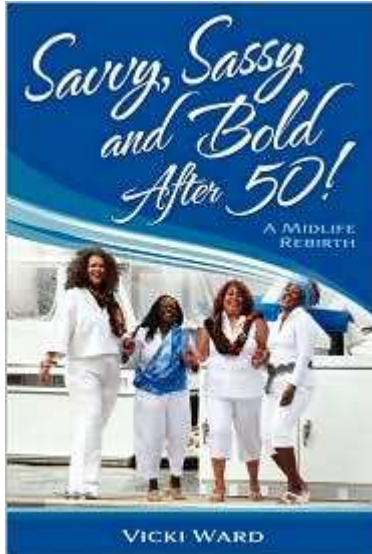
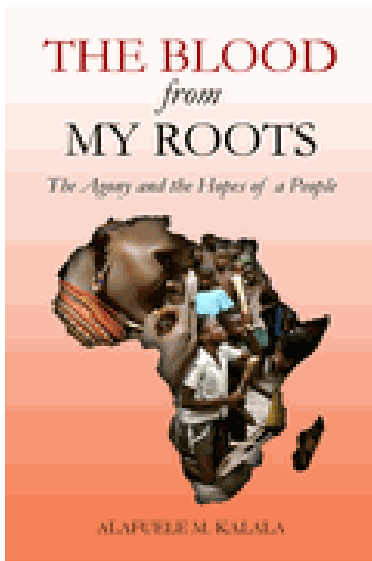


# Media Received



Ward, Vicki. *Savvy, Sassy and Bold After 50: A Midlife Rebirth*. Brentwood, California: Nubian Images Publishing, 2010, pp.200. ISBN: 978-0-9755162-2-5.

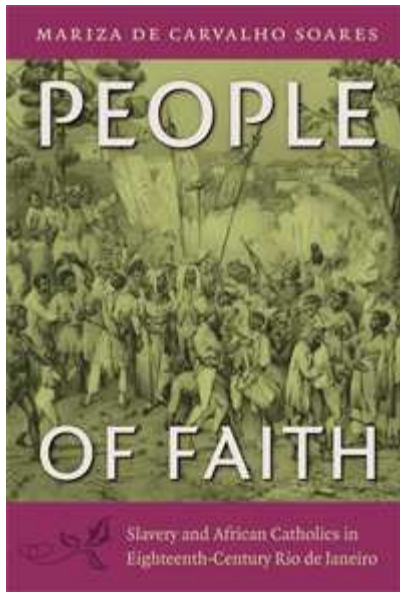
An award winning self help and improvement work tailored for maturing women developing exciting new lifestyles. Topics include women's health and nutrition, the use of 'mind body medicine' to achieve balance, and financial strategies for budgeting, and retirement planning. The book continues the tradition of older and younger women teaching and learning from each other with candid personal testimonies of women over 50 who lift their voices in support of and education for this new phase of life, discussing their finances, changing sexuality, plans for retirement, and new pursuits they're seeking after 50.



Kalala, Alafuèle M. *The Blood From My Roots: The Agony and the Hopes of a People*. Pittsburgh, PA: Dorrance Publishing Company, 2011, pp.36. ISBN: 978-1-4349-0926-8.

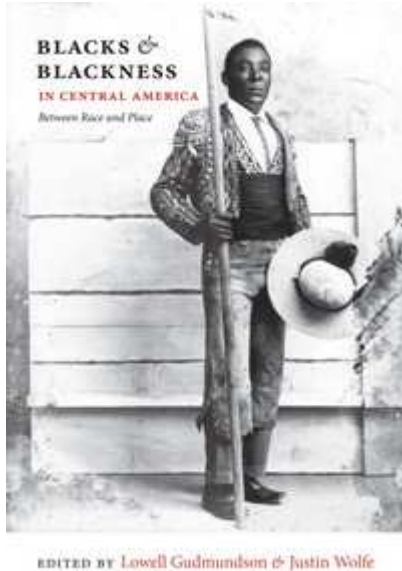
A poetic plea for the end corruption and despair in Africa in favor of unity which takes on the voice and rhythmic delivery of the traditional African songster, the author laments the current state of his homeland while never losing sight of his hope that the people of Africa will one day join together in love and solidarity to reclaim their destinies. Translated here for the first time into English from the original French, is at times an elegy to the bygone splendor of pre-colonial Africa, yet is ultimately uplifting in the poet's ever-hopeful message to his people. The author is a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and holds a Doctor of Science degree, with a specialization in biochemistry and biophysics, as well as master's degrees in science, pedagogy

and psychology, and applied economics. He has long history of involvement in African politics, particularly those of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Soares, Mariza de Carvalho. *People of Faith: Slavery and African Catholics in Eighteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011, pp.322. ISBN: 978-0-8223-5040-8.

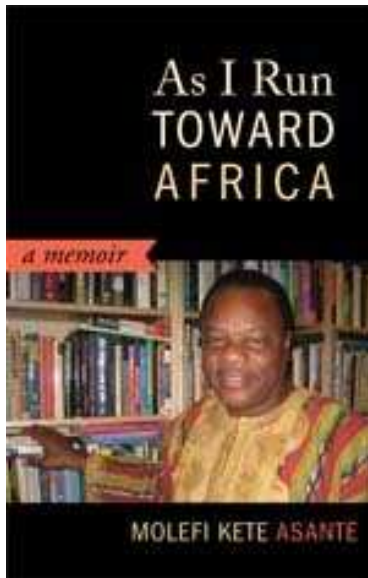
In *People of Faith*, the author reconstructs the everyday lives of those transported in the eighteenth century to Rio de Janeiro from the western coast of Africa, particularly from modern-day Benin. Thus, she describes a Catholic lay brotherhood formed by the enslaved Mina congregants of a Rio church, and situates the brotherhood in a panoramic setting encompassing the historical development of the Atlantic trade of enslaved people in West Africa and the ethnic composition of the Mina enslaved population in eighteenth-century Rio. Although people from the Mina Coast constituted no more than ten percent of the enslaved population of Rio, they were a strong presence in urban life at the time. The author also analyzes the role that Catholicism, and particularly lay brotherhoods, played in the Africans construction of identities under enslavement in colonial Brazil. As in the rest of the Portuguese empire, African lay brotherhoods in Rio engaged in expressions of imperial pomp through elaborate festivals, processions, and funerals; the election of kings and queens; and the organization of royal courts. Drawing mainly on ecclesiastical documents, the author reveals the value of church records for historical research. Mariza de Carvalho Soares is an associate professor of History at the Universidade Federal Fluminense in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Gudmundson, Lowell and Justin Wolfe, eds. *Blacks & Blackness in Central America: Between Race and Place*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010, pp.406. ISBN: 978-0-8223-4803-0.

This collection of essays begin to recover the forgotten and downplayed histories of people of African heritage in Central America, demonstrating the centrality of African people to the region's history from the earliest colonial times to the present. They reveal how modern nationalist attempts to define mixed-race majorities as "Indo-Hispanic," or as anything but African, clash with the historical record of the first region of the Americas in which African people not only gained the right to vote but repeatedly held high office, including the presidency, following independence from Spain in 1821. Hence, this work

tells the story of how many of the earliest Africans to arrive in the Americas came to Central America with Spanish colonists in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and people of African descent constituted the majority of non-indigenous populations in the region long thereafter. Yet in the development of national identities and historical consciousness, Central American nations have often countenanced widespread practices of social, political, and regional exclusion of African people. Furthermore, the postcolonial development of 'mestizo' or mixed-race ideologies of national identity have systematically downplayed African ancestry and social and political involvement in favor of Spanish and Indian heritage and contributions. In addition, a powerful sense of place and belonging has led many peoples of African descent in Central America to identify as something other than African, reinforcing the tendency of local and foreign scholars to see Central America as peripheral to the African world community in the Americas. The contributors to this volume include Rina Cáceres Gómez, co-editor Lowell Gudmundson (professor of Latin American Studies and History at Mount Holyoke College), Ronald Harpelle, Juliet Hooker, Catherine Komisaruk, Russell Lohse, Paul Lokken, Mauricio Meléndez Obando, Karl H. Offen, Lara Putnam, and co-editor Justin Wolfe (the William Arceneaux Associate Professor of Latin American History at Tulane University).



Asante, Molefi Kete. *As I Run Toward Africa*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2011, pp.336. ISBN: 978-161205076-8.

The author of 72 books and over 500 articles, Molefi Kete Asante is continuously and successfully contributing to the Africological paradigm. In this memoir he recounts his small town roots based in the Geechee-Gullah experience of Georgia’s coastal plains which lead him to develop ideas that would reorient what he called “slave thinking” toward a more useful “centered” thinking for peoples of African descent worldwide. Born into a family of 16 children living in a two bedroom house, Asante rose to become the most prolific African American scholar in the U.S., editor of the *Journal of Black Studies*, a full professor by the age of 30, an African American Studies PhD architect, and in 1996 a traditional Asante king in the Republic of Ghana, in addition to his other accomplishments.



Deborah A. Thomas & John L. Jackson, Jr. & Junior “Gabu” Wedderburn. Producer: Deborah A. Thomas, John L. Jackson, Jr., Junior “Gabu” Wedderburn, & Junior “Ista J” Manning 2011, Color, 63 minutes. New York: Third World Newsreel.

*Bad Friday: Rastafari After Coral Gardens* focuses on a community of Rastafarians in western Jamaica who annually commemorate the 1963 Coral Gardens “incident,” a moment just after independence when the Jamaican government rounded up, jailed and tortured hundreds of Rastafarians. It chronicles the history of violence in Jamaica through the eyes of its most iconic community, and shows how people use their recollections of past traumas to imagine new possibilities for a collective future.



Jeremy Robins and Magali Damas. *The Other Side of the Water: The Journey of a Haitian Rara Band in Brooklyn*. Color/BW, 72 minutes. New York: Third World Newsreel, 2010.

Part carnival, part vodou ceremony, and part grassroots protest, Haitian “Rara” is one of the most breathtaking and contested forms of music in the Americas. The film follows a group of young immigrants who take this ancient music from the hills of Haiti and reinvent it on the streets of Brooklyn. The documentary tells the story of an unlikely band that comes to speak for a larger community, and a music that manages to create a new meaning of home in the Diaspora.

Rara originally served as a voice of the enslaved in their revolt against the French, and as the voice of those struggling against ongoing dictatorships in Haiti. This documentary follows the journey of DJARARA – the only sustained rara band in

America – through a hidden New York landscape of vodou temples, underground economies, violent politics, and ground-shaking music.

Combining archival footage and vérité narratives, this documentary focuses on the journey of the poetic visionary Pé Yves. Yves has led a Rara movement in New York since the late ‘80’s, through an era when the media accusing Haitians of bringing AIDS to America, to times of civil chaos in Haiti, to police brutality riots in New York – each time re-imagining Rara as a voice for an evolving Diaspora. Yet when a new generation arrives bringing a radically different vision of the music, and the Haitian Christian community attacks Yves for promoting a Vodou ritual, thus, he’s caught in the middle of a struggle for the meaning of Haitian identity.