

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Announcing
Keep A'Livin'

[San Francisco, CA] - **Aunt Lute Books is excited to announce the publication of Kathya Alexander's debut novel, *Keep A'Livin'*.** This novel-in-verse is a coming of age tale set during the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century. Readers will follow 12-year old Mandy and her mother, Belle, as they both experience the extraordinary events of the Civil Rights Movement, finding strength, fearlessness, and faith along the way. This beautifully lyrical novel will stick with you.

This beautifully lyrical novel will be released on April 2, 2024. <https://www.auntlute.com/keep-a-livin>

Praise for *Keep A'Livin'*:

“Keep A'Livin' is the earth-rattling, mind-rearranging story of a young woman named Mandy, her mother Belle, and their racial mix of ancestors. Set in 1960s Arkansas during one of the most difficult periods in our long-winding journey toward racial equity in the U.S., Mandy and Belle's lives are shaped by “fire and angels” as each matriarchal generation by backstory experiences extreme tragedy, which thrusts them into navigating a changed world. The book is a timely addition to the literary canon, providing a portal through which we are brought to our knees by what is so clearly wrong and not-so-clearly right about the story that is America.”

—*Paula Coomer, author of Dove Creek and Somebody Should Have Scolded the Girl*

“Kathya Alexander's vividly drawn novel-in-verse, *Keep A'Livin'*, traces an intimate, loving circle within an African American family, church and community, while portraying generational divides as the entire community confronts devastating racism in the rural South during the early '60s in the early Civil Rights Movement. Alexander brings us into the girl Mandy's exile of grief after the loss of her father, and her path to re-entering the world. Her mother faces hard choices without the support of her late husband, and the story unpacks fraught tensions and faith between mother and daughter. Their generational differences underline the dangers and triumphs for Black people in this time and point to how oppressive conditions have lifted or pervade today.

Alexander's narrative creates a fabric that we can wrap ourselves in—she uses metaphor with blade-like accuracy and tunes into the litanies available in daily speech, sermons, song and joking with a fine-tuned

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poet's ear. She knows the life and talk of this time--the whispers, the unspoken, the buried angers and younger generation bursting forth in the rural South of the '60s."

—*Beatrix Gates, author of The Burning Key, New & Selected Poems (1973-2023).*

Kathya Alexander is an author, playwright, storyteller, and teaching artist. She was a Writer-in-Residence at Hedgebrook Writer's Retreat and won the Fringe First Award for *Black to My Roots: African American Tales from the Head and the Heart* in Edinburgh, Scotland. Other awards include 4Culture, Office of Arts and Culture, Artist Trust, and Seattle Parks and Recreation. She has been published in *The Pitkin Review*, *Arkana Magazine*, *Pontoon Poetry*, *Colors NW Magazine*, the *South Seattle Emerald* and *Native Skin Magazine*, and in anthologies by the African American Writers Alliance and *Raising Lily Ledbetter: Women Poets Occupy the Workplace*. Her playwriting credits include *The Negro Passion Play*; *Black D*ck Matters*; *David & Jonathan: A Modern Day Retelling of the Biblical Story*; and *emotionalblackmale*. She is the author of *Angel In The Outhouse* and her debut novel, *Keep A'Livin'*, is scheduled for release in April.

[Aunt Lute Books](#) is an intersectional, feminist press dedicated to publishing literature by those who have been traditionally underrepresented in or excluded by the literary canon. Core to Aunt Lute's mission is the belief that the written word is critical to understanding and relating to each other as humans. Through the sharing of stories, we strengthen ties across cultures and experiences, and at the same time honor the hurt, loss, and harm incurred through structural power imbalances, prejudiced and gendered systems, and ancestral trauma. We uplift these voices in order to build a more just future.

Since 1982 we have published a number of well-known feminist authors, including Paula Gunn Allen, Gloria Anzaldúa, Judy Grahn, LeAnne Howe, Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, Audre Lorde, and Alice Walker. Aunt Lute titles include the first U.S. collection of Filipina/Filipina American women writers (*Babaylan*), the first collection of Southeast Asian women writers (*Our Feet Walk the Sky*), as well as a number of translated texts (most recently Rosa Montero's *Beautiful and Dark*). Our bestsellers include *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* and *The Cancer Journals: Special Edition*, titles used in classrooms throughout the U.S. and around the world.