



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

## PRESS RELEASE

January 22, 2013

MEDIA INFORMATION: Heidi Cramer, 973-733-7837, [hcramer@npl.org](mailto:hcramer@npl.org)

### **NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES MUSIC DURING 2013 BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION *Exhibition, From Bach to the Blues: A Musical Journey through Newark, opens January 30***

The Newark Public Library will present an exhibit and series of programs celebrating African American music. The exhibit, ***From Bach to the Blues: A Musical Journey through Newark, New Jersey***, curated by Sandra L. West, will be on display from January 30 through March 9, 2013 on the second floor gallery of the Main Library. The exhibit includes photos and memorabilia reflecting Newark's musical past and is open during regular Library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.– 8:30 p.m.

Library Director, Wilma J. Grey expressing her appreciation to the PNC Foundation for sponsoring the programming said, "We are extremely grateful to PNC. Thanks to their generosity, the Library is proud to offer a diverse array of programs during our 2013 Black History Celebration."

Funding for the Library's Black History Celebration activities and exhibits has been provided by a generous grant from the PNC Foundation.

All programs are free and open to the public and will take place at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street, unless otherwise specified. For more information, please call 973-733-5411. To check whether the Library is open in the case of inclement weather, call 973-733-7800. Parking is available in the Rutgers Lot (#506) on Essex Street behind the Library for the 6:00-8:00 p.m. performances only, on January 30, February 13, and March 27, at a discounted rate of \$4.50.

**The Opening Reception for *From Bach to the Blues: A Musical Journey through Newark, New Jersey* will be held Wednesday, January 30, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in the Main Library's Centennial Hall.** Soprano Laurel Pryor will begin the program with her performance of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Jah Jah Shakur of Africana Institute at Essex County College will present a brief history of the Hip-Hop Movement in Newark. Sandra L. West will give a short summary of the

modern civil rights movement in Newark, and will speak about the impact of classical African-American musicians on the City of Newark. The evening will include performances by a cappella ensemble, Return to the Source; Professor Richard Alston, classical pianist; the Double Dutch group, Team on the Move; and Central High School senior and rap artist, Ashley Charles. Zachary Ouma's artwork will also be on view.

**Other Events Include:**

**Film Fest: *Lady Sings the Blues***

Starring Diana Ross and Billy Dee Williams, about the life and legacy of jazz singer Billie Holiday  
**Saturday, February 2, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., Auditorium**

***Fearless: A Bold Approach to Reinventing Your Life***

Book presentation and signing, and an introduction to life coaching with author Caryl Lucas  
**Saturday, February 2, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m., Auditorium**

**Annual African-American Read-In**

With a focus on the works of Gwendolyn Brooks, Library staff and community members gather to read works of prominent African American Authors.

**Wednesday, February 6, 5:30 p.m.--7:30 p.m., Weequahic Branch, 355 Osborne Terrace, 973-733-7751**

**Film Fest: *The Temptations***

The story of the Motown group

**Thursday, February 7, 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m., Auditorium**

**Film Fest: *Mo' Better Blues***

Starring Denzel Washington, produced by Spike Lee

**Saturday, February 9, 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m., Auditorium**

**Jazz Concert**

Rudy Walker Quartet featuring Newark native actor Jamil Mangan reciting poetry by late Arts High School teacher Halim Suliman. Also, the soulful sounds of the Camille Thurman Quartet.

**Wednesday, February 13, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Centennial Hall**

**From the archives: *Entrusted To Our Keeping: The Legacy of African-American Literary Societies***

Reviewing the Library's 2008 Black History Month program

**Thursday, February 14, 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m., Board Room  
Limited Seating, RSVP, 973-733-5411**

**Film Fest: *Three Mo' Tenors***

Thomas Young, Roderick Dixon, and Victor Trent Cook sing in a concert spanning opera, pop, blues, Broadway, and spirituals, originally taped for a *Great Performances* telecast.

**Saturday, February 16, 12:00 p.m.--2:00 p.m., Auditorium**

### **Sankofa Stories**

Master storyteller Shirley Johnson will tell Sankofa Stories for preschoolers featuring tales from the African Diaspora.

**Tuesday, February 19, 10:30 a.m., Weequahic Branch, 355 Osborne Terrace, 973-733-7751**

### **W.E.B. Du Bois Reading Circle**

Celebrating its third anniversary with a discussion of *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* by Manning Marable

**Wednesday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Board Room**

### **From the archives: Dear & Glorious Physician: *The History of Black Doctors, Nurses & Hospitals in Newark & Places Just Beyond the River***

Reviewing the Library's 2009 Black History Month program

**Thursday, February 21, 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m., Board Room**

### **Film Fest: *Dreamgirls***

Based on the Broadway musical, the story of a trio of black female soul singers early 1960s.

Starring Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé, and Jennifer Hudson

**Friday, February 22, 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m., Auditorium**

### **Community Discussion: What are the Black issues of 2013?**

Community discussion led by Diane Colson, Treasurer, New Jersey Black Issues Convention and Sandra L. West, President, Bethany Baptist Church Black History Committee

**Wednesday, February 27, 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., James Brown African American Room**

### ***The History, Evolution, and Future of Black Music: Panel Discussion***

**Panelists:** Amiri Baraka, author, *Blues People* and *Black Music*; Jeff Billingsley, CEO, Cobblestone Records; King Downing, entertainment attorney; Bobby Jackson, radio host of The Jazz Mind; Dorthaan Kirk, Special Events & Program Coordinator WBGO-Jazz 88FM; Gwen Moten, City Commissioner and Supervisor of Cultural Services for The City of Newark; and Nikoa Workman, cellist and founder of Firey Strings Company. Junius Williams, Sr., vocalist and harmonica player with *Return to the Source*, will serve as moderator.

**Saturday, March 2, 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m., Centennial Hall**

### **Anansi, Spiderman of Africa!**

Performed by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre

**Tuesday, March 5, 10:30 a.m., Weequahic Branch, 355 Osborne Terrace, 973-733-7751**

### **Anansi, Spiderman of Africa!**

Performed by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre

**Wednesday, March 6, 4:00 p.m., North End Branch, 722 Summer Avenue, 973-733-7766**

**Anansi, Spiderman of Africa!**

Performed by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre

**Thursday, March 7, 10:00 a.m. Springfield Branch, 50 Hayes Street, 973-733-7736**

***Religious Allusions in the Poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks***, by Dr. Margot Harper Banks

Poetry in memory of Gwendolyn Brooks recited by poets Dorothea Moore, Betty Neals, and Sandra L. West. Book signing will follow.

**Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Auditorium**

***The Black Art Song***

Concert featuring literary works of Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and others, sung by Kevin Maynor, bass, founder of Trilogy: An Opera Company. Accompaniment by Eric Olson

**Wednesday, March 27, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m., Centennial Hall**

###