



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2071
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant PR Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Fax (513) 369-4565
Phyllis.Hegner@CincinnatiLibrary.org

Richard Helmes
Press Officer
Phone (513) 369-6959
Fax (513) 369-4565
Rick.Helmes@CincinnatiLibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

January 4, 2007

African American Series Focuses on Community for Black History Month

February is Black History Month and a time to celebrate community. This year the Public Library's History & Genealogy Department will host a three-part lecture series highlighting African American communities throughout history. The programs will take place at the Main Library (800 Vine Street) in the Huenefeld Tower Room (South Building, 3rd floor).

Saturdays in February at 2:00 p.m.

- o **February 3: Developing the Genealogy of an African American Community: A Case Study**--Frequently, local histories fail to record accounts of African American communities. Nationally renowned speaker and researcher, Timothy Pinnick, uses genealogical records to uncover the forgotten past. He will present methods for developing a research strategy, collecting and recording information, and constructing a database that reveals migration patterns, identifies family relationships, and establishes community history.
- o **February 10: Cincinnati's Black Community in the Pre-Civil War Era**--Faced with a hostile city environment and a state constitution that denied African Americans citizenship, early nineteenth century Cincinnati Blacks developed a strong sense of community. Dr. Nikki Taylor, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati, Fulbright Fellowship and Mellon Grant recipient, and author of *Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati's Black Community, 1802-68*, explores the process by which former slaves developed political self-respect and self-determination.
- o **February 17: Cincinnati's Black Owned Businesses: Back in the Day**--During the pre-integration decades of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, Cincinnati was the home to scores of thriving Black-owned businesses in clearly defined African American communities. Several of these entrepreneurs became local leaders and gained national prominence. Hasker Nelson, founder/president of Heritage Research Creations, award-winning journalist, and author of *Listening For Our Past: A Lay Guide To African American Oral History Interviewing*, will deliver a multi-media presentation on these community leaders.

Also offered by the History & Genealogy Department:

Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Tools of the Trade for African American Genealogy: This introduction to African American family history demonstrates research techniques and key resources. Participants are encouraged to remain after the class and conduct research in the History & Genealogy Department, one of the nation's top genealogical repositories.
Main Library, Huenefeld Tower Room

African American Community History Resources: The Library is the proud owner of one of the oldest and largest African American history collections in the U.S. These resources provide a glimpse into the history of African American communities across the nation. Highlights include records from the Freedmen's Bureau, African American Baptist Church, and Ante-Bellum Plantations, as well as regimental histories of African American soldiers and genealogies of African American families.

In addition, the Library features many local resources, such as those listed below:

- o *The Black Brigade of Cincinnati* (1864)
- o *Cincinnati's Colored Citizens: Historical, Sociological and Biographical* (1926)
- o *Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati's Black Community, 1802–1868*
- o *A Hairdresser's Experience in High Life* (1859)
- o *Race and the City: Work, Community, and Protest in Cincinnati, 1820–1970*
- o Online Resources: *Voices from Cincinnati's Past: Eliza Potter* focuses on Cincinnati in the 1840s through the eyes of Eliza Potter, a successful African American businesswoman, who distinguished herself by "dressing hair." This multi-media digital exhibit, first presented during Tall Stacks, is based on Ms. Potter's autobiography. www.cincinnati.library.org/tallstacks/voices/

Black History Month Programs for All Ages

Guess Who? Celebrate Black History Month all through February! Test your knowledge and identify the photographs of famous African Americans! Ages 12-up

- o Thursday, February 1, Noon – 6:00 p.m.: Corryville Branch Library, 2802 Vine Street, (513) 369-6034

African-American Read-In: Books by African-American authors

- o Monday, February 5, Noon-8:00 p.m.: Corryville Branch Library, 2806 Vine Street, (513) 369-6034
- o Monday, February 5, 3:00-4:00 p.m.: West End Branch Library, 805 Ezzard Charles Drive, (513) 369-6026

African-American Biography Films

- o Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27, 4:00 p.m.: Madisonville Branch Library, 4830 Whetsel Avenue, (513) 369-6029

Yoruban Drums & Dances with Michael Oladipo Oludare

- o Thursday, February 8, 4:00 p.m., Green Township Branch Library, 6525 Bridgetown Road, (513) 369-6095
- o Saturday, February 10, 11:00 a.m., Symmes Township Branch Library, 11850 Enyart Road, (513) 369-6001
- o Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 p.m., Wyoming Branch Library, 500 Springfield Pike, (513) 369-6014

Get Crafty! Make a Freedom Collage, all ages

- o Friday, February 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m.: College Hill Branch Library, 1400 W. North Bend Rd., (513) 369-6036

Black History Month Jazz Concert: Alfred Beasley, aka Tony Blakey & the Nu' Jazz Messengers for all ages

- o Saturday, February 10, 2:00 p.m.: Main Library—Atrium, 800 Vine Street, (513) 369-6900

Rhythms & Dances of West Africa with Bi-Okoto Drum & Dance Theatre

- o Saturday, February 10, 2:00 p.m., Forest Park Branch Library, 655 Waycross Road, (513) 369-4476

An Evening of Jazz with Jammell Howard

- o Monday, February 12, 6:00-7:30 p.m. West End Branch Library, 805 Ezzard Charles Drive, (513) 369-6026

On the Road to Kenya with Bobby Briggs, all ages

- o Tuesday, February 13, 2:00 p.m.: Walnut Hills Branch Library, 2533 Kemper Lane, (513) 369-6053

Soul Food, Succotash & Sauerkraut: Learn how local Native Americans cooperated with African Americans (and even German Americans) before the Civil War through stories, music and artifacts with Ginny Frazier, ages 8 & up

- o Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.: Westwood Branch Library, 3345 Epworth Avenue, (513) 369-4474

Afternoon Activity: Celebrate Black History Month! Ages 6 & up

- o Wednesday, February 14, 4:00 p.m.: Bond Hill Branch Library, 1703 Dale Road, (513) 369-4445

4 Teens Only: String of Beads: Learn the significance of various African beads and create a string for yourself with Nancy Chase, ages 12-18

- o Friday, February 16, 2:00 p.m.: Bond Hill Branch Library, 1703 Dale Road, (513) 369-4445

Yoruban Folktales with Michael Oladipo Oludare

- o Saturday, February 17, 10:30 a.m., Pleasant Ridge Branch Library, 6233 Montgomery Road, (513) 369-4488

African Heritage Afternoon: Create an African Vase with Maxine David, all ages

- o Saturday, February 17, 2:00 p.m.: Oakley Branch Library, 4033 Gilmore Avenue, (513) 369-6038

Bi-Okoto Dance & Drum Theatre, all ages

- o Saturday, February 17, 3:30 p.m.: Oakley Branch Library, 4033 Gilmore Avenue, (513) 369-6038

Movie Time! A Movie about Rosa Parks (not rated), ages 8 & up

- o Monday, February 19, 2:30 p.m.: College Hill Branch Library, 1400 W. North Bend Road, (513) 369-6036

African American Biography Films, all ages

- o Tuesday, February 20, 4:00 p.m.: Madisonville Branch Library, 4830 Whetsel Avenue, (513) 369-6029

Afternoon Activity: Celebrate Black History Month! ages 6 & up

- o Wednesday, February 21 & 28, 4:00 p.m.: Bond Hill Branch Library, 1703 Dale Road, (513) 369-4445

Read to Reel Movie: Selma, Lord, Selma (rated TV-PG) based on the book by Sheyann Webb & Rachel West, ages 9 & up

- o Wednesday, February 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m.: Westwood Branch Library, 3345 Epworth Avenue, (513) 369-4474

African American Art with the Cincinnati Art Museum, sponsored by the Art For Life Initiative, all ages

- o Saturday, February 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m.: Forest Park Branch Library, 655 Waycross Road, 369-4478

✓ **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 369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**