

*St. Louis County Library News Release: January 7, 2008*

Contact: Jennifer McBride, 314-994-9411 x332 or [jmcbride@slcl.org](mailto:jmcbride@slcl.org)

## **Celebrate Black History Month at St. Louis County Library**

The St. Louis County Library is pleased to offer an entire month of programming dedicated to the life and history of African Americans. Dramatic presentations, workshops, stories, music, dancing and more will be available at all branches during the months of January and February 2008. All events are free and open to the public.

A special kick-off event, "An Evening of Art and Jazz," will be held on Friday, January 25, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. Robert Powell, founder and Executive Director of Portfolio Gallery & Education Center, will curate a display of art and discuss the history of the Portfolio Gallery. The BAG Trio will perform original music in the creative jazz tradition. The evening will be completed with a sampling of Cajun food.

Additional highlighted events include:

Saturday, January 26, 2:00 p.m.

### **The Other American Revolution: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the 1960's**

Library Headquarters  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314/994-3300

Bobby Norfolk brings to life the historical context of the struggle for civil rights, through excerpts from speeches, sermons, poems, and stories.

Recommended for ages 10-adult.

Thursday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

### **Harlem Renaissance (1890-1940): An Excursion into Literature, History, and Cultural Awareness**

Library Headquarters  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314/994-3300

From 1900 to 1940, many of the nation's most talented people converged on Harlem, New York, creating a mecca for the arts. Celebrate the accomplishments of this period through poetry, music, humor, dramatic narratives, and storytelling. Presented by Bobby Norfolk.

Recommended for 6<sup>th</sup> grade –adult.

Friday, February 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### **"Porch Lies," presented by The Black Rep**

Library Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314/994-3300

The Black Rep will give a premiere performance based on master storyteller and author Patricia McKissack's book "Porch Lies." The play transports viewers to the front porch for tales filled with humor and exaggeration. Prior to the production, McKissack will discuss the book upon which the play is based, and will autograph copies following the performance.

Thursday, February 7, 10:00 a.m.

**Mary McLeod Bethune/Black History Stories**

Library Headquarters  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314/994-3300

Storyteller and drummer Angela Williams will tell the story of Mary McLeod Bethune and her many contributions to the African American community. Angela will also share inspiring folklore rooted in the African American experience.

Recommended for grades 2-5.

Thursday, February 14, 10:00 a.m.

**Come Here My Stories: Stories with an African American Flavor**

Library Headquarters  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314/994-3300

Storyteller Sylvia Bailey-Small will share inspirational stories passed down from generation to generation that explain our roots, our glories, and our dreams.

Recommended for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – adult.

Saturday, February 16, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Finding Your Roots**

Library Headquarters  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314/994-3300

Former newscaster and current St. Louis County Library Author-in-Residence, Julius Hunter will discuss tips and methods for researching your family history using the genealogical resources available at the library.

Thursday, February 21, 10:00 a.m.

**Lucy Delaney**

Library Headquarters  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
314/994-3300

Educator, storyteller and author Carole Shelton will tell the story of Lucy Delaney. A former slave, Delaney documented her life and escape to freedom in the book “Darkness Cometh the Light.”

Recommended for 5<sup>th</sup> grade-adult.

Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.

**Black History Month Celebration: History And Music**

Natural Bridge Branch

7606 Natural Bridge Rd

St. Louis, MO 63121

314/382-3116

Join local speaker and historian Robert Bradley, author of “Stories about the Black Experience” and “Wake Up: An Analysis of African-American History from a Glorious Past to the Present Crisis.” Mr. Bradley will be joined by the Normandy Middle School Band and Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Arthur Moore.

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Preserving Your Family Memories: Getting Started in Scrapbooking**

Library Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63131

314/994-3300

Craft artist Karen Miller teaches scrapbooking, journal keeping, and other expressive arts as a means of exploring family history and self-discovery. Bring 5-8 photos, memorabilia, and photocopies of those items for experimenting. All other materials will be supplied. Limit 20 attendees. Call 827-8079 to make a reservation.

Thursday, February 28, 10:00 a.m.

**Brother John’s African Folktales**

Library Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63131

314/994-3300

Join motivational storyteller Brother John in this interactive program showcasing timeless values of classic African folktales through whimsical characters, rhythm and music. Listen to the djembe, nicknamed the healing drum.

Recommended for grades K-6

**Movie Nights**

Library Headquarters

1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63131

314/994-3300

Show times will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Library Headquarters. Popcorn and beverages will be provided.

Wednesday, February 6, “Standing in the Shadows of Motown”

Wednesday, February 13, “A Raisin in the Sun”  
Wednesday, February 20, “Akeelah and the Bee”

**Zimbabwe Nkenya**

Multiple branches check [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) for details.

Solo musical workshops for children and families with traditional African instruments presented by renowned musician Zimbabwe Nkenya.

**Master Story Teller Blake Travis**

Multiple branches check [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) for details.

Storyteller and musician Blake Travis will entertain and delight audiences young and old with “Stories from the World Village.”