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Press
Release

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The Knights Templar, the Freemasons, and The Da Vinci Code

Three Programs to Be Presented on March 3 & 21; April 5

The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown is among the most successful published works in the last ten years. The book, which hit the shelves nearly two years ago, has been on the *New York Times Bestseller List* ever since, in hardback and premium illustrated hardback editions. More than 20,000,000 copies of the book, in multiple languages, are in print.

Was the Knights Templar founded to find and then preserve a history changing secret? Is the world's oldest fraternity, The Freemasons, a direct descendant of the Knights of the Crusades? Join Donald Crews, reference librarian at the Delhi Township Branch Library and a Past Master of Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2, as he endeavors to shed some light on this controversial novel, the *Da Vinci Code*, and its claims about the Knights Templar and The Freemasons. Three programs will be presented:

- Thursday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.: Anderson Branch Library, 7450 State Road (513) 369-6030.
- Monday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.: Greenhills Branch Library, 7 Endicott Street, (513) 369-4441
- Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 p.m.: Cincinnati Masonic Library, 317 E. 5th Street (downtown)

“The book has been incredibly popular. It has led to the creation of a sub-genre of books about the book. It is almost irresistible as a topic for library discussion,” said Mr. Crews. “With a keen interest in Freemasonry and the Knights Templar, the area on which I chose to concentrate seemed obvious. The book paints a particular picture of both the Templars and the

Masons. The relationship between *The Da Vinci Code's* depiction of these groups and their depiction in other sources is the main thrust of the lecture.”

While it is a work of fiction, the author purports much of it to be true. Because the book touches on some of the most basic beliefs of the Christian church and history, it has caused excitement and controversy. The premise of the story is that a secret order exists to protect an “earth shattering” secret. Murder, codes and ciphers, as well as chases through Paris and London, serve as a backdrop to the story as the secret is revealed.

The lecture created by Mr. Crews deals with the Knights Templar, not the Masonic order but the religious order of the Crusades, as they are described in the book. Freemasonry has a smaller role, though statements are made about the fraternity in the book. It is cosponsored by the Library and the Cincinnati Masonic Library.

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

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4406 (TTY 369-4409).**