



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Rapids Public Library's Events Celebrate African American History and Culture

www.grpl.org

Main Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
p. 616.988.5400
f. 616.988.5419

Madison Square Branch
1201 Madison SE
Grand Rapids MI 49507
p. 616.988.5411
f. 616.245.1403

Ottawa Hills Branch
1150 Giddings SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506
p. 616.988.5412
f. 616.241.1460

Seymour Branch
2350 Eastern SE
Grand Rapids MI 49507
p. 616.988.5413
f. 616.241.1445

Van Belkum Branch
1563 Plainfield NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
p. 616.988.5410
f. 616.365.2615

West Leonard Branch
1017 Leonard NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
p. 616.988.5416
f. 616.301.9438

West Side Branch
713 Bridge NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
p. 616.988.5414
f. 616.458.0103

Yankee Clipper Branch
2025 Leonard NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
p. 616.988.5415
f. 616.235.8349

GRAND RAPIDS (February 2, 2017) The Grand Rapids Public Library presents a series of events focused on African American heritage and culture February 19-23, 2017. These events, including the popular Taste of Soul Sunday, celebrate and explore the lives of African Americans in Grand Rapids and beyond.

Taste of Soul Sunday, the library's annual celebration of African American culture will take place on February 19, 2017 from 1-4:30 pm at the Main Library – 111 Library St NE. The event is free and sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation, with additional support from DGRI and Meijer.

Taste of Soul Sunday is an annual event that featuring food sampling from local restaurants, lectures by local authors, historians, and artists, live music and children's activities. Musical performances will include Glenda Williams, Sound Proof, Kathy Lamar, and Young Men 4 Christ (YM4C). Dr. Benjamin Wilson will present on the lives of "ordinary Blacks Folks" who lived in West Michigan between 1919-1950. David L. Head will share the story of Granville T. Woods, the first African American mechanical and electrical engineer. Master Wrapper Zarinah El-Amin Maeen will teach participants how to tie their own headwraps and share the unique history of wrapping across the globe.

Activities for children include creating an African tribal mask and other fun crafts.

Free food samplings will be provided by local restaurants Daddy Pete's BBQ, Big Ed's BBQ, Gursha Ethiopian Restaurant, and Malamiah Juice Bar. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.grpl.org/tasteofsoul.

On Wednesday, February 22, 2017, Reverend Robert Jones will discuss the history of blues music at 6:30 pm at the Main Library. Jones is a singer, storyteller and musician from Detroit who uses folk, blues, spirituals, and other American Roots music to share musical history. He will discuss the seminal figures in blues music and demonstrate the nuances for various regional styles of blues including Piedmont, Delta, Texas and early urban styles.

Local rapper Wu Zee will perform at the Main Library on Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 pm as part on the Music in the Stacks series. As a founding member of The Almighty Foot Clan, Wu Zee has gained a reputation as one of the most entertaining performers in West Michigan. A nimble lyricist with an upbeat style and choice samples, Wu Zee draws his influence from hip hop titans such as MF Doom and Wu-Tang Clan.

Taste of Soul Sunday will take place at the Main Library – 111 Library St NE from 1-4:40 pm on Sunday, February 19, 2017. Free parking is available in the Library's lot. All GRPL programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call 616-988-5400 or visit www.grpl.org/tasteofsoul. The Grand Rapids Public Library connects people to the transforming power of knowledge.

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Images available. Contact Kristen Corrado at 616-988-5402 x 5438.