

Carr Center Humanities Programming, 2009-2017: An Overview



A collaboration with AQUARIUS PRESS of Detroit

The Writers @ the Carr Series continues to be made possible in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from Poets & Writers, Inc. Detroit.



Poets & Writers

About the Writers @ The Carr Series

The **Writers @ The Carr** series is an artist residency program that brings notable scholars and professional poets and writers to the Carr Center in Detroit. The program evolved from an earlier author and musician series held at the Carr. Built around Humanities-themed public readings and discussions, the residency brings together scholars, authors, artists, and musicians of color for collaborations and presentations. A core focus is to investigate how the humanities engage with urban environments. A youth component, “A Day @ The Carr,” provides workshops to Detroit-area students traditionally underserved in arts programming.

This series is a collaboration between the Carr Center and Aquarius Press. The **Carr Center**, located in Harmonie Park in Detroit, is a 40,000 square foot facility that hosts arts events and educational activities year-round to meet its mission of promoting and preserving the arts in our region. The Carr is part of the Arts League of Michigan (ALM), an organization that develops, promotes, presents and preserves the African and African American cultural arts traditions within our multicultural community. Over the years, ALM has offered a wide array of programs, services and activities for both artists and audiences. The Carr Center provides the following amenities:



- 40,000 sq. ft. of flexible configuration
- 3 multi-purpose visual arts studios
- 1 grand exhibition space
- 2 performing arts rehearsal studios with audio/television studio recording and broadcast capabilities
- Teaching/practice facilities for a community arts and education program

Aquarius Press is a Detroit-based publisher of several of the nation’s top literary poets and writers. Now in its 16th year, the press is the longest-running independent literary press in Detroit dedicated to publishing underrepresented writers. Its **Willow Books** division specializes in writers of color. Willow was the producer of the **Idlewild Writers Centennial Conference** in historic Idlewild, Michigan and is currently the host of the national LitFest. Its upcoming initiative is the **Weeksville Residency** at the historic Civil War-era Weeksville Society in Brooklyn, New York. The majority of the Carr residency authors come from the Willow Division.



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“Really enjoyed the poetry discussion and workshop this morning at the Carr Center. Today was for the kids and there was great participation from some talented Cody and Osborn high school students. They were treated to so much knowledge from authors Karen S. Williams of Inkster and Curtis L. Crisler from Indiana. Tomorrow, the authors will be giving a public reading focusing on works they have written about Great People of the Great State of Michigan!”

—Facebook post from Dr. Angela May, Humanities Scholar

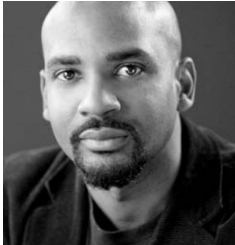
LIFE, IMAGINED: MICHIGANDERS IN LITERATURE

Saturday, October 12, 2013

3 to 5 PM

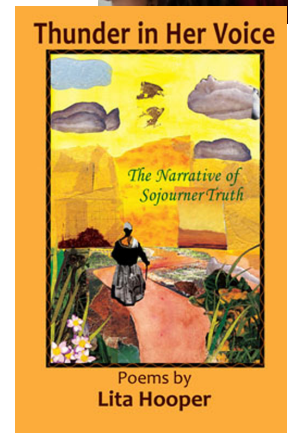
Free & Open to the Public

Public Reading and Discussion with:



Derrick Harriell, author of *ROPES*, the life stories of four famous boxers: Jack Johnson, Joe Frazier, Mike Tyson, and Detroit's own Joe Louis.

Lita Hooper, author of *Thunder in Her Voice: The Narrative of Sojourner Truth*



Special Guest: **Randall Horton**
Moderator and author of *Roxbury: A Memoir*
Live Entertainment by **Tracy Kash Thomas**



The Carr Center
311 E. Grand River
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-8430



Great Books about Great People of the Great State of Michigan!

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www.thecarrcenter.org

Highlights from Life, Imagined: Michiganders in Literature, 2013

Public Reading & Discussion



Readings & Student Workshop



LIFE, IMAGINED: MICHIGANDERS IN LITERATURE

Public Reading and Discussion with:



Curtis L. Crisler, Asst. Professor of Creative Writing, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne, author of **WONDERKIND**, a poetry collection about the musical genius of Michigan's own Stevie Wonder—Motown artist, record producer and Songwriting Hall of Famer.

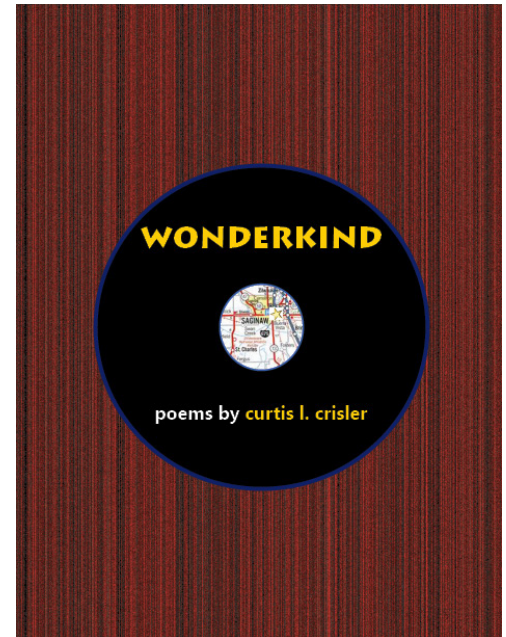


Karen S. Williams, author of **Peninsula: Poems of Michigan**, which peers into the lives of historic and modern residents in over ten Michigan communities and regions, including Fathers Charles Raymbault and Isaac Jogues; The Anishinabe Chippewa First Nations People; Henry and Clara Ford; Sojourner Truth; Eloise Dickerson; and Robert Inkster.

Saturday, April 5, 2014

2 to 4 PM

Free & Open to the Public



Special Guest: **Randall Horton**
Moderator and author of *Roxbury: A Memoir*
Live Entertainment



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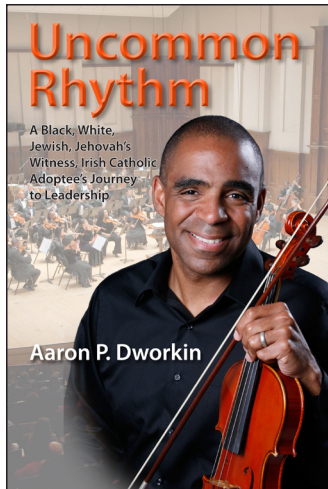
Reading & Discussion for the Living Detroit Series to commemorate Detroit's 313th Birthday. Multimedia presentation on Sometimes You Do Things, a poetry collection based in part on the work of the Diego Rivera murals, "Detroit Industry," at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 2013.



*Music by Tracy Kash
Trio*



Reading & Discussion with Aaron P. Dworkin, founder of the Sphinx Organization and current Dean of the College of Music & Dance, University of Michigan, 2011.



Music by Sphinx Orchestra members



"That thing changed my life."—Cody High School workshop student, 2014



*Poetry Reading by Indiana University professor
Curtis L. Crisler. Music by Ron English Trio, 2009*



*Fiction Writer-in-Residence
James Cherry, Jackson, TN,
2010*

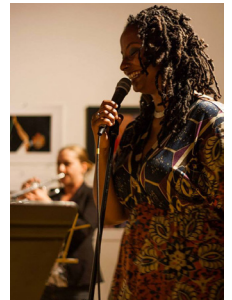


*National Poetry Month
Celebration with Poet-
in-Residence Dr. Randall
Horton, University of New
Haven, 2011*

Coming Fall 2016

LIFE, IMAGINED: MICHIGANDERS IN LITERATURE

Readings, workshops and discussion about the lives of iron foundry workers in Saginaw, MI, based on the oral histories of Latino/as and African Americans. Denise Miller, Kalamazoo Valley Community College instructor, poet, community activist, and author of *CORE*; Dr. Michelle S. Johnson, archivist and creator of *Community Spaces of the Industrious*.



THE REMEMBRANCE PROJECT: AFRICAN AMERICAN JAZZ & THE GREAT WAR

Reading from *Remembrance: A Novel* and live performance of WWI-era jazz, particularly the compositions of James Reese Europe, founder of the Harlem Hellfighters, an all-African American and Latino band that introduced jazz music to Europe.

