FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 6, 2019

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’s Annual Romance Convention Returns

‘Romance GenreCon’ Brings Swoon-Worthy Lineup of Authors & Activities for Genre Lovers

Kansas City, MO – The weather won’t be the only thing heating up in Kansas City this August! Registration is now open for Mid-Continent Public Library’s second-annual ‘Romance GenreCon’ on August 1 – 3 at its Woodneath Library Center (8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO). The free, three-day festival will draw romance writers and readers from across the country for a festival dedicated to the creation and enjoyment of the top-selling genre.

“Fans of the romance genre are often thought of as being a small, analogous group of individuals, but in fact, there is a very large, diverse market of readers who enjoy this subject and an increasingly varied group who is producing it,” said MCPL’s Morgan Perry, who is helping organize the event. “We’re proud to bring both of these groups together for a weekend filled with education, entertainment, and networking.”

Thursday and Friday (August 1 and 2) of GenreCon will be the Romance Writers Conference, with experienced romance authors such as Cherry Adair and Damon Suede, as well as industry professionals like Deb Werksman from Sourcebooks publishing house, leading classes on navigating the romance writing process—from character development to publishing and selling a book.

Friday and Saturday (August 2 and 3) will be all about the fans during the Romance Readers Conference. Passion-loving readers will have the opportunity to meet some of the biggest names in the romance genre, including:

- Alyssa Cole, award-winning author of historical, contemporary, and sci-fi romance
- Cathy Maxwell, New York Times bestselling author of contemporary, romantic suspense
- Farrah Rochon, USA Today bestselling author of contemporary romance
- Janna MacGregor, Kansas City resident, attorney, and acclaimed author of historical (Regency) romance
- Rachel Van Dyken, New York Times bestselling author of young adult and contemporary romance
- Tracy Brogan, bestselling author of historical and contemporary romance
- Sierra Simone, KC native and USA Today bestselling author of historical and fantasy romance
- Deb Werksman, Acquiring Editor for Sourcebooks publishing house

During this year’s GenreCon, attendees will not only have the opportunity to attend sessions and book signings with the authors, but they can also bid on the chance to have dinner with them through a silent auction benefiting
MCPL’s Story Center. Kicking off the fan track will be a welcome party and Lady KC Reading Salon on Friday night, followed by a “State of the Genre” author panel on Saturday morning, which will focus on current issues in the industry, including the importance of diversity and inclusion in romance novels.

“At this point, I think everyone can agree that it is extremely important for people to see themselves in the books they read, but I believe it is equally important for us as humans to see others in the entertainment we consume,” said Rochon, who will be on the panel. “As with all forms of literature, romance is a window into a world you may not otherwise have the chance to experience. It teaches us to appreciate just how vastly different we are. I truly believe having more diverse, less homogenous stories make for a more empathetic readership.”

Romance GenreCon will culminate in a romance-only book fair on Saturday, August 3, at 3:00 p.m.

To learn more about Romance GenreCon, including the complete schedule and to register, visit mymcpl.org/Romance.

NOTE: Out-of-town attendees will receive a special rate at the nearby Hampton Inn (8551 Church Rd, Kansas City, MO) on August 2 and 3. Call 816.415.9600 to reserve a room and mention Romance GenreCon.

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Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and two 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.