

Velma Thomas Fann



Velma Maia Thomas (Fann) is a public historian, sought after speaker, and the creator of the nationally acclaimed Black Holocaust Exhibit at the Shrine of the Black Madonna Cultural Center and Bookstore in Atlanta, Georgia. She also is the author of several books including the award-winning, Lest We Forget: The Passage from Africa to Slavery and Emancipation (1997, Random House Publishers, Inc.).

Velma holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Howard University and a master's degree in international affairs from Emory University. She has served as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University, a research assistant at the Georgia Division of Archives and History and has lectured at colleges, universities, and museums nationwide, among them: the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, DuSable Museum, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Noted for her ability to make history come alive, Velma has served as a consultant for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center, and as a distinguished faculty member of the Penn Center Gullah Studies Institute on St. Helena Island, South Carolina.

A writer, historian, and genealogist, Velma has been interviewed by a number of news organizations on African American history. Among the media seeking her expertise: CNN News, the New York Times, The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), National Public Radio, the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Good Day Atlanta, and Georgia Public Television and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Velma is the recipient of several awards, among them the American Library Association Alex Award for Young Adult Readers, the ALA Black Caucus Award for Contribution to Excellence and Professionalism in Publishing, and the 2004 Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board Award for Excellence in Research using the Holdings of an Archives.

A native of Detroit, she resides in Atlanta with her husband, Rev. Milton Fann, and their son, Olu (O-loo) Fann. She invites you to visit her website at www.velmamaithomas.com.