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Press
Release

April 26, 2005

The Godfather Returns to the Main Library
Meet Author Mark Winegardner - Thursday, May 19

Ohio native Mark Winegardner has emerged as the year's literary Don with *The Godfather Returns*, an intuitive and complex sequel to Mario Puzo's Corleone saga. Even before Winegardner was chosen from an international competition by Random House Publishers and the Mario Puzo family to write *The Godfather Returns*, he gave us uniquely American literature about the stuff of legends.

Celebrate the extraordinary achievements of this gifted writer during a free forum presented in partnership with The Ohio Humanities Council and The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County Foundation. As part of the Council's 2005 Ohio Forum series, the forum is making its rounds in major metropolitan areas across the state and will be held here in Cincinnati at the Main Library Atrium, 800 Vine Street, on Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. (please use the Walnut Street entrance).

Anyone can request free tickets to the forum, which features a discussion and follow-up book signing. Space is limited and tickets will be mailed out on a first-come, first-serve basis. Prior to the forum, a special VIP reception will be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Huenefeld Tower Room, (south building, 3rd Floor). Tickets for the reception are \$25 per individual or \$40 per couple. For tickets or information call (513) 369-4595.

Mark Winegardner was born and raised in Bryan, Ohio, where his parents owned an RV dealership. Every summer he traveled with his family in a motor home across the U.S. By age 15, he had visited 48 states. A graduate of Miami University, he went on to receive an M.A. in fiction writing from George Mason University. At age 26, he published his first book. Mr. Winegardner has won grants, fellowships and residencies from the Ohio Arts Council, the Lilly Endowment, the Ragdale Foundation, the Sewanee Writers Conference and the Corporation of Yaddo. *The New York Times Book Review*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, and the New York Public Library have chosen his books as among the best of the year. His work has appeared in numerous publications and as Distinguished Stories of the Year in *The Best American Short Stories*. He has taught at Miami, George Mason, George Washington, and John Carroll universities, and is now a professor in the creative writing program at Florida State University.

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✓ **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).**

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