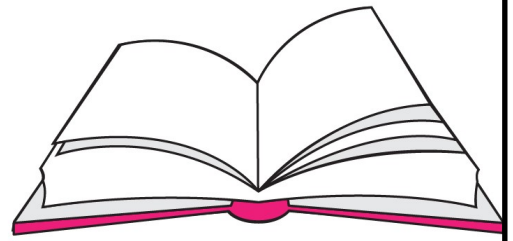


# PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL



## *From the Director*

Happy February and Black History Month! We hope everyone is safe, healthy and following the CDC Guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus...not to mention getting a vaccine soon!

It is Black History Month and the month of the heart (Valentine's Day). We have had the opportunity to hear Amanda Gorman, our National Poet Laureate, give a stunningly beautiful reading of her poem "The Hill We Climb." It was a reminder that we are here together, one community. Our volunteers are building our community through literacy.

I'm always encouraged when I talk to the parents and the students about our tutors. My heart goes out to each of you for the great work you do!

We are getting calls or emails, two to three each week, requesting tutoring services. The need is great and we need volunteers to tutor! We are looking for people of all backgrounds to join our volunteer group. If you know someone who would be willing to give 2 hours each week, please send them this newsletter and let them know about us.

Stay safe and healthy. We are building community through literacy!

Dodi

*Dodi Hodges, Ph.D.*  
*Executive Director*

## **How You Can Support PLC**

**Individual membership:** \$25/year

*Pays for materials for one student*

**Business membership:** \$50/year

*Pays for materials for two students*

Your business card will be featured in  
the newsletter and on our website

**Donate through [palmettoliteracycouncil.org](http://palmettoliteracycouncil.org)**

**TRUST.  
EXCELLENCE.  
ACCOUNTABILITY.  
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HONESTY & INTEGRITY.**

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[info@palmettoliteracy.org](mailto:info@palmettoliteracy.org) and put UNSUBSCRIBE  
NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

## ***We Need Tutors!***

As of January 31, 2021, we have 19 student/tutors working together. We have 11 students waiting for a match. If you would like a second student or know a volunteer, please let Dodi know.

The following are students who have a need for a tutor:

5 students in Conway (C3 Coffee Shop) for reading, 1 adult, 4 students

1 student in Carolina Forest Library (Dunkin' in Carolina Forest), reading

4 students in the Socastee area

1 student in the Loris/N. Myrtle Beach area

Other numbers:

1 Student on COVID hold\*

14 Tutors on COVID hold\*

\*COVID hold – Waiting for the virus to subside before coming back to Tutoring Sessions.

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## ***VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING***

Carla Taylor, our Training Coordinator, will conduct our next Volunteer Orientation and Training on **February 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM** online through the Zoom application.

We are in desperate need of tutors. Contact Dodi, to sign-up for the Volunteer Orientation and Training (VOT) or to get more information about the VOT. Once you've attended this meeting, then send the office your paperwork requested. It takes just a few minutes to do a background check through SLED. Once this is complete you will be welcomed to the team! Dodi will then contact you if there are students (either an adult or a child) in your area who needs a tutor.

## ***Books for Black History Month***

*Beyond Inclusion*, J. Goosby Smith & Josie Bell Lindsay

*Sticking Points: How to get 4 Generations Working Together in the 12 Places They Come Apart*, Haydn Shaw

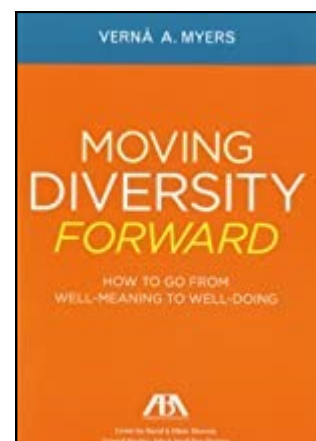
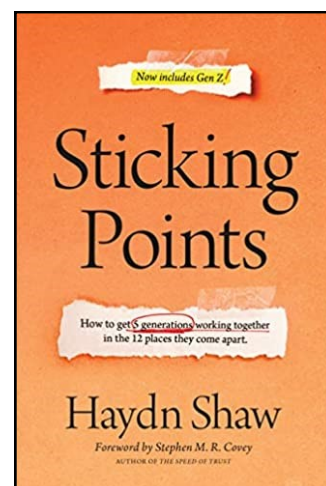
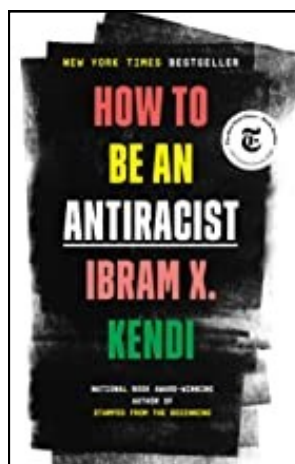
*Moving Diversity Forward: How to Go From Well-Meaning to Well-Doing*, Verna Myers

*Braving the Wilderness*, Brene Brown

*How to be an Antiracist*, Ibram X. Kendi

*This Book is Anti-racist*, Tiffany Jewell

*Inclusion: Diversity, The New Workplace & The Will to Change*, Jennifer Brown



## Words Matter

Words can be used to inform and to persuade and to entertain. They can also be used to inspire. And this is what the words written by Amanda Gorman in her poem “The Hill We Climb” do. Gorman, the nation’s Youth Poet Laureate, eloquently spoke the words of her 710 word poem at the inauguration of Joe Biden on January 20. In an interview with Anderson Cooper, 22 year old Gorman said, “To me, words matter, and I think that's kind of what made this inauguration that much more sentimental and special. We've seen over the past few years the ways in which the power of words has been violated and misappropriated.”

Gorman was passionate in her presentation, as anyone watching the inauguration witnessed. But hearing the poem doesn’t quite do it justice. I looked at the full text of “The Hill We Climb” to get a real sense not only of Gorman’s message, but of the way she crafted the poem. I wanted to analyze the rhetorical choices Gorman made.

Read the poem. It will inspire you.

I would like to focus here on a few particularly powerful portions of the poem. Note I have employed alliteration on purpose; Gorman utilizes this technique often throughout her poem. Alliteration contributes to the mood or tone of a piece. It reinforces the intention. When read aloud, alliteration draws in the listener through a kind of lyricism.

Here are a few important examples of Gorman’s use of alliteration.

She often does this through contrast:

That even as we grieved, we grew  
That even as we hurt, we hoped  
That even as we tired, we tried

Alliteration is powerful:

Our blunders become their burdens  
love becomes our legacy

She captures what America is trying to do at this moment:

We are striving to forge a union with purpose  
To compose a country committed to all cultures,  
colors, characters and  
conditions of man

And she is hopeful:

we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one  
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover  
every corner called our country

Words do matter, indeed.

Read the full text on page 6.

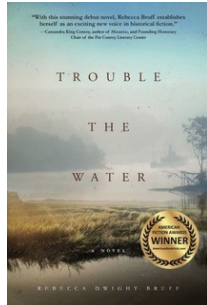


Amanda Gorman, Youth Poet Laureate

## TALKING WITH SOUTH CAROLINA AUTHORS



**Rebecca Bruff**



and Adult Fiction, a Bronze award for Historical Fiction from The Feathered Quill Awards, and First Place/Gold in Fiction from American Bookfest. In 2017, she was a scholarship recipient for the prestigious Key West Literary Seminar. Rebecca has also published a children's book, *Stars of Wonder*.

Barbara and Rebecca shared their love of literature and discussed the importance of writing in their lives. Although they write in different genres (Barbara – fantasy fiction and Rebecca – historical fiction), both authors spend a fair amount of time conducting research in order to accurately portray the setting and characters who inhabit their novels.



**Barbara Evers**



Barbara, who has a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology, loves animals and giraffes in particular and has used this knowledge to feature human-animal communication in her books. Rebecca was so drawn to the story of former slave and Civil War hero Robert Smalls, that she moved from Texas to Beaufort to research and write the novel!

Palmetto Literacy Council had the pleasure of hosting its second Virtual Author Discussion on January 30, 2021 which featured two engaging and talented South Carolina authors. These virtual discussions reflect PLC's desire to celebrate and showcase local authors who share our passion to improve literacy. Barbara Evers and Rebecca Bruff generously volunteered their time to support our mission to improve literacy while discussing their lives as professional authors.

During the presentation, Barbara and Rebecca offered intriguing perspectives on their writing process and on their sources of inspiration. They also provided useful advice for would-be writers.

The authors' books are available on Amazon (in both Kindle and paperback formats). You can learn more about Barbara and Rebecca at their websites:

***barbaraevers.com    rebeccabruff.com***

Barbara Evers lives in Greer, South Carolina and is the author of *The Watchers of Moniah* trilogy. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee and also a two-time Carrie McCray winner whose short stories and essays have appeared in the best-selling anthology, *Child of My Child: Poems and Stories for Grandparents*, *The Petigru Review* and *moonShine Review*. When she's not writing, Barbara is a professional trainer, speaker, and freelance editor.

Rebecca Bruff, who lives in Beaufort, South Carolina, is the author of *Trouble the Water*. The novel received First Place/Gold awards for Debut Novel

**Palmetto Literacy Council  
is currently planning its third  
Virtual Author Discussion  
April (date/time tbd)  
Hope to see you then!**

"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road.  
They are the destination, and the journey.  
They are home."  
**Anna Quindlen**



## ***Meet A Tutor Phyllis Townsend***

Phyllis Townsend has always wanted to help people learn how to read. So volunteering her services as a tutor for Palmetto Literacy Council is a perfect fit. Phyllis, who lives in Myrtle Beach with her husband Carl, retired to the area from West Virginia, where she worked as the Collection Development Services Manager at the library at Hood College.

Retirement has allowed Phyllis to share her love of reading and her interest in literacy in a number of ways. Before tutoring for PLC, Phyllis and Carl volunteered as “Reading Buddies” at Myrtle Beach Elementary School. When this program was put on hold, Phyllis sought other opportunities and discovered PLC at the Volunteer Fair held at Carolina Forest Library last year.

In October, Phyllis was paired up with Bailey, a 7-year-old second grader, and has been tutoring her twice a week at the Chapin Memorial Library.

“We have fun, and that’s the key for me,” Phyllis said. Bailey, who is working on her reading and penmanship skills, is excited about the tutoring.

Phyllis spends time preparing lessons and meets with Bailey’s parents after the sessions to go over the activities they worked on together. During one session Bailey asked Phyllis a question that Phyllis wasn’t able to answer right away, so she did a bit of research and was able to share that with Bailey during their next session.



“I want her to be curious. That’s what learning is all about.”

Although Phyllis did not plan to take on another student, she was motivated to do this when she realized that PLC needed additional tutors.

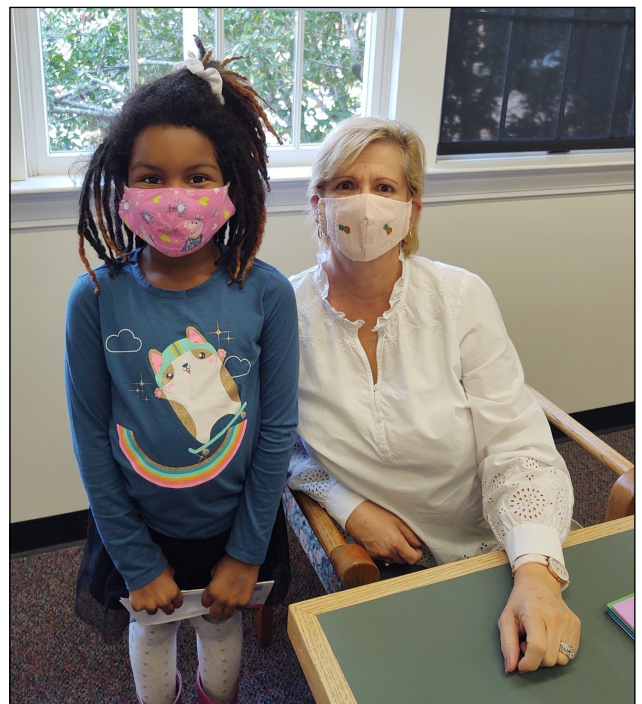
“I kept seeing that there was another student who needed tutoring. It was weighing on my heart.”

She felt confident doing this because she had a good sense of the materials and felt comfortable in her role as tutor. And so, Phyllis was paired with a woman originally from Jamaica, who wants to improve her reading skills.

“She is very committed to the tutoring. She wants this so badly!”

Phyllis uses the same materials for both students and has been able to successfully meet the challenges of working with a child and an adult.

Tutoring for PLC has been the perfect fit for Phyllis. She looks forward to the four hours she spends with her two students each week.



*Phyllis Townsend and Bailey*

## The Hill We Climb by Amanda Gorman

When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?  
The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.  
We braved the belly of the beast.  
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what "just" is isn't always justice.  
And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.  
Somehow we do it.  
Somehow we weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished.  
We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one.  
And, yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.  
We are striving to forge our union with purpose.  
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.  
And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.  
We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.  
We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.  
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.  
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.  
That even as we grieved, we grew.  
That even as we hurt, we hoped.  
That even as we tired, we tried.  
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious.  
Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.  
Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.  
If we're to live up to our own time, then victory won't lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we've made.  
That is the promise to glade, the hill we climb, if only we dare.  
It's because being American is more than a pride we inherit.  
It's the past we step into and how we repair it.  
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation, rather than share it.  
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.  
And this effort very nearly succeeded.  
But while democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated.  
In this truth, in this faith we trust, for while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.  
This is the era of just redemption.  
We feared at its inception.  
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour.  
But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.  
So, while once we asked, how could we possibly prevail over catastrophe, now we assert, how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?  
We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be: a country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.  
We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, become the future.  
Our blunders become their burdens.  
But one thing is certain.  
If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.  
So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.  
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.  
We will rise from the golden hills of the West.  
We will rise from the windswept Northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution.  
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the Midwestern states.  
We will rise from the sun-baked South.  
We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.  
And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country, our people diverse and beautiful, will emerge battered and beautiful.  
When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.  
The new dawn balloons as we free it.  
For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it.