CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING’S LEGACY
Share in a variety of free programs and cultural activities honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as the many African-Americans whose accomplishments helped shape today’s society. Be a part of the commemoration of Dr. King’s birthday on January 20 and Black History Month throughout February ... at the Library.
Bryan Collier, the nationally acclaimed illustrator of Martin's Big Words, will demonstrate his art techniques at the Main Library on Tuesday, February 4 at 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Collier received the Coretta Scott King Honor for Freedom River, written by Doreen Rappaport, and won it again for his own book, Uptown. At the age of 15, he began creating artwork in his signature style, a combination of collage and watercolor. In illustrating the life of Dr. King, Collier’s inventive style comes alive through a montage of patterns and textures. “I wanted to bring a fresh spin to a story that’s been told many times.”

The Legacy Continues ...

Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth will be at the Main Library on January 20 from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. to sign A Fire You Can’t Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham’s Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth by Andrew Manis. The book is a compelling true-life story chronicling some of the greatest battles of the civil rights movement and the “fiery” heroics of the man Martin Luther King, Jr. called “one of the nation’s most courageous freedom fighters.” Prior to his book signing the Reverend will be at Music Hall as the keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition’s annual program.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition Chorale will perform at the Main Library on Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m. as a special tribute to Dr. King. The coalition chorale is a diverse group of over 120 singers made up of men and women from various ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Black Roots: A Panel of Researchers Share Secrets of Their Success will be held at the Main Library on Saturday, February 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the Huenefeld Tower Room, third floor. Hosted by the History & Genealogy Department, this panel of avid researchers will share their own experiences and personal techniques for overcoming obstacles when conducting African American research and genealogy.

“Journey Through Black History,” a special lecture sponsored by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center featuring Keith Griffler, Assistant Professor of African American Studies at the University of Cincinnati, will be presented at the Main Library on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is no wonder that we all take our Library for granted. Started on March 14, 1853, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has been providing the best in library service for 150 years. This makes our Library one of the oldest in the country. In fact, according to Russell Ash, author of *Top Ten of Everything*, there are only three cities that established public libraries earlier than Cincinnati: Peterboro, NH; Boston, MA; and New Orleans, LA. It is astonishing to realize that our early community leaders recognized the need for a public library and set about establishing one far ahead of many major cities in other parts of the country. This progressive vision gave our Library a boost that has continued to propel it to the forefront of Library service. So many years later, Hamilton County residents are still demonstrating the value they place on the services of the Library. Usage of the Library system continues to grow keeping it among the highest circulating libraries in the country, despite a decline in the area’s population.

Over the 150 years there has been tremendous change, both in our society and in the Library. A library employee from the 1850s would find a few familiar items in today’s library but much more that is different. While books are still the core of our collection, new materials have been added and older, outdated materials dropped. At one time the Library circulated an extensive collection of stereoscopic slides. Enormously popular, these slides no longer circulate, although the collection has been preserved. Services to children, instituted as a new idea in 1900, are now a basic library service enjoyed by several generations of area children. Bookmobile service, once the way to serve a more remote, less mobile population, began to decline many years ago and was finally discontinued in the 1990s. Many Library customers recall their early bookmobile experiences with great fondness and nostalgia, remembering the excitement and anticipation the bookmobile visit caused. Internet access, first available at the Library in 1997, is now one of the most heavily used of all Library services, providing free access to fee-based online reference resources at every Library location and from home, school, or workplace with a Library card. A librarian from the 1850s could not begin to imagine the impact these changes would have on the Library.

To celebrate this remarkable anniversary a book documenting the Library’s history will become available in late January. *Free & Public* tells the story of the Library and the community in an interesting and entertaining style. Written by noted author John Fleischman, *Free & Public* is filled with fascinating historical photographs. Additional photographs and historical information will be on the Library’s web page. An exciting program to be held on March 15 will celebrate the date the Library was established. While we celebrate the past we are also looking to the future. We remain committed to providing our community with excellent and innovative Library service as we look forward to our next 150 years. Be healthy, wealthy, and wise in 2003 by taking advantage of all the valuable services offered at your Public Library.

Kimber L. Fender, Executive Director
WHAT’S NEW

AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN CHAIN
The National African American Read-In Chain will connect at the Public Library on Sunday, February 2 from 4:00–5:00 p.m. Along with special guest Michelle Hopkins of WLWT-TV5 and over a million readers nationwide, come to the Main Library to be part of the chain. Anyone can participate by reading a book written by an African American author. Sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English, the reading chain is one of America’s largest and most significant.

IMAGEMAKER AWARDS EXHIBIT INSPIRATION
To celebrate excellence in the African American community a photo exhibit and profiles of recipients of the 13th Annual Imagemaker Lifetime Achiever and Emerging Leader Awards will be displayed at the Main Library in the Atrium during Black History Month. Created in 1989 by Applause! Magazine, the awards are given to African Americans who have made a difference in their chosen fields and positively influenced the Greater Cincinnati Community by their contributions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TEDDY: 100 Years with the Teddy Bear
The Teddy Bear, named after President Theodore Roosevelt because he spared the life of an orphaned cub on a 1902 hunting trip, has served as a loyal companion for many a child at bedtime and naptime—and teatime, too—for a century. When remembering the teddy bear you grew up with you may think of one whose fur was worn thin by hugs. Your teddy may have been dressed as a favorite nursery-rhyme character. Or, perhaps you were encouraged early on to collect Steiff or Gund bears and have amassed a closet full. Now through February 28, the Art & Music Department at the Main Library will display cuddly examples of bears from past to present. This historic exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear is a chance to relive your childhood, while taking a closer look at how these adorable toy creatures evolved into one of America’s favorite novelties.

“NOVELS AT NOON” AT THE MAIN LIBRARY
For those who enjoy reading and discussing contemporary fiction, satisfy your hunger by indulging in “Novels at Noon.” Join members of the Fiction Department on the first Monday of every month at 12 noon to discuss your favorite contemporary fiction and open your mind to something new. Come to Room 3B on the third floor of the Main Library. Bring your lunch, we’ll provide dessert! Upcoming selections:
- January - Montana, 1948 by Larry Watson
- February - Donna Woolfolk Cross, author of Pope Joan, will join us by phone! Learn firsthand how the novel was researched and written and how it’s being adapted to screen.
- March - Since it’s Academy Awards month along with our selection, Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Ruth Wells, be prepared for popcorn and Ju-Ju Bees!
- April - The Fourth Hand by John Irving
- May - Empress of the Splendid Season by Oscar Hijuelos
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AT THE LIBRARY

Years before African American history was taught at most universities and when most public libraries only carried African American history books at their “black branches,” the Public Library had a significant collection at its Main Library. Today the Library boasts one of the strongest African American history collections in the state, if not the U.S. Materials range from children’s books, African American almanacs and encyclopedias to research sources used by scholars. Part of every department in the Library, the extensive collection offers information on African American history through books, microfilm, CD-ROM, audio and video tapes, as well as DVDs.

Among the special sources available at the Library are:

- Plantation records on 1,634 reels of microfilm, including slave registers, family groups, descriptions of slaves, freedom papers, runaway advertisements
- *Black Biography 1790–1950*, the most complete index to African American biographical dictionaries with full text of 297 works, covering nearly 31,000 names
- African American magazines and newspapers with current and historical coverage, including *Index to Black Periodicals* (1950–present)
- Histories of African American military regiments as well as record of the U.S. Colored Troops from the Civil War
- Historical materials on African Americans in Cincinnati
- Genealogies of African American families
- *International Dictionary of Black Composers*
- *Blacks in American Film and Television: An Encyclopedia*
- The WPA slave narratives, interviews during the Great Depression with former slaves
- *African American Firsts in Science and Technology*
- Selected titles from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Plus, Civil Rights Research on microfilm in the Government & Business Department:

- Papers of the NAACP, including the Voting Rights Campaign, Scottsboro trials, and monitoring of Ku Klux Klan activities
- FBI files on Martin Luther King, the Black Panther Party, Jesse Jackson, Paul Robeson, and the National Negro Congress
- Records of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- Civil rights during the Kennedy Administration, the Johnson Administration, and President Truman’s Committee on Civil Rights
- Federal Surveillance of Afro-Americans
- New Deal Agencies and Black Americans

The Library also offers several suggested reading lists including:

- *Family History Resources at the Public Library*
- *African American Lives on Video*
- *African American Fiction Writers: A Selected List*
- *Just Like Me: African American Novels for Teens*

Keep an eye on “What’s New” at [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org) for information on Black History Month and resources at the Library.
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The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is deeply grateful for the generosity of our community and welcomes gifts of all sizes. Your donations are essential to ensuring delivery of excellent Library service and availability of the widest possible range of informational resources for all ages. For any inquiries regarding contributions, please contact Sera Williams, Development Director, 513-369-4591.

**Gifts to the Library**

An Anonymous donor has offered a gift of up to $100,000 for the expansion of the Clifton Branch Library into the storefront next to the current rental space on Ludlow Avenue.

**Save the Libraries Fund**

- Shirley A. Rothfeld
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Michael J. Battoclette, Senior Principal of Champlin/Haupt Architects, Inc., presents a check for $1,500 to Executive Director Kimber L. Fender for support of the book to be published in commemoration of the Library’s 150th Anniversary.
THANKS TO...

GIFTS TO RARE BOOKS
Charles Fleischmann
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COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS
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Richard & Phyllis Crawford in memory of Norman "Bud" Schweitzer.

Estelle Reisinger in memory of Charles Weast.

L. Patton Davis in memory of Betty Rellaham.


Charles Fleischmann donated *The Writings of Mark Twain*, a 35-volume set of the works of Samuel Clemens published from 1922–25, to the Library. With its signature "S.L. Clemens, Mark Twain," in Volume 1 it is an important addition to the Clemens collection in the Rare Books & Special Collection Department.

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Addie Johnson
Jeanette & George Scanlon
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Johnston Paper
Harold Huber
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Hatting’s SuperMarket
Bridgetown Finer Meats
Colerain High School

GIFTS OF MATERIALS
Fred Leymann
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Cincinnati Kennel Club
Mona Anna Mailhes
Owen Knight
Allen W. Bernard
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Ruth Davis

David Seymore, Manager of the Colerain Wal-Mart, presents a $1,000 check to Kathy Scahill, Literacy Coordinator for the Library, to support literacy in the community.

Mrs. Julius Schild in honor of Harry Hoffheimer’s birthday.

Ashley Rankin, a fourth grade student at Loveland Elementary School, started a fundraiser this fall to benefit the Library. She organized a readathon where she and fellow classmates secured pledges of $1.00 for each chapter they read. On October 22, Ashley’s class presented a check for $246 to Loveland Branch Manager Rosemary Ogg. Pictured are, from the left, Loveland Elementary teacher Brandy Carter, student Ashley Rankin, and Loveland Branch Manager Rosemary Ogg.
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Linda Seiter, Chuck Brown & Elliott in memory of Jackie Gruer & Gail Fiebig’s dog Roxie.

Marcia & Paul Hendrick in memory of Jeannette Diehl’s dog Rusty Ann.

Betsy & Paul Ott in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Evans’ dogs Miller and Bentley.

Robin Lippelman & John Mezaraups in memory of Andrea Lippelman’s cat Barney and Nancy Roach & Theo Feig’s cat Mario.

Joe & Mary Jo McKibben in memory of their dog Dottie.

The Langhorst Family in memory of Jim & Joyce Hibbard’s dog Elsa.

Kathy Lang in memory of Janice Lee’s dog Cassie.

Donna Mattingly in memory of Dianne Bohmer’s dog Murphy B.

Patti, Renie, Melissa, Robin, Diane & Cathy in memory of The Kirkpatrick Family’s dog Cleo.

Ann & Robert Wesner in memory of Sue Pearson’s dog Scout.

Kuliga Dog Training Club in memory of Ron Brockhoff’s Becca.

Miami Animal Hospital in memory of Jan Morrill’s cat Jingles.

Donald Fought in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fought, Sr.’s dog Trouble.

Michelle Browning in memory of Cynthia Whitt-Covalcine’s dogs Sophie and Emma.

Jo Carroll in memory of Ray Simonson’s cat Babycat.

For the second consecutive year, the Westwood Woman’s Garden Club decorated the Community Christmas Tree at the Main Library. Assisting were, from left to right: O. C. Cordes, Diane Barth, Mary Gardner, Nancy Schlemmer, and Caroline Bruckmann.
ANNUAL FUND

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THREE BRANCH LIBRARIES RECEIVE AWARDS

Norwood Branch Renovation Receives Preservation Award—The Public Library was a winner of a Cincinnati Preservation Association 2002 Preservation Award for the extensive renovation completed in 2001 of the Norwood Branch Library. The second of nine Carnegie libraries built in Hamilton County, the Norwood Branch was completed in 1907 and is an example of the Italian Renaissance style. These awards are given every year to the most outstanding projects that contribute to historic preservation in the Greater Cincinnati area. The award was presented at the Preservation Association’s annual meeting on November 10, held at Memorial Hall.

Harrison Branch Library Selected for Cincinnati Design Award—For the past six years the AIA Cincinnati (a Chapter of the American Institute of Architects), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Cincinnati/Dayton City Center, and the Society of Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD) Midwest Ohio Region have joined together to celebrate and reward the best in regional environmental design at the Annual Cincinnati Design Awards (CDA). This year, the Harrison Branch Library was among those recognized at the CDA when the building’s architects, Champlin/Haupt, received an Honor Award for Built Work for this project. This year’s nineteen award winning CDA entries will be showcased in a traveling exhibit that will open in January at the Main Library and then move to the Carew Tower Lobby and the Museum Center Rotunda.

Westwood Branch Expansion Receives National Recognition—Moody/Nolan Ltd., Inc., architects for Westwood Branch Library expansion, recently captured a Merit Award from the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). The award was announced at NOMA’s Annual Meeting held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. When the $1.9 million expanded and remodeled Westwood Branch Library was unveiled to the public on June 8, 2002, the 1930s style of the original building was retained while addressing the needs of 21st century users. With its beautiful Spanish Mission architecture, stone fireplace, balcony above the circulation desk, and solid oak shelving and trim, the branch is known for its unique décor and warmth, making it an inviting retreat for avid readers.

CLEARANCE-1/2 PRICE USED BOOK SALE — JANUARY 23–26 AT FRIENDS’ WAREHOUSE

The entire collection of materials—over 100,000 books, CDs, cassettes, and videos—will be available for purchase at the Friends of the Public Library’s seventh annual Clearance-1/2 Price Used Book Sale from January 24–26. A Preview Sale for Friends’ members will take place on Thursday, January 23 from 6:00–8:00 p.m.

All categories of books will be available for purchase. There will also be a limited number of encyclopedia sets available. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Public Library in many ways by providing funds for special programming for children and adults; supporting the summer reading program and annual author events; and purchasing rare and valuable items for the collection not available through regular funding.

Sale Hours:
Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 12:00–4:00 p.m.
For additional information, contact the Warehouse at (513) 369-6035.
PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 2003 “ON THE SAME PAGE”

Planning for the next installment of “On the Same Page,” Cincinnati’s citywide reading program is currently underway. Once again, the Library is partnering with Cincinnati Magazine, The Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati Public Schools, WCET48, and Joseph-Beth Booksellers to build upon the success of our first program this past spring. During that initial effort, Ernest J. Gaines’ A Lesson Before Dying was the title used to foster a community dialogue about books, reading, and community issues, with impressive results: the book was the Library’s highest circulating title for four months, and more than 5,000 local residents participated in programs and discussions. New to the 2003 program is the addition of a title for younger readers: Marika by Andrea Cheng. Ms. Cheng is a local author, and her novel relates the story of a young Hungarian girl coming to grips with her Jewish heritage. Title selection for the adult title is still underway, with an announcement of the selected title slated for early 2003.

PASSPORT SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

Beginning January 2, area residents will have one more reason to come to the Main Library. That’s when the Library will begin processing passport applications as the newest member of the State Department’s Passport Application Acceptance Program. The Library joins a network of state, county, township, and municipal offices and governmental units that serve as official application acceptance facilities. Because of its convenient service hours and excellent customer service, the Library is an outstanding place to provide this vital national service to U.S. citizens. As a member of the State Department’s Passport Application Acceptance Program, the Library will:

- provide passport applications and information materials
- record and verify customers’ identification
- review applications for completeness
- ensure customers submit proper photos, citizenship documentation, and fees
- administer oath and witness signatures
- forward applications to the State Department on a timely basis

Administered by the Public Documents & Patents Department at the Main Library, passport applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., and by appointment only on Sundays, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and Saturdays. A special phone line has been set up to field phone inquiries (369-6976), and a new page: (http://passports.cincinnatilibrary.org) has been added to the Library’s web site with information about the application process and what applicants need to submit, hours of operation, and links to a variety of passport-related government resources. Standard government application fees will apply; the Library will retain the execution fee of $30.00 charged by all agencies that accept applications.

LIBRARY NEWS

Author Andrea Cheng and her mother, Mary Kartal, who served as an inspiration for her moving novel Marika.
Mysteries and Suspense

Savage Run
by C. J. Box
In his second outing (after Open Season), Wyoming game warden Joe Picket is faced with a violent conflict between ecoterrorists and local ranchers. Can the competent but often bumbling warden rise to the occasion? The western setting, the appealing hero, and the balanced exploration of the environmental issues make for a fine mystery.

Vertical Burn
by Earl Emerson
With companies out battling a number of small fires around the city, Seattle's firefighters are undermanned when a skyscraper goes up in flames. Jack Finney of Company 10 thinks this is a bit too coincidental, but before he can prove his conspiracy theory, he'll have to avoid being set up for the crimes and arrested for arson in this blazing thriller.

Bad Seed: An Alex Bernier Mystery
by Beth Saulnier
Reporter Alex Bernier is covering a convention of genetic scientists when one of them, a woman passionately committed to using genetically modified crops to feed the world, is killed. Alex resolves to find her murderer, but suspects range from international protestors to colleagues and family. Alex is a great new series character, spirited, witty, and smart.

Ghost Warrior
by Lucia St. Clair Robson
Veteran historical novelist Robson recounts the last desperate years of the Indian wars in the Southwest through the eyes of Lozen, an Apache woman warrior and shaman who fought beside Geromino, and of fictional frontiersman Rafe Collins. Her unsentimental yet compassionate look at both sides of the conflict is the latest of her marvelous historical portraits.

Historical Fiction

Gallows Thief
by Bernard Cornwell
Rider Sandman, a British officer who has had to sell his commission and now lives in a squalid London tavern, agrees to investigate the case of a convicted murderer. It takes him even deeper into London's filthy alleys—and its dirty politics. The author of the Richard Sharpe novels offers an unusually gritty view of Regency England in this new historical series.

The Broken Lands: A Novel of Arctic Disaster
by Robert Edric
The doomed Arctic expedition of 1845, in which Sir John Franklin and his party searched for the Northwest Passage, receives a stirring fictional treatment. Englishman Robert Edric expands upon the few facts known about the fate of the expedition, producing a fascinating novel of courage, adventure, and scientific exploration in the nineteenth century.

Confessing a Murder
by Nicholas Drayson
Drayson takes some of the richest conventions of adventure fiction (the found manuscript, the quest for fantastic treasure, the island castaway) and turns them into an intricate historical and philosophical fantasy, sure to appeal to fans of sophisticated fiction: the tale of a man who gave Darwin the idea for his theory of natural selection.
The Bartered Bride
by Mary Jo Putney
This is a treat for romance readers, with one of the most gallant heroes to come along in years and a charming, resourceful heroine. An American merchant in the East Indies, Gavin Elliott wins a series of chivalrous challenges to barter freedom for enslaved Alexandra Warren. She must rescue him in return back in London when he is framed for her murder.

What We Won’t Do: Stories
by Brock Clarke
Clarke, an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati, won the 2000 Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction for this collection. Clarke’s absorbing stories, mostly about men who struggle with midlife crises in work and relationships, have a wry, sometimes cynical tone and striking satirical edge.

Other Fiction
Lucky in the Corner
by Carol Anshaw
This is a deft and sweet novel about family relationships and people doing the best they can. Fern is still wary about her mother, Nora, since the time when Fern was twelve and Nora broke up the family to come out as a lesbian. Now in college, Fern is determined not to let her best friend make mistakes that will be equally devastating for her baby.

The Making of June
by Annie Ward
In the harsh setting of 1990s Bulgaria, Ward tells the story of June, a spoiled Californian, who has accompanied her husband to the war-torn area. Their fragile marriage crumbles in this high-pressure situation, forcing June to rebuild her life. The intertwined stories of Bulgaria’s recent dark days and of June’s maturing are told in fascinating counterpoint.

At Swim, Two Boys: A Novel
by Jamie O’Neill
In 1915, the son of a Dublin shopkeeper and a boy from the slums renew their childhood friendship and acknowledge the tentative sexual attraction between them. O’Neill draws direct parallels between the Irish quest for nationality and the gay quest for recognition and a “nation of the heart” in this accomplished and heartrending debut, resounding with Irish literary echoes.

CDs & Audio Books
Playboy Latin Jazz Christmas
by various artist, CDJ 3116
Honorary Citizen
by Peter Tosh, CDP 6459
Become the Media
by Jello Biafra, CDP 6455
Fury
by Salman Rushdie, CDW 1273
Red Rabbit
by Tom Clancy, C 27169
Yo-Yo Ma Plays the Music of John Williams
by Yo-yo Ma, CD 10202
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FREE & PUBLIC FOR 150 YEARS
CELEBRATE THE LIBRARY’S ANNIVERSARY!

FREE & PUBLIC DAY - Come for the history and stay for the fun! Join us as we kickoff the Library’s 150th Anniversary on Saturday, March 15 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Among one of the first public libraries in the nation, the Public Library began in March of 1853. To commemorate the day, local celebrities will host an afternoon full of festive music, lively dance, and fun-filled activities showcasing the Library and its collections through the ages. Stop by the Main Library or the branch nearest you after February 10 and “Remember Your Library.” Be part of our celebration by creating a birthday card for the Library and/or recounting your favorite library moments. Your sentiments may be displayed as a community-wide backdrop for our kickoff event at your neighborhood branch. Get more details at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org and enjoy new experiences at one of the oldest and busiest libraries in the country.

FREE & PUBLIC: A Journey Through the Library’s Past is now on display through March 20 in the Rare Books & Special Collections Department at the Main Library. Highlighting the early days, the exhibit includes rare glimpses of the old Main Library, which opened in 1874 at 629 Vine Street. Housed in 19th century America’s most advanced library building, original floor plans and photographs provide an inside view of how it all began. A map of early branches and book deposits, postcards of Carnegie branches, as well as historical photographs and documents are part of the nostalgia. From past administrations, the exhibit features business correspondance from some of America’s most recognized professional librarians—William Frederick Poole, who set the framework for Cincinnati to become a national model and the forward thinking Librarian Carl Vitz, who brought the Library into the modern age with the construction of the 1955 building at 800 Vine Street.

FREE & PUBLIC Book Launch - Award-winning writer John Fleischman brings the history of Cincinnati’s legendary library to life through Free & Public: One Hundred and Fifty Years at the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County. He takes readers through 150 years of the Library’s greatest moments retracing how it took shape and how it help shape our community. Filled from cover to cover with 200 of the Library’s best photographs, Free & Public will be released at a special book signing hosted by the Friends of the Public Library at the Main Library on Saturday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m. For more details on Free & Public Day and the book, call the 150th Anniversary Infoline at 513-369-6974.

Bonus: The first 50 persons to attend will receive a limited-edition, commemorative poster.