

News Release: American Library Association

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From: Peggy Barber, Director
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Centennial Conference
American Library Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clara Stanton Jones, Director of the Detroit Public Library, will be installed as President of the American Library Association in Chicago on July 23 during the ALA's Centennial Conference.

She has been serving as Acting-President since the death last April 11 of ALA President Allie Beth Martin.

Mrs. Jones has long been an active ALA member and has served on Council, the Committee on Legislation, the Committee on Committees, and the Budget Assembly. She has also served on various committees of the Young Adult Services Division, the Library Administration Division, and the Public Library Association.

Highly respected both in and outside the library profession, Mrs. Jones has been awarded two honorary degrees--this year a Doctor of Laws Degree from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana and in 1975 a Doctor of Humane Letters from Shaw College of Detroit.

She was the recipient in 1970 of the first Award for Distinguished Service to Librarianship from the Black Caucus of the ALA, in 1971 of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Michigan School of Library Science, and in 1975 of the Athena Award from the Alumnae Council of the University of Michigan Alumni Association for "unique humanitarian, career and service contributions by a distinguished alumna."

add 1. Clara Stanton Jones

Although her professional travels have been extensive--most recently, Mainland China, Germany, and eight West African countries--most of her activities focus on Detroit and the revitalization and cultural development of that city. She is an active supporter of the Afro-American Museum and Your Heritage House and a member of the Boards of Trustees of New Detroit, Inc. and the United Foundation.

Her recent appointment to the Board of Directors of the City National Bank marks the first appointment of either a woman or a black person to that board.

She is well-known in Detroit for her public speaking engagements before community, professional and library school groups and for her frequent radio and television appearances.

Speeches by and articles by and about Mrs. Jones frequently appear in professional journals. She has also been the subject of articles in McCall's and Ebony magazines.

After receiving her B.A. degree from Spelman College in Atlanta and her library science degree from the University of Michigan, Mrs. Jones worked at Dillard University in New Orleans as a reference librarian and at Southern University Library in Baton Rouge as associate librarian and instructor of library science.

She joined the Detroit Public Library in 1944, and was promoted to First Assistant In 1949, Chief of Division in 1951, Chief of Department in 1963, Library Neighborhood Consultant in 1968, and Director in 1970.

She is a member of the Michigan Library Association, the ACLU, the NAACP, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.