FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 31, 2019

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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 for all ages that are free to attend but require registration at mymcpl.org/BlackHistory.

**Family and Kid Events:**

**Cotton, Rag Dolls, and the Underground Railroad**

Kansas City’s connections to the Underground Railroad run deep. Hear stories about the people who helped escaped slaves travel to freedom in the North, and discover the importance rag dolls played in the journey. Then make a rag doll with creative touches that make it all your own.

- **Platte City Branch** – February 9 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Blue Ridge Branch** – February 16 at 11:00 a.m.
- **Boardwalk Branch** – February 20 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Midwest Genealogy Center** – February 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Claycomo Branch** – February 28 at 6:30 p.m.

**Tommy Terrific's Wacky Magic Presents: Louis Armstrong**

Join Tommy Terrific's Wacky Magic for a fantastical look at the life and accomplishments of jazz pioneer and celebrated musician Louis Armstrong.

- **Liberty Branch** – February 9 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Boardwalk Branch** – February 9 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Blue Ridge Branch** – February 10 at 2:00 p.m.

**Nicodemus: They Built Their Own Town**

Do you know who the Exodusters were and the story of their home, Nicodemus?

- **Boardwalk Branch** – February 6 at 2:00 p.m.

**Underground Railroad: The Who, What, and Where Did It Go**

Cultural historian Brother John shares the secret codes, symbols, agents, and songs of the Underground Railroad as well as added insight into this chapter in America’s history.

- **Woodneath Library Center** – February 4 at 6:00 p.m.
- **Lone Jack Branch** – February 12 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Smithville Branch** – April 25 at 6:00 p.m.
**Adult Events**

**George Washington Carver: Path to National Prominence**
Discover the fascinating life story of the famed scientist, educator, and humanitarian with a park ranger from George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri, as your guide.
- Woodneath Library Center – February 20 at 1:00 p.m.
- Red Bridge Branch – February 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- North Oak Branch – February 21 at 10:30 a.m.
- Midwest Genealogy Center – February 21 at 2:00 p.m.

**First to Serve**
Join Arnold Schofield as he discusses the participation of African American soldiers in the Civil War. Learn more about the Trans-Mississippi Theatre of Operations.
- Woodneath Library Center – February 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- Red Bridge Branch – February 13 at 7:00 p.m.

**Exodusters and the Story of Nicodemus**
In 1877, a group of former Kentucky slaves established the town of Nicodemus in Logan County, Kansas. Join National Park Service Ranger Phyllis Howard to learn about this unique community.
- North Oak Branch – February 7 at 10:00 a.m.

**Born a Slave**
His family has identified as Caucasian for five generations; but after more than 30 years of genealogical research, local historian David W. Jackson discovered that his great-great-grandfather was born a slave. Jackson traces the path that led him to this revelation and how his experience could offer insights to other genealogy researchers.
- Blue Springs South Branch – February 9 at 2:00 p.m.
- Midwest Genealogy Center – February 26 at 6:30 p.m.
- North Independence Branch – February 27 at 7:00 p.m.
- Antioch Branch – February 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Mid-Continent Public Library customers can also access a wide variety of resources for Black History Month, including online databases such as *Black Thought and Culture* and *African American History Online* at mymcpl.org/AfricanAmerican.

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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 more than 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.