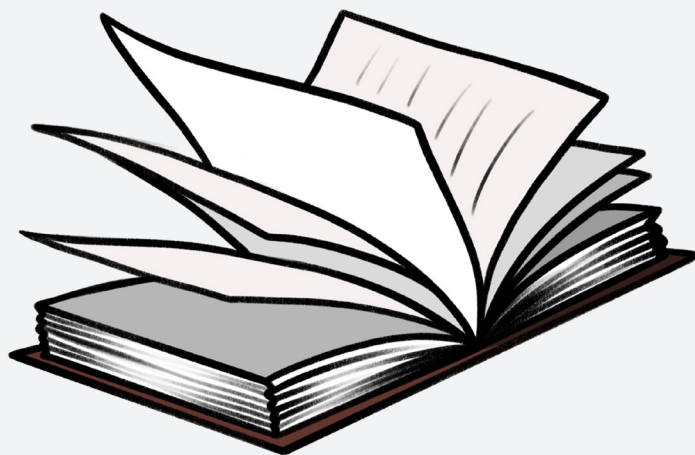
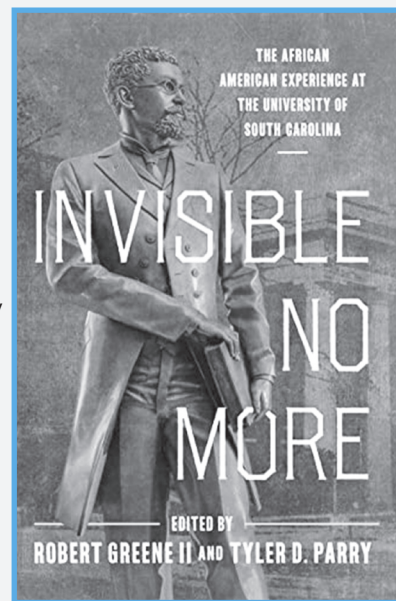
educators of all levels to work together toward developing approaches to fostering justice in society.

Original artwork by Dr. Grace Player. Dr. Valerie Kinloch (University of Pittsburgh), Dr. Emily Nemeth (Denison University), Dr. Tamara Butler (College of Charleston), and Dr. Grace Player (University of Connecticut), authors. (Teachers College Press, 2021)

## •Invisible No More: The African American Experience at the University of South Carolina

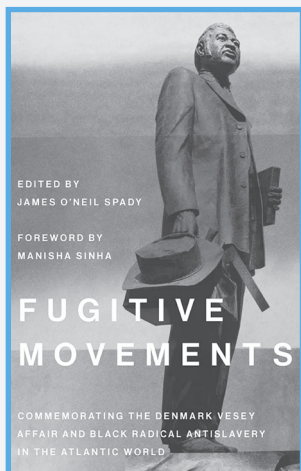
Not widely known, not often acknowledged, African Americans have played an integral role in the University of South Carolina's history since its founding in 1801. *Invisible No More* has resurrected this historical legacy, detailing the many ways African Americans have helped shape the university's development. The publication is a collaborative project with a series of essays spanning from the era of enslavement to Reconstruction, civil rights to Black Power, and

Black Lives Matter. Essays are meticulously researched and written by contributors, and detailed notes and selected bibliographies are included. The book's cover features an image of Jon Hair's 2018 sculpture of Richard T. Greener, which is located on the UofSC campus. Richard T. Greener (1844–1922) was the first African American professor at the University of South Carolina, serving during the Reconstruction era from 1873 to 1877. Greener was also the first African American graduate of Harvard University. Foreword by Valinda W. Littlefield; afterword by Henrie Monteith Treadwell. Robert Greene II and Tyler D. Parry, editors. (University of South Carolina Press, 2021)





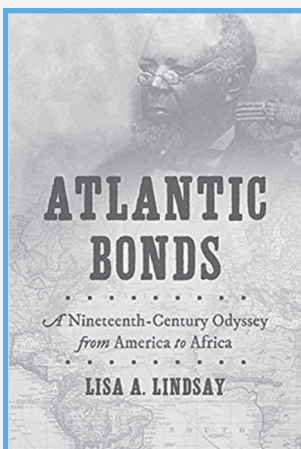
•**Fugitive Movements: Commemorating the Denmark Vesey Affair and Black Radical Antislavery in the Atlantic World**



This year, 2022, is the 200th anniversary of the planned slave revolt organized by Charleston, SC, pastor and activist, Denmark Vesey. Though subverted, Vesey, along with at least five others, were subsequently accused, convicted, and executed by hanging on July 2, 1822, for their role in planning the revolt. Purposed to commemorate the 1822 Charleston Antislavery Movement and to offer a new interpretation of the 1822 events, *Fugitive Movements* is a series of essays framing two

themes: "Fugitive Direct Action" and "Fugitive Memory." Contributors include Bernard E. Powers, Wendy Gonaver, William D. Jones, and Samuel Ntewusu. The book's cover image features sculptor Ed Dwight's 2014 Denmark Vesey monument located in Hampton Park, Charleston, SC. Cover photo by Brenda J. Peart; foreword by Manisha Sinha. James O'Neil Spady, editor. (University of South Carolina Press, 2022)

•**Atlantic Bonds: A Nineteenth-Century Odyssey from America to Africa**



A decade before the American Civil War, James Churchwill Vaughan (1828-1893) set out to fulfill his formerly enslaved father's dying wish that he leave the Americas to start a new life in Africa. With support from a 2012 National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship, Dr. Lisa A. Lindsay went to work piecing together the journey of Vaughan, a "free" African American whose unique experiences on both sides of the Atlantic tell a story of captivity

and revolt, perseverance, and hard-won prosperity. "The archive can bring the researcher into another world," said Lindsay in an interview, and her research took her from South Carolina to Nigeria, Liberia, and the UK in search of scattered clues hidden in dozens of archives and collections. *Atlantic Bonds* is not only Vaughan's history but also a perceptive look at an era of the global slave trade, racial hierarchies, and conflict. Vaughan's story illustrates the complexities of freedom in both West Africa and the American South and sheds light on how colonialism, slavery, and the African Diaspora shaped the lives of real people and the legacies they left for their descendants. (University of North Carolina Press, 2017)

# BLACKink

A Charleston African American Book Festival

**Black Ink: A Charleston African American Book Festival** is the first and only annual celebration dedicated to African American literature in the Charleston area. Black Ink Book Festival serves as a platform to support local Black writers, creating a space for them to share their work, discuss their craft, and expose readers of all ages to the great variety of African American authors in the area. With the support of community-conscious sponsors, Black Ink Book Festival impacts the lives of readers of all ages.

The sixth annual Black Ink Book Festival was held virtually January 13-15, 2022, and highlighted Black authors and romance. Through the virtual platform, attendees were able to connect and communicate with program presenters, authors, and each other. Presentation topics included "Researching African Diasporic History and Culture for Your Literature," featuring members of the Avery Research Center archival team, "The Evolution of the Black Female Character in Fiction and Romance," and "Adapting Black Stories from Books to Film." Award-winning, best-selling historical and contemporary romance novelist Beverly Jenkins delivered the 2022 keynote address. The theme for 2023 will be "Black to the Future," celebrating Afrofuturism, science fiction, fantasy, and graphic novels.

Past keynote speakers include Marcus Amaker (2016), Kwame Alexander (2017), Terry McMillan (2018), Nikki Giovanni (2019), and Kwame Mbalia (2021).

Black Ink Book Festival is a project of the Charleston Friends of the Library in partnership with the Charleston County Public Library and the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

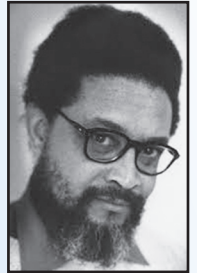
For information about future Black Ink Book Festival events, visit [www.blackinkcharleston.org](http://www.blackinkcharleston.org).

# REMEMBERING JAMES EBER CAMPBELL

by Tony Bell

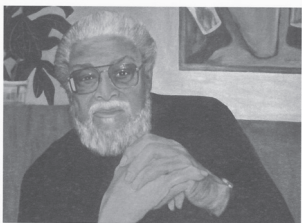
*The Board of Directors for the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture celebrates the life of James E. Campbell. Mr. Campbell, who transitioned on January 30, 2021, was a teacher, activist, mentor, administrator, intellectual, role model, and friend. He dedicated his life to educational equality and social justice. Former Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley once referred to James Campbell as a "Lowcountry treasure."*

**J**ames Eber Campbell was born in Charleston, South Carolina, on July 31, 1925. He received his primary and secondary education at Immaculate Conception School in Charleston, and the Voorhees Normal and Industrial School in Denmark, South Carolina, respectively. Mr. Campbell served in the Pacific Theater during World War II after becoming a Marine in 1943. After his stint in the military, Mr. Campbell attended Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland, where he earned a degree in English with a Theater minor in 1953. After graduation, he taught elementary school in Baltimore, helped found the Arena Players Theater Company, and became an active participant in the civil rights movement.



After relocating to New York City to teach public school in 1964, Mr. Campbell collaborated with Malcolm X in the creation of the Organization of Afro-American Unity's Liberation School. During this time, he also traveled to Mississippi and Georgia to register voters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Mr. Campbell earned a master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1972 from the Bank Street College of Education in New York; during that time, he was also a contributing editor to *Freedomways*, the leading African American theoretical, political, and cultural journal founded by W. E. B. Du Bois. Mr. Campbell taught English in Tanzania from 1973 to 1982 and then returned to New York, working as a school administrator until he retired in 1991.

Mr. Campbell moved back to Charleston, South Carolina, after retirement and continued his involvement in local political and educational issues for the next thirty years. He served as the state coordinator of the South Carolina Algebra Project, an advisory board member for the School of Education at the College of Charleston, and as chair of the Education Committee for the Charleston branch of NAACP. He also served as the national cochair of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism and led a socialist education project in Charleston. Out of the utmost respect and love, Mr. Campbell donated his collection to the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. The James E. Campbell Papers, spanning from 1930 to 2009, include correspondence, writings, photographs, and other material documenting the personal, professional, and ideological interests of James E. Campbell. In 2019, the College of Charleston's Race and Social Justice Initiative at the Avery Research Center renamed its Student Leadership Award to honor James E. Campbell.



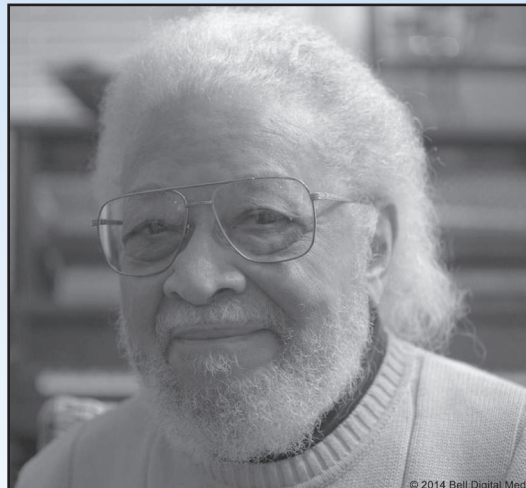
*An Invitation to Jim Campbell's 90th*

A "CORRESPONDENCE" and CELEBRATION to BENEFIT  
DuBois Karyata Campbell Memorial Endowment for  
John L. Durr Public Library,  
Avery Research Center for African American History and  
Culture's Directory Project for the James E. Campbell Collection

*Saturday, August 1, 2015*

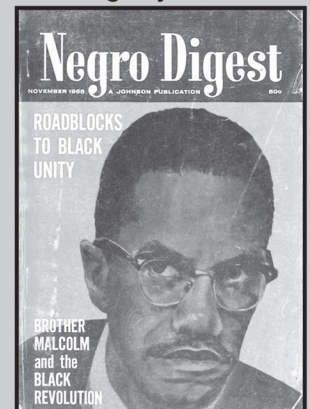
Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture  
2nd and 3rd Floors  
125 Bull Street  
Charleston, SC 29424-0001

We are grateful for the help and support of the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, the Sponsorship of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS), and the Carl Bloice Institute for Socialist Education, a project of the Committees of Correspondence Education Fund, Inc.



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**MALCOLM X:**  
**50 YEARS AND COUNTING**  
The Legacy Continues



The Negro Digest (November 1968) with the image of Malcolm X on the cover is from the James E. Campbell Collection, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston (AMN 1113)





## **Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture**

### **President's Report Tony Bell**



•One of my goals when I became president of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture (AIAAHC) was to set things up so the majority of our donations are received electronically via the Avery Institute website. Great news—this is happening!  
Here is the link to the membership page: <http://www.averyinstitute.us/membership.html>. If you choose to mail your membership donations, use the enclosed envelope in this newsletter.

•During the 2021-2022 term for AIAAHC Board, I introduced the idea of membership incentives. Simply put, there should be perks for our members who support us year after year. To that end, we have started to form partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide discounts to Avery Institute members. They need only to present our new membership cards. The benefits of this are twofold. First, it allows us to partner with other organizations and continually expose the AIAAHC and the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture to new people. Second, it becomes a way for us to give back to the people who give so much to us.

•The AIAAHC is very happy to present our educational Gullah Geechee Language Project video. This video project is designed to introduce the public to the unique Gullah Geechee language and culture that developed in the southeastern Lowcountry during the era of enslavement. The video is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/WG5X0l6Fq5g>.

•Planning is underway for our Legacy event, which will be a semiformal ticketed event designed to honor former Avery Institute students, staff, and their families. This is our way to give our mentors their flowers while they can still smell them. As we recognize many of these former students and staff have already transitioned, this is why we will honor their descendants as well. This event is being planned by a subcommittee headed by Dr. Gwendolyn Harris and Monique Brown, Esq.  
For updates visit: <http://www.averyinstitute.us/>.

•After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, our Kentucky Derby Party fundraiser will return on Saturday, May 6, 2023. We look forward to seeing you there. Check our website for updates.



**AIAAHC Board members at the 2019 Kentucky Derby Fundraiser.** (l-r) Daniel Martin, Walter Brown Jr., Rick Gutowski, Minerva Brown-King, Kimberly Greene, Kathy Smalls, Barbara Nelson, Roslyn Harper, Yvette Metz, Catherine Boags, Priscilla Robinson, Vicki Davis Williams, John Buncum, Tony Bell, Charles McKenzie

## Mateo Mérida: Graduate Research

The College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture has helped my master's thesis research tremendously. As a student of history, my thesis concentrates on a Chicane-centric school in Denver, Colorado, called Escuela Tlatelolco, founded during the Chicane Movement of the 1960s.



Denver's public schools were notorious for underfunding and practicing de facto segregation of Chicane students. Similarly, many Chicane students did not feel the education they received reflected their needs as it was taught exclusively in English, often celebrating white figures while villainizing Mexican, Indigenous, and Chicane people. As a direct result of their lack of resources and alienation, Chicane students were less likely to graduate high school than their white counterparts. These educational failings led Denver's Chicane community to found Escuela Tlatelolco to celebrate Chicane heritage and provide a top-tier education for marginalized students.



### Escuela Tlatelolco

"Educating Students. Liberating Minds."

While Avery's history is not the same, it has much overlap. It was founded to create upward mobility for Black Charlestonians, be a haven and radical space for Black people, celebrate African American history and culture, and provide quality education for its students.

As a graduate assistant at the Avery Research Center, my experiences have not only refined my skills as a researcher but also have challenged me to find parallels where they may not be immediately visible. Working in an institution that actively celebrates marginalized people's resistance to oppression has taught me how to do the same in my own studies as I tell the story of the community that raised me.

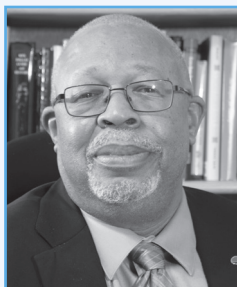
Note: Chicane is the gender-neutral form of Chicano/a, which is used to describe multigenerational Mexican American people. Some have used Chicanx; however, it is not pronounceable in Spanish, which is highly problematic when describing bilingual people. Chicane (Chee-kah-neh) is pronounceable in Spanish and English respectively.

For a more extensive history of Escuela Tlatelolco visit: <https://www.escuelatlatelolco.org/History.html>.

*Mateo Mérida is a native of Denver, Colorado, a second-year master's student in public history, and a former graduate assistant at the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. He is currently the historic house manager for the Charleston Museum.*

## NEWS & EVENTS

- The Association for the Study of African American Life and History's (ASALH) 107th annual meeting and conference will be held from September 29, 2022, to October 1, 2022, in Montgomery, Alabama.



The theme is "Black Health and Wellness."

Of note, ASALH's current national president is W. Marvin Dulaney, former executive director of the Avery Research Center from 1994 to 2008, who provided very productive and dynamic leadership.

For information about national ASALH programs and events visit: <https://asalh.org/>.

Jerome Harris is president of the Charleston Area Branch of ASALH. Visit their website: <https://chsasalh.com/>.

- After twenty-two years as an educator and administrator at the College of Charleston, Dr. Karen Chandler retired at the end of the 2021-2022



academic year. While at the College of Charleston, Dr. Chandler was Associate Professor of Arts Management, Director of the Arts Management Program and the Graduate Certificate in Arts Management, and for several years served as director of the College of Charleston's Avery Research Center for African American History and

Culture. Dr. Chandler initiated and led many progressive and impactful arts and cultural programs during her tenure at the College of Charleston.

- The International African American Museum (IAAM) has announced its opening date of January 2023 after over twenty years of planning. The IAAM is located on the Charleston peninsula at 14 Wharfside Street on the site formerly known as Gadsden's Wharf. The IAAM website lists its mission as "To honor the untold stories of the African American journey at one of our country's most sacred sites," and states the IAAM "will explore cultures and knowledge systems retained and adapted by Africans in the Americas and the diverse journeys and achievements of these individuals and their descendants in South Carolina, the United States, and throughout the African Diaspora."

For additional information, visit their website: <https://iaamuseum.org/>.



# The Dr. Conseula Francis Reading Circle

by Ruth Rambo

Hopefully, you had an opportunity to hear and learn from Dr. Conseula Francis during her tenure at the College of Charleston from 2007 to 2016. Dr. Francis was an extraordinary English professor, director of African American Studies—which she established as a major program of studies—an associate provost, and provost for curriculum and institutional resources. She enjoyed a sterling reputation with her colleagues and friends for her ability to assist groups in working through thorny issues without rancor. Her wide smile and wry humor contributed to her success in building relationships. In addition to her academic family at the College of Charleston, Dr. Francis was a wife and mother to two young daughters.



Conseula A. Francis, PhD  
(April 3, 1973–May 9, 2016)

Dr. Francis's scholarship joyously focused on contemporary African American literature, especially science fiction, graphic novels, popular romance, and erotica. She studied the literature of Black intellectual thought to discern how African American literature considers questions about race, difference, and integration. Motivated by her love of African American literature,

Conseula organized a community book club called "Dart after Dark" at the John L. Dart Branch of the Charleston County Public Library in 2012.

In her honor following her untimely passing in 2016, the club has been renamed "The Dr. Conseula Francis Reading Circle."

Embraced by the Avery Research Center, the Conseula Francis Reading Circle meets via Zoom. Ruth Rambo, Georgette Mayo, and Zora Mayo are the hosts. Recent book discussions have included guest authors such as Beverly Jenkins (*Topaz*), Savannah J. Frierson (*Trolling Nights*), Regina E. Williams (*Promise*), and Farah Jasmine Griffin (*Read Until You Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature*).

The Dr. Conseula Francis Reading Circle meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. EST. Participation is free, and you are welcome to join us.

For additional info, email Georgette Mayo at [mayog@cofc.edu](mailto:mayog@cofc.edu).



Conseula Francis Reading Circle hosts:  
(l-r) Zora Mayo, Ruth Rambo, Georgette Mayo





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for information about tours,  
Reading Room/research  
hours, and upcoming  
programs and events.



Avery Research Center Open House Visitors:  
(front row, l-r) Ruth Rambo, Cynthia McCottry-Smith, Mrs. Norma Davis & Dr. Leonard Davis  
(back row, l-r) Charles McKenzie, Joslynn & Alonzo Smith (June 2022)