

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

PRESS RELEASE

January 24, 2014
For Immediate Release
Please Contact: Heidi Cramer (973) 733-7837
hcramer@npl.org

Black History Celebration of the African Diaspora at the Newark Public Library

The Newark Public Library will present its annual Black History Celebration with a series of programs recognizing the African Diaspora. The celebration is dedicated to the memory of the late Nelson Mandela and will include African music and dance, panel discussions, films and a children's program.

Defining Moments: An exhibition of works by Bryan Collier will be on view from January 27 through April 5, 2014. Mr. Collier wrote and illustrated the Coretta Scott King Award-winning book *Uptown*. He received Caldecott Honors for the books *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport, which was also a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor book; and *Rosa* by Nikki Giovanni, which received the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award. Watercolors and collage illustrations from these and other books will be on display on the second floor gallery of the Main Library. The exhibit was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.

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

Opening Reception

The Seventh Principle Drum and Dance Ensemble will perform at the Black History Celebration Opening Reception on Thursday, February 6 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Junius Williams, Esq., Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute at Rutgers-Newark will present the Keynote address, "What Happened to Mother Africa? Reclaiming Our African Roots." Copies of his new book *Unfinished Agenda, Urban Politics in the Era of Black Power*, will be for sale.

Other events include:

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.
Centennial Hall

Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society presents Celebrating Black History Month: The Constitution and You with author Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College.

Saturday, February 8, 2014 – 12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

James Brown African American Room
Ali McBride, African Echoes, Host/Moderator
Discussion and Film Screening: *Hidden Colors*, Parts I and II

Thursday, February 13, 2014 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Centennial Hall
Panel Discussion: *The Black Jews of Newark*
Joshua Nelson Host/Moderator
Elder Simon Quattlebaum, Newark's Church of God and Saints

Saturday, February 15, 2014 – 2:00 pm

Centennial Hall
Afro-Brazilian Dance Performance & Talk: *Capoeira, Maculêlê*
and *Samba* with the Afro Brazilian Center of New Jersey

Thursday, February 20, 2014 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Centennial Hall
Panel Discussion: *African Influences in Cuba: Firsthand Accounts from Newarkers Who Went There*
Host/Moderator: Ben F. Jones
Panelists: Ali McBride, Maisha Amen, Ph.D. with a slide presentation by Panelist Mansa K. Mussa

Saturday, February 22, 2014 – 11:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Centennial Hall
Folktale Fun Presented by TAHIRA
An interactive program of African/African-American folktales told by storyteller, poet, vocalist, and percussionist TAHIRA.

Saturday, February 22, 2014 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Weequahic Branch Library
355 Osborne Terrace
Newark, NJ 07112
973-733-7751
Folktale Fun Presented by TAHIRA
An interactive program of African/African-American folktales told by storyteller, poet, vocalist, and percussionist TAHIRA.

Thursday, February 27, 2014 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Centennial Hall
Panel Discussion: *Africa: What We Don't Know About the Motherland*
Host/Moderator - Baraka Sele,
Leonard Jeffries, Ph.D., President, World African Diaspora Union
La Francis Rogers-Rose, Ph.D., International Black Women's Congress
Call to the Ancestors & Libation: C. Katunge Mimy and Faluso Mimy

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

The Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society celebrates Women's History with a book discussion of *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose with special guest, civil rights activist Claudette Colvin.

All programs are at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street, unless otherwise specified. To RSVP for any program or for more information, please call 973-733-7793. To check whether the Library is open in the case of inclement weather, call 973-733-7784.