

2026 REUNION GALA



Honoring the Past.
Celebrating the Present.
Inspiring the Future.

TONIGHT'S HOSTS

Guiding an unforgettable
evening of celebration, connection,
and inspiration.



Toneal M. Jackson

FOUNDER & HOST

Angele Jackson

CO-HOST

MY NAME IS
TONEAL

EMPOWERMENT & MEDIA NETWORK

proudly presents

— THE 2026 —
APS REUNION GALA

We exist to **develop, empower, and transform** through communities, events, products, services, and media that **educate, inspire, and equip** you to walk in purpose and create **impact**.

ONE NETWORK. **FIVE WAYS TO CONNECT.**



COMMUNITIES

A place to belong, connect, and grow with others.

- APS – Artists Promoting Success (for creators)
- I'm Glad To Be A Woman (for women)



EVENTS

Live and virtual experiences designed to connect, equip, and inspire.

- Community Meetups
- Workshops & Trainings
- Culture & Conversation
- Signature Events



SHOP

Products and resources that support your growth and journey.

- Apparel & Merch
- Books & E-Books
- Journals & Planners
- Digital Resources



SERVICES

Professional services to help you grow, launch, and scale your vision.

- Publishing & Coaching
- Strategy & IP Consulting
- Speaking & Workshops
- Total Woman Transformation



MEDIA

Media that informs, inspires, and amplifies powerful voices.

- Podcasts
- Films & Documentaries
- Promotional Media
- Subscriptions



Everything we do is designed to keep you *educated and empowered.*

FROM THE DESK OF TONEAL M. JACKSON



Welcome to the **2026 APS Reunion Gala.**

Tonight is more than a celebration. It is an opportunity to pause, look back, and recognize the journey we have shared.

When Artists Promoting Success was created, the mission was simple: to remind independent artists and creatives that their **work matters**. I understood firsthand that our messages are not any less meaningful simply because we are not mainstream, and I wanted to create opportunities for talented people to be **seen, celebrated, encouraged**, and reminded that they were **not alone**.

Over the years, APS has had the privilege of recognizing **91** individuals with **126 awards** across a community of authors, filmmakers, musicians, poets, entrepreneurs, and other creatives.

Some have continued along the same path. Others have evolved, changed directions, faced unexpected seasons, or discovered entirely new purposes. And sadly, some who helped make APS history are no longer here with us.

Tonight, we **honor** all of it.



We **HONOR** the past by remembering those whose lives and contributions remain part of the APS legacy.



We **CELEBRATE** the present by recognizing those who continue to create, achieve, and make an impact today.



And we **INSPIRE the future** by remembering that every journey unfolds differently—and wherever life has taken us, there is still more ahead.

What began as a desire to support independent talent has become a history that I am incredibly grateful to share with each of you.

Thank you for being part of the APS story. Thank you for coming back. And most importantly, thank you for continuing to remind us why our mantra remains as true today as it was at the beginning:

We are better together.

Toneal M. Jackson

TONEAL M. JACKSON
FOUNDER, ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS



TONIGHT'S PROGRAM



THURSDAY
AUGUST 27TH, 2026



7:00 PM – 11:00 PM



HOSTS
Toneal M. Jackson
& Angele Jackson

VIP HOUR | 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM



RED CARPET INTERVIEWS
Dorian H. Nash



DINNER

MAIN PROGRAM | 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM



PRAYER



WELCOME



HONORING THE PAST

- In Memoriam Tribute
- Special Recognition



CELEBRATING THE PRESENT

- Published Author Recognition
- Artistic Visionary of the Year



INSPIRING THE FUTURE

- Where Are They Now?
- APS Alumni Recognition



HONOR THE PAST. CELEBRATE THE PRESENT. INSPIRE THE FUTURE.



PART I

HONORING THE PAST

IN MEMORIAM

WE REMEMBER WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE,
OUR BELOVED APS ALUMNI WHO HAVE PASSED.

Dr. Yvonne Lee Wilson

Virginia Freelon

Sharon Lockhart

Mary Hale

Greg Kater

*Forever a part
of the APS story.*



ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS

THE LEGACY OF MARY *Hale*

FRIEND • AUTHOR • SUPPORTER • VISIONARY

Mary Hale was more than an award recipient—she was family, a constant encourager, and one of the biggest supporters of APS and its mission.

- ♥ A published author with APS, Mary released *The Speak to My Heart Series* and was featured in multiple anthology projects.
- ♥ A faithful supporter who was a part of virtually everything APS did.
- ♥ A recipient of **FIVE APS AWARDS**—the most in APS history.
- ♥ A woman whose impact reached beyond the page and the stage, touching lives, inspiring faith, and leaving a legacy that will never be forgotten.



Her legacy continues.

HER INFLUENCE. HER ENCOURAGEMENT. HER IMPACT.
FOREVER A PART OF THE APS STORY.

2026
APS LEGACY AWARD
Presented Posthumously

With deepest gratitude, we honor Mary Hale for her remarkable contributions to APS and the lives she touched.

THE
MARY HALE
MVP AWARD

Established in her honor to recognize and celebrate those who embody her spirit of excellence, encouragement, and heart.

Her legacy continues.



ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS

PART II

CELEBRATING THE PRESENT

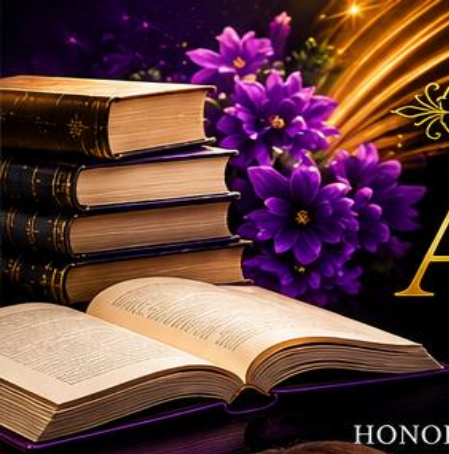
Recognizing the
creativity, commitment
and accomplishments
happening *now*.

PUBLISHED
AUTHOR
RECOGNITION

ARTISTIC
VISIONARY
OF THE YEAR

APS

ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS



PUBLISHED

AUTHOR *Recognition*

2025
2026

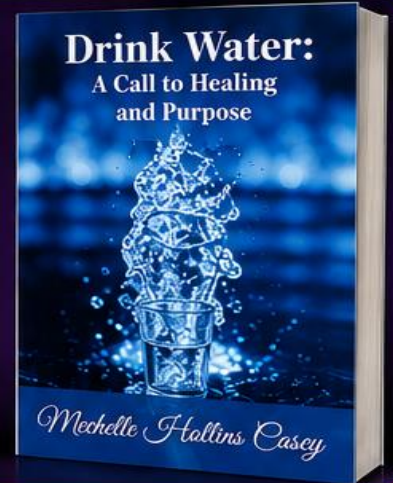
HONORING VOICES • CELEBRATING STORIES • IMPACTING LIVES



MECHELLE
CASEY

*Drink Water:
A Call to Healing
and Purpose*

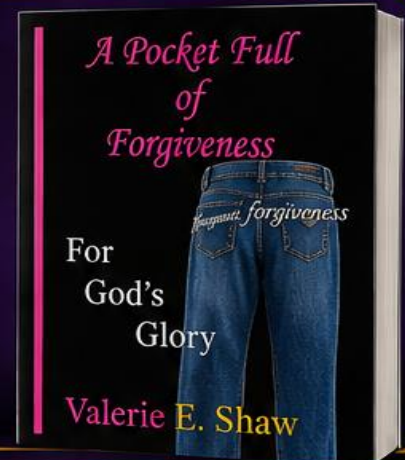
Published 2025



VALERIE E.
SHAW

*A Pocket Full
of Forgiveness*

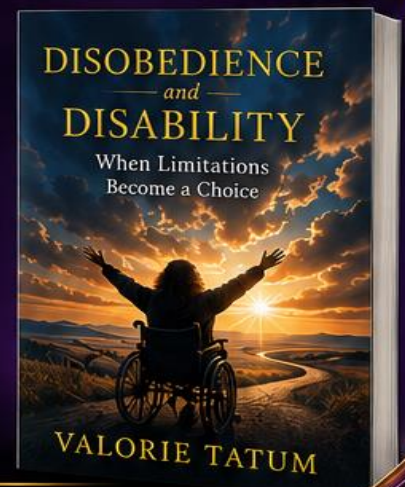
Published 2026



VALORIE
TATUM

*Disobedience
and Disability:
When Limitations
Become a Choice*

Published 2026



APS

ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS

*Words Heal.
Stories Change.
Legacies Live.*

ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS
— PRESENTS —

2026
ARTISTIC
VISIONARY
OF THE YEAR



Lady ReShell L. Matheny

FOUNDER, WARRIORS TALK INC.

A DECADE OF **ADVOCACY** • **EDUCATION** • **ACTION**

Recognizing her commitment to empowering individuals and communities through
• **BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AWARENESS,**
and the ongoing work of
WARRIORS TALK INC.

EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.
Inspire
CHANGE.



RAISING AWARENESS.
SPREADING HOPE.



PROVIDING EDUCATION.
SHARING RESOURCES.



EMPOWERING LIVES.
BUILDING STRONGER
COMMUNITIES.



PROMOTING HEALTHY
LIFESTYLES.
CHOOSING LIFE.



ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS

*Words Heal.
Stories Change.
Legacies Live.*

2026
SEASONED MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIP
— Recipient —

Honoring your passion.
Celebrating your journey.
Investing in your future.

You've lived
your life.
Now, live your
dream.

SONYA
Wilson
— PIANO —

“My mother R.I.P.
Always wanted me
to learn piano”.

”

🎵 Congratulations!



PART III

INSPIRING THE FUTURE



ARTISTS
PROMOTING
SUCCESS

WHERE ARE
THEY NOW?

*The awards were a moment.
The journey continued.*



129 AWARDS.



95 HONOREES.



7 YEARS.



1 LEGACY.

*Celebrating the journeys,
growth and continued impact
of the APS family.*



INSPIRING THE FUTURE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HONORING THE PAST. CELEBRATING THE PRESENT. INSPIRING THE FUTURE.

2017

Where It Began

The first APS Awards Gala established a powerful tradition of recognizing independent authors, bestsellers, MVPs and award-winning voices.

These trailblazers set the foundation for seven years of impact, inspiration and success.

Meet the 2017 APS Honorees

APS PUBLISHING AUTHORS



Valorie Tatum



Virginia Freedom



Nicole Harris



Debora Shannon



Dr. Yvonne Lee-Wilson



Autumn Jackson

APS MVPs



Aretha Tatum

APS BOOKS & MORE'S BESTSELLING AUTHORS



Nonfiction:
Dr. Karen January
Lessons Mama Never Taught Me



Fiction:
Chere'e Strong
The Lovely Melanin Club



Poetry:
Yvonne Bailey
Finding My Voice
Peace by Piece



Inspirational:
Jovan Roseboro
The Only One that Can Stop Me is Me



Children's:
Candace Edwards
I Love My Hair



Keith McSwain

MEET THE WINNERS OF THE 2017

Non-Fiction



Joreen Sykes
Dover, DE
4AM - 1st Place



Jules Johnson
College Park, GA
2nd Place



Fiction



Jeffery Roshell
Harvey, IL
1st Place



Inspirational



Rena Boston
Round Lake, IL
The Proverbs 31 Man and His Woman
1st Place



Aretha Tatum
Chicago, IL
2nd Place



34

2018

Building the Legacy

By year two, the vision was growing. New authors, artists and creatives joined the APS family as the annual gala continued creating a platform where independent talent could be seen, celebrated and encouraged.

Hosted by:
Terrance Leftridge
& Toneal M. Jackson



Red Carpet Hostess:
Lady Reshell Matheny



Join us for the 2018 APS Awards Gala
Thursday, August 23rd ~ 6:30-8:30pm

Chicago's Own DJ Al Greer



Special Music Guest:
Leah Odaro-Kwarten
with her new single,
He Worked It Out



APS Book Award-Winners



Dr. Janice Hooker-Fortman



Brenda Tucker-Jeffries



Michael Allen

APS Book Review of the Year Recipients



Joyce A.



Marsha



Autumn



Mary



Serina



Sherri



Valorie



Virginia



Yvonne



Mona



*Lisner

APS Publishing Authors

APS MVPs



Lisa Adams



Pastor Sandy Roberts



J. Stewart Willis



Whit Devereaux

INSPIRING THE FUTURE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HONORING THE PAST. CELEBRATING THE PRESENT. INSPIRING THE FUTURE.

A seven-year legacy of creativity, connection, impact and success.

2019
Expanding the Vision

Hosted by:
Aretha Tatum & Toneal M. Jackson



APS Book Review
of the Year Recipients



Thadiece
Perkins



Sir Walter
Jones

Artistic
Visionary
of the Year
Lorenzo Lewis



APS MVPs



Ora
Cannady



Melvin
Luckett



Join us for the 2019 APS Awards Gala
Thursday, August 22nd ~ 6:30-8:30pm

APS Book Award-Winners



Tamra Dillard



Bridgett McGill



Renee Nowlin



Veronica Lawrence



Barner Hill



Tonic Robinson



APS Publishing Authors



Debora
Shannon



Harriette
Patrick Barron



Irene
Smith

APS Writers Society



Mary
Hale



Oeinna
Jackson



Valorie
Tatum

APS continued to expand its reach—celebrating authors, artists
and creative voices making an impact through their work.

2020–2021
Enduring Through Change

Join us for the 5th Annual
APS Awards Gala

Hosted by... International Award-Winning Author & APS Founder, Toneal M. Jackson

Award-Winning Author & Filmmaker, Aretha "Ms. Respect" Tatum

ONLY \$60

Musical Guest: Matthew Long, Jr.

Thursday, August 26, 2021
The Atrium - 4151 183rd Street
Country Club Hills, IL
6:30-9pm

Dorian Nash
Red Carpet Hostess

Even through unprecedented change,
the mission continued—recognizing creativity,
resilience and impact.



INSPIRING THE FUTURE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HONORING THE PAST. CELEBRATING THE PRESENT. INSPIRING THE FUTURE.

A seven-year legacy of creativity, connection, impact and success.

2022

Momentum in Action

Join us for the 6th Annual APS Awards Gala

Hosted by...
Award-Winning Author & Filmmaker, Autumn Jackson
International Award-Winning Author & APS Founder, Toneal M. Jackson

ONLY \$60

Thursday, August 25, 2022
The Kroc Center
1250 W. 119th Street
Chicago, IL
7-9pm

With renewed purpose, APS continued to elevate voices, celebrate achievements, and inspire communities through creativity.

2023

Building. Growing. Impacting.

Join us for the 7th Annual APS Awards Gala
Thursday, August 24th at 6:30pm
Kroc Center (1250 W. 119th Street in Chicago)

Hosted by:
International Award-Winning Author & Filmmaker and APS Founder, Toneal M. Jackson

with Special Guest Presenters...
Matthew Long, Jr. CEO Chordmony Music
James Gordon 2022 Poet of the Year
Maurice Jones, Jr. 2022 Filmmaker of the Year

Together, we built on our foundation—growing with purpose, expanding our reach, and making a lasting impact.



THANK YOU

for celebrating with us



HONORING THE PAST.
CELEBRATING THE PRESENT.
INSPIRING THE FUTURE.



APS

ARTISTS PROMOTING SUCCESS



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER.

