40th Annual
Coretta Scott King
Book Awards Breakfast

Coretta Scott King
Book Awards Committee
Ethnic and Multicultural
Information Exchange Round Table
American Library Association

Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 7:00–9:00 AM
Chicago, Illinois
Hyatt Regency Chicago,
Grand Ballroom
**Program**

**Presiding**
Deborah Taylor, Chair, Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee

**Musical Prelude**
“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”
Lead by Shari Addison
*Audience, please stand; lyrics found on back cover*

**Invocation**

**Greetings**
Jim Retting, President, American Library Association

**Enjoy Your Breakfast!**

**Tribute to the 40th Anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards**
Andrea Davis Pinkney, Chair, Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee Public Awareness Campaign

**Presentation of Awards**
Carole J. McCollough, Chair, Award Jury
Darwin Henderson, Interim Chair, Award Jury

**Award Jury**
Eunice Anderson, Alan R. Bailey, Brenda M. Hunter, Jonda C. McNair, Martha Ruff, Robin L. Smith

**John Steptoe Award for New Talent**
SHADRA STRICKLAND, Illustrator, *Bird*, Written by Zetta Elliott, Edited by Jennifer Fox (Lee & Low Books)

**Illustrator Honors**
KADIR NELSON, *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, Written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Edited by Donna Bray (Disney-Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Book Group)

JERRY PINKNEY, *The Moon Over Star*, Written by Dianna Hutts Aston, Edited by Lauri Hornik (Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group)

SEAN QUALLS, *Before John Was a Jazz Giant*, Written by Carole Boston Weatherford, Edited by Reka Simonsen (Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishers Group)

**Author Honors**
HOPE ANITA SMITH, *Keeping the Night Watch*, Illustrated by E. B. Lewis, Edited by Christy Ottaviano (Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children’s Publishers Group)

JOYCE CAROL THOMAS, *The Blacker the Berry*, Illustrated by Floyd Cooper, Edited by Joanna Cotler (Joanna Cotler Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD, *Becoming Billie Holiday*, Illustrated by Floyd Cooper, Edited by Larry Rosler (Wordsong, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, Inc.)

**Illustrator Winner**
FLOYD COOPER, Illustrator, *The Blacker the Berry*, Written by Joyce Carol Thomas, Edited by Joanna Cotler (Joanna Cotler Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

Presentation of Honorarium
- DEMCO, Inc., Madison, WI
- World Book, Inc., Chicago, IL

**Author Winner**
KADIR NELSON, *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, Written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Edited by Donna Bray (Disney-Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Book Group)

Presentation of Honorarium
- Deborah Taylor, Chair, Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee
- Encyclopaedia Britannica Education Corporation, Chicago, IL

**The Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement**
Barbara Jones Clark, Chair

**Jump at the Sun Competition**
Kadir Nelson

**Closing Remarks**
Deborah Taylor, Chair, Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee

Poem to Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards
Arnold Adoff
About Our Winners

Author
KADIR NELSON

KADIR NELSON has won three Coretta Scott King Awards, two Coretta Scott King Honors, two Caldecott Honors, and an NAACP Image Award. We Are the Ship is the first book he has both written and illustrated. Kadir Nelson lives with his family in California. Please visit him online at www.kadirnelson.com.

Illustrator
FLOYD COOPER

FLOYD COOPER was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and received a degree in fine arts from the University of Oklahoma. The recipient of three previous Coretta Scott King Honors, Floyd Cooper now lives in Easton, Pennsylvania, with his wife and two sons. Please visit him online at www.floydcooper.com.

John Steptoe Award for New Talent
SHADRA STRICKLAND

SHADRA STRICKLAND earned her MFA at New York's School of Visual Arts in Illustration. She currently freelances as an illustrator and a graphic designer and uses drawing as a way to interpret her world. Shadra Strickland lives in Brooklyn, New York, and she can be found online at www.shadrastrickland.com.
Author Honors

HOPE ANITA SMITH
Keeping the Night Watch

CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD
Becoming Billie Holiday

JOYCE CAROL THOMAS
The Blacker the Berry

Illustrator Honors

KADIR NELSON
We Are the Ship: The Story of the Negro League Baseball

JERRY PINKNEY
The Moon Over Star

SEAN QUALLS
Before John Was a Jazz Giant
The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are given to encourage the artistic expression of the black experience via literature and the graphic arts, including biographical, social, historical, and social history treatments. The awards honor African-American authors and illustrators for outstanding contributions to literature for children and young adults. The books selected for recognition promote an understanding and appreciation of African-American culture and experience. The awards are further designed to commemorate the life and the legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination in supporting the work of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for peace and world brotherhood.

Deborah Taylor, Chair, Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee
Dorothy Guthrie, Chair, Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast
Myra L. Appel, Chair, EMIERT
Satia Orange, Director, Office for Literacy & Outreach Services
(ALA-EMIERT Staff Liaison)

Award Jury
Carole J. McCollough, Chair
Darwin Henderson, Interim Chair
Eunice Anderson • Alan R. Bailey
Brenda M. Hunter • Jonda C. McNair
Martha Ruff • Robin L. Smith

Award Sponsors
DEMCO, Inc., Madison, WI
Encyclopaedia Britannica Education Corporation, Chicago, IL
World Book, Inc., Chicago, IL
Women’s Fellowship Church of the Palms Congregational Church, Delray Beach, FL

Founders
Glyndon Flynt Greer • John F. Carroll
Mabel R. McKissick

Visit the Coretta Scott King Book Awards website at www.ala.org/csk
Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the
dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new
day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Story the road we trod,
Bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope
unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our
fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with
tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our
path through the blood of
the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our
bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus
far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path,
we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the
wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” was written by the noted African-American poet and civil rights leader James Weldon Johnson. The song is often referred to as the African-American National Anthem. Source: Afro-American Encyclopedia, ed. Martin Rywell (North Miami Florida: Educational Book Publishers, 1974).