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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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December 29, 2002

Commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday and Black History Month at the Public Library

Celebrate Martin Luther King's Legacy

Share in a variety of free programs and cultural activities honoring civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as the many African-Americans whose accomplishments helped shape today's society. Be a part of the commemoration of Dr. King's birthday on January 20 and Black History Month throughout February... at the Library.

Happy Birthday Martin Luther King, Jr.- Have some cake and some inspiration, too! Join us on Monday, January 20 for a special birthday celebration honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Children's Learning Center at the Main Library. This fun tribute begins at 1:00 p.m. with a showing of the colorful video, *Martin's Big Words*, for grades K-7. Emphasizing King's immortal "big words" from his youth and on, the video is based on the picture book biography, *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Bryan Collier. Whether reading the book or watching the video, King's famous quotes remind us all that his words are very much alive today. Kids can remember the day and the "dream" by posting their own dreams on a cloud. Cincinnati's very own Bucket Boyz will also drum up some amazing thundering rhythms on five-gallon bins and buckets at 2:00 p.m.

Readings of *Martin's Big Words*, stories, make and take crafts, and other fun activities, including a Black Film Festival, pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. at various branches as well. Check with your local library branch and the program section or "What's New" at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org to see what's happening nearest you.

Bryan Collier, the nationally acclaimed illustrator of *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, will demonstrate his art techniques at the Main Library on Tuesday, February 4 at 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Collier received the Coretta Scott King Honor for *Freedom River*, written by Doreen Rappaport, and won it again for his own book, *Uptown*. At the age of 15, he began creating artwork in his signature style, a combination of collage and watercolor. In illustrating the life of Dr. King, Collier's inventive style comes alive through a montage of patterns and textures. "I wanted to bring a fresh spin to a story that's been told many times."

The Legacy Continues ...

Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth will be at the Main Library on January 20 from 2:30–3:30 p.m. to sign *A Fire You Can't Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth* by Andrew Manis. The book is a compelling true-life story chronicling some of the greatest battles of the civil rights movement and the "fiery" heroics of the man Martin Luther King, Jr. called "one of the nation's most courageous freedom fighters." Prior to his book signing the Reverend will be at Music Hall as the keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition's annual program.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition Chorale will perform at the Main Library on Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m. as a special tribute to Dr. King. The coalition chorale is a diverse group of over 120 singers made up of men and women from various ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Black Roots: A Panel of Researchers Share Secrets of Their Success will be held at the Main Library on Saturday, February 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the Huenefeld Tower Room, third floor. Hosted by the History & Genealogy Department, this panel of avid researchers will share their own experiences and personal techniques for overcoming obstacles when conducting African American research and genealogy. Sponsored by the Dorothy M.M. Kersten Fund.

The National African American Read-In Chain will connect at the Public Library on Sunday, February 2 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Along with special guest Michelle Hopkins of WLWT-TV5 and over a million readers nationwide, come to the Main Library to be part of the 14th annual National African American Read-In Chain. Anyone can participate by reading a book written by an African American author. Sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English, the reading chain is one of America's largest and most significant.

Journey Through Black History, a special lecture sponsored by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center featuring Keith Griffler, Assistant Professor of African American Studies at the University of Cincinnati, will be presented at the Main Library on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Library Resources

African American History at the Public Library

Years before African-American history was taught at most universities and when most public libraries only carried African American history books at their “black branches,” the Public Library had a significant collection at its Main Library. Today the library boasts one of the strongest African-American history collections in the state, if not the U.S. Materials range from children’s books, African-American almanacs and encyclopedias to research sources used by scholars. Part of every department in the Library, the extensive collection offers information on African-American history through books, microfilm, CD ROM, audio and video tapes, as well as DVDs.

Among the special sources available at the Library are:

- Plantation Records on 1,634 reels of microfilm, including slave registers, family groups, descriptions of slaves, freedom papers, runaway advertisements
- *Black Biography*, the most complete index to African American biographical dictionaries with full text of 297 works, covering nearly 31,000 names
- African-American magazines and newspapers with current and historical coverage, including Index to Black Periodicals (1950-present)
- *Histories of African-American military regiments* as well as record of the US Colored Troops from the Civil War
- Historical materials on African-Americans in Cincinnati
- Genealogies of African-American families
- *International Dictionary of Black Composers*
- *Blacks in American Film and Television: An Encyclopedia*
- The WPA slave narratives, interviews during the Great Depression with former slaves
- *African-American Firsts in Science and Technology*
- Selected titles from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Plus, Civil Rights Research on microfilm in Government & Business:

- Papers of the NAACP, including the Voting Rights Campaign, Scottsboro trials and monitoring of Ku Klux Klan activities
- FBI files on Martin Luther King, the Black Panther Party, Jessie Jackson, Paul Robeson, and the National Negro Congress
- Records of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Civil rights during the Kennedy Administration, the Johnson Administration and President Truman’s Committee on Civil Rights
- *Federal Surveillance of Afro-Americans*
- *New Deal Agencies and Black Americans*

The Library also offers several suggested reading lists including:

- *Family History Resources at the Public Library.*

- *African American Lives on Video*
- *African American Fiction Writers: A Selected List*
- *Just Like Me: African American Novels for Teens*

Book on African-American literature in the Literature & Languages Department include:

- *The Oxford Companion to African-American Literature.*
William L. Andrews, Frances Smith Foster, Trudier Harris, editors
New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- *The Schomburg Center Guide to Black Literature*
Roger M. Valade III, editor
Detroit: Gale Research, 1996.
- *Black Literature Criticism*
James P. Draper, editor
Detroit: Gale Research, 1992.

Imagemaker Awards Exhibit Inspiration

To celebrate excellence in the African-American community a photo exhibit and profiles of recipients of the 13th annual **Imagemaker Lifetime Achiever and Reach for the Stars! Emerging Leader Awards** will be displayed at the Main Library in the Atrium during Black History Month. Created in 1989 by *Applause! Magazine*, the awards are given to African-Americans who have made a significant impact in their chosen field and influenced the Greater Cincinnati Community by their contributions. Anyone is encouraged to come view the exhibit to honor and support these emerging leaders as well as those recognized for dedicating a lifetime to bettering our community.

Celebrations on Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

(Programs are for all ages unless otherwise noted.)

Stories, Crafts & Activities featuring a *Black Film Festival*.

12:00-5:00 p.m.

West End Branch Library, 805 Ezzard Charles Drive, 369-6026

Remember the Dream: Films about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

12:30 p.m., Ages 7 & up

Walnut Hills Branch Library, 2533 Kemper Lane, 369-6053

Stories & Crafts

1:30 p.m.

Madeira Branch Library, 7200 Miami Avenue, 369-6028

Stories & Crafts

2:00 p.m., Ages 3 & up

Cheviot Branch Library, 3711 Robb Avenue, 369-6015

Stories & Crafts featuring a special performance by the Bucket Boyz.

2:00 p.m.

Children's Learning Center – Main Library, 800 Vine Street, 369-6922

Stories, Activities & Snacks

2:00 p.m.

Norwood Branch Library, 4325 Montgomery Road, 369-6037

Stories & Crafts

2:00 p.m.

Reading Branch Library, 9001 Reading Road, 369-4465

Stories & Crafts

2:00 p.m., Ages 6-10

Westwood Branch Library, 3345 Epworth Avenue, 369-4474

A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.: Make & Take Crafts

2:30 p.m.

Avondale Branch Library, 3566 Reading Road, 369-4440

Family Storytime

3:00 p.m.

Madisonville Branch Library, 4830 Whetsel Avenue, 369-6029

Stories & Crafts

3:00 p.m.

Pleasant Ridge Branch Library, 6233 Montgomery Road, 369-4488

Stories, Activities & Snacks

4:00 p.m., Ages 6-12

Northside Branch Library, 4219 Hamilton Avenue, 369-4449

Celebrate the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

5:00-7:00 p.m., Ages 6-9 & Ages 12-17 (two groups)

Bond Hill Branch Library, 1703 Dale Road, 369-4445

Programs made possible by the Friends of the Public Library.

Other Programs for Black History Month:

The Children's Learning Center at the Main Library will feature Omope Daboiku in an *African Stories* program for their Super Saturday series on Saturday, January 25, 2:00 p.m. The *African Story Vine* will also be featured during Super Saturdays throughout

the month of February at 2:00 p.m. The African Story Vine grew out of an ancient African tradition where a storyteller would travel from village to village and choose an object from a tree or vine, then focus on it through storytelling.

- Bond Hill Branch, 1703 Dale Road, is featuring *Profiles in African-American History* presented by Precious de la Bay on Tuesday, February 18 at 5:00 p.m. for all ages. It will also host *Black History Trivia* for teens on Monday, February 3 at 4:00 p.m.
- Corryville Branch, 2802 Vine Street, is featuring Annie Ruth presenting programs for kids and teens. The first one is part of the Corryville New Music Review, *Whatcha Gotta Say?: Rapping with Annie Ruth*; on Thursday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m. for all ages. She will also host *What's the Word?: Interactive Poetry, Song & Storytelling* on Saturday, February 15 at 10:00 a.m. for all ages.
- Deer Park, 3936 E. Galbraith Rd. (Dillonvale Shopping Center) is featuring *Katherine Dunham's African-American Dance Techniques* with Jeanne Speier on Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. for ages 10 & up.
- Forest Park Branch, 655 Waycross Road, is featuring *African-American Heritage Stories & Crafts* for parents & children ages 5 & up on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. They are also hosting *An Evening with Catherine Coffin & Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Costumed Interpretation* with by Joyce Baer and Betsy Miskell on Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. for ages 8 & up.
- Walnut Hills Branch, 2533 Kemper Lane, is featuring *Black History Bingo* on Tuesday, February 4 at 4:00 p.m., ages 6 & up; *Maasai Pendant Making* on Tuesday, February 11 at 3:30 p.m., ages 6 & up; *Black History T-Shirt Factory* (bring a plain white t-shirt) on Tuesday, February 18 at 3:30 p.m., ages 6 & up; *Black History Time Capsule* on Tuesday, February 25 at 4:00 p.m., ages 6 & up; and *Profiles in African-American History* with Precious de la Bay on Saturday, February 1 at 11:00 a.m. for ages 12 & up.

- West End Branch, 805 Ezzard Charles Drive, is featuring *Profiles in African-American History* with Precious de la Bay on Thursday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. for ages 9-12.
 - Westwood Branch, 3345 Epworth Avenue, is also featuring *Profiles in African-American History* with Precious de la Bay on Saturday, February 22 at 3:00 p.m. for ages 11 & up.
 - At Wyoming Branch, 500 Springfield Pike, *I Have a Dream: Celebrating the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* will be held on Wednesday, February 5 at 4:00 p.m. for ages 5-11.
- ✓ **Keep an eye on “What’s New” at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org for information on what’s happening at the Public Library during Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Black History Month.**