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Contact:
Elizabeth Turnbull, Senior Editor
Light Messages
elizabeth@lightmessages.com

Going to School in Black and White:

Two authors share their experiences in a dual memoir of desegregation

New Orleans, LA, June 13, 2018—Cindy Waszak Geary and LaHoma Smith Romocki bring to ALA their experiences with the desegregation of Hillside High School in 1970's Durham, encouraging a broader conversation about what is lost or gained when children go to school in black and white.

During the conference, Geary and Romocki will be signing free copies of their dual memoir. *Going to School in Black and White* was released September 2017 and is available from Ingram.

In 1970, LaHoma and Cindy both found themselves at the same high school from different sides of a court-ordered racial “balancing act.” This plan thrust each of them involuntarily out of their comfort zones and into new racial landscapes. Their experiences, recounted in alternating first-person narratives, are the embodiment of desegregation policies, situated in a particular time and place. Their intertwining coming of age stories are part of a bigger story about America, education, and race—and about how the personal relates to the political.

“The challenges of identity, assimilation, achievement, and politics that were faced by LaHoma and Cindy are the same challenges our youth are facing today,” writes Jaki Shelton Green, poet and NC Literary Hall of Fame inductee.

Geary graduated from Hillside High School in 1973. She completed undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Northern Arizona University. She worked more than 30 years as a social scientist focused on global health, based in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Romocki graduated from Hillside High School in 1975. She completed her undergraduate studies at Duke University and received both her masters and doctoral degrees in public health and mass communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Romocki is currently an associate professor of Public Health Education at North Carolina Central University and has an appointment as an adjunct associate professor at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC-CH.

Find Geary and Romocki for signings on Saturday from 10:00am–11:00am and on Sunday from 10:00am–11:00am at the Light Messages booth, #3549.

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