



Cornell University
BS Clinical Nutrition
Minor Pre-Med



Michigan State University
Doctorate of Medicine



Tufts University
Internal Medicine Internship



Harvard University
Ophthalmology Resident
& Clinical Fellow

<https://youtu.be/yxmelPj2w-w?si=gM1wP4jr6MsxlxZV>

The Poet

Neal Hall is a medical-surgical eye physician and graduate of Cornell and Harvard Universities. An internationally acclaimed poet, he has composed poetry and performed readings throughout the U. S. and internationally to include - Kenya, England, Indonesia, France, Jamaica, Morocco, Argentina, Canada, Nepal, Italy, Ghana, Japan, India and Germany.

Hall's poetry speaks beyond the surface pain of injustice and inhumanity deep into that pain labeled and package into genteel socio-political-economic-religious constructs to hide the subjugator and subjugation and blur the common lines of cause, that is our shared story. Hall's pen inhales the air of opportunities for possibilities and possibilities for opportunities; challenging men's hearts and minds to think, to rethink, to remember we are humanity with the capacity for unconditional love - still.

Notable Comments about the Author:

[Hall] is a warrior of the spirit, a warrior of the mind, an activist, a poet. I sense Dr. Hall's hypersensitivity to suffering – Martin, Malcolm, and Jesus all had this hypersensitivity. Both sides of his soul have prophetic leanings. His poetry has the capacity to change ordinary people's philosophy on social and racial issues - **Cornel West, PhD**

I can certainly understand how you win so many awards. A modern-day TS Eliot, in my opinion. Really insightful and profound - **Kristina Diener, PhD**

I have spent some time with your 9/11 24/7 poems and then, as former English majors are wont to do, I sat with paper and pen to "organize" (dare I say rank) them. Among my favorites, T. S. Elliot, Yeats, Langston Hughes ("Let America Be America Again"), Wallace Stevens, the WWI poets, et. al. I usually find some poems speak to me with a greater urgency, a sharper edge, a moment of honest insight and sometimes a great sadness. Your collection is consistent in message and insight and in each there was a phrase that stopped my white mind in its tracks.

A "straight drop" from the mountain top; "high on false hopes;" "Jefferson poker-faced democracy;" "gated heaven" and "I have given you my soul, leave me my name." Also, "Enormous Weight of Hate," "tolerable black with sugar," "an air of arrogance always," – these words catch you up; they haunt.

A Black poet steeped in the Black American experience writes in a manner that is so specific that, like a prism, shows us the colors of our humanity. James Baldwin did that. Ta-Nehisi Coates does that. Fine company you keep. **Rob Lynch**

This is poetry that scalds you into waking up to the possibility that you are perhaps one of those silent spectators. All in all, he is a poet. And unquestionably one of the most significant voices of the century - **Vasanth Kannabiran, Writer, Chairperson, Culture Asmita Resource Centre for Women, Nominated by India for the Nobel Peace Prize, Hyderabad, India**

Published Books

Hall has authored and published eight books. His work has been translated into seven languages.

Winter's A' Coming Still

Nigger for Life - Grand Prize Winner: The Los Angeles Book Awards

Where Do I Sit

Appalling Silence - Telugu and Urdu translations, published in India

Door of No Return - Black Caucus of the American Library Association Poetry Book Winner

The Trembling Tiber - *a black poet's musing on Shakespeare's Julius Caesar*

- Winner - Greece's International Eyelands Award for best poetry book.
- Invited Guest - Shakespeare's 460th Birthday Celebration & Luncheon, Stratford Upon Avon, England
- Guest poetry recital: The Shakespeare Institute - Stratford Upon Avon – England, 2024
- Guest poetry recital: The 996th meeting of 1824 Shakespeare Club – Stratford Upon Avon – England, 2024
- Installed the library -The Shakespeare Institute, Stratford Upon Avon, England

The Systems We Cast - Winner - India's Wingword International Poetry Award; Published in India

Weight of Just Black – Japanese Translation publisher: Japan's Sairyutusha; nominated for Japan's best translation

Works in Progress:

- **Abolist © Project:** an innovative mixed-media method providing readers/viewers a new powerful prism for accessing poetic messaging
- **Jus Primae Noctus ©** an epic dramatic screenplay from Hall's award-winning book - *The Trembling Tiber, a black poet's musing on Shakespeare's Julius Caesar*
- **The Unimageable** – Screenplay - What Hamilton Did Not Say About sSavery

Completed Manuscripts:

- Bilingual (English & **Spanish**) - publication pending
- **Italian** translation of Hall's work, Rome Italy - publication pending
- **Diary of the Heart** (Romance) - publication pending
- Manuscript of **Recursive Poetry** – publication pending
- **Weapons of Mass Black Destruction** - white hope, white faith, white divinities - publication pending

Commissioned Worked:

- **Gradiva International Journal of Italian Poetry** Rivista internazionale di poesia italiana, Number 68, Leo S. Olschki, Editore, MMXXV, 2025, pages 248-277
- **From Distant Hills**, a poem commission for the 2026 Anthology of the 100 Women in Shakespeare's life. Paul Edmondson, Aaron Kent, Prof. Chris Laoutaris (Shakespeare Institute) and Katherine Scheil, Birmingham, England, Publisher: Broken Sleep Bo
- **Anne (Agnes) Hathaway Shakespeare** – a poem commissioned by the first of its kind poetry book: *The Anne-theology: Poems for Anne Hathaway . . . Shakespeare's wife.* co-edited by Paul Edmondson, Aaron Kent, Prof. Chris Laoutaris (Shakespeare Institute) and Katherine Scheil, Birmingham, England, Publisher: Broken Sleep Books 2023, Selected by The Guardian & The Telegraph as one of the Best Poetry Books of 2023
- **Essay - The Role of Dystopia in Preserving the Oneself** – Publication: *Living Dystopian: Post Millennial Perceptions and Post Pandemic Realities* commissioned by The Inspirate Arts Foundation, Kolkata, India. Fourteen worldwide academics, writers and poets were invited to contribute. Publisher: Cambridge Scholars Publishing - 2022
- **Oneness, First Step** - commissioned by the 2022 Annual Summit of The International African Brain Bank

Theater Performances:

- **Beyond Borders:** Hall's work informed and provided dialogue for the critically acclaimed Kolkata, India's play – Beyond Borders. The all-female cast explored the boundaries of nationality, caste, color, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality—walls men erect to garner socio-economic power. One of his poems was central to and throughout the play.
- **Jus Primae Noctus ©** : work in progress

Literary Awards:

2021 Finalist of Greece's Eyelands Book Awards - Nigger For Life - Published Poetry
2021 National Book Authors Tour -The Trembling Tiber - *a black poet's muse on Shakespeare's Julius Caesar*
2020 Winner Wingword International Poetry Prize, Delhi, India
2020 Finalist Eyelands International Book Award - Diary of The Heart
2020 Readers' Favorite International Book Award - Gold Medal Winner - Poetry - Inspirational
2020 Winner, Three Rock Writers' Resort Residency Program. Crete, Greece - *Diaries of The Heart*
2019 Winner, Black Caucus of the American Library Association Best Poetry Book Award
2019 Winner, Greece's Eyelands International Book Awards (Greece) - Unpublished poetry category
2019 Finalist, Greece's Eyelands International Book Award (Greece) - Published poetry category
2019 Runners-Up, The Half and One Prize - One of India's biggest prize money competitions promoting the best in Indian and international writing
2018 Citation Honor for Poetry, City Council, City of Philadelphia, PA
2017 Weight of Just Black (Japanese Translation) nominated for Japan Best Translation Award

2015 Aditi Foundation Dhvani Fellowship, Bangalore, India: Kannada translation of Dr. Hall's work
2012 Poetry Spoken Word Winner, Ubud Writers & Readers' International Festival, Bali Indonesia

Writer's Residencies/Awards:

- Proyecto' ace, Programa Internacional de Residencias Artisticas, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2024
- Sapporo Tenjinyama Art Studio, Hokkaido Sapporo, Japan, 2023
- Three Rock Writers' Resort Residency Program Spring/Summer. Crete, Greece, 2020
- Awarded AIRS Poet in Residence, The Lemon Tree Artist Residency, Siena Province, Italy, 2020
- Sapporo Tenjinyama Art Studio, Hokkaido Sapporo, Japan, 2020
- Sapporo Tenjinyama Art Studio, Hokkaido Sapporo, Japan, 2019
- The Lemon Tree House, Siena Province, Italy, 2018
- Honorary Citation recognizing Hall's use of poetry to illuminate & spark conversation about social & racial issues, City Council, City of Philadelphia, PA, USA 2018
- Sapporo Tenjinyama Art Studio, Hokkaido Sapporo, Japan, 2017
- Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE, USA, 2017
- Sapporo Tenjinyama Art Studio, Hokkaido Sapporo, Japan, 2016
- Visiting Scholar - American Academy In Rome, Rome Italy, 2016
- Sangam House International Writer's Residence, Bangalore, India 2015-2016
- Poet/Scholar-In-Resident, Sponsor: Council For Social Development, Poetry translated into Telugu and Urdu. Hyderabad, India, 2015
- Manthan, Hyderabad, India – India's premier platform for thought leaders worldwide to share their thoughts and for high quality debates. www.manthanindia.com/about-us/, 2015
- Resident (Poet) In Writing, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont, U.S., 2015

Book Awards:

Nigger For Life:

- **Grand Prize Winner: 1.** The Do - It -Yourself Book Festival and **2.** The Los Angeles Book Awards
- **First Place Prize for Poetry** in: The Greater Southeast, Florida, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Great Midwest, Southern California, Do-It-Yourself, San Francisco, National Beverly Hills Book Awards, Great Northwest, Great Southwest, Pacific Rim, Los Angeles, New England, New York Book Awards.
- Finalist-2021 Finalist of Greece's Eyelands Book Awards – Published Poetry

Winter's A' Coming Still:

- **First Place Prize for Poetry** in the Florida, Southern California, San Francisco, New England, New York, Paris, Los Angeles, London, Pacific Rim, Great Midwest, Amsterdam, Great Northwest and Great Southwest Book Awards.

Where Do I Sit:

- **First Place Prize for Poetry:** Hollywood, Northern California, Southern California, Great Midwest Florida, London, Great Northwest, Great Southwest, Los Angeles, Paris, San Francisco, New England and New York book awards

Weight of Just Black (Japanese Translation)

- Nominated for the Japan Best Translation Book Award 2017

Door of No Return:

- 2019 National Black Caucus of the American Library Association Best Poetry Book
- First Place Prize: New York Poetry Book award
- 2019 Finalist- Eyelands International Book Awards (Greece) – Published poetry

The Trembling Tiber:

- 2020 Readers' Favorite International Book Award -Gold Medal Winner - Poetry - Inspirational
- 2019 Winner- Eyelands International Book Awards (Greece) – Unpublished category

Dairy of the Heart: *manuscript pending publishing*

- 2020 Finalist Eyelands International Book Award – Winner to be announced 12.20
- 2020 Winner-Three Rock Writers' Resort Residency Program. Crete, Greece

The Systems We Caste:

- 2020 Winner Wingword International Poetry Prize, Delhi, India- <https://cutt.ly/PPUz8z2>

Appearances, Featured Invites:

2027

ARThailand Artist Residency, Chiang Mai, Thailand
ArtHue Artist Residency, Hue Vietnam

2026

Bangalore Literary Festival
Bangalore Poetry Festival, Bangalore, India
Wonderwood Artist Residency, Beipu, Taiwan
Casa Lu Artist Residency, Mexico City, Mexico
ArtHue Artist Residency, Hue Vietnam
International Studies Department, University of Foreign Languages and International Studies,
Prof. Nguyễn Hải Thủy Hue University, Hue, Vietnam

2025

Ubud Writers & Readers International Festival, Bali, Indonesia
World Poetry Project 2025, bringing poets from around the world for a 3-days, Host: Delhi Poetry Slam
Guest poetry recital & Q&A, Women in American Literature Project in Gernboken, Tsuda University
Guest poetry recital & Q&A, -Jazz Café, Jukssai School Festival, Tsuda University
Guest poetry recital & Q&A, Prof. Sachi Nakachi's seminar class, Tsuru University
Guest poetry recital & Q&A, Japan Black Studies Association, Tsuru University
Guest poetry recital & Q&A, The History of American Literature, Prof. Aiki's class, Tsuda University
Guest poetry recital & Q&A, American, Literature, Prof. Kihara's class, Tsuda University

2024

The ace DIRECCION Artist Residency, Buenos Aris, Argentina
Invited Guest – Shakespeare 's 460th Birthday Celebration & Luncheon, Stratford Upon Avon, England
Poetry Guest Recital: The Shakespeare Institute - Stratford Upon Avon - 2024
Poetry Guest Recital: The 996th meeting of 1824 Shakespeare Club – Stratford Upon Avon - 2024

2023

Yes B'y! Radio Show Canada, Aired:
Remembrance+Memorial Day _ NH Part 1 of 3 mp3- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qKmFt-11_9EN065Crw31z-a39j5XrGuv/view?usp=sharing
Aired:
CKXU Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
CHMR St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador Canada VOBB Gros Morne National Park, NL, Canada
CJTM Toronto, Ontario Canada
Temple University, Prof. Emeka Nwadiora, Graduate Class Deconstructing White Supremacy, Philadelphia, PA
Tsuda Women's University, Tokyo, Japan
Interview and Poetry Reading - The Yes B'y Newfoundland Radio, Host Dr. Peddle
Prof. Peddle's class - Hokkai-Gauken University, Sapporo, Japan
Professors of the Dept of English, Fuji University, Sapporo, Japan
Temple University, Tokyo, Japan
JALT of Hokkaido, Sapporo, Japan
Profs. Omomo and Okamoto classes, Fuji Women's University, Sapporo Japan
Hokkai Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan
Artist Residency, Tenjinyama Art Studio, Sapporo, Japan

2022

African Brain Bank Annual Summit, Atlanta, Georgia
National Black Arts Spoken Word Tour Festival, Univ of Penn, Philadelphia, PA AfricaOnline TV Media Corp:
The Man, The Myth, The Poet by Host Prophetess Lisa Parks
The Shakespeare Institute, Stratford Upon Avon, England
The 1824 Shakespeare Club – Stratford Upon Avon, England
Shakespeare Beyond Borders Alliance, Shakespeare Institute, Birmingham University, England

https://youtu.be/ujSwWkSg7Ug?si=728v5Ts9Vlb9y_dc

Multicultural Education Course, Social & Behavioral Sciences Dept. St. Louis Community College, Master &
Ph.D. Class: Deconstructing White Supremacy, Temple Univ. Prof. Nwadiora
Women's Rights as Human Rights Conference, The World Center for Women Studies
State of the Union: Black Economics - Race, Class, Culture and Civil Unions

2021

3rd International Conference Paulo Freire: The Global Legacy, St. Louis Missouri
Deconstructing White Supremacy, Three Graduate Classes: Temple Univ. Prof. Nwadiora
The Pier-Glass Poetry, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA, <https://youtu.be/YCBzqkkrmes>
African-Canada Story Telling and Cultural Festival, Surrey, Canada
The Poets House, Camden NJ
Black Author Book Tour, Philadelphia, PA
A Place in Time Camden County Historical society, Camden, NJ
Black History Month and African Heritage, Canada

2020

Tsuda University-one of Japan's oldest esteemed women's universities, Tokyo, Japan
The Wild Crazy Ride of the Marvin X Experience. Black Arts Movement, Oakland, CA
Moonstone Art Center's Virtual Poetry Reading, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Jamaica International Poetry Festival, Kingston, Jamaica
The Future Ancients with Luka Lesson, Renowned Poet, Brisbane, Australia
United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent Public Forum, Surrey, Cana

2019

Social Justice in Practice and Policy, College of Public Health--School of Social Work, Temple University,
Hobart and William Smith Colleges,
African Stages of British Columbia, Vancouver Canada
Fuji Women's University, Sapporo Japan
Dept. of African American Studies, Gifu University, Gifu, Japan
JALT of Hokkaido, Sapporo, Japan
University of Tre, World Poetry Day, Rome Italy
Lamakaan Cultural Center, Hyderabad, India - <http://www.lamakaan.com>
Lekhana Writer's Festival, Bangalore, India
Hyderabad Literary Festival, Hyderabad, India

2018

School of Health Professions & Social Work, Graduate Class, "The Psycho-dynamics of Race, Class &
Culture" Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, Vancouver, Canada
Bridgewater International Poetry Festival, Bridgewater Virginia, USA
English Language & Translation, Santa Chiara University, Frascati, Rome, Italy
Italian Poet Luciano Cecchinell, University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy

Mayor's Commission on African & Caribbean Immigrant Affairs, Philadelphia, PA, USA

2017

Bemis Center For Contemporary Arts, Omaha, Nebraska,
USA Hokkai Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan
Hokusei Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan
Fuji's Women's University, Sapporo, Japan
University of British Columbia, Vancouver Canada
Reading before The Honorable Keshari Nath Tripathi, Governor of The State of West Bengal, India MA&BA
Postcolonial Literature & Poetry, Dept. of English, Jadavpur, Univer, Kolkata, India
The theater production of ' Beyond Borders ' by The Creative Arts Theater, Kolkata, India
Dept. of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur, University, Kolkata, India
International Poetry & Sister Arts Festival, Cesena, Italy
<http://festivalpoesiaarti.wixsite.com/poesiaartisorelle>
Doctoral Class, Blues Traditions, American Studies, Prof. Schroder, University of Tre, Rome, Italy
Performing Poetry: Neal Hall and Irish poet Eileán Ní Chuilleanáin, University of Tre, Rome, Italy
The African Stage, Vancouver, Canada
Poetry Paradigm Group, Kolkata, India
International Kolkata Book Fair, Feature read with Sahitya Akademi winner Dr. S Sarkar, Kolkata, India
The Creative Art Center, Kolkata, India
Brahmaputra Festival, Guwahati, Assam, India
Srijan Poetry Society, Kolkata, India
Rhythm Divine Poets Society, Kolkata, India
University of Calcutta, Depts of English, Linguistic & Journalism & Mass Communication, Kolkata, India
Jadavpur University, School of Women's Studies, Kolkata India
Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival, Kolkata, India

2016

African American Studies Graduate Class, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
The Consulate General of the United States of America, Sapporo, Japan
African American Studies Class, Hokusei Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan
James Rivers Writer's Conference, Richmond, VA
Indo-American Arts Council Literary Festival, Kimmel Center, Ny, Ny
Ghana's Story Moja Literary Festival, Ghana
Azadi Ke Hum Matwale, Poetry Reading, Chief Guest, Hyderabad, India
Lamakaan Cultural Center, Hyderabad, India
National Academy of Legal Studies and Research Law School, Hyderabad, India
Feature read with 2013 Sahitya Akademi Award winner Dr. Subodh Sarkar, Kolkata, India
A Monsoon Evening of Poetry, The American Literature and Culture Interest Group, Kolkata, India
Bangalore Poetry Festival, Bangalore, India
District of Pfaffenhofen, Bavaria Germany, Invite by Cultural Minster, Pfaffenhofen, Germany
University Prep - Schyren-Gymnasium High School, Invite English Dept., Pfaffenhofen, Germany
Department of Human Rights and Political Science, University Padova, Padova, Italy
CSOA Sans Papier, CSOA Sans Papier, #Occupy BankItalia since 2005, Rome, Italy
Center For American Studies, one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe, Rome, Italy

Keynote Speaker/ Featured Poet, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, VA,

2015

National Academy of Letters **Sahitya Akademi** - Bangalore, India
Bangalore Literary Festival, Bangalore, India
Indo-American Arts Council Literary Festival, NY, NY
Poetry Panelists James Rivers Writer's Conference, Richmond, VA Poetry On The Lake, Orta, Italy
Sacramento Black Book Festival, Sacramento, CA
World Poetry Day, Italian National Commission for UNESCO & University of Rome Tre,
Museo dell' Alto Medio Evo, Rome, Italy.
Pan African Slam 2015, Cafe deux Soleils, Vancouver, Canada
Black History Month: Celebration of Black History, Strathcona, Vancouver, Canada
Hyderabad Literary Festival, Hyderabad, India, Jan

2014

Bridgewater College International Literary Festival, Bridgewater, VA, selected one of the top 13 poets of the 120 poets in attendance reading their work.
Deep Travel Literary Journey, Kathmandu, Bundapur & Pokhara, Nepal
United Black Canadian Community Association's 11th Celebration of the Black Strathcona and Heritage of Black Community for Vancouver City, Vancouver, Canada
Winnipeg Anarchist Book Festival, Winnipeg, Canada
Story Moja International Literary Festival, Nairobi, Kenya, Dr. Hall's tribute poem (Ne'er More) to Ghana's poet Prof. Kofi Awoonor killed in the 2013 Westgate terrorist attack, Nairobi, Kenya was selected as one of the three 2014 festival's poems.
Jamaica Poetry Festival, Kingston, Jamaica,
Spoken Word Paris, Au Chat Noir, Paris, France
Deep Travel Literary Tour, Fez & Moulay Idriss (Roman Ruins), Morocco,
Poetry On The Lake Festival, Lake Maggerio, Italy
Readings: Ashland, OR and Tell It Slant Poetry, Portland, OR, <http://ijpr.org/post/doctorpoet-neal-hall>
Bowery Poetry, Invited by Bowery Art + Science, NY, NY
[IDEA, Performing Arts Center, Susquehanna Bank Center, Camden, N.J.](#)
NYC Anarchist Book Fair Collective, Main Stage NY, NY
Art Sanctuary's Celebration of Black Writing, Philadelphia, PA.

2013

Storymoja Hay International Literary Festival, Nairobi, Kenya

2012

Ubud Writers & Readers International Festival, Bali, Indonesia

Guest Poet: Colleges/Universities/High Schools:

- Temple University – Tokyo, Japan Branch
- Tsuda University-Japan's oldest and most esteemed women's university, Tokyo, Japan
- Hobart and William Smith Colleges,
- [The Consulate General of the United States of America, Sapporo, Japan](#)
- Hokkai Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan
- Gifu University, Dept. of African American Studies Gifu, Japan
- Hokusei Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan
- Fuji's Women's University, Sapporo, Japan
- MA & BA Postcolonial Literature & Poetry, Dept. of English, Jadavpur, University, Kolkata, India,
- Dept. of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur, University, Kolkata, India
- Reading, doctoral seminar class, Blues Traditions, Program of American Studies, Prof. Schroder, University of Tre, Rome, Italy
- Doctoral seminar class, Blues Traditions, American Studies, Univ. of Rome Tre, Rome, Italy
- Univ. of Calcutta, Depts of English, Linguistic & Journalism & Mass Communication, Kolkata, India
- Jadavpur University, School of Women's Studies, Kolkata India
- African American Studies Graduate Class, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
- African American Studies Class, Hokkai Gakuen University, Sapporo, Japan
- English Department, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
- Department of Human Rights and Political Science, University of Padova, Padova, Italy
- English Literary Studies at English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India,
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, India,
- University of Hyderabad, Dept. of Communications & Journalism, Hyderabad, India,
- African Student Association of Hyderabad, India
- [University Student poets - U.S. Consulate](#) - American Corner, Hyderabad, India
- National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Law School, Hyderabad, India, 2015 & 2016
- Africana Studies Dept, Cornell, University, Ithaca, NY
- School of Health Professions & Social Work, Graduate Class, The Psycho-dynamics of Race, Class & Culture, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- Martin Luther King, Symposium on Social Change, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Black Student Union, Ithaca, New York
- University of The Sciences in Philadelphia, African American Studies Class, Philadelphia, PA
- English Dept., Baltimore Polytechnic Institute High School, Baltimore, MD
- Sancta Maria International High School. Hyderabad, India
- Vidyananya High School, Hyderabad, India
- Delhi Public School, Hyderabad, India

Literary and Academic Review Journals:

The Stewardship Report <http://www.stewardshipreport.com> Oct 29th, 2015

Muse India- the literary e-journal, issues 62 Jul-Aug 2015;

<http://www.museindia.com/viewarticle.asp?myr=2015&issid=62&id=5909>

Their Own Bare Hands, Bridgewater College International Poetry Festival Anthology, 2015

The Thinker - South Africa's leading progressive social and political commentary magazine produced to feature world-wide thought leaders:

- Poems: *Where Do I Sit. & Golf Ball White* - Quarter 4, 2015, Vol. 66
- Poem: *Dr. Nigger* - Quarter 1, 2014, Vol. 59

Ethnicity and Race in a Changing World: A Review Journal: Volume 2; Issue 2; Winter/Spring 2011, Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, Univ. of Manchester, Manchester, UK
Hiram Poetry Review, Issue 72, Spring 2011, Hiram College, Hiram Ohio

Library Installments:

***Nigger For Life* Book:**

John Henrik Clarke Africana Library, Cornell University
The James Weldon Johnson Collection, The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale Univ.
Poetry Library, London, UK
Andersonian Library, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland
Poets House, National Poetry Library and Literary Center, NY, NY
University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus, Guyana
Black Writers Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Univ. of Manchester's Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, Manchester, UK

The Trembling Tiber, a black poet's musing on Shakespeare's Julius Caesar Book:

The Shakespeare Institute, Stratford Upon Avon, England



Peer Reviews

I write to you, obviously enough, in the middle of turbulent times, not least because of the intersection of disease and dis-ease about which you write so powerfully, most recently in *The Trembling Tiber* (an extraordinary accomplishment, about which a few more words momentarily). I could not help, for example, but think deeply of the shock and grief that trembles among us Philadelphians at the murder of Walter Wallace, Jr., just because the vividness and immediacy--but also the sad/angry representativeness--of his violent loss resonates so intensely with the interplay of specificity and comprehensiveness that is part of your poetry's genius.

It made reading the book that much harder, but also that much more important, and urgent, and I'm grateful for the intersection (if bitter that the intersection, as your poems themselves declare, remains a constant drumbeat of injustice).

As to the poems themselves, I have read and reread the volume with ever-increasing admiration for the integration of craft and vision, and with ever-expanding appreciation for the way you have engaged *Julius Caesar* (but not just JC among Shakespearean works, and not just Shakespeare among cultural expressions, from the Bible to Baraka).

In *The Trembling Tiber*, I am taken with the way you contemplate, as well as enact, a number of reflective engagements--kind of a layering of layers--so that Shakespeare, history, and your voice flow over and under one another in a kind of Möbius strip of textual, critical, and experiential registers ... an interplay that I feel is itself theorized and thematized in certain poems, especially those implicating performance, repetition, mirroring, voicing, and seeing, while also being mimetically dramatized in the prosody, which likewise works to create fluid overlapping and interior dialogues (not that I'm any kind of expert on metrics, but it feels as though you've developed a kind of sprung rhythm all your own, employing alliteration, interior rhyming, and unusual syncopations--slight but really effective shifts, like bent notes from a blues line-- that ask the reader's voice to enter or consider new temporal and affective zones as the poem's narrative unfolds).

Stepping back, I likewise find great insight into Shakespeare's play itself, which in my reading teases us toward certain identifications and allegiances, only to "let slip the dogs of war" on our affiliations, forcing constant adjustments of judgment (and in a way catching us out in our tendentious leanings). The way you set "Caesar" loose as a totally variable trope, the portentous, portly elephant in the (western political) room, is just brilliant--and moves one to see how a contemporary reader of your verse now can't read Shakespeare the same again. Terrific.

And then there's the core of the matter, your searing insistence that the "New World" being birthed in death and blood at the very moment Shakespeare is writing remains our burden, our responsibility, our pain, and our hope.

I felt you swooping up for conversations with Baraka (with his mordant wit and anaphoric insistence--who, who, who...), with Lorde (with her righteous indignation against those who would tame her), with Malcolm (with his heroic capacity to survive traumatic violence by staring it down to its face), and with MLK (with his indomitable capacity to transform the Pisgah Vision into a spiritual warrior's call, *when, if not now*) ... along with many others, all folded into your own distinctive timbre and consciousness.

Neal Hall does a remarkable job of drawing out the range and depth of political concerns in Shakespeare's play beyond the top layer struggle for power. His focus on the politics of Blackness and racial oppression brings new insight into the possibilities of remaking Shakespeare's work. The range of poetic techniques he brings to bear is equally impressive. **Mark Fortier, PhD, School of English and Theater Studies, University of Guelph, Canada**

Once in a generation a voice pierces through the injustices, inequities and horrors of the age in which it flowers into speech, and in that flowering precision and pain take on a deeply instructive form of beauty. Hall's poetry both cuts and displays: it is an anatomical dissection of a lived and still living history of oppression. What is hidden is laid open. Plausible deniabilities are proved preposterous. Excuses are no longer excused. Hall is a master wordsmith whose every phrase is the craft of a seer. There is a profound and boding kinetic reflexivity to his style which makes even the smallest and most trembling of his words thunder from the page and into the heart. Read or listen: let these poems find you, delve you to the root, uproot your preconceptions, and allow yourself to be changed by them. **Dr. Chris Laoutaris, Lecturer, The Shakespeare Institute (University of Birmingham, UK)**

The Trembling Tiber reached me yesterday, and I am absolutely loving it. I hope that one day when circumstances permit, you'll come and see us in Stratford, perhaps to speak at the annual poetry festival. Best wishes, thanks, and congratulations on a stunning collection -- so glad we will have it in the Institute's library. **Professor Michael Dobson, Director of The Shakespeare Institute**

Wow, wow, wow, wow, wow!! That has to be one of the best, most engaging, powerful, emotional and truly practically useful sessions I've ever had the privilege of being involved with! Thanks so much Neal!! What an amazing reading and talk/interview. Your wisdom here is so potent: the economist Yiannis Varoufakis (do you know his work) also says some similar things about the importance of economics as the heart of all things, especially equality. The world NEEDS a new economics. Your work is feeding into that. AMAZING. I knew you would be a fantastic speaker!! Thanks again!! **Prof. Chris Laoutaris, The Shakespeare Institute, Birmingham University, Birmingham, England**

Blatantly blunt, painfully honest and, as always, breathtakingly unapologetic. Hall's language is simple but intense, not sparing his readers, not compromising his delivery for the sake of a pretentious feel-good factor. Hall is not on a quest for apologies, empathy, sympathy – and least of all, pity. Brutally descriptive, he writes simply to tell it as it is! No holes barred. To call Hall brave, even courageous, would be to undermine the power of his work. Because he is not out to save, absolve, or convert the world. His work simply unashamedly and uncompromisingly calls a spade a spade! **Auma Obama, Nairobi, Kenya**

I'm a student wearing a pink mask who asked for your help. I'm so sorry I forgot to tell you my name. I was so tense. My name is Kotone. Today, I want to thank you for your precious time. I was impressed by your strong reading aloud and your efforts to convey your message to the audience.

And, I felt honored to have the opportunity to talk with you. Throughout our conversation, you looked into my eyes and tried to communicate beyond words. You taught "I'm me". I found myself again. In my life, this moment is a turning point. Your name card is a treasure to me, as it reminds me of finding myself when I was lost. Thank you for your help. I will keep moving forward. Sincerely, **Kotone Matsu, Student, Fuji Women's University, Sapporo, Japan**

I found the poems provocative and moving and extremely relevant to circumstances that have plagued America since its inception. I can see why his poems have been embraced globally, particularly now as the United States dismantles one myth to replace it with another; Or is it merely now showing its true (orange-tinted) colors for the world to see. **Professor John G. Russell, Gifu University, Japan**

The poetry reading, as expected was tremendously thought – provoking and “lit brains on fire.” It problematized especially the experience of African Americans in the U.S. among other socio-economic and political issues. **Prof. Ana Cruz, Director, 3rd International Conference Paulo Freire: The Global Legacy, St. Louis, Missouri**

If Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* was a tightrope one could stretch between the idiosyncratically abysmal and the collectively political, then Neal Hall's *The Trembling Tiber* is an elegant walk on this fragile tightrope. The poet's voice is guttural yet soothing, lulling the reader into a timeless world of injustice, conflict and rage but also of hope, courage and inner freedom. Neal Hall's poetry is a torrent of vibrating words engulfing the reader in their powerful rhythm and heart felt truth. **Andriana Minou, Judge, Greece's Eyelands International Poetry Book**

You are an incredible poet and human being, Neal! The way you inform, educate and weave your words reminds me of an archer pulling back his bow and releasing the arrow into the target of the heart and mind. Wow, just so powerful and direct and emotive. Thank you! **Julia Lehman-McTigue- Photographer**

So many, many thanks for sharing this stupendous work with me so generously. Thanks, too, for the wonderful reading you gave via Moonstone a few weeks back: I was uplifted by hearing your much- needed voice. **Professor Kimberly Benston, B.A., M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D., Yale University**

本日のために配布して下さったプリントを見ながら聴いていましたが、Nealさんが朗読している際に、詩の中に綴られていないちょっとした主語などが詩の感情とともに引き出されていて、これは**Poetry Reading**であったからこそ、さらにこの機会でしか聴くことができない一期一会のようなものだったのだらうと思います。詩を自分で読むのと、読んでいるのを聴くのとではやはり全く違った感覚があり、自分で眺めていては掴めなかったであろう箇所も、朗読ではなんなく伝わってくる、詩自身が声を媒体として直接語りかけてくる感じがしてとても興味深かったです。また、言葉のアクセントはもちろん、声の強弱における**Reading**にとても感慨深いものがありました。Nealさんの多くの詩では、強く、大きく語りかけることが印象深かったですが、それ故に、小さくも、しかししっかりと深く語りかけていた1節が、とても印象に残っています。このような機会を設けてくださり、人生の中で貴重な経験の一つとなりました。ありがとうございました
Student from Tsuda University, Tokyo, Japan English Translation of Japanese Comment:

I listened to Dr. Hall's reading with a handout Prof. Orui prepared for us at hand. I was able to sense the essence and emotions of the poems precisely because this was a poetry reading. It was a once- in-a-lifetime opportunity for me.

I realized that it was one thing to read poems silently on my own, and that it was quite another to listen to them read aloud. The poems talked directly to me via voice and conveyed to me messages I had found difficult to understand just seeing them in print. It was an amazing experience. I was also impressed by the tone and accents of the reading. Dr. Hall recited strongly and powerfully, which made passages he chose to speak in a small but deep and firm voice all the more impressive. Once again, this was a truly valuable moment in my life, and for that I thank you. **English Translation - Student from Tsuda University, Tokyo, Japan**

Out of all the amazing poets I met there, Neal Hall was the most fascinating one. He was different because his story was unlike anyone else's. His poems reflected the power of his thoughts. He firmly believed that to change people's mind there's nothing better than making them realize it through literature.

Pens are mightier than swords and it was only after my conversation with him that I started believing in it. He was not just a poet; he was a thinker, believer and a leader. After some research I finally located his blog, and then I desperately wanted his autograph.

A man like him deserves our appreciation and respect. Composing poems on racism, which we think doesn't exist anymore, is his passion. That really needs courage in thoughts and brilliance with his choice of words. He was an inspiration who motivated me to write. **Samadrita Palash Bora, The Brahmaputra Literary Festival, Assam India**

Your poetry readings moved me a lot and that afternoon while you were reading, I watched you and suddenly I felt the pain, the sorrow, the cruelty, the evil, the oppression your ancestors and all Black people and you have had to bear so far.

Your deep voice entered "inside" me, my heart, my soul with force and I thank you for the wonderful gift you have made to me. I have met a special person, a great friend. From time-to-time persons enter my life suddenly and elevate me like you! **Eddy Osso, Cesena, Italy**

I was deeply moved by the gift of your words, so like a polished diamond: clear, sharp precious and multifaceted. Srijan is blessed by your gift, as am I - your breath, enunciated with such power and honesty will remain with me until I am conscious. **Julie Mehta, PhD, Department of English & Canadian Studies Program. University College, University of Toronto**

When you were introduced to speak, I gave my attention to some distractions around me but when you started speaking, your voice brought my attention to the moment. Your lit voice is one that resonates and compels all to listen without you actually saying so. It is prophetic! As a writer myself, I knew straight away that you are a great poetic prophet and a voice for the voiceless.

Your lit. bio proved me right! Oh! you've done so much for humanity, now and in the future. The comments on your works attest to this. They are so awesome! **Comfort Ero, Artistic Director, African Stages, Vancouver, Canada**

Your voice, upon first hearing it, changes lives and belongs to all of humanity. I will carry the memory—and the power— of your opening day Poem with me forever. More than anything, keep that voice of yours safe and protected. It is a 'lighthouse' in a world that immerses itself deeper and deeper into the fog. **Kurt Philip Behm, U.S. Novelist, Poet**

Emotionally I felt a vigorous passion during your recitation. I consider them as an extension of a musical sonata with a purpose. **Debojyoti Mishra, Renown Bengali Musician, Kolkata, India**

By the way, your work is so tempered with love, truth and compassion; even more so then before! Dr. Neal Hall, it's as if you journeyed back through time and have taken on this mantle of justice to protect the stolen will of the ancestors, to bear their stripes, and to battle on behalf of those of us who are now the descendants of their pain. **Sandra Turner Barnes, Poet**

I was invited to read my poems from FUSE at the Bengaluru Poetry Festival. There I met with a wonderful American poet, Dr. Neal Hall whose voice must be heard worldwide. Not only is he a powerful poet, his recitation is as charged. **Bina Sarkar Ellas: Editor/Publisher of International Galleries, Poet/Curator, Mumbai, India**

Great experience for my students (17 years old) to get an "updated" information about what they have learnt about the history of African Americans in their English lessons. We were fascinated and moved by the impressive language and Neal's fantastic way of reading the poems, but also thoughtful about the message of them. Neal's appeals have a lasting effect on me and my students' minds. Thank you for "provoking" us and making us rethink some aspects of life. **Veronika Kettner, English Teacher, Schyren-Gymnasium High School, Pfaffenhofen, Germany**

And when he says, "I want to be someone who does not want to be any more" you choke. And the "short walk to freedom stretches to infinity." This is poetry that scalds you into waking up to the possibility that you are perhaps one of those silent spectators. All in all he is a poet. And unquestionably one of the most significant voices of the century. **Vasanth Kannabiran, Writer, Chairperson, Culture Asmita Resource Centre for Women, Nominated by India for the Nobel Peace Prize, Hyderabad, India**

Listening to Neal Hall for the first time was an experience. The dispassionate description of what it still means to be black was breathtaking. Hall's poetry shocks you to the core, sets you beating your breast and gasping with rage while he reads on calm and matter of fact. Reading and rereading his poems again gives you a glimpse of the range of betrayal and shock that blackness carries on its back.

Hall's poems shock and transform your understanding. Black poetry, Feminist poetry and Dalit poetry also reveal the gamut of emotions, the rage, betrayal and invisibility that tear down the veils here. What is significant about this poet is that while relentlessly, brutally hammering at the boundaries that define black he stands aside calmly to let his words speak. Prophetically.

It is difficult to reconcile the poet, patient and calm, fielding questions, detached and dispassionate, untouched by the lava that pours out of his pen. His poems *Veneer*, *Dr. Nigger* are masterpieces that need several readings to unravel the intricately knotted weave to reach the core of his truth. When he says '*I have given you my soul, leave me my name*' your heart skips a beat. **Vasanth Kannabiran, Writer, Chairperson, Culture Asmita Resource Centre for Women, Nominated by India for the Nobel Peace Prize, Hyderabad, India**

From Italy, a big thank you for leaving your poetry for us. A big thank you for your poetry. Not one of us is left indifferent after reading or listening to any one flowing, halting, jolting river of your words. Your books will be available to all of us at school. We will be proud to bring them into the classroom because we will be bringing thought provoking work to our students and we know it will work from inside, somewhere deep. I believe we can and must move something, whatever, so that our students ask questions, beginning from the sound and their rhythm your lines capture. We can take it from there. Thank you for striking chords.
Yolanda Cappelletti, English Conversation and Drama Teacher at the Liceo G. Galilei, Gozzano near Orta, Italy

The blood, rusty red, coagulating on the pavement, where another black man has been shot on the pavement by the beast, speaks as it dries, like Neal Hall's poems speak. Running, rambling, streaming, raging, still remembering, we are human, and we love. **Jean Binta Breeze, world-renowned Jamaican dub poet, actress and storyteller. Appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire for her services to literature. Hailed one of the most important influential performance poets of recent years.**

Neal, when I read your poems, I don't think of America, I think of my India. **Jameela Nishat, Award winning, Urdu Poet, India**

After Dr. Neal Hall's first two books of poetry, *Nigger For Life*, and *Winter's A' Coming Still*, here is another book that displays the skill, breadth, and versatility with which he has honed his craft.

Where Do I Sit does not jettison the sharp denunciations of racial and economic injustice that appeared in his first collections.

On the contrary, there are poems, such as "In the Wake of Trayvon, What Matters Next," in which he advances an explanation for contemporary anti-black racism and provides a corresponding call for black economic autonomy – "buy black or buy from that".

Other poems appeal for ethical interventions, such as "Free will is not free" from "Before Me . . . Still"; and drawing from Dr. King "we all suffer greatly at the appalling silence of good people" addressed in the poem "A Long Walk".

This book provides the reader with broad social analyses and solutions. It is not a lament, but a call for action that intersperses epic representations with deeply lyrical reflections such as in "Hand," and on love, personal loss, and a range of sentiments.

Reading *Where Do I Sit*, one has the impression that Dr. Hall can turn any sentiment, observation, and object into a reason for poetry. **Dr. Gerard Aching, Director of the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University, and author of *Freedom From Liberation: Slavery, Sentiment, and Literature in Cuba***

Dr. Neal Hall, hailed as the Malcolm X of International Poetry, is a poet of intellectual passion and artistic significance whose poetry has consistently championed socio-economic and socio-political issues pertinent to social advocacy, of which we are a part, and of which poetry is pivotal. **Yasus Afari, Founder and Chief Organizer, Jamaica Poetry Festival**

Thank you for the wonderful evening of poetry. We soaked into every word you read, like the fresh drops of rain on our windowsill! **Dr. Agna Fernandez, Management Professor, Consultant in Organizational Development and a Coach, Hyderabad, India**

I was moved by your passion, both in terms of the content and delivery of your poetry. Thanks for letting us get a glimpse of your obviously immense poetic talents at the event. Blackness in West Coast Canada (which is scattered and too often muted compared to the rest of Canada) desperately needs to hear from voices like yours. In Solidarity... **Prof. Handel Kashope Wright Director, Centre for Culture, Identity & Education- University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada**

I received the book. It is amazing. I find it to be relevant in a timeless way that spans our history as African Americans in this country under white supremacy. Your words breathe an air of revolution and exhale a sense of direction for us as a people. I see why you have won so many rewards. Your writing is such awesome work. I must say I do appreciate your book and have read excerpts to my entire family when we get together. **J Hyles, MBA**

"I consider him one of the most dynamic poets in North America today. His vision, his delivery and his command of his chosen subject matter are of vital importance to contemporary poetry." **Bruce Haring, Managing Director, JM Northern Media**

When Neal stood up and read his work, it electrified the room. The passion with which he spoke and the incisiveness of his use of language were obvious for all to see. **Louise Doughty, Novelist, Playwright and Critic, London, UK**

Thank you for making me cry with your poetry. It was a pleasure and honour to share the panel with you. **Warsan Shire, Poet, UK**

I received your books late last week and immediately dove into them. Thank you. I really couldn't stop reading, so powerful and raw and beautiful and wrenching I found the poems. This is important work you are doing.

It was a great pleasure to get to spend a little time with you at Vermont Studio Center, to hear you read, to have you in my own audience. Sending you much gratitude for your books and also strongest wishes that you keep hearing and sharing your poetry. **Ann Pancake, Awarding Winning Novelist, USA**

I find your poetry is so powerful, I can only dip into it for a short time before coming up for air, as you speak of the continuing overt and covert prejudice and inhumanity, we show towards each other. It brings me to a place of examination of that side in my life and where I may have held another's life less precious than my own." **Deborah Lovegrove, Storyteller, Writer, Australia**

His talks and readings were dynamic, striking testament to colloquial political literature that communicates directly. He was a great hit at the Poetry Slam, with his poems of passion, clarity. He has something to say and knows how to make people listen and be glad that they did. **Inez Baranay, Ph.D., Novelist, Playwright, Istanbul Turkey**

Dr. Hall writes with a great deal of courage and honesty and compels the reader to self-examine with the same degree of courage and honesty; these are never easy things to do but Dr. Hall reminds us why they are ever so important. **Kopano Matlwa, Novelist, South Africa**

Neal Hall's *Nigger For Life* is a vibrant, raw, spellbinding and compelling work of poetry. This is a voice to be watched." **Bruce Haring, New York Book Festival**

Though set in America, people from all walks of life who suffer any form of prejudice and discrimination can relate to it; motives are different, but the result is the same. There is also an unpretentious approach which is liberating, no rhymes or your conventional stanzas. It is the reinvention of poetry which makes an explosive theme accessible. **George Murevesi, Radio Host - Africa Live, Awaz 107.2 FM, Glasgow, Scotland**

Dr. Hall, Master of Diction: I've now read *Nigger for Life*! Well, you've called spades 'spades' and struck every nail directly on its head. There's a lot of illumination in your work, a lot of 'shock and awe' re: African American and global Black struggle. I'll be re-reading and focusing on a few parts. Thou art eminently quotable. Cheers! **Dr. George Elliot Clarke, Ph.D. University of Toronto, Poet Laureate of Toronto**

As Kenya celebrates 50 years of Independence this year, we are reflecting on our values as a society. Your work, which, touches on matters of race, equality and freedom would add a very powerful voice to the discourse that is taking place currently here.

Furthermore, the Kenyan poetry scene here is incredibly vibrant and the young faces of poetry today here is having to ask what are their words being used for? What is the power of poetry and literature to affect social change and how does art and activist meet? For these reasons, I feel your voice would make a powerful addition to the conversation at the festival. **Aleya Kassam, Producer, Storymoja Hay Festival, Nairobi, Kenya**

It was interesting to contrast Neal Hall's message with that of Jose Ramos- Horta [co-recipient - 1996 Nobel Peace Prize]. Neal Hall's message resonated with me because of my own experience of discrimination. And I wondered what Australian indigenous people would make of his message. **Robina Cosser M.Ed. (SYD), Editor: The Teachers Are Blowing Their Whistles! Australia**

We see the power in your poetry. As a human rights group, we appreciate your insight into race, equality, dignity and justice. **RAR, Ireland**

It was in fact an honour for me to have heard a brave black American speaking out for what is right. I must thank you for the wonderful collection of poems that you wrote and would be read not just by Americans, black, white and any other race and ethnic group in the USA, but by people of the world from elsewhere as well. **Pravit Rojanaphruk, Journalist, The Nation, Bangkok, Thailand**

Neal Hall is the best kind of poet - one who has been fashioned by circumstance. A poet who has faced great adversity and known no other way to carve a path for himself but through the inscription of his emotions onto paper. Thus, his words hold the weight of experience.

Neal Hall writes to service the people; his words are not only strong and beautiful but are intended to be a catalysts for positive change and I have seen them do so with my very own eyes. **Luka Lesson, 2012 Australian National Spoken Word Champion**

Dr. Hall's intellectual and emotional honesty, his skillful wordplay, and the subtle way he gets beneath your guard and forces you to put your preconceptions about race to the test. **Anthony Williams, Journalist, Victoria, St. Lucia**

Neal, your words spring forth to heal centuries old invisible wounds in all of our souls. You may think you wrote those poems for yourself, but you wrote them for all of us. **Sandra Turner Barnes, Poet, United States**

Dr. Neal Hall's book, "Nigger For Life", encapsulates the stench of prejudice and racism in a tone that allows for intelligent dialogue to occur for anyone honestly willing to address the problem. **Daoud Bey, Cultural Consultant, Arts 4 Teens Festival and Literary Programs of Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission at Camden County College, Camden, NJ, United States**

I was awash with goose-pimples as the words jumped out of the pages of your thought-provoking masterpiece Nigger For Life to shatter my assumption of American society equal in human dignity and justice. My lecturer, your friend, Dr. GMT Emezue directed me to your book which I perused from her library.

I came to a better understanding of the senseless killing of Trayvon Martins just like Diallo. You write haunting yet beautiful poems. Am going to see how I can get a copy. Bravo. **Udo Okoronkwo- Chukwu University, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria**

I read your book from beginning to end and was tearful up to "*Speaking in Black*", and heartbroken by the time I read "9-11, 24-7".

I realized that I don't live in a real world, I live in my own world, like so many others. I used to think that our country, government, culture, lost the proverbial moral compass, but my sadness comes from realizing that our culture embeds biases and prejudices in each generation that passes. You are strong and have a powerful message, one that I can relate to, and feel, on so many levels. **J Pucino, Author**

The struggle for hearts and minds is a long one, but your book and appearances certainly hasten the ultimate victory. **Bruce Haring, Book Festival Director**

At 3:40 pm, there was a powerful and dramatic poetry reading by Dr. Neal Hall, a multi-award- winning poet. **Lloyd Lefthouse, Novelist, San Francisco Book Festival**

. . . when you read at the book event in San Francisco, the entire room was riveted and moved. **Erin Byrne, Award Winning Author**

Brother Neal, your poetry at the meeting was very educational and very good. Thank you for your great contribution brother Africa. **Mukasa DaDa (Willie Ricks)**

There is no freedom, only degrees of tyranny” award winning American poet and Ophthalmologist Dr. Neal Hall’s statement to an audience seated in a miniature amphitheater at the Nairobi National Museum cripples any reasoning behind carving out a day and calling it a time to celebrate independence. Why celebrate something that in reality may not exist? Hall joined a panel of two other poets British based Somali poet Warsan Shire and South African Mongane Wally Serote at the StoryMoja Hay festival to “voice the Unspoken” among them, freedom, oppression, and racial identity. **Lydia Matata, Staff Writer, The Star, Nairobi, Kenya**

Nigger For Life is a literary masterpiece that captures the truth of the experiences of one race in the hands of the other. It will continue to prick the conscience of the guilty. **Udodinma F. Okoronkwo- Chukwu, Journalist/Broadcaster, Nigeria**

We are so very proud of you and your continuous accomplishments – Your book, *Nigger For Life*, has become your badge of courage, and helps make the world safer for us, those of us, who, wear the darker hue!” We can no longer keep quiet about such indignities. **Sandra Turner Barnes, Poet, United States**

It was a pleasure to meet you and to hear your poems and learn of the inspiration behind them. Your reading brought it home to me: you speak truth to power when you write about racism and other injustices against black America.

But your other poems like "Veneer" are no less impressive for your art of conjuring worlds before our very eyes. **Gerard Aching Chair, Africana Studies and Research Center Cornell University**

What an honor to have had the privilege of listening to your powerful words. This is inspiring! May the beautiful message of love that you shared with us today continue to nurture your effective creative capacity to promote social transformation and liberation beyond oppression. **Professor N’Dri Assie-Lumumba, Africana Studies, Cornell University**

I hope this correspondence finds you well, spreading poetics all over the world. I wanted to let you know that I included your poems, from your book *Nigger for Life*, into my curriculum alongside our section on *Race Matters*.

My students loved your work! It both energized and disturbed the class and was the topic of discussion for a good amount of time. I am humbled by the strength and power of your words in the classroom. **Professor Daniel Dissinger**