



Jean Lewis

Great Readers, Great Leaders

We are delighted to feature book recommendations from Jean Lewis.

Jean's Bio

Jean is the President of the NAACP, Carroll County Branch, and a very active and passionate community leader. In 2007, she received the Excellence Award for Minority Achievement from the Maryland State Department of Education for her work with the Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students program at Carroll County Public Schools. Specifically recognized were her efforts to help parents improve student achievement, through encouraging parents to get involved in their children's daily school activity, and by organizing family forums to make information accessible to parents who have difficulty navigating school system policies and practices. Jean serves on the CCPS Minority Family Forum Committee, and is a member of the Education That Is Multicultural Council. She assists with CCPS teacher recruitment efforts to hire and retain minority candidates. Jean also served on the Carroll County Gang Task Force.

As Chair of the Local Management Board, Jean actively supported the Parents as Teachers program that provides one-on-one training and resources to parents and day care providers in order to help them prepare children, ages birth to five, to be fully ready for kindergarten. The Parents as Teachers program has been recognized as the key component in moving Carroll County from 19th to 1st in kindergarten readiness statewide. Jean serves on the Board of Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc, and the Community Services Council. She is an active member of Carroll County Human Relations Commission and the Carroll Citizens for Racial Equality. Prior to retirement, Jean was a project manager for 33 years at then Western Electric, now Lucent Technologies.

Jean is on the Board of the Community Media Center (CMC), where she organized the Black Oral History Committee. Her efforts have been instrumental in establishing an important archive of local history, "Carroll County: Through the Eyes of the Black Experience" oral history project. Most recently, Jean initiated the successful March on Washington Collection of stories and memories from Carroll County residents who were part of the historic Civil Rights March, on August 28, 1963. The CMC compiled these interviews, along with archival footage of the event, to produce The March on Washington video, as part of the Carroll County History Project, www.carrollhistory.org.

Jean was born and raised in Annapolis. After high school, she attended Bowie State. Jean's grandmother nourished her love for reading by reading aloud stories from the Bible. She has been married to John H. Lewis Jr. for over 33 years. They have a blended family of 6 children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. They have a grandson at Colgate University, and two granddaughters at Towson University. One grandchild is studying to be a physician's assistant.

Jean has a lovely voice and was a member of Carroll Singers. She was the 2004 & 2006 Church of God Senior Adult Female Soloist winner for DE, MD, VA & D.C. She also competed in the Nationals in Gatlinburg, TN. Jean and John are members of the King's Riders Motorcycle Group. They love to travel and have organized trips for others through Jean's Dream Vacations. A lifelong reader, Jean is a member of the CAPS book group.

Jean's Picks

[THE HOLY BIBLE](#)

My love of the Holy Bible was started by my precious Grandmother Lucy Brown. This was the first book she read to me and taught me the love of reading. Grandmother lived her life by the words found in there. As I have grown older and studied the scriptures I understand better why this book was so important to her. The Bible tells us of God's love and forgiveness for us and how we should return that love and live our lives.

[The Help by Kathryn Stockett](#)

I found this book tells a realistic story about southern life during the civil rights years. The characters grow richer as you read about their lives and how they cross each other's paths. The white members of the community do not question their roles in the lives of the black community. They want to continue their wonderful lives. A young woman returns home after her college graduation and realizes the unfairness of this way of life. One of my best friends of over 30 years told me if we had met back in the 1960s in the South we could not be friends now.

[Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years by Sarah Louise Delany](#)

A wonderful book about two sisters, telling about their first 100 years of life. They both chose not to marry during a time when women were expected to marry. I loved their lust for life, and rich experiences that make you smile, laugh and cry.

[My Song: A Memoir by Harry Belafonte](#)

Harry Belafonte is an outstanding individual who overcame a difficult childhood. Lessons he learned pushed him to work for freedom for himself, the Civil Rights Movement in this country and Africa. He has given generously of his talents, time and finances. He worked with Presidents in this country and other countries, entertainers, politicians, Civil Rights Leaders and the man on the street; all were equal to him.

[The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot](#)

This book speaks to the lack of value of the life of one woman and her family in 1951. She was a poor black woman whose cancer cells were taken and used for experiments without her knowledge, or consent. Scientists gave them a name: 'HeLa,' short for Henrietta Lacks. Immortal and vastly profitable HeLa cells came to mean big business for all involved—except the marginalized, medically uninsured Lacks family.

[Extraordinary, Ordinary People by Condoleezza Rice](#)

Condoleezza Rice tells the story of her life with parents who showered her with love and opportunities to learn, explore and achieve. She grew up during the 1960s in the deep south of segregated Birmingham, AL. From her earliest age, John and Angelena Rice stressed, and showed by example, the importance of education; the key to escape segregation. They treated their only child as an adult, engaging her in family decisions, encouraging her to study hard, and giving her intellectual stimulation, self-confidence and discipline. Condoleezza credits her parents with rising above significant challenges to prepare her for her roles at Stanford University, as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State for President Bush.

[Woman Thou Art Loosed by T. D. Jakes](#)

A guide to women who have made mistakes and have been mistreated. Because of their guilt and shame, they feel worthless. This book helps women understand that guilt and shame don't have to be a part of life. You are loved, forgiven and can love yourself.

[Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Imaculée Ilibagaza](#)

Immaculée grew up in Rwanda, a country filled with love until civil war started and descended into a bloody genocide. During 91 days of hiding, she discovered the power of faith. Her triumphant story is remarkable.

[King Peggy by Peggien Bartels](#)

Peggy is from a small town along Ghana's central coast. She has moved to the U.S. and is working as a secretary in the Ghana Embassy when she's awakened early one morning by a phone call telling her she has been elected King of her homeland.

[The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama](#)

A story of how you can rise above adversity if you have love, support, and a mind set that everything is possible. This is what happens when you keep your eye on the prize.

