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PRESS RELEASE

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEATURES DIVERSE PROGRAMMING

Poet Nikki Giovanni to Open Series at Main Library February 2

As part of its commitment to present diverse programming for the community, The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County will commemorate Black History Month with a **Live! @ your Library: Making Change**, a series of programs and workshops for adults and teens.

The programs will use the medium of poetry to express feelings, concerns, and ideas on race and race issues. Acclaimed African-American poet Nikki Giovanni will open the series with a lecture and poetry reading on Saturday, February 2 in the Main Library Atrium at 2:30 p.m., followed by a program on Sunday, February 17 with Herbert Woodward Martin, Poet-in-Residence at the University of Dayton and co-editor of a new book on distinguished poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. The series will conclude with two workshops for teens featuring Candace Roseman that will provide opportunities for young adults to explore and express their thoughts on race relations in Cincinnati.

POETRY READING
with Nikki Giovanni

- Main Library, 800 Vine Street, 369-6945
  Saturday, February 2, 2:30 p.m.

Yolanda Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, and raised in Ohio. In 1960, she entered Fisk University, where she worked with the school's Writer's Workshop and edited the literary magazine. After receiving her B.A., she returned to Ohio where she organized the Black Arts Festival in Cincinnati before entering graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania.

In her first two poetry collections, *Black Feeling, Black Talk* (1968) and *Black Judgement* (1969), Giovanni reflects on the African American identity. Her most recent works are *Blues for All the Changes: New Poems* (1999), *Love Poems* (1997) and *Selected Poems of*

Nikki Giovanni (1996). During her career, she has earned numerous honors including the NAACP Image Award for Literature in 1998, and the Langston Hughes award for Distinguished Contributions to Arts and Letters in 1996. In addition, several magazines (including *Essence*, *Mademoiselle*, and *Ladies Home Journal*) have named Giovanni Woman of the Year. Currently, she is Professor of English and Gloria D. Smith Professor of Black Studies at Virginia Tech.

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR: THE EYES OF A POET
with Dr. Herbert Woodward Martin

- Main Library, 800 Vine Street, 369-6945
  Sunday, February 17, 2:00 p.m.

Growing up in Birmingham, Alabama, Herbert Martin's classmates taunted him when he read aloud Paul Laurence Dunbar's poetry. Despite that, Martin, who bore an uncanny resemblance to Dunbar, became an expert on the Dayton native and the first black American to achieve national eminence as a poet. Because the schoolchildren had to memorize Dunbar's works, "they took out their dislike for poetry on me," remembers Martin.

Now himself a poet, Martin hears only applause when he reads Dunbar's work today. Dressed in a turn-of-the-century morning coat and striped trousers, Martin "borrows" Dunbar's voice to bring the poet's verse to life. At times, he exhibits the spiritual frenzy of a black preacher in a folk sermon. During other moments, he delivers Dunbar's humorous refrains with the rat-a-tat speed and perfect timing of a successful late-night TV comedian. Juggling two "acting" engagements per week on top of his teaching load in the University's English Department, Martin has taken his one-man show around the state to schools, libraries, and clubs.

POETIC SELF EXPRESSION FOR TEENS WORKSHOPS
with Candace Roseman

- Bond Hill Branch Library, 1703 Dale Road, 369-4445
  Wednesday, February 6, 6:00 p.m. (workshop) and February 20, 6:00 p.m. (Teen Poetry Night)

- Main Library, 800 Vine Street, 369-6918
  Tuesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. (workshop) and February 26, 7:00 p.m. (Teen Poetry Night)

This workshop introduces teens to poetic expression with interactive games, exercises and activities. Each teen will create a poem with audiovisual tools that will record each participant's writings, allowing the instructor to translate them into written format.

Candace Roseman has taught Super Saturday programs for younger children in narrative story writing. A former features and reviews freelance writer for *The Cincinnati*

Enquirer, she has also designed promotional materials for clients. In addition as Arts & Education Director for the Arts Consortium, she has been involved in all types of programming design, implementation, and execution.

LIVE! @ your Library is an initiative of the American Library Association, with major support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund and additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Library Program Fund. For more information on these programs and others to be held at the Library during Black History Month, visit www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

✔Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.

✔Interpreter available upon request for the hearing impaired. Please call 369-6944 (TDD 369-6946) at least one week before program.