

**Provost's Conversations on Diversity, Democracy, and Higher Education**



**Co-Sponsored by the African American Studies Department  
&  
The American Studies Department**

**“Push: Literacy, Women and African American Literature”**



**Sapphire,  
Acclaimed Author and Poet**

**12 NOON — Tuesday, September 29, 2009  
Nyumburu Cultural Center, Multipurpose Room**

*Annotated List Prepared by:*

*Otis A. Chadley, University of Maryland Libraries  
A. Marie Chadley, University of Maryland Libraries*

**-----PUBLICATIONS BY SAPPHIRE: A SELECTED LIST-----**

*[The Most Recent Titles Are Listed First]*

Sapphire. *Lecture/Reading, Part of Pushing Boundaries, Pushing Art: A Symposium on the Works of Sapphire.* February 28, 2007. Visit <http://www.vimeo.com/2166168> to view online video.

This forty-three minutes online video presents author and poet Sapphire as she reads and discusses her literary works.

Sapphire. *Black Wings & Blind Angels: Poems.* New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 1999.

McKeldin Library

Stacks PS 3569 .A63 B58 1999  
(Currently Circulating)

A collection of forty-seven poems that offer insights into the American black experience as it relates to spirituality, family, race, domestic violence, and self-transformation.

**Sapphire. *Push: A Novel*. New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 1996.**

**McKeldin Library**

**Stacks PS 3569 .A63 P87 1996  
(Reserve Desk)**

An award-winning novel about Precious Jones, a black illiterate teenage girl from Harlem, who is abused mentally, physically, and emotionally by family. Despite her many hardships, Precious gains self-confidence and freedom, as she learns to read and write. A film adaptation of Sapphire's novel *Push* will be released in movie theaters during Fall, 2009. The movie is entitled *Precious*.

**Artist with a Mission: A Conversation with Sapphire. Interviewer: Owen Keehnen. August, 1996. Visit <http://www.queerculturalcenter.org/Pages/Keehnen/Sapphire.html> for text of interview.**

Owen Keehnen interviews Sapphire about her novel *Push*, the potency of language, her poetry and prose, as well as other topics.

**Sapphire's Big Push. Interviewer: Mark Marvel. June, 1996. Visit [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1285/is\\_n6\\_v26/ai\\_18450196](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1285/is_n6_v26/ai_18450196) for text of interview.**

Mark Marvel talks with Sapphire regarding her novel *Push* and discusses the impact Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eyes* had on the writing of her award-winning novel.

**Sapphire. *American Dreams*. New York: High Risk Books/Serpent's Tail, 1994.**

**McKeldin Library**

**Stacks PS 3569 .A63 A47 1994  
(Reserve Desk)**

A blend of poetry, prose, and short stories addressing sexual abuse, lesbianism, prostitution, racial and sexual violence, and mother-daughter relations.

**Sapphire and Diane Eiker, Editors. *Keep Simple Ceremonies: The Feminist Spiritual Community of Portland, Maine*. Portland, Maine: Astarte Shell Press, 1993.**

**All UMCP Libraries**

**Borrow Book  
Through Interlibrary Loan**

Based on a class project by feminists of Portland, Maine, the work contains a collection of rituals. The book is the outcome of a course on Women and Religion.

**Sapphire. *Meditations on the Rainbow: Poetry*. New York: Crystal Bananas Press, 1987.**

**All UMCP Libraries**

**Borrow Book  
Through Interlibrary Loan**

Sapphire's first book of poetry. Presents social commentary through the effective use of poetic imagery.

**-----BOOKS ABOUT LITERACY, WOMEN, AND AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE: A SELECTED LIST-----**

***[The Most Recent Titles Are Listed First]***

**Fisher, Maisha T. *Black Literate Lives: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: Routledge, 2009.**

**McKeldin Library**

**Stacks PS 153 .N5 F53 2009  
(Reserve Desk)**

A study of African American literacy practices in the United States. Describes how the black community preserves its culture through education and informally by spoken word poetry, open microphone events, and everyday cultural performances.

Grassian, Daniel. *Writing the Future of Black America: Literature of the Hip-Hop Generation*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2009.

McKeldin Library

Stacks PS 153 .N5 G69 2009  
(Reserve Desk)

Explores the work of eight African American novelists, poets, essayists, and playwrights of the hip-hop generation. Examines the writings of Trey Ellis, Allison Joseph, Suzan-Lori Parks, Colson Whitehead, Jake Lamar, Terrence Hayes, Paul Beatty, and Danzy Senna.

James, G. Winston and Other Countries, Inc. *Voices Rising: Celebrating 20 Years of Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Writing*. Washington, D.C.: Red Bone Press, 2007.

McKeldin Library

Stacks PS 508 .G39 V65 2007  
(On Library Shelf)

Contains poems, essays, short stories, dramatic excerpts, and interviews of sixty-five black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender writers.

Banks, Jr. William H., Editor. *Beloved Harlem: A Literary Tribute to Black America's Most Famous Neighborhood: From the Classics to Contemporary*. New York: Harlem Moon/Broadway Books, 2005.

McKeldin Library

Stacks PS 549 .N5 B45 2005  
(On Library Shelf)

Presents short stories, novel excerpts, and essays by Harlem literary figures from the early twentieth-century to the twenty-first century.

Dowdy, Joanne Kilgour, Editor. *Readers of the Quilt: Essays on Being Black, Female, and Literate*. Cresskill, New Jersey: Hampton Press, 2005.

McKeldin Library

Stacks LC 2717 .R42 2005  
(Currently Circulating)

A collection of African American women essays that explores functional literacy, traditional literacy, workplace literacy, school literacy, media literacy, computational literacy, and maternal literacy.

Gates, Jr. Henry Louis, and Nellie Y. McKay, General Editors. *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2004.

McKeldin Library

Stacks PS 508 .N3 N67 2004  
(Currently Circulating)

Anthology of 120 works in all genres by American black writers, which span more than 250 years of literary scholarship.

Dowdy, Joanne Kilgour. *GED Stories: Black Women & Their Struggle for Social Equity*. New York: P. Lang, 2003.

McKeldin Library

Stacks LC 2780.8 .D69 2003  
(Reserve Desk)

Case studies of four African American women who returned to high school to earn their GED. Describes their struggles to overcome low self-esteem and develop self-confidence.

Lanehart, Sonja L. *Sista, Speak!: Black Women Kinfolk Talk About Language and Literacy*. University of Texas Press, 2002.

McKeldin Library

Stacks E 185.86 .L353 2002  
(Reserve Desk)

(See next page for annotation).

(See previous page for citation).

Examines the pros and cons of speaking black English versus standard English in American society. Argues that speaking standard English does not overcome social disadvantages connected to race, ethnicity, and economic status.

**Doane, Janice and Devon Hodges. *Telling Incest: Narratives of Dangerous Remembering From Stein to Sapphire*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001.**

**McKeldin Library**

**Stacks HV 6570.6 .D63 2001  
(Currently Circulating)**

A study of father-daughter incest from the female perspective. Includes fictional and nonfiction accounts of incest based on case records, narratives, and letters.

-----SELECTED FILMS ABOUT LITERACY, GENDER, AND AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE-----

*[The Most Recently Released Titles  
On DVD Or VHS Are Listed First]*

***Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up*. (2009). DVD Videodisc, (67 minutes). Color.**

**UMCP Hornbake Library**

**Nonprint Media Services Desk**

**HQ 1075.5 .U6 S77 2009  
(Non-Circulating)**

Illustrates how strongly held stereotypes about gender and sexuality in American society negatively impacts everyone. Suggest ways of overcoming our dilemma.

***In Black and White: Conversations with African American Writers*. (2008). DVD Videodisc, (149 minutes). Color with black and white sequences.**

**UMCP Hornbake Library**

**Nonprint Media Services Desk**

**PS 153 .N5 I5 2008  
(Non-Circulating)**

A series of interviews with six well-known black authors, including Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, Gloria Naylor, August Wilson, Charles Johnson, and John Wideman.

***Assessing Early Literacy with Richard Gentry: 5 Phases, 1 Simple Test*. (2007). DVD Videodisc, (93 minutes). Color.**

**Shady Grove Library**

**Stacks LB 1050.46 .G46 2007  
(Currently Circulating)**

Describes a diagnostic test that can determine any student's progress through the early stages of reading and writing. Focuses on children between ages three and seven.

***One in 2000*. (2006). DVD Videodisc, (26 minutes). Color.**

**UMCP Hornbake Library**

**Nonprint Media Services Desk**

**RC 883 .O54 2006  
(Non-Circulating)**

Explores the issue of babies born with undetermined sexual anatomy or ambiguous gender. Profiles individuals with the condition, including their struggles and success with family and society.

***Furious Flower II: Regenerating the Black Poetic Tradition*. (2005). DVD Videodisc, (214 minutes). Color.**

**UMCP Hornbake Library**

**Nonprint Media Services Desk**

**PS 591 .N4 F872 2005  
(Non-Circulating)**

Based on interviews with black poets, examines the development and trends of contemporary black poetry.

***The Pursuit of Pleasure.* (2004). DVD Videodisc, (58 minutes). Color with black and white sequences.**

**UMCP Hornbake Library**

**Nonprint Media Services Desk**

**HQ 29 .P877 2004**

**(Non-Circulating)**

Debates widely held perceptions about American female sexuality, gender roles, incest, sisterhood, and other related topics.

***Rhythm, Rhyme & Life: Spoken Word and the Oral Tradition.* (2002). VHS Videocassette, (52 minutes). Color.**

**UMCP Hornbake Library**

**Nonprint Media Services Desk**

**PS 310 .N4 .R59 2002**

**(Non-Circulating)**

A documentary that explores the African and African American oral tradition and the origins of spoken word.

***Furious Flower: Conversations with African American Poets.* (2002). 4 VHS Videocassettes, (369 minutes). Color.**

**UMCP Hornbake Library**

**Nonprint Media Services Desk**

**PS 591 .N4 F87 1998**

**(Non-Circulating)**

Presents a collection of African American poetry spanning 1960 to 1995. Includes the works and profiles of twenty-five well-known poets, and Black verse from the Harlem Renaissance through the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** In addition to the previously listed videos, consider viewing cinema via Films@UM. It is a digital collection of films on a variety of topics. The University of Maryland Libraries at College Park provides remote access (on and off-campus) to this film collection. Anyone with internet access and a PC may view the films while on campus. You must be affiliated with the University in order to view the collection from off-campus. For details about Films@UM, visit [http://www.lib.umd.edu/digital/help\\_video.jsp?skin=filmsum](http://www.lib.umd.edu/digital/help_video.jsp?skin=filmsum).

-----CONDUCTING RESEARCH ABOUT  
LITERACY, GENDER, AND AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE-----

*[Selected Databases Through Research Port]*

*Databases listed here are accessible through the University Libraries' Research Port, <http://researchport.umd.edu>. The electronic files can be searched on and off campus by University of Maryland, College Park students, faculty, and staff. Due to licensing agreements, the general public may access the databases on campus only.*

### **Academic Search Premier**

Contains full-text articles on a variety of topics, from popular magazines, scholarly journals, and newspapers.

### **Black Thought and Culture**

Online access to monographs, essays, articles, speeches, interviews, and other publications about the African American community and its leaders, from 1700s to date. Also, articles from the Black Panther Party.

### **Education Resource Complete**

A comprehensive listing of the world's largest and most complete collection of full-text education journals.

### **GenderWatch**

Complete text of over 175 periodicals, regional publications, and reports that address gender related issues.

## **International Index to Black Periodicals**

International coverage of Black Studies related topics. Includes articles from scholarly and popular periodicals, newspapers, and newsletters from the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean. Full-text 1998 to present.

## **LGBT Life with Full Text (Formerly GLBT)**

Electronic access to journals, case studies, and books about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues.

## **MLA International Bibliography**

Covers materials worldwide in the areas of literary criticism, language, linguistics, rhetoric, and folklore.

## **Oxford African American Studies Center**

A full-text database that provides comprehensive coverage of the African American experience. Updated quarterly.

## **Women's Studies International**

Covers issues worldwide in women's studies, including feminist theory and history, family, employment, mental and physical health, prejudice and gender discrimination, law and legislation.

## **WorldCat**

Worldwide library catalog of books, sound recordings, visual images, internet sites, and other materials.

*This publication has been prepared in support of the Provost Lecture Series by:*

Otis Chadley, [ochadley@umd.edu](mailto:ochadley@umd.edu)



A. Marie Chadley, [achadley@umd.edu](mailto:achadley@umd.edu)

## **REMINDER:**

**For an online version of this annotated list, visit the following websites:**

Office of the Associate Provost for Equity and Diversity, University of Maryland  
<http://www.provost.umd.edu/diversity/provostsconversations.html>

University Libraries' Diversity Team Webpage  
[http://www.lib.umd.edu/groups/diversity/newsevent09\\_10.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/groups/diversity/newsevent09_10.html)