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PRESS RELEASE

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Newark Public Library Celebrates National Poetry Month

A poetry jam on Wednesday, April 22 features the hip-hop works of local poets, as well as more traditional renditions of the spoken word by a noted Midwestern poet. The program will mark the Newark Public Library's celebration of National Poetry Month.

Dr. Eugene B. Redmond, "poet laureate of East St. Louis" and author of *Eighty Moods of Maya* about Maya Angelou, will read from his works in the James Brown African-American Room of the Main Library, 5 Washington Street at 6:30 p.m. This program is presented by the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society.

An emeritus professor of English at Southern Illinois University, Redmond is the editor of *Drum Voices Review* and the author of *The Eye in the Ceiling: Selected Poems, 1993*, for which he won an American Book Award. In 1999, he was inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent, along with such distinguished colleagues as Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Walter Mosley, Lerone Bennett, Jr., August Wilson and Henry Dumas.

A second program, Let It Flow Poetry Show, involves the cutting-edge work of local poets and runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m.in the Fourth-Floor Auditorium of the Main Library. Poet and Newark native Elijah Brown is the host of this inspirational and provocative poetry jam. One of Newark's youngest spoken word promoters, Brown has composed over a thousand poems and will read from his self-published collection of his work, *Missing Pages...Out of My Life*. He has taught poetry at the Montclair YMCA and East Orange Library.

Both programs are free and open to the public. For more information, please log on to *www.npl.org* or call 973-733-7793 or 973-733-5411.