

The page is decorated with elegant, golden-yellow swirls that frame the central text. The swirls are of varying sizes and are scattered across the white background, creating a decorative border.

Mosaic

**Celebrating Diversity
through
Creative Writing
2020-2021 Contest Year**

**Awards Ceremony
May 26, 2021**

The logo for Friends of the Library of Montgomery County, MD. It features the word "friends" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by "OF THE" in a smaller, uppercase font, and "LIBRARY" in a large, bold, uppercase font. Below this, "MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD" is written in a smaller, uppercase font.

friends OF THE **LIBRARY**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

8th Grade Winners

Sanya Bharti, Essay, Herbert Hoover Middle School

Florence Halbgewachs, Poem, John Poole Middle School

Kaleab Ayele, Short Story, Forest Oak Middle School

8th Grade Honorable Mention

Tharaa Izuagie, Poem, Francis Scott Key Middle School

Closing Remarks

Special Thanks

Dhonielle Clayton, Irene Coleman, Siham Eldadah, Grant Goldstein, Jill Raspen, Rachel Bennett, and Ari Brooks.

Judges

Lynn Abrahamson, Yesenia Flores Diaz, Nalani Devendra, Gerry W. Jangha, Sabine Kitenge, Maraki Solomon, James Stowe, Heather Wang.



Ari Brooks ~ Master of Ceremonies

Ms. Brooks, MSW is an experienced fundraiser and nonprofit manager having held leadership positions in three not-for-profit organizations for twenty-five years in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Her work has primarily focused on engaging and inspiring the community to provide volunteer and philanthropic support. She lectures and trains library-support groups throughout the region on organizational development, fundraising, and program development and evaluation.

Prior to serving as FOLMC executive director, Ms. Brooks held three progressively challenging roles at a child welfare organization. Her responsibilities included community outreach, grant writing, marketing, corporate volunteer management, and overseeing a \$25 million capital campaign. Ms. Brooks earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. She is an active volunteer in the community and served on numerous nonprofit boards and committees. She is a graduate of the 2004 Class of Leadership Montgomery and the inaugural 2009 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award for the County Executive's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities.

Dhonielle Clayton ~ Keynote Speaker

Ms. Clayton is a former elementary and middle school librarian, and co-founder of CAKE Literary, a creative kitchen whipping up decadent – and decidedly diverse – literary confections for middle grade, young adult, and women's fiction readers. She is also COO of the non-profit We Need Diverse Books. She holds a BA in English, a MA in Children's Literature. She spent most of her twenties in and out of America – living in London, Paris, a small Japanese town, Bermuda – and wandering the planet. She's been on five out of seven continents, and has grand plans to reach all of them.

About FOLMC

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen, promote, and champion Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), for it to better serve the learning interests and needs of the diverse and changing communities of the County. FOLMC operates two used bookstores and is the parent organization of 17 volunteer-run chapters. The organization provides program support, matching funds, and specific materials and equipment to augment public monies and maintain a quality public library system. *Learn more at www.folmc.org.*