



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 20, 2004

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City of San Diego Public Library to Host Special Events to Celebrate Black History Month in February

SAN DIEGO – Film screenings, book discussions, exhibits, an author event, story telling and book readings will highlight the City of San Diego Public Library’s special events for Black History Month in February.

“Each year the San Diego Public Library presents important and educational activities during Black History Month that stimulate discussion and increase cultural awareness in our community,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” The commemoration was launched by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who chose February because it contained the birthdays of both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

In addition to special events, the City’s 35 libraries have large collections of books and other materials on African American history and works by African American authors. Library events scheduled for Black History Month include:

Throughout February

Black Superheroes/Black Supervillians – A fun, historical exhibit geared toward children and teens about African-American comic book heroes and villains. In the Children’s Area of the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library, 5148 Market St., San Diego. 619-527-3405.

Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Book Discussion Series: “Dynamic: The Black Experience in America” – A three-book discussion series entitled “Dynamic: The Black Experience in America” will begin with “Uncle Tom’s Children” by Richard Wright. Camille Forbes, Ph.D., a professor of African American literature at UCSD, will facilitate these free discussions. Central Library, 820 E St., San Diego. 619-236-5800.

Sunday, Feb. 6 at 2 p.m.

Film Forum: “Ralph Ellison: An American Journey” – The first documentary about one of the most gifted and intellectually provocative authors of modern American literature. The film presents the first scenes ever filmed from Ellison’s landmark novel, “Invisible Man.” America’s foremost cultural critics such as Cornel West, Amiri Baraka, Stanley Crouch, Clyde Taylor and others discuss Ellison’s role as a central figure in contemporary debates over art, politics, race and nationhood. The documentary explores the many ways one of our most important writers and thinkers grappled with the question: “What does it mean to be an American?” Camille Forbes, Ph.D., an assistant professor of African-American literature and culture at the University of California, San Diego, will facilitate a discussion after the presentation. Central Library, 820 E St., San Diego. 619-236-5800.

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**Black History Month Events at Library
January 20, 2005**

Monday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Film Forum: “Chisholm ’72: Unbought & Unbossed” – A documentary about the 1972 presidential campaign of Shirley Chisholm, a determined, rather prim and unapologetically liberal black woman with a powerful message: Exercise the full measure of your citizenship and vote. The first black woman elected to Congress, Chisholm championed the causes of the poor, the young, minorities, gays, women and other marginalized Americans. Chisholm saw the 1972 presidential race itself as an opportunity to draw people to politics who traditionally did not participate. She died at the age of 80 on Jan. 1, 2005, at her home in Florida. Carole Kennedy, Ph.D., professor in political science at San Diego State University, will facilitate a discussion after the presentation. Central Library, 820 E St., San Diego. 619-236-5800.

Thursday, Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

WING - African Drumming – A master conga drummer will play African and American songs, concluding the performance with an exciting interactive light show. Advance registration required: Please call 619-531-1539. Point Loma-Hervey Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St., San Diego.

Friday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Storytellers Reiko Obata and Steven Gregory will perform. Group reservations required and will be accepted beginning Jan. 25. Call 619-641-6100 to reserve. Please note: one group of 25 may reserve per call. City Heights/Weingart Branch Library, 3795 Fairmount Ave., San Diego. 619-641-6100.

Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Book Discussion Series: “Dynamic: The Black Experience in America” – A three-book discussion series entitled “Dynamic: The Black Experience in America” will continue with “Maud Martha” by Gwendolyn Brooks. Camille Forbes, Ph.D., a professor of African American literature at UCSD, will facilitate the free discussion. Wangenheim Room, Central Library, 820 E St., San Diego. 619-236-5800.

Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 4 p.m.

Dr. Annjennette S. McFarlin, a member of the Black Storytellers of San Diego, will read African-American folktales during the library’s Family Fun Time. Carmel Valley Branch Library, 3919 Townsgate Drive, San Diego. 858-552-1668.

Thursday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m.

WING - African Drumming – A master conga drummer will play African and American songs. Mission Valley Branch Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway, San Diego. (858) 573-5007.

Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Evolution of Black Superheroes in the Comics – Youth Services Librarian Kim Schmidt will lead a discussion about the history of African-American superheroes in comics. Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library, 5148 Market St., San Diego. 619-527-3405.

Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Book Discussion Series: “Dynamic: The Black Experience in America” – A three-book discussion series entitled “Dynamic: The Black Experience in America” will conclude with “Blues for Mister Charlie” by James Baldwin. Camille Forbes, Ph.D., a professor of African American literature at UCSD, will facilitate the free discussion. Wangenheim Room, Central Library, 820 E St., San Diego. 619-236-5800.

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The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future