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PRESS RELEASE

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Warm Up to Winter READfest for Adults in 2002

Chase away winter chills by taking in some reading thrills as the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County presents its first annual Winter READfest for Adults. If you're 18 years or older, simply pick up a READfest packet at the Main Library or any branch and begin reading on or after January 2, 2002. You may also sign up at the end of December by visiting the Library's web site at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

Read or listen to any book. For each title you finish, complete an entry form found in the packet. Return completed entries to your Library by March 31, 2002.

Reading is its own reward, but thanks to the Friends of the Public Library, now there is even more incentive to read. Through Friends support, each location will have a prize drawing, plus all entries will be eligible for a Grand Prize drawing for a \$250 bookstore gift certificate.

Madeline Graves Knows the Value of Reading and Books

Madeline Graves of Walnut Hills thinks of the library as a dose of medicine. "Life gives you a prescription (question), and you go to the Library and they fill it," she said recently. "If you have a need for knowledge, the Library has the answer."

Although Mrs. Graves has lived in Walnut Hills for 45 years, she grew up in Virginia and West Virginia. Her first memories of going to the library date to high school. "Librarians and libraries were treated with respect," she said. "You respected what the library stood for and what it meant. People were quiet, and you could hear a pin drop. I'm thankful and grateful to have my library card—the best thing about it is that it's free!"

Mrs. Graves is very active in her community, and in particular Calvary United Methodist Church. "I pass on the knowledge that I get from books," she continued. "When you need the answer to something, you can always find it at the library. Books have touched and enriched my life, and I hope to instill those same feelings and

knowledge in the children I work with at my church. One of the things I try to teach them is that the library is FREE. You can spend hours there and it doesn't cost you one cent."

"I love the library and in particular, the Walnut Hills Branch. The staff at the Walnut Hills Branch are more than librarians to me—they're my friends. When I used to work downtown, I would spend my lunch hour looking for books at the Main Library. Now my friends at the branch look for books on things I like. I want to meet people and find out about skills and learn new talents and use them." She recently finished reading *How to Work a Room* by Susan RoAnne, and for the past two years has been taking piano lessons. "I'm 73 years old but I don't think you're ever too old to learn new things," she said.

"If people from babies to seniors would come to know that the library is like a national treasure, we could all find enjoyment out of life. Whatever you need or are trying to find, the library has the answer."

The Maher Family of Covedale Are Lifetime Readers

George Maher is a firm believer in the benefits of reading. Over 75 years ago, he and his older brother would roller skate from their home in Mt. Adams to the Main Library downtown. Today, at the age of 86, while he may not skate to his neighborhood branch, he still makes it a habit to stop by several times a week with his wife Martha.

"I love my library," he said recently at the Covedale Branch, located at 4980 Glenway Avenue. "When I was ten years old I began my trips to town and the Main Library. There I enjoyed the children's books, especially the *Sekretary Hawkins* series by Robert F. Schullers. I remember that there were four public telephones in the lobby where you could make five-cent phone calls. We would always check to see if there were any nickels. Sometimes we'd go over to Graeter's for a ginger ale, then take the incline back home."

"The staff at the Covedale Branch is great," he said. "While I don't visit the Main Library anymore, I can at least make it to my local branch. Shakespeare once wrote 'The evil that one does lives after him. The good is oft interred within his bones.' The staff at the branch is keeping me 86 years young with their TLC. For this I am extremely grateful."

The Broadnax Family Likes Personal Touch of Their Local Branch

Earl and Bettie Broadnax wouldn't trade their Bond Hill Branch Library for any other branch, and there are 40 more from which to choose. "Bond Hill is our favorite," said Mr. Broadnax. "We've never had a bad librarian or experience here, and we have lived in the neighborhood since 1967. We like the personal touch we get when we come here."

Both grew up in the West End, and used the Dayton Street Branch and the sub-branch that was in Laurel Homes. "I think the introduction of videos, CDs, books-on-tape, and DVDs has really brought people back to their local library," said Mr. Broadnax. "I really love the books-on-tape," said Mrs. Broadnax. "I have a variety of reading interests that range from mysteries and action books to historical fiction and nonfiction. Having the book-on-tape allows me to catch up on my reading while I'm at work or in the car."

The parents of four boys and two girls, who regularly took their children to the library, they now find themselves bringing their grandchildren to the branch. "One of the best things going is the Calendar of Events that I can pick up every month at the branch," continued Mr. Broadnax. "It allows me to pick and choose from hundreds of programs that I can take my grandkids to, and the best thing is, it's all free. You couldn't ask for anything better than that."

Hadsell Family Uses Library Extensively in Home Schooling

The Hadsell Family of St. Bernard has been using their neighborhood branch for nine years now. Steve and Stacey are the parents of two boys, Tanner, who is 13, and Hunter, age 8. A homeschooler, Mrs. Hadsell loves the fact that she can get the books she needs with her collection card.

"The staff is wonderful and very helpful with the different things I need," she said. "They even make suggestions for me, based on the kinds of books I've checked out in the past. I also take advantage of ordering books through CINCH, the online catalog. It makes my job much easier as a parent and teacher."

Steve recently presented the branch with a stained glass wall hanging that he made using a book and video which he checked out from the branch. "I learned a new hobby, and wanted to show my appreciation to the staff," he said.

Darryl Daniels Enjoys West End Branch

Darryl Daniels, a native of Cincinnati, has been a regular library user since he was in grade school. “I love to read,” he said. “Although I live in Camp Washington, I regularly use the West End Branch and the Main Library, since I work at Taft High School. I’m a big fan of history, and I have a lot of other interests that are esoteric—but I can always find what I want at my local branch. ”

Because staff at the West End Branch know the kinds of books he likes, they are continually recommending new books that come in. “They make suggestions and are always willing to help. I’m surprised but delighted with the variety of reading material I can find there. It’s one of the friendliest places to visit.”

Library Welcomes Your Comments During READfest

During winter READfest for Adults, the Public Library invites you to submit your comments about a suggested read or books you like to read, your personal book reviews, and your stories and/or comments about using your local library. A special section on the web page, which will be available at the end of December, will be available. Check us out at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

LINKS COPY

First Winter READfest for Adults Underway

As the cold winds blow and snow begins to fall, there’s nothing more inviting than curling up with a good book. During the Public Library’s first annual Winter READfest for Adults, check out the hottest titles plus earn chances to win prizes.

It’s easy to participate. If you’re 18 years or older, simply pick up a READfest packet at the Main Library or any branch and begin reading on or after January 2, 2002. (You may also sign up by visiting the Library’s web site at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.) Read or listen to any book. For each title you finish, complete an entry form found in the packet. Return completed entries to your Library by March 31, 2002.

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Read, Recommend, Read Some More

During *Winter READfest for Adults*, the Public Library invites you to submit your comments about a suggested read, your favorite titles, or personal book reviews, as well as stories and/or comments about using your neighborhood library. Check out the Library’s special READfest

web page at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org to give us your rap on reading or take in what others have to say.