

## **"There's a Horizon Out There" 2012 Saint Paul/Ramsey County Black History Month Speaker Series**

SAINT PAUL - The City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County will host a number of exciting February events in recognition of Black History Month. The City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County have a wealth of African-American leaders who have shaped our community. The theme for 2012 is from a quote by Gordon Parks, "There's another horizon out there, one more horizon that you have to make for yourself and let other people discover it, and someone else will take it further on..."

This 2012 Black History Month we are proud to feature speakers who are founding Minnesota's First African-American History Museum, bringing to light the untold story of Saint Paul's African-American Baseball Players, producing scholarship on African-American Men and Masculinities, and honoring Gordon Parks. Robin Hickman, niece of Mr. Parks, will discuss his legacy at our final event on February 24th. Gordon Parks, who spent part of his childhood in Saint Paul, was a famed photographer, author of the *Learning Tree* and *A Choice of Weapons*, and Director of the "Blaxploitation" hit "Shaft."

Public officials will be participating in this series including Mayor Chris Coleman, Deputy Mayor Paul Williams, Council President Kathy Lantry, Councilmember Melvin Carter III, and Ramsey County Commissioner Chair Rafael Ortega.

The 2012 Black History Month Committee for the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County has organized the following series of events this February:

### **Friday, February 10, Noon to 1 p.m.: Roxanne Givens and Frank White**

- Roxanne Givens, "The Founding of Minnesota's African-American History Museum"; and
- Frank White, "They Played for the Love of the Game – Adding to the Legacy of Minnesota Black Baseball."
- Master of Ceremonies: Chris Crutchfield, Deputy Director for Community Relations and External Affairs for Ramsey County
- Spoken Word by Sheronda

### **Friday, February 17, Noon to 1 p.m.: "What's Up With the Brothers -From Marginalization to Empowerment"**

- Dr. Whitney Stewart-Harris, Executive Director, Diversity and Multiculturalism Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Master of Ceremonies: Councilmember Melvin Carter III

**Friday, February 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Program 12 to 1pm, Lunch from 11:30am to 12pm)**

- Robin Hickman “Walking in the Footsteps of Gordon Parks: Preserving His Legacy”
- Niece of Gordon Parks, Robin Hickman is the CEO and Executive Producer of SoulTouch Productions, a television and film production, youth mentorship and media consulting company, with a mission to make meaningful media and produce powerful social impact experiences.
- Opening Remarks by Mayor Chris Coleman.
- Proclamations by Mayor Chris Coleman, Council President Kathy Lantry, and Ramsey County Commission Chair Rafael Ortega.
- Master of Ceremonies: Deputy Mayor Paul Williams.
- Lunch will be catered by Abundant Catering. The cost of lunch is \$10 and is served on a first-come, first-serve from 11:30 to 12:00 (February 24<sup>th</sup> only).

All of the above events will be held at City Hall/Courthouse - 15 W Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul, MN (Lower Level - Room 40 A & B)

**The City of Saint Paul Public Libraries will also be hosting a number of exciting and important events at various locations.**

The theme for Black History Month at the Saint Paul Public Libraries is, “Imagine. Learn. Explore.” For the month of February, Saint Paul Public Libraries will host concerts and book discussions recognizing the contributions of African-Americans throughout our history.

The Saint Paul Public Libraries has organized the following events in recognition of Black History month:

**Friday, February 3, 5 p.m.: Lady Griot**

- West Seventh Library, 265 Oneida St.
- Lady Griot connects the audience to the blues with resonance, poetry and dramatic flair.
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**Sunday, February 5, 2 p.m.: Robert Robinson**

- Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St.
- Join acclaimed gospel and contemporary music artist Robert Robinson for a live concert at the Rondo Library. Robinson has performed with Aretha Franklin, Grammy Award winner Andrae Crouch, the Sounds of Blackness, Bobby McFerrin, Barry Manilow, Jermaine Jackson, and others. The Star Tribune called him “Pavarotti of gospel.”

**Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m.: Walter Mosley**

- Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St.
- Join a panel of local scholars of African American Literature to discuss the work of best-

selling author Walter Mosley. Mosley is this year's featured Givens Black Books Community Reading Campaign author.

- To learn more about his work and the program visit [www.givens.org](http://www.givens.org).

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**Tuesday, February 21, 7 p.m.: "More than a Month"**

- Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.
- Community Cinema Presents "More than a Month."
- Filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman sets off on a cross-country campaign to end Black History Month. His tongue-in-cheek journey explores the complexity and contradictions of relegating an entire group's history to one month in a so-called post-racial America. A discussion will follow the film.

**Wednesday, February 22, 6:45 p.m.: Highland Park Book Club**

- Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Parkway
- Join the Highland Park Book Club for a discussion of Walter Mosley's book, "Known to Evil."

**Saturday, February 25, 2 p.m.: Book Discussion**

- Arlington Hills Library, 1105 Greenbrier Street
- Continue the discussion of Walter Mosley's work with a conversation about his recent nonfiction title: "Twelve Steps toward Political Revelation."

**Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m.: Lou and Sarah Bellamy**

- Central Library. 90 W. Fourth St.
- Join Lou Bellamy, artistic director of Penumbra Theater, and Sarah Bellamy, Education Director, for a page-to-stage discussion of the upcoming production "The Amen Corner," by James Baldwin. Also, actors from the company will present brief excerpts.