This brochure is one in a series of pamphlets that collectively list and briefly describe more than 140 items in this evolving collection.

Donations from Robert C. Hayden inspired the collation of books celebrating African American arts, political activities, historical movements, and significant figures. Hayden was a senior Lecturer at U MASS Boston, Northeastern University, Boston College, and Lesley University, spanning from 1978 to 2006 and is President Emeritus of the local branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), established in 2002.

The collection does not contain fiction or autobiographical titles nor is it exhaustive of the library’s existing holdings related to this special collection.

Oak Bluffs Public Library
56 R School Street
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
Phone: 508-693-9433
E-mail: nferry@clamsnet.org

The town of Oak Bluffs has a rich history as a time-honored black summer community, supporting African American arts & culture. Continuing to pique the interest of both historians and members of the general public, some materials within this collection describe local historic sites and tours, which juxtapose the contributions of and the injustices suffered by African Americans on the island dating back to the 1700s. The bulk of the collection allows for cultural connections between the island and Black America.
The Annotated African American Folktales

From classics featuring Brer Rabbit and Anansi to dozens of stories rarely seen before, this collection of nearly 150 folktales is the most comprehensive and ambitious ever published in American literary history.

African American Quotations

Extensive collection of more than 2,500 quotations, including expressions of hope, freedom, strength and survival from George Washington Carver, James Baldwin, Mary McLeod Bethune, Oprah Winfrey and many others.

Bartlett’s Familiar Black Quotations

Paints a rich canvas of black history through time. Five thousand quotes taken from the time of Ancient Egypt through American slavery, Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Era, Apartheid, to today.

The Portable Nineteenth Century African American Women Writers

A landmark collection, featuring 49 writers, documenting the social, political, and artistic lives of African American women throughout the 19th century.

The Norton Anthology Of African American Literature

Collects the work of 140 writers from 1746 to the present in all genres; plus spirituals and sermons to jazz and hip-hop. Third edition adds new visuals and media, and new selections with emphasis on contemporary writers.

A Home Elsewhere: Reading African American Classics in the Age of Obama

Written by MV summer resident and Yale professor, Stepto sets canonical works of African American literature in conversation with Barack Obama’s Dreams from My Father, shedding surprising light on unexamined angles of works by Frederick Douglas, W.E.B. Du Bois, Toni Morrison and others.

African American Writers: Profiles of Their Lives and Works-From 1700s to the Present

Includes profiles of James Baldwin, Amiri Baraka, Gwendolyn Brooks, W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes and many others, as well as their works.

Unseen: Unpublished Black History from the New York Times Photo Archives

Uncovers hundreds of stunning, never-before published photographs long buried in the New York Times archives and tells the stories behind them.

On The Shoulders Of Giants: My Personal Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance

Basketball legend traces his childhood in Harlem, his professional career and the pivotal influence of the Harlem Renaissance on black culture in the United States.

African American Faces Of The Civil War: An Album

Discover the men of color who fought for their freedom during the Civil War through profiles illustrated with original, previously unpublished wartime photographs.