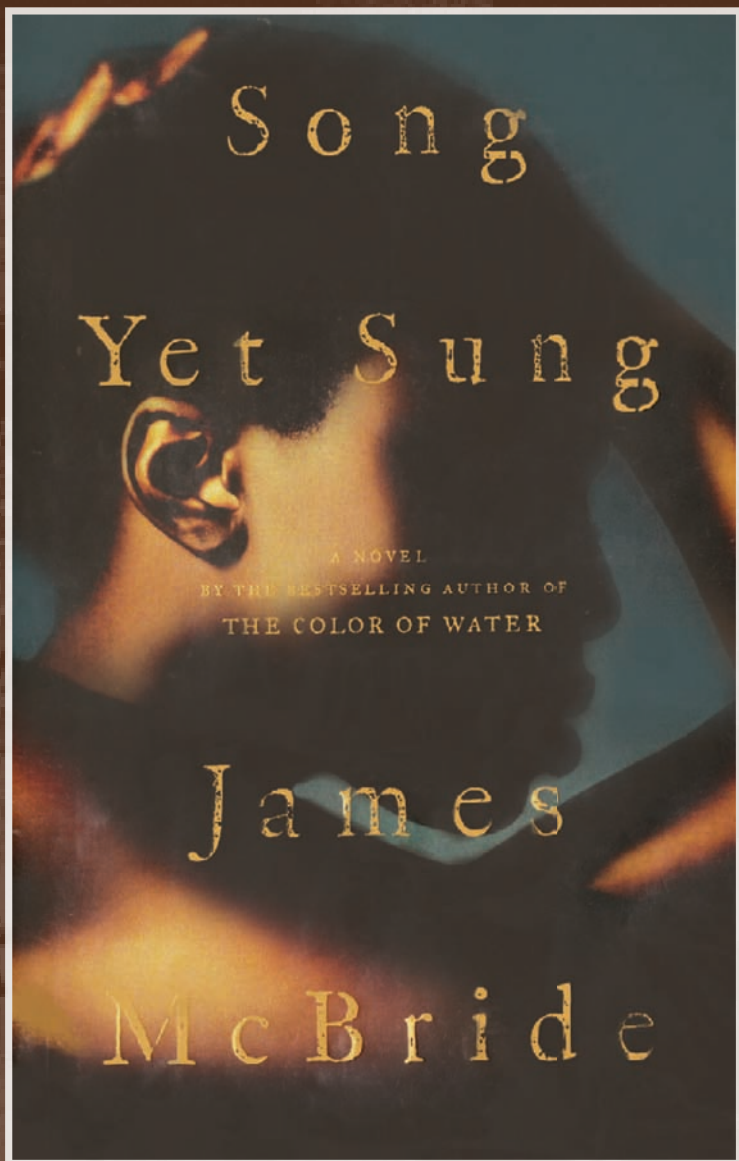


2009 Capital Area Reads
One Book



Read • Discuss • React



CELEBRATION OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY

WELCOME TO
CAPITAL AREA READS!

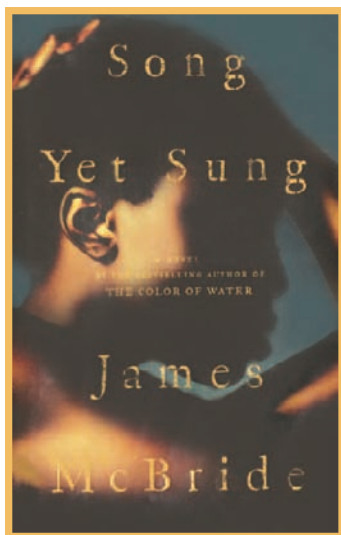
A good book is even better when people get together to talk about it. The Capital Area Reads project is designed to encourage discussion and spark the exchange of ideas across Ingham County.

To choose this year's book, committee members debated the strengths and weaknesses of many books before agreeing that James McBride's *Song Yet Sung* was the extraordinary reading experience they most wanted to share. Filled with rich history and told in McBride's signature lyrical style, the novel centers on the haunting choices that slavery forces on both blacks and whites.

CADL and its community partners invite you to join with other readers in experiencing this powerful story. This brochure includes information about book discussion groups, a wide variety of print and media resources, and a special visit from author James McBride.



ABOUT THE BOOK



Song Yet Sung is the highly charged story of a runaway slave in the treacherous swamps of pre-Civil War Maryland in 1850. Liz Spocott, captured, shot and near death, is wracked by disturbing visions of the future as she lies shackled to an old woman in the prison attic of a notorious slave-trader. Then the old woman reveals “the Code,” a fiercely guarded cryptic means of communication for slaves on the run. Armed with an array of words that she does not understand, Liz escapes once again, and this

time her extraordinary dreams of tomorrow create a freedom-seeking furor among the once complacent slave community. The mysterious disappearance of two children, one white and one black, seeds an explosive ending.

“McBride’s engagement with the historical continuum provides a new slant on an old subject. He may have set his novel in the 1850s, but he is writing about the hurdles we yet face...”

—David Anthony Durham, *The Washington Post*, 2008

Pick up a copy at any CADL location or place a hold at cadl.org. It’s available in print, on CD or as a downloadable.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



“Writing is like flinging mud against the wall and seeing what sticks.”

James McBride is the award-winning author of the million-selling memoir *The Color of Water*, now considered an American classic. His first novel, *Miracle at St. Anna*, was recently made into a feature film. Second novel *Song Yet Sung* was inspired by a visit to the birthplace of Harriet Tubman. He wanted to write about the past but link it to the present: “For all their suffering, blacks maintained a sense of pride and purpose. At least, that’s how it was when I was a child. I feel that’s slipping away.”

McBride is also a talented jazz composer and saxophonist, and has won awards for his compositions in musical theater. A native New Yorker, he holds a Masters in Journalism from Columbia University and is currently a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University. He lives with his wife and three children in rural Pennsylvania.

AUTHOR EVENT

Hear James McBride talk about *Song Yet Sung*, followed by a question and answer period. Copies of his books will be available for sale and signing.

Tickets are required to attend, with free tickets available at all CADL locations beginning March 23. You may also call (517) 367-6348 for tickets.

Monday, April 20 • 7 pm

LANSING CENTER
333 E. Michigan Avenue



ADD YOUR VOICE

Share your reactions, ideas and questions about *Song Yet Sung* by choosing it for your book group or attending one of our library discussions.

A list of suggested discussion questions is available at cadl.org/car.

AURELIUS

Tuesday, Feb. 17 • 3 pm

DANSVILLE

Tuesday, Feb. 17 • 6:30 pm

DOWNTOWN

LANSING

Tuesday, April 14 • 6:30 pm

HASLETT

Wednesday, March 4 • 7 pm

HOLT-DELHI

Wednesday, April 15 • 6:30 pm

MASON

Tuesday, March 17 • 2 pm

OKEMOS

Thursday, March 5 • 10 am

Thursday, March 19 • 12 noon

SOUTH LANSING

Wednesday, March 18 • 6:30 pm

STOCKBRIDGE

Friday, March 27 • 12 noon

WEBBERVILLE

Tuesday, March 24 • 7 pm

WILLIAMSTON

Tuesday, March 31 • 7 pm



TO LEARN MORE

Learn more about the topics explored in *Song Yet Sung* with these recommended titles, available in a variety of formats at cadl.org. Look for these symbols:

B Book **CD** Book on CD

P Downloadable book **DVD** DVD

For a list of related websites, visit cadl.org/car.

FICTION

***Kindred* by Octavia Butler** **B** **CD** **P**

A woman from the 20th century is repeatedly brought back in time by her slave-owning ancestor. When forced to live the life of a slave, Dana realizes she is not as strong as her ancestors.

***The Runaway Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini** **B** **CD**

Master quilter Sylvia Compson finds an heirloom quilt that muddles her heritage. She believed her ancestors were active in the Underground Railroad—but perhaps she's been mistaken.

***Walk Through Darkness* by David Anthony Durham** **B** **CD**

A slave barely survives escaping from his brutal owner in Virginia, then must find his way to New York where his pregnant wife—and freedom—awaits.

***Sweetsmoke* by David Fuller** **B**

Compromising his position as a favored slave in 1862 Virginia, talented carpenter Cassius investigates the murder of a close friend, with unexpected results.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman **B** **CD** **DVD**

by Ernest J. Gaines

Miss Jane Pittman is celebrating her 110th birthday as the civil rights movement heats up. A former slave, she recounts her memories from picking potatoes on a plantation to her views on the turbulent era.

***The Known World* by Edward P. Jones** **CD** **P**

When a plantation proprietor and former slave dies, leaving slaves of his own, his household falls apart in the wake of a slave rebellion and corrupt patrollers.

***North Star Conspiracy* by Miriam Grace Monfred** **B**

While working for the Underground Railroad in Seneca Falls, New York, librarian Glynis Tryon is troubled by the suspicious death of a freed slave and uncovers a shocking secret about some of her fellow abolitionists.



***Beloved* by Toni Morrison** B CD P DVD

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. After the Civil War ends, Sethe longingly recalls the two-year-old daughter whom she killed when threatened with recapture.

***Soul Catcher* by Michael C. White** B

Struggling to forget a war-marked past and a future compromised by debt, slave tracker Augustus Cain is hired by a plantation owner to retrieve a runaway slave.

***A Woman Called Moses* (2001)** DVD

The story of Harriet Tubman, who bought her freedom from slavery, founded the Underground Railroad, and helped lead hundreds of slaves to freedom before the Civil War.

NON - FICTION

Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America B CD P

by Fergus M. Bordewich

Offers insight into the Underground Railroad and the role played by westward expansion, the spiritual beliefs that motivated each side of the conflict, and the efforts of black and white citizens to save tens of thousands of lives.

Let My People Go: The Story of the Underground Railroad and the Growth of the Abolition Movement B

by Henrietta Buckmaster
Examines the events and key figures behind the Underground Railroad, the secretive and illegal organization that helped American slaves escape to freedom in the northern United States and Canada.

Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad B CD

by Betty DeRamus
Despite the risks, some American slaves partook of the "forbidden fruit" of marriage. When the dreaded separation inevitably occurred, slave spouses felt a sorrowful anguish and sometimes made Herculean efforts to re-unite.



***Beyond the River: The Untold Story of the Heroes of the Underground Railroad* by Ann Hagedorn** **B**

Traces the story of John Rankin and the heroes of the Ripley, Ohio, line of the Underground Railroad.

***Escape on the Pearl: The Heroic Bid for Freedom on the Underground Railroad* by Mary Kay Ricks** **B**

Traces the failed 1848 escape attempt of more than 70 slaves, an event that galvanized the debate over slavery in Congress.

***I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* by Karolyn Smardz Frost** **B CD**

Traces the heroic story of former slaves Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, who launched a daring and successful daylight escape from their slave masters in 1831 and sparked the Blackburn Riot of 1833.

***Hidden in Plain View: The Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad* by Jacqueline Tobin** **B**

The authors reveal the secret codes woven by African-American slaves into quilts they used to navigate their escape on the Underground Railroad, part of a well-organized resistance movement that preceded the abolitionist crusade.

***Hanging Captain Gordon: The Life and Trial of an American Slave Trader* by Ron Soodalter** **B**

Documents the 1862 trial and execution of Nathaniel Gordon, the only man in U.S. history to be hanged for slave trading, set against a backdrop of the Civil War under newly elected President Lincoln.

***Underground Railroad* (2002)** **DVD**

Using historical documents, interviews and site visits, this History Channel production traces the journey to freedom taken by countless slaves, showing how they were guided, protected and pursued along the way.

***Whispers of Angels: A Story of the Underground Railroad* (2004)** **DVD**

White Quaker abolitionist Thomas Garrett and William Still, a free, black anti-slavery activist, "conducted" thousands of fugitives to freedom through Maryland's Eastern Shore to the streets of Philadelphia.

2009 Capital Area Reads Committee

Sarah Redman, Chairperson

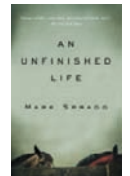
*Barbara Faiks
Lynn Harper
Jessica Trotter
DiAnne Warfield*



2008 *An Inconvenient Truth*
Al Gore



2007 *Ordinary Heroes*
Scott Turow



2006 *An Unfinished Life*
Mark Spragg



2005 *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*
Christopher Paul Curtis



2003 *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*
Julia Alvarez

A publication of the Capital Area District Library Marketing Department





THE COLORED PEOPLE, IN WASHINGTON, April 19, 1864.—[SKETCHED BY F. DEUEL]

AURELIUS

1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason
(517) 628-3743

DANSVILLE

1379 E. Mason Street, Dansville
(517) 623-6511

DOWNTOWN LANSING

401 S. Capitol Avenue, Lansing
(517) 367-6363

FOSTER

200 N. Foster Avenue, Lansing
(517) 485-5185

HASLETT

5670 School Street, Haslett
(517) 339-2324

HOLT-DELHI

2078 Aurelius Road, Holt
(517) 694-9351

LESLIE

201 Pennsylvania Street, Leslie
(517) 589-9400

MASON

145 W. Ash Street, Mason
(517) 676-9088

OKEMOS

4321 Okemos Road, Okemos
(517) 347-2021

SOUTH LANSING

3500 S. Cedar Street, Lansing
(517) 272-9840

STOCKBRIDGE

200 Wood Street, Stockbridge
(517) 851-7810

WEBBERVILLE

115 S. Main Street, Webberville
(517) 521-3643

WILLIAMSTON

201 School Street, Williamston
(517) 655-1191

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