

National Youth Foundation *Presents:*

Marian Spencer: A Light in the Darkness



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“I loved this book! It is beautifully written and illustrated by a group of talented young writers and artists. In *Marian Spencer: A Light in the Darkness*, we learn about Mrs. Spencer’s activism to combat segregation and discrimination. Along the way, the reader is reminded to shine their own light as they strive for equality and liberty.”

Sharon Robinson

Author

Daughter of Rachel and Jackie Robinson

Vice Chair of the Jackie Robinson Foundation Board of Directors

2019

Amazing Women's Edition Sponsors



OUR MISSION

The National Youth Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through creative educational programming. Our mission is to promote inclusion and equality, while helping young students develop their literary skills through academic and team building projects.

On June 28, 1920, an amazing thing happened! A small but bright light came into a world of darkness that needed faith and courage to light the way.



Marian Alexander Spencer was born and raised in the town of Gallipolis, Ohio in the home of her grandfather, a freed slave from West Virginia. Raised by her parents, she had a twin sister and two brothers.



Grandfather



Dad



Brother



Twin



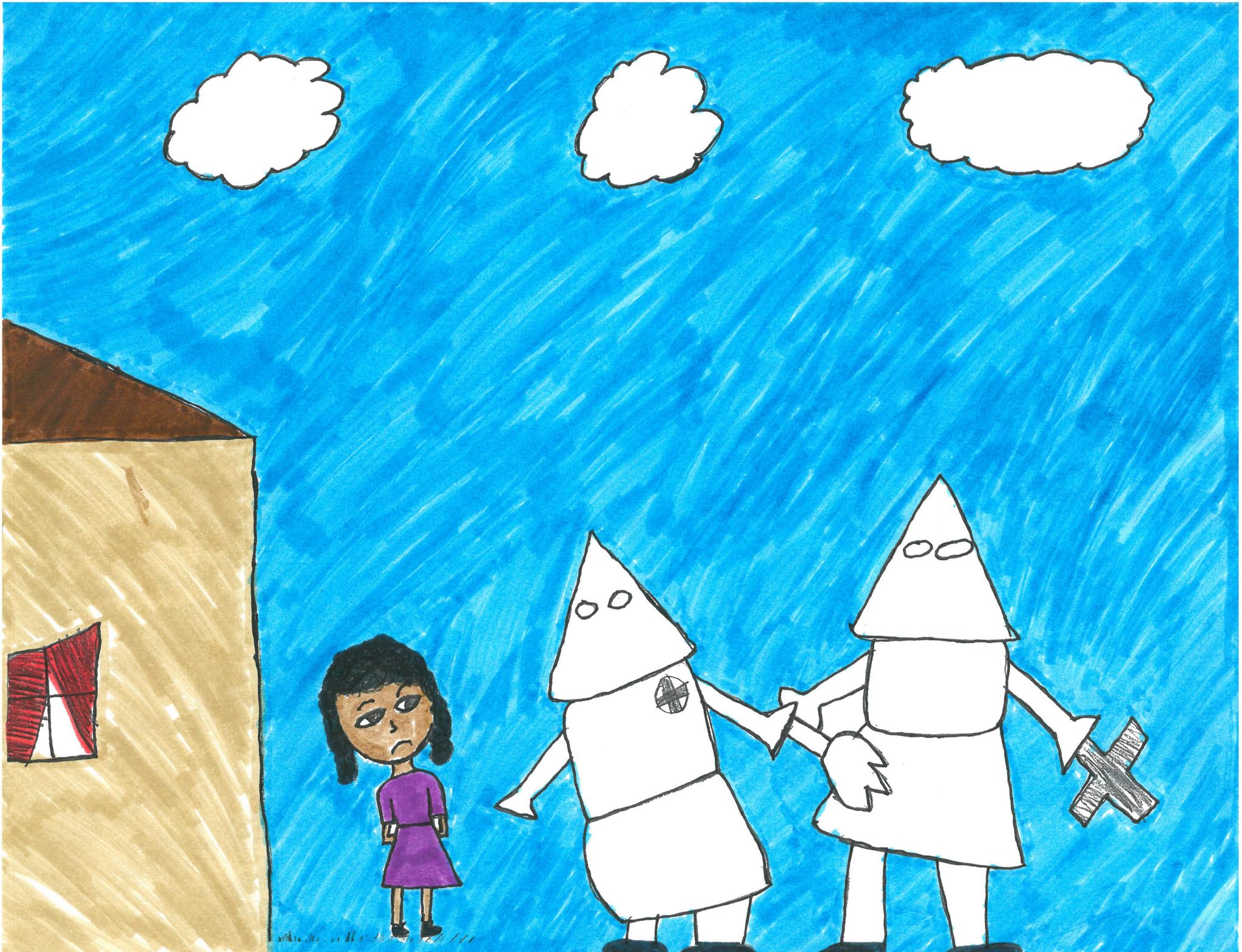
Marian



Mom



When she was young, she watched marches of the Ku Klux Klan in front of their home. She saw their hatred and darkness, and she knew her light was needed to shine love, that has no color, into their hearts.



At age 13, she decided to join the NAACP. She wanted to help others see the way to make a difference.

NAACP



Marian



Her grandfather inspired her to help others and always stand up for what is right.



She moved to Cincinnati where she went to the University of Cincinnati and earned a degree in English in 1942. Getting an education fueled her light to shine brighter.

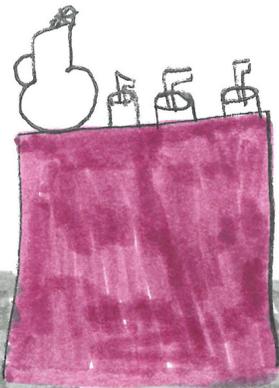
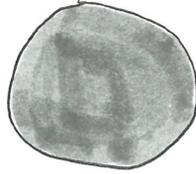
University of Cincinnati!



While she was in college, people of color were not allowed to participate in the school's prom. Marian shined her light and spoke out about this darkness.

IPPR0M!

○ No colored people allowed!



In 1940, she married Donald Spencer and had two sons.
Her husband was a Cincinnati teacher.



Marian spoke out about the segregation of the Cincinnati Public Schools. Many schools were not integrated. There were just “white schools” and “black schools.” Marian said, “Every child should at least have a chance to get a good education.”

Woodward

Taft



One day in 1952, she wanted to take her sons to Coney Island in Cincinnati. But when they got there, they were turned away by a guard holding a gun because of the color of their skin.

CONEY ISLAND



That was July 4th, a day celebrating our country's Independence. Marian knew that our country was founded on the belief that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."



All men
are created
equal

ALL men, ALL people, are created equal in our country,
not just some.



Marian had the courage to file a lawsuit and won, desegregating Coney Island. Marian's light shined through the darkness to reveal equality and liberty.



Marian continued over many years to fight for civil rights.
She inspired others to do the same.



She became the first elected president of the Woman's City Club, was president of the Links Incorporated, and served as a member of the University of Cincinnati's Board of Trustees.

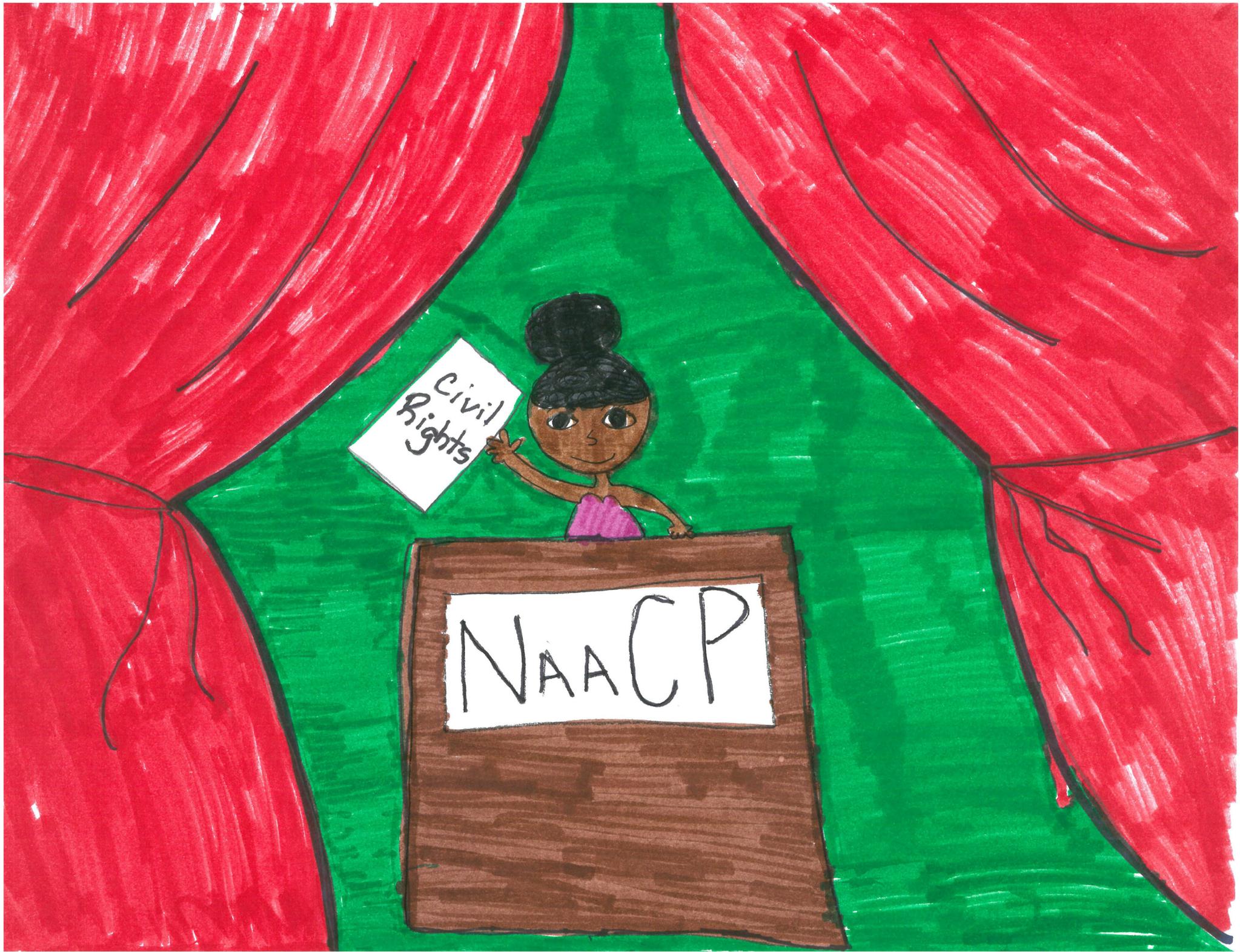
Women's
City
Club

U.C. Board
of
Trustees.

Links, Inc.



In 1981, she became the first female president of the Cincinnati branch NAACP. She also served as chairperson of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.



Civil Rights

NAACP

In 1983, Marian was the first African-American female elected to Cincinnati City Council and served as Vice Mayor. People saw Marian's light and wanted to help her shine!

CINCINNATI
CITY COUNCIL



Vice-Mayor
Spencer

Marian's light was recognized for the many things she did!

Cincinnati Enquirer
Woman of the Year Award!

Brotherhood Award
National Conference of
Christians and Jews

YWCA Career Woman
of Achievement Award

Humanitarian Award
Freedom Heritage Foundation



Marian still lives in Cincinnati. She continues to selflessly help others and is dedicated to making a difference.



That small, but bright light that came into a world of darkness grew into a powerful beacon that continues to inspire and light the way to truth, equality and justice for all people. Thank you, Marian Spencer!!!

MEET THE JUDGES



COURTNEY R. BANGHART
Princeton University Women's
Basketball Head Coach



ERIN FALLIGANT
Author, *A Smart Girl's Guide to
Getting it Together & The Legend
of the Shark Goddess*



DANIEL JAMES BROWN
Author, *The Boys in the Boat*



RUDINE SIMS BISHOP
Professor Emerita, Ohio State
University
Author
Winner: 2017 Coretta Scott
King/Virginia Hamilton Lifetime
Achievement Award (American
Library Association)

