FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact Information:
Emily Brown
Public Relations Coordinator
Mid-Continent Public Library
ebrown@mymcpl.org
O: 816.503.4187
M: 816.809.9630

Mid-Continent Public Library Celebrates Black History Month

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library will once again offer a wide range of programs and performances in honor of Black History Month. Throughout February, the Library’s branches will host a variety of educational events and exhibits that are free to attend but require registration at mymcpl.org/BlackHistory.

The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers
Experience the history of the African American Buffalo Soldiers, and discover how they distinguished themselves from the American frontier to the battlefields of World War II. Ages 7 and up.

Blue Ridge Branch
Thursday, February 1, at 6:30 p.m.

North Oak Branch
Tuesday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Tales from the Black West
Saddle up for an interactive musical that not only debunks the myths of cow punching, but also explores the life and times of the nearly 10,000 African American cowboys and cowgirls of the Old West. Ages 7 and up.

Antioch Branch
Tuesday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m.

They Were All Stars: Negro Leagues Stars Become Major League All-Stars

They Were All Stars remembers the 20 players who began their baseball careers in the Negro Leagues before joining Major League Baseball after integration, and were voted or selected to play in an All-Star Game during their careers. On loan from Kansas City’s Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, the exhibit features large format baseball card-style panels with photos, facts, and stats on each player. All ages.

Blue Ridge Branch: February 1 – February 15
North Independence Branch: February 21 – March 6
Woodneath Library Center: March 8 – March 23
Platte City Branch: March 26 – April 11
Film Series: Struggle and Victory—The African American Experience in Film

Join film critic and enthusiast Robert Butler at MCPL’s Liberty Branch for an exploration of the African American experience through Hollywood's lens. Some films in the series contain violent and mature content and may not be suitable for all audiences. For adults. Registration is required.

Thursday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m.
12 Years a Slave (2013, Rated R, 134 min)
The true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man in upstate New York who is abducted and sold into slavery in pre-Civil War America.

Thursday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m.
Glory (1989, Rated R, 122 min)
The true story of the United States Army's first all-black infantry unit, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteers. The unit's members and their commanding officers deal with prejudice from both the enemy and their fellow soldiers.

Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m.
42 (2013, Rated PG-13, 128 min)
In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball’s color barrier when he signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers. This true story explores how Robinson dealt with the threats and pressure from racist fans and fellow players.

Thursday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m.
The Help (2011, Rated PG-13, 146 min)
A southern debutante creates an uproar when she publishes interviews with black female servants in her hometown in 1960s Mississippi.

George Washington Carver: America’s Leonardo da Vinci
Born a slave in southwest Missouri and then abducted by outlaws, orphaned, and shunned at the local school, George Washington Carver persevered to become one of the nation’s finest scientists and inventors. Join rangers from the George Washington Carver National Monument for a look at Carver’s life, his efforts to help African American farmers, and his contributions to American society. For adults.

Excelsior Springs Branch
Wednesday, February 21, at 6:30 p.m.
Midwest Genealogy Center
Thursday, February 22, at 10:30 a.m.
Oak Grove Branch
Thursday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m.
Blue Springs South Branch
Friday, February 23, at 10:00 a.m.

Who Was George Washington Carver?
Before he became a famous scientist and inventor, George Washington Carver was born a slave, kidnapped by outlaws, orphaned, and barred from attending his local school. Join rangers from the George Washington Carver National Monument to discover how Carver persevered to help African American farmers and make major contributions to American society. Ages 7 and up.

South Independence Branch
Wednesday, February 21, at 2:00 p.m.
Liberty Branch
Thursday, February 22, at 3:00 p.m.
Friday, February 23, at 3:00 p.m.
African American Genealogical Research for Beginners
Learn about the various record sources and Kansas City-area repositories that could lead you to discover your African American ancestors with local historian and veteran genealogy researcher David W. Jackson. For adults.

Midwest Genealogy Center
Thursday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m.

An Enduring Legacy: Researching Your History to Tell Your Story
Join the Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition (M.A.G.I.C.) and the Midwest Genealogy Center for a special open house and guest speaker who will explore strategies and techniques for uncovering and preserving your family’s story. For adults.

Midwest Genealogy Center
Saturday, February 24, at 1:00 p.m.

For more information about the Library’s Black History Month programs and resources, or to register for an event, visit mymcpl.org/BlackHistory.

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Access Your World
Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and three Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.