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Kids Clown Around, Have Fun & Read!

- The Public Library Partners with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus on Reading Incentive Program (January 24 – February 18)
- Circus Poster Exhibit at Main Library (January 5 – February 6)

For the first time Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey is partnering with the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to help encourage children to hit the books through the *Three Ring Reading Club*. The main goal of the Reading Club is to help motivate children to explore the wonders of reading. It's exciting. It's fun. And, it's rewarding.

Here's how it works: From January 24 – February 18, boys and girls through age 12 can sign up at the Main Library or any of the Library's 41 branch locations. After they read one book they will receive a Ringling Bros. sticker. When they've read their second book, they enter "ring one" and get a Ringling Bros. bookmark. After their third book, they move to "ring two" and take home a plastic clown nose. Once they read four books, they make it to "the center ring."

Free Circus tickets: In addition to prizes awarded for each book read, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey will reward participants who enter the "center ring" with a FREE voucher ticket to a weekday performance of "The Greatest Show On Earth" when it plays the U.S. Bank Arena, March 2-6. The free ticket will be good for either March 2 (7:30 p.m.) or March 3 (10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m.).

A special exhibit of early 20th century circus posters, printed by the Cincinnati lithography firm of Strobridge from the Art & Music Department collection, will be on view in the Main Library atrium during this reading encouragement program. In addition, a variety of circus-related programs will be offered at selected library locations. For more information, keep your eye on the "What's New" section of our website www.CincinnatiLibrary.org. - more -

Circus Poster Exhibit: The circus is coming to the Main Library! From January 5 through February 6, an exhibit of turn-of-the-century circus posters produced by the Strobridge Lithography Company will be on display in the Atrium of the Main Library. On exhibit will be a selection of vibrant posters produced to promote traveling circuses, including the Ringling Bros. Circus and the Barnum & Bailey Circus. Each poster showcases an exciting circus act, including acrobats, magicians, animals, and clowns. The Art & Music Department has a large collection of posters from this local business, which was a leading printer of circus, theatrical, and outdoor advertising posters in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Photo Caption: A portion of an early 20th century Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey poster produced by the Strobridge Litho Company of Cincinnati & New York.

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