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## Local Author Featured In "Literary Divas"

By [Genoa Barrow](#) | OBSERVER SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Local writer and publisher Terry a. O'Neal has been named among the most popular African American female writers of our time.

O'Neal, the author of "Good Mornin' Glory," "Sweet Lavender," and "In A World of My Own," is featured in a new book "Literary Divas: The Top 100+ Most Admired African American Women in Literature."

Released June 15, the book written by educator Heather Covington, pays tribute to African American women whose roles in the literary world have made an impact on the larger world.

With the 250-page paperback Covington has captured the essence of more than 100 literary divas who have shared their pain, struggles, desires, and triumphs, through their written words as messengers of time and circumstance.

Other writers on the Top 100 list include Alice Walker, Bebe Moore Campbell, Bernice L. McFadden, Gloria Naylor, Iyanla Vanzant, Jada Pinkett Smith, Kimberla Lawson Roby, Marita Golden, Mary B. Morrison, Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, Ntozake Shange, Rita Dove, Rosa Guy, Terry McMillan, Toni Morrison, Tonya Lewis Lee, and Zane.

The book also pays tribute to authors who have passed, but whose legacies live on through their work. They include Alice Childress, Coretta Scott King, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lorraine Hansberry, Octavia Butler, Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm and Zora Neale Hurston.

Among those included on a list of editorial divas are Oprah Winfrey, Essence's Susan L. Taylor, editor/writer Adrienne Ingrum, Pocketbooks senior editor Malaika Adero, and Black Issues Book Review Executive Editor Angela P. Dodson. These women are highlighted, the author says for keeping "the works of Literary Divas at the forefront of the publishing industry."

Covington is an educator of kindergarten children. When not teaching, she serves as the president of the YOUunity Reviewers Guild of America, editor-in-chief of Disilgold Soul Literary Review, and is noted as one of the nation's top media personalities and promoters of literary artists. Heather works as a poet, author, producer, publisher, promoter, educator and humanitarian.

She is also the author of "Lil PerSoulnalités: A Children's Book for Parents and Teachers," "Persoulnalités: Poems for Every Kind of Man," "Persoulnalités: Poems for Every Kind of Woman," and "Disilgold Way: Countdown 101 From Writer to Self Publisher."

"Literary Divas: The Top 100+ Most Admired African American Women in Literature" is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com).