The Public Library Presents

Best-selling Author

E. Lynn Harris

Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m.
at the Jarson–Kaplan Theater
in the Aronoff Center for the Arts

E. Lynn Harris quit a successful job as a computer sales executive in 1991 to work on his first novel, Invisible Life. Fourteen years later, he has done the incredible and has become one of the nation’s best-selling authors, with six novels that have sold more than 1 million copies. See him in person as the Library hosts An Evening with E. Lynn Harris at the Jarson–Kaplan Theater in the Aronoff Center for the Arts. See page two for more details and how to order free tickets to this special presentation.
An Evening with E. Lynn Harris

Knowing that someone quit a six-figure job as an IBM sales executive to self-publish his first novel, then sold it from the trunk of his car to African American beauty salons before being “discovered” by Anchor Books tells you this is someone who just might have something interesting to say. Anchor published E. Lynn Harris’ Invisible Life in 1994, and thus his career as an author was “officially” launched. Other literary successes soon followed, all published by Doubleday: Just as I Am (1994), And This Too Shall Pass (1996), If the World Were Mine (1997), Abide By Me (1999).

Named one of Ebony’s “Most Intriguing Blacks,” E. Lynn Harris’ award-winning writing blends romantic storytelling and explorations of contemporary issues such as identity, class, and friendship. This publishing phenomenon, who divides his time between Chicago and New York, has found an enthusiastic and diverse audience across America. Now readers around Greater Cincinnati who thirst for his page-turner style that earned him top rankings on the New York Times and Blackboard bestsellers lists, can meet him in person as the Library hosts An Evening with E. Lynn Harris. The event will be held at the Jarson-Kaplan Theater (Aronoff Center for the Arts) on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. To order free tickets call (513) 369-6974.

Young Adults Explore Underground Railroad with Shelley Pearsall

A former middle school teacher and historian from Ohio, Shelley Pearsall did extensive research while writing her suspenseful, emotionally charged story of freedom and family, Trouble Don’t Last (2002). Based on real people from Ripley, Ohio, her novel, which is written for young adults, received the 2003 Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction. While traveling along the escape route, which took her across the Ohio River in a boat and visiting Chatham, Ontario, a major destination for runaway slaves, she “found that learning about history in an imaginative way often sticks with students longer than review questions in a textbook.”

Although this is Pearsall’s first book, she has been writing about history for the past ten years. In 1999 she received an Ohio Arts Council Fellowship in Writing and, in 1996, was the Playwright in Residence for Cleveland’s Bicentennial. She is currently working on her next historical novel and leading writing workshops for children. Pearsall will be at the Avondale Branch Library at 10:00 a.m. and the Norwood Branch Library at 1:00 p.m. on February 9, and at the Madisonville Branch Library at 10:00 a.m. and the Symmes Township Branch Library at 1:00 p.m. on February 10.

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Black History Month

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, commemorated each year on the third Monday of January, honors the birth, the life, and the dream of America’s greatest champion of racial injustice and equality. Thanks to support from Target Stores and the Kersten Fund the Library will pay tribute to Dr. King through a wide variety of inspiring programs. For several weeks in January the spirit behind his noble principles will be shared with others during birthday parties, readings from Dr. King’s speeches, storytimes, videos, games, crafts (including making peace murals, wall decorations, and banners)—as well as interactive performances of music, dance, and storytelling. There’s something for all ages. Check out the Library’s program calendar at http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/programs/ for activities going on nearest you.

February is Black History Month, a time to commemorate African Americans who have changed the world. This year the Library brings together the past and the present through a fascinating lineup of guest speakers, historians, genealogists, and authors—each sharing a different perspective on African American life.
The Church and African American History
Main Library — Sundays in February at 3:30 p.m.

Historically, churches have served as centers of African American life. Carter G. Woodson wrote, “a definitive history of the church would leave no phase of African American history untouched.” For the Black community, churches offered a place of worship and spiritual guidance, but also served as a forum to work for civil rights, social justice, and community benevolence and improvement. Friends and families gathered in churches and recorded important events in their lives. Join us for this fascinating three-part series in the Main Library’s Huenefeld Tower Room (south building, third floor) to explore the church and African American history.

February 13

History of Union Baptist Church and the Cincinnati Community – The 1900 City Directory lists more than 30 African American congregations, many which still survive to the present. In fact, at least three churches pre-dated the Civil War. One of the oldest and most influential, Union Baptist Church, was founded in 1831.

Lillian Dean of the Union Baptist Church and a retired teacher from Stowe School will present a program on the role of Union Baptist Church in Cincinnati’s history.

Nicholas Finke, librarian at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, will also join her to discuss the Union Baptist Records housed at the Freedom Center.

February 20

Grace L. Bonner: Cincinnati’s “Sweet Gospel Singer” – Prior to Grace Bonner’s arrival in Cincinnati in 1916, most of the city’s mainstream Black churches considered gospel music unacceptable with its heavy beat and “blues” chord structure. Credited with launching the gospel music movement in Greater Cincinnati, Grace Bonner met gospel music pioneers Sallie Martin and Thomas A. Dorsey, who had just founded the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, and organized the local chapter, which today is known as the Cincinnati Choral Union.

Hasker Nelson, Jr., author of Listening For Our Past: A Lay Guide To African American Oral History Interviewing, is also a retired Public Affairs Director for WCPO-TV and the founder, producer and host of “Black Memo.” Based on his original research he will recount the story of Grace Bonner’s life through photographs and narration.

February 27

Tracing Your Family History Through Church Records – Church records extend beyond recording business transactions. Church logs, registers and minutes chronicle the personal lives of its members from birth to death and even track migration patterns.

Larry Hamilton, a founding member of the African American Genealogy Group of the Miami Valley, is also an editor and indexer of Ohio church records. He will demonstrate ways to utilize church records for family history research. Following his presentation, librarians from the History & Genealogy and Education & Religion departments will discuss the extensive collection of African American Church records available at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. These collections include local materials and those from across the nation.
Building at 8th & Vine Opens in 1955

For many years, the Main Library occupied an impressive, five-storied building at 629 Vine Street that opened in 1874. However, it quickly became apparent with 20th century technology and the needs of the public that a newer, more conveniently designed building was needed to meet the needs of readers. Many efforts during the 1930s and 1940s sought to have bond issues passed to build a new Main Library building. It was not until January 31, 1955, though, that the Library opened the first post-war main library building in the United States. Located at the corner of Eighth and Vine streets, the building was designed by noted Cincinnati architect Woodie Garber and was widely recognized for its contemporary design and use of open space. The building was also dedicated to Hamilton County residents who died while serving their country during World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The Book of Homage, which was unveiled in May of 1955, listed over 2,700 names of veterans who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice.

On January 31, 1955 the Main Library opened its doors at 800 Vine Street for the very first time. About two weeks later, on February 12, the Rare Books & Special Collections Department was officially introduced to the public. At that time the Department was located in a small room adjacent to the Huenefeld Tower Room. The Tower Room itself served as the exhibition space for the Department.

Planning for the Library’s new building began in the mid-1940s. As early as 1947, the Director Carl Vitz began discussing the need for a separate department to take care of the Library’s rare books and special collections. Mr. Vitz was instrumental in the creation of this department, and in 1952, he assigned Yeatman Anderson III as his assistant to aid him in developing the department’s “routines, methods, policies, and scope.”

During the next three years, Mr. Anderson began identifying collections that would be transferred to the new department. Among these collections were the Cincinnatiana Collection, the Discovery and Exploration Collection, the Lafcadio Hearn Collection, and the Rees C. Vidler Bible Collection. In addition to these existing collections several new book collections were donated to the Library during its “pre” department days. One of these collections was the James Wilson Bullock Cruikshank Collection, containing several hundred volumes of works illustrated by George and Robert Cruikshank.

After the new building opened in 1955, Yeatman Anderson became Curator of the Rare Books & Special Collections Department. At that time the collection contained approximately 25,000 volumes. This number soon grew as new purchases were made and several very large collections of material were donated.

In 1956 the Inland Rivers Library was established when the Library received a large collection of river material from the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen and Captain Frederick Way, Jr. The Louis E. Kahn Dictionary Collection, with over 400 dictionaries, was given to the Department.

Rare Books & Special Collections Celebrates 50 Years of Public Service

Exhibits and related activities will be held throughout the year to celebrate the opening of the original 1955 building of the Main Library. Shown here is a photo taken before the Main Library actually opened to the public with staff getting ready for the big day at the Book Checkout.
50th anniversary: rare books

in 1961. Over the years a number of first editions of both American and British authors were donated, including works by Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway, Charles Dickens, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, and Sir Winston Churchill.

In 1982, the Library opened a new addition at 800 Vine Street, and renovation was begun on the original building. When the renovation was complete in 1983, the Rare Books Department was relocated to space adjoining the John T. Nolan, Jr. Room. In 1986, long-time curator Yeatman Anderson retired and Alfred Kleine-Kreutzmann was appointed as his replacement. Under Mr. Kleine-Kreutzmann’s direction the Department’s collections continued to grow. During the early 1990s two major postcard collections were donated to the Department by local collectors Clyde N. Bowden and Paul F. Bien. Also during this period the Department acquired several new collections of British authors, including A. A. Milne, John Masefield, and Rudyard Kipling.

In January 1997, the Rare Books Department moved to its present location on the bridge connecting the Library’s newly constructed building with its existing one. The new location gave the Department an expanded reading room with a large exhibit space, plus a climate controlled stack area to assist with the preservation of its collection.

In mid-1997 Mr. Kleine-Kreutzmann left the Rare Books Department and Sylvia Verdun Metzinger was appointed Manager in early 1998. Mrs. Metzinger has brought a great deal of experience to the Rare Books Department, and with her knowledge of preservation, she has pumped new vitality in the Department’s original objective to “take care of the Library’s rare books and special collections.” The Department’s holdings continue to grow with new purchases and gifts, many from the Friends of the Public Library, being acquired to strengthen its many collections. Today, with over 50,000 volumes, the collection is now twice its original size.

As the Rare Books & Special Collections Department celebrates fifty years of service to the public, the staff is reminded how important it is to preserve the Department’s collections and remember their history, but even more, they are reminded of the important role they have in linking present and future generations to the knowledge of the past.

A Rare Books Sampler: Celebrating 50 Years of Rare Books & Special Collections

The Rare Books & Special Collections Department collects and preserves some of the Library’s oldest and most valuable materials. While the Department itself did not officially open as a Main Library subject department until 1955, some of its collections can be traced back many years in the Library’s history. A Rare Books Sampler: An Exhibit Celebrating Fifty Years of the Rare Books and Special Collections Department will present a varied assortment of interesting and unusual items that the Department has collected over the years. This exhibit will be on view in the Rare Books & Special Collections Department, third floor, from February 5 through May 15.

The Rare Books Department staff is shown in front of John Audubon’s Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America (1845). Standing, left to right: Assistant Manager M’Lissa Kesterman, Manager Sylvia Verdun Metzinger, and Reference Librarian Diane Mallstrom. Seated: Library Service Assistants Claire Smittle and Sherry Lytle.
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Benefits of Friends Membership: Previews of used book sales • 10% discount on items in the Library Friends’ Shop • Subscriptions to Library program calendars & newsletter mailed to your home each month • Invitations to special events sponsored by the Friends • Interesting volunteer opportunities for Friends’ projects • Good feeling of helping to spread the joy of reading.
Special thanks to our members who joined or renewed in October and November!

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50 Ways to Use Your Library ... All for FREE!

1. Get to know your librarian.
2. Browse your favorite Website(s).
3. Plan your next vacation.
4. Find a list of daycare centers in your area.
5. Learn about local candidates for office.
6. Learn how to lower your taxes.
7. Reserve the latest mystery.
8. Pick up a video or DVD.
9. Listen to a classical CD.
11. Learn to navigate the Web.
12. Prepare your resume.
14. Get a list of community organizations.
15. Attend a lecture or workshop.
16. Hear an author reading his/her latest novel.
17. Join a book discussion group.
18. Attend preschool storytime with your child.
20. Look up all kinds of health information.
21. Research the purchase of a new car or get the value of a used car.
22. Trek to another planet in a sci-fi novel.
23. Call or email for the answer to a question.
24. Research your term paper.
25. Learn about the history of your city or town.
26. Decide which computer to buy using a consumer guide.
27. Check your stock portfolio.
28. Read a newspaper from another country.
29. Borrow an audiobook for your next road trip.
30. Use the library’s resources to create a new business plan.
31. See a new art exhibit.
32. Get free GED practice testing.
33. Find a new recipe.
34. Ask for a recommended reading list for teens.
35. Use a photocopier.
37. Involve your kids in ReadQuest, the Library’s summer reading program.
38. Take an email class.
39. Hear a poetry reading.
40. Take out the latest fashion magazine.
41. Enjoy a concert.
42. Trace your family tree.
43. Prepare for a job interview.
44. Check out a legal issue.
45. Find out how to file a consumer complaint.
46. Get nostalgic by looking at old magazines.
47. Borrow some sheet music.
48. Learn how to use a database or computerized catalog.
49. Find the latest romance paperback.
50. Find a quiet spot, curl up with a book and enjoy.
Last fall, we held a writing contest asking our customers to tell us how the Library had made a difference in their lives. The response was overwhelming. Our judges faced a daunting task of selecting only a few winners from the 200 entries received. The essays were funny and sad, heartwarming and inspirational. Entrants ranged in age from a five-year-old who wrote of starting to read and attending programs at her local branch to a 93-year-old writer dependent upon our Outreach Services to bring the Library to her. The writings showed the true range of Library services available in our community. From early childhood to retirement and all ages in between our writers told us why they love the Library. One entry was from a woman who moved here from China. She told of her amazement at being able to check out books from the Library free of charge. Another woman told how a tutoring program at the Library helped her learn to read and in a few short months her lifetime of illiteracy changed into that of a competent reader and writer able to submit an entry in this contest. Our first place winner recounted a childhood story when reading over the summer resulted in outstanding academic improvement and initiated a lifetime of reading.

Want to read more? Go to http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/news/mdyl2004/ to read the winning entries. After reading them, take a few moments to reflect on how the Library has affected your life.

Third place went to Julie Pitstick, who at age 5 is the youngest winner. She wrote, “I get to pick out lots of books. My mom and dad read them to me.”

The oldest winner Sister Helen McDermott, 93, of Mount Notre Dame Convent, who placed second wrote, “With driving days over, how often can you ask to go to a library? Lo and behold, you don’t have to go to the library. The Cincinnati Public Library comes to us. Every fourth Friday of the month, you can hear the announcement: ‘Attention, please. The librarians are here.’”

First place winner Robert Steele, 61, of Northside, who accepted a challenge to read 75 books one summer at the end of his fifth-grade year wrote, “Something happened to me after I had done this for a week. Somehow I was entering new worlds, new lands of strange customs, new adventures full of danger. I became aware of a larger world outside of Northside...”.

Honorable Mention award-winner Mae’Lesha Lee, age 15, summed it up, “READ, BABY, READ for the place to be is PLC!”

We plan to keep on making a difference by providing needs based services to our customers of all ages and at all stages of their lives. Won’t you let us make a difference in yours?

Kimber L. Fender, Executive Director
**Checkout Receipts Are a Plus!**

1. **Plus! It's a handy record.** You'll automatically receive a receipt that lists ALL of the titles of items you checked out, when they are due, as well as the branch name & hours, phone number, and Library website.

2. **Plus! Speedier checkouts.** Shorter lines. Checkout lines will run more smoothly with less hold ups, since our staff will no longer need to manually date and stamp or insert a date due card in every item checked out.

3. **Plus! More convenient, less confusing.** With all of the items you checked out listed on one convenient receipt, you can take a quick survey and easily decide which ones you need to renew or return.

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5. **Plus! More time to serve you.** Since our staff will no longer need to spend time stamping or pocketing date due cards, they can focus more on serving you.

6. **Plus! Better use of Library resources.** Not only will staff be able to devote more time to customer service, the time and materials used to process items in the Library’s collection will also be reduced.

7. **Plus! Our surveys said YES!** A survey was conducted prior to implementation to gather input from customers from every library location within our system. A total of 3,000 surveys were collected and overwhelmingly supported checkout receipts.

**Designing Your Special Day**

**Saturday, January 29, 1:00 p.m.**
**Main Library — Huenefeld Tower Room, third floor**

Statistics show that May through October are the most popular months for weddings. You may be dreaming of an easy and spontaneous wedding, but believe it or not, you should be planning and making reservations now (even if your wedding won’t take place for two years). Don’t know where to start? Then plan on attending *Designing Your Special Day: A Consultant’s Perspective for Planning the Perfect Wedding*, on Saturday, January 29, 1:00 p.m. at the Main Library.

In addition to the wealth of resources at the Library, there will be representatives on hand who include bridal consultants, dressmakers, caterers, florists, photographers and more. Books from Education & Religion, magazines from Magazines & Newspapers, and videos and CDs from the Films & Recordings Department will cover bridal showers and weddings, with practical advice and information on ceremonies across faiths and cultures. You can also find information on organic weddings, weddings for the not so young, and ethnic weddings, along with books to help the bride-to-be with little money, time or both. Need help with etiquette, the perfect dress, cake, or flowers? There are plenty of books about it. And don't forget the videos, bridal music, and scores, as well as bridal magazines.

**Presenters include:**
- Joyce C. Smith, Master Bridal Consultant™ with Weddings Unlimited
- Diane DeRhodes, Bridal Dressmaker
- Jon Asalon, Creative Elegance Catering
- Sharon Butler, The Bonbonerie
- Robert Lee, Jones the Florist
- Mary Lark & Terri Gilland, The Cincinnati Enquirer
- Kymberly Henson, Broadway Photography

For information: (513) 369-6940.
Collectors Find Their Worth in Art & Music Department

From January through March, the Art & Music Department will present a lecture series and a major display on antiques and collectibles. These events will introduce the many collectibles researchers who use the department’s resources to several local experts and the Collector’s Corner. Located on the third floor (along the north wall near the service desk in Art & Music), this special collection brings together the major reference catalogs and guidebooks that help identify and appraise antiques, collectibles, and fine art.

On view from January 10—March 31, the display, Collecting the African American Heritage, will showcase treasures from the spectacular African Americana collection of local collector, archivist, and historian Jim Jones. It will feature memorabilia and creations of distinguished artists and performers, from musicians to stamp designers.

Antiques expert and appraiser Frank Farmer Loomis IV will provide the first presentation on Sunday, January 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the Art & Music Department. Mr. Loomis, who has been appraising antiques for more than 25 years, is the author of three books including his latest release, Secrets to Affordable Antiques. He writes a syndicated newspaper column on antiques, hosts “Keep Antiquing” on WVXU radio, and has also been an appraiser on the “Antiques Roadshow.”

Internationally recognized expert in historic Americana, C. Wesley (Wes) Cowan will be the featured Collector’s Corner speaker on February 6 at 2:00 p.m. As a licensed auctioneer and the owner of Cowan’s Auctions, which generates over $6 million in annual sales, the star of the PBS television series “History Detectives” and a featured appraiser on the “Antiques Roadshow” has established himself as one of the world’s greatest experts in appraising and buying antiques.

Kids Clown Around, Have Fun & Read!

For the first time RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY® CIRCUS is partnering with the Library to help encourage children to explore the wonders of reading books through the Three Ring Reading Club. From January 24–February 18, boys and girls through age 12 can sign up for the Reading Club at any of the Library’s 42 locations. For each book read, children will receive a small prize starting with a sticker for one book, a bookmark for the second, a clown nose for the third book, and a free ticket voucher to a weekday performance of THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH® in the U.S. Bank Arena, March 2–6, 2005 for the fourth book.

A special exhibit of early 20th century circus posters, printed by the Cincinnati lithography firm of Strobridge from the Art & Music Department collection, will be on view in the Main Library atrium during this reading encouragement program. In addition, a variety of circus-related programs will be offered at selected library locations. For more information, keep your eye on the “What’s New” section of our website www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.
The Library 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 inquiries regarding contributions, please contact John Reusing, Development Director, at (513) 369-4591. The following gifts were received between October 7 and November 22.

Annual Fund

Benefactor — $10,000+
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Charlene Bandurraga-Hole
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Robert L. Collins
Stephen L. Cox
David Dukart

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition presented the Library with a check for the purchase of books for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Collection, housed in the Government & Business and Films & Recordings departments. Accepting the check for the Library is Library Services Manager Greg Edwards, far left. Members of the Coalition include, left to right, Gwen Gordon, Rabbi Gary Zola, Ellen Bierhorst, Willa Carlock, Reverend Timothy Hunger, Louise Lawarre, Janet Kravitz, Reverend Marcela Smith, Byron Coaston, Edith Thrower, Nina Jackson, Nancy Savage, Keisha Ewing, and Mark Gable.
A $2,000 sponsorship by the Downtown Residents Council (DRC) enabled the Children’s Learning Center at the Main Library to offer Fabulous Art events all summer long targeted at children ages 8–12. DRC was so happy with the success of the programs that it has pledged to sponsor events again in 2005.

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Gifts to the Library
Harrison Elementary PTA
Montgomery Woman’s Club
First Choice Self Storage
Downtown Residents’ Council
Geraldine J. Proper
Kenneth & Margaret Knox
Cincinnati Chapter of Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution

Commemorative Gifts
Westwood Women’s Club in honor of Cynthia Wels.
Marcia H. Oetting in memory of Margaret Wicks Battin.
L. Patton Davis in honor of Dorothy Heinlein’s 90th Birthday.
Anita Riley in memory of Louis Selm.

Non-cash Gifts
Barbara Donnelly
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Registry of Holocaust Survivors,
United States Holocaust Memoriam Museum

Gifts to Rare Books
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Honor with Books
Marian Riestenberg in memory of Dan Riestenberg.
Children’s Librarians in memory of Linda Roberts (Magic Wanda).
Peter & Maureen Boylan in honor of Andrew E. Boylan.
Time Warner Cable Advertising Sales Department in memory of Hannah Hargett Hagin.
Brian Storck in honor of David L. Shaut, Jr.
Edward E. Colby in memory of Richard Able.
Mr. & Mrs. John Henderson in memory of Joseph Sullivan.

Pet Memorials

Chris & Jim Evans in memory of Susan Fabe’s cat Tess.
Ronda A. Rose in memory of The Allen Family’s dog Otto.
Joseph F. Cornish in memory of his dog Heidi.
Barbara Marshall in memory of her cat Chrissy.
Betty Stacey & Joan Lauritsen in memory of Jennifer Alvis & Jennifer McLe llan’s dog Toby.
Richard & Phyllis Crawford in memory of Rich & Michelle Crawford’s dog Suggie.

Jenell W. Thomas and Sherrie Kline in memory of John & Sandy Reusing’s dog Darcy.

Richard & Kay Niklas in memory of Rick & Kathy Niklas’ dog Rosie.
Carl & Carol Samson in memory of Helen Wessel’s dog Aurelius.

Ruth & Jack Pulkamp in memory of Matthew Pulkamp’s dog Naya.

Gordon & Betty Ham mengren in memory of Jack & Amy Sebring’s dog Emma.
Annette Horwitz in memory of Sue & Michael Miller’s cat Princess.
Jo Carroll in memory of Sharon Priestly’s dog Charley.
Sherri Kline in memory of Marci & Warren Taylor’s dog Spooky.
Heather & Bill Quigley in memory of Sandy & Dino Ciolino’s cat Biscuit.
The Staff of Caracole, Inc. in memory of Monica Robinson’s dog Peanut.
Judy & Dick Brueneman in memory of Kathy Sams’ cat Tiger.
Don & Eileen Bockelman in memory of Shana Bockelman’s cat GC Blue Isles Qwilleran.
Janice Grogan in memory of The Coleman Family’s cat Girl.
Warm Up to Good Reads This Winter

Feeling snowed under? With the avalanche of new titles published every day, it’s not surprising to get a bit flurried when trying to choose a good book to curl up with during those cold winter nights. Fortunately, the staff of the Public Library has some hot tips. Our annual Librarians’ Choice list is one way we can help you find great titles you may otherwise have missed. Every year, staff members choose their favorite books, films, magazines, and music from the thousands of new items added to the Library’s collections. You can see the list for 2004 on our website at http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/spotlight/sp200501/. Advice for readers is a service for all seasons, however.

“Many people don’t realize that they can ask the Library staff to recommend a good read,” says Vicki Newell, manager of the Fiction & Young Adults Department. “They may shy away from explaining the kind of books they like to the librarian. But we think reader’s advisory is a service that’s just as important as helping with an information search. With a little discussion about the books you have liked or disliked in the past, we can identify what appeals to you most, and then suggest titles with similar appeal.”

“Besides, most of us are avid readers who love to discuss books,” continued Newell. “And we see so many great titles that aren’t on bestseller lists that readers are unaware of. It’s so satisfying when someone comes back and tells us that they enjoyed our recommendations.”

Staff can also show you how to use reader’s advisory resources to find more suggestions on your own. Some of the best are print guides like Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason, by Nancy Pearl. Other guides are available online. A great place to start is on the Books, Music & Movies section of our website. This offers easy to follow choices such as “Hot Titles” (future bestsellers new in the collection), “New Audiobooks,” “New Stuff for Kids,” “Award Winners & Bestsellers,” and “Reading Recommendations,” containing staff picks for topics ranging from African American Fiction Writers to Weather.

Warming up to the idea? We’ll be featuring our reader’s advisory service all year in articles like this. Some future topics to be covered are resources for book clubs, readers’ advice for teens and children, and more online resources. So don’t be left out in the cold! Come in and ask us to recommend some great titles just for you.

What should I read, listen to, view next?

Get help from our knowledgeable staff or on the Library’s website for:
- New & different books for all adults, teens, and children—for non-fiction as well as fiction
- Magazines for all interests
- Music CDs (classical to rock, plus everything in between)
- Films, not just mainstream flicks, but documentaries, too
- Public documents you can checkout

Have you already found a novel or an author you really like and want to find something “just like it”? NoveList is a fiction database available on our website with an Author Read-alikes feature, that allows you to use a favorite author or title to locate similar authors and titles.
on view at the main library

The Circus Is Coming to the Main Library!

From January 5 through February 6, an exhibit of turn of the century circus posters produced by the Strobridge Lithography Company will be on display in the Atrium of the Main Library. On exhibit will be a selection of vibrant posters produced to promote traveling circuses, including the Ringling Bros. Circus and the Barnum & Bailey Circus. Each poster showcases an exciting circus act, including acrobats, magicians, animals, and clowns. The Art & Music Department has a large collection of posters from this local business, which was a leading printer of circus, theatrical, and outdoor advertising posters in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

America and the Nazi Book Burnings

Many acts of censorship that quickly took control of the German book market during World War II are presented in an exhibit on loan from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. As part of Holocaust Awareness Month Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings will be displayed in the Main Library Atrium (south building, first floor) from February 13 through April 9. Through vivid photographs, political cartoons and other forms of propaganda the mass hysteria that led to thousands of books being destroyed is remembered, along with the impact the book burnings had on America.

Friends' Warehouse Sale Set for January 21-23

8456 Vine Street, Hartwell • For more information or directions: (513) 369-6035.
Sale Hours: Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sunday noon-4:00 p.m.; Members Preview Sale Thursday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.