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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**Press Release**

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January 16, 2006

## Celebrate Women Writers with Three Area Authors

**Share in the Multicultural Experiences of Andrea Cheng**, who teaches English as a Second Language in Cincinnati, where she lives with her husband and their three children. Ms. Cheng is the daughter of Hungarian Jewish immigrants and grew up among extended family members, many of whom survived the Holocaust. Her family spoke mostly Hungarian at home. Her novel, *Marika*, is loosely based on her mother's story. Ms. Cheng attended Cornell University where she studied intensive Chinese. She then married a Chinese American, himself the son of immigrants. Another of her novels, *Honeysuckle House*, is based in part on the experiences of her children.

From the author's perspective, Ms. Cheng's latest book, *Shanghai Messenger*, combines two experiences. "In 1968, when I was 11 years old, I traveled from Ohio to Hungary by myself to visit my relatives. I had never met my cousins, aunts or uncles before. Xiao Mei's feelings, in *Shanghai Messenger*, are similar to the way I remember feeling—excited, scared, and curious. In 1997, I traveled to Shanghai, China, with my husband and our three children to meet my husband's extended family. Most of the scenes in *Shanghai Messenger* come from our stay there with my husband's aunts, uncles, and cousins. Xiao Mei is modeled on Jane, my older daughter, who was 11 at the time of our trip. Like most of my books, this one draws heavily on both my experience and that of my children."

Andrea Cheng will discuss her latest novel, *Shanghai Messenger* on:

### Wednesday, February 1

- 10:00 a.m.: Westwood Branch, 3345 Epworth Avenue
- 1:00 p.m.: Deer Park Branch, 3936 E. Galbraith Road

### Thursday, February 2

- 10:00 a.m.: Monfort Heights Branch, 3825 West Fork Road
- 1:00 p.m.: Pleasant Ridge Branch, 6233 Montgomery Road

### Friday, February 3

- 10:00 a.m.: Corryville Branch, 2802 Vine Street
- 1:00 p.m.: Cheviot Branch, 3711 Robb Avenue

**Follow the Underground Railroad with Ann Hagedorn**, who moved to Ripley, Ohio from her home in New York City to research and write her book, *Beyond the River*. Her book tells the true story of those who worked on the front lines of the Underground Railroad along the Ohio River, especially the men and women who lived in Ripley. Ripley's historic area is little changed from antebellum days.

Ms. Hagedorn graduated from Denison University and earned degrees from the University of Michigan and Columbia University, and has been a staff writer for several newspapers including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Daily News*. Ms. Hagedorn has taught narrative nonfiction at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She is the author of two other books, *Wild Ride: The Rise and Tragic Fall of Calumet Farm, Inc.* and *Ransom: The Untold Story of International Kidnapping*.

Ann Hagedorn will discuss *Beyond the River* on:

**Wednesday, February 22**

- 4:00–5:30 p.m.: (Teacher Session), CET, 1223 Central Parkway, 345-6566
- 7:00 p.m.: Main Library—Atrium, 800 Vine Street, 369-6945

**Be Curious About Curious George with Louise Borden** whose curiosity about the story behind a fictitious monkey, who has long captured the imagination of children around the globe, became a decade-long quest. It started in 1995, when Ms. Borden read a mention in a magazine about how Margaret and H.A. Rey, German Jews who created *Curious George*, fled from the Nazis during World War II. The Reys' escaped on bicycle, while carrying their manuscript that would one day become one of the most beloved children's books of all time and one that would be found on the shelves of most libraries.

The children's author from Cincinnati found herself on a journey that led her to Paris, and eventually to a French chateau, where *Curious George* was written. She retraced the 66 miles the couple rode on bicycle. After learning that the Reys had saved many documents about their experience, including a daily journal kept by Mr. Rey, Ms. Borden felt she had enough material to make the story into an intriguing book, *The Journey That Saved Curious George*.

Louise Borden has lived most of her life in Ohio. Growing up in an old house on a steep street, she attended a small elementary school called Lotspeich. She remembers that "there, all the marvelous shelves of books in the library shaped me into a lifelong reader. So it is a thrill for me to know that some of my books are being read by children in other libraries all over the country." Before she became a full-time writer and speaker, she taught preschoolers and first graders and was even a part owner of a bookstore in Cincinnati. She has written many books, including collaborations with illustrator Ted Lewin, that include *America Is...*, *The Day Eddie Met the Author*, *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*, *Sleds on Boston Common*, *A. Lincoln and Me*, *Good Luck, Charles Lindbergh*, and many others.

Louise Borden will discuss *The Journey That Saved Curious George* on:

**Wednesday, March 1**

- 10:00 a.m.: Reading Branch, 9001 Reading Road
- 1:00 p.m.: Mariemont Branch, 3810 Pocahontas Avenue

**Thursday, March 2**

- 10:00 a.m.: Corryville Branch, 2802 Vine Street
- 1:00 p.m.: Hyde Park, 2747 Erie Avenue

**Looking Forward Through Herstory**

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the U.S. president has issued a proclamation. This year's theme is *Looking Forward Through Herstory*. During this time, the Library will be hosting women authors at a variety of locations.

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**