



atlantic city free public library

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Library's Black History Month programs include Club Harlem exhibit

The Atlantic City Free Public Library will offer a series of special programs in February in celebration of Black History Month.

The plans include a month-long exhibit, "A Pictorial of Club Harlem and the Way We Were," which will highlight the legendary Atlantic City club and the local African American community during the mid-1900s through a collection of photos and memorabilia.

The grand opening for the exhibit, presented in conjunction with the African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, will be held 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1, in the Main Library's second-floor meeting room. The exhibit is free, and it will remain open for public viewing during normal library business hours.

Exhibit opening guest speakers will include AAHMSJ founder Ralph E. Hunter, Sr., and Atlantic City icon and former Club Harlem dancer Pattie Harris. The exhibit will feature approximately 110 photos — 80 from the AAHMSJ and 30 more from the library's Alfred M. Heston Collection of Atlantic City history. The photos date back to 1944 and include shots of the A-list entertainers who made Atlantic City and Club Harlem a must-stop while touring the East, and some of the important African-Americans from the local community will also be highlighted. The club's stuffed leather doors — which feature paintings of club owner Leroy "Pops" Williams and Sammy Davis, Jr. — will be part of the exhibit. And, for the opening, the original Club Harlem sign will be displayed.

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Please call (609) 345-2269, ext. 3115, for more information about the exhibit.

The library will also offer the following programs:

- **Hip Hop Writing Workshop at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10 and 17** – *Atlantic City Weekly* columnist Raymond Tyler will lead this writing workshop, which is designed for teenagers and adults. Also, he will discuss the widespread impact hip hop has had on urban culture. Tyler will bring in old school and current hip hop music, magazines and graffiti samples. This program is free. Please call (609) 345-2269, ext. 3052, for more information.
- **Comic Book Drawing lessons at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25** – Marvel Comic illustrator Joe DelBeato will teach youths ages 8 to 16 some of the history of African Americans in comics and how to draw superheroes such as the Black Panther and other characters. This program is free. Please call (609) 345-2269, ext. 3051, for more information.