

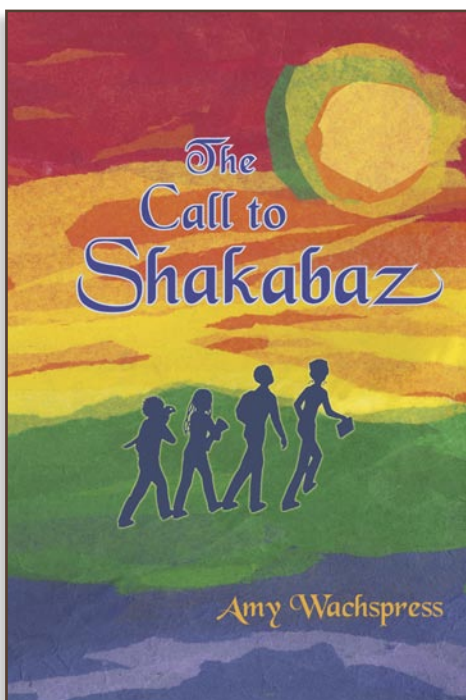
# The Call to Shakabaz

Amy Wachspress

## *A Fresh Voice In Familiar Territory*

With *The Call to Shakabaz*, Amy Wachspress brings a fresh voice to the familiar and popular territory of children's fantasy adventure. *The Call to Shakabaz* chronicles the adventures of four ordinary children (and their stubborn parrot) with an extraordinary destiny. Recently orphaned, Doshmisi (14), Denzel (13), Maia (11), and Sonjay (10) discover a carefully guarded family secret when they journey to the distant land of Faracadar on a mission to retrieve the powerful Staff of Shakabaz and free the land from the grip of the evil enchanter Sissrath. The story charts the growth of these four children as each discovers his or her personal gifts and learns how to use them to help others.

A humorous, imaginative, and thought-provoking story written for children ages nine to fourteen, *The Call to Shakabaz* embraces African American cultural constructs, values, idioms, and language. It steps outside the ordinary and invites the reader to follow, requiring children to confront tough issues, such as how to build cross-cultural bridges, value everyone at the table for their contribution, develop sustainable energy sources, preserve essential species and ecosystems at risk, honor our artists and musicians for revitalizing us with their creativity, and recognize the essential importance of spirituality in everyday life. *The Call to Shakabaz* challenges our children—our future leaders—to struggle with difficult questions, which must be answered if we hope to make the lasting earthly peace on which our survival depends.



“Amy fills *The Call to Shakabaz* with so many vivid descriptions that it feels as if you are right there sharing the adventure. You will love this book.”

—Gabriela, age fourteen

“Amy captivated my class for hours reading *The Call to Shakabaz* aloud. Her unusual climactic battle scene teaches a thought-provoking lesson in peaceful conflict resolution. When she completed “The Battle of Truth” chapter, my students burst into applause.”

—Chris, sixth-grade teacher

“It is a challenge to get my eight-year-old to read, but he rushed me upstairs each night to read *The Call to Shakabaz*. I enjoyed the book as much as he did. It portrays modern children facing modern issues, showing us a way to save our own world while they save theirs.”

—Daniel, parent

“This delightful, dazzling story offers a colorful picture of nature intertwined with fantasy and magic. I can't wait to read it aloud to my children at school.”

—Marie, K-6 school librarian



# The Call to Shakabaz

by Amy Wachspress

## About the Author

**Amy Wachspress** holds a bachelor's degree in English and Drama (magna cum laude) and a master's degree in English Language and Literature. She has read aloud to children daily for over twenty-five years. Formerly an administrator in the Head Start program, she now writes federal grants for cities, counties, school districts, museums, libraries, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations nationwide. She has raised over \$50 million in grant funds for initiatives that benefit children and families, particularly those experiencing discrimination and economic oppression. Amy is married to Ron Reed, also known as "DJ" Reed, who spins three weekly radio shows featuring R&B, Soul, Funk, Gospel, Blues, and Jazz. Amy and Ron have raised three gifted multi-cultural children on a remote forty acres of forest in rural northern California.

"I wrote *The Call to Shakabaz*," Wachspress says, "because I wanted to inspire children to think about peaceful solutions to conflict on both the personal level and the global level. I saw thousands of children march to prevent and then later to protest the war on Iraq during 2003. This story is a tribute to those children and the many others who are wiser than our world leaders. Also, since so many of the classic fantasy adventure stories for children are set in a British cultural context, I wanted to write a thoroughly American fantasy adventure. In addition, I wanted to write a book set in an African American cultural context. Although this story will appeal to many different children, I wrote it especially for African American children who long to see themselves reflected in the books they read and love."



*The Call to Shakabaz*

Amy Wachspress, M.A.

Published by Woza Books

Classification: Juvenile Fantasy/Adventure

ISBN 978-0-9788350-2-6 • Paper 6 × 9 • 272 pages • \$15.50

Reading Level: Flesch-Kincaid 6.5

Interest Level: Grades 4–9

Availability: Bookstores, Woza Books at [www.wozabooks.com](http://www.wozabooks.com), Baker & Taylor, and Rayve Productions  
(800) 852-4890 • For further information contact Woza Books, (707) 468-4118

As part of the Green Press Initiative, *The Call to Shakabaz* is printed on 100% recycled paper.