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Editor: Please do not omit sponsor credit in *About Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience* (first boilerplate).

[Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience](#)
Cooperstown Comes to the Greenville County Library System

Greenville, SC – On **November 2**, the Greenville County Library System will begin a six-week baseball series, which will include a traveling exhibit, programs and local experts. Organized by the American Library Association and the National Baseball Hall of Fame, with funding support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Hughes Main Library will host an interactive series on the history of the African-American Baseball Experience.

The Exhibit

[Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience](#), an exhibit based upon a permanent display of the same name at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, the story of African-American baseball players in the U.S. over the past 150 years. The Hughes Main Library of the Greenville County Library System will host the 1,000-square-foot exhibit **November 2-December 14, 2009**.

The exhibition is arranged in six thematic and chronological sections:

- **Finding a Way in Hard Times (1860-1887)** covers the years after the Civil War, during which baseball was affected by the deepening of racial prejudice throughout the nation.
- **Barnstorming on the Open Road (1887-1919)** describes how black baseball players formed their own professional teams and traveled to towns and cities throughout the nation.
- **Separate Leagues, Parallel Lives (1920-1932)** looks at the first black baseball leagues, including the Negro National League and the Eastern Colored League, and how they fared until the Great Depression.
- **Paving the Way to Integration (1933-1946)** examines the revival of Negro League baseball after the Depression, the introduction of night baseball and the success of teams such as the Kansas City Monarchs and the Homestead Grays.

- **Signposts for Opportunity (1947-1959)** deals with the career of Jackie Robinson, the black player who joined the all-white Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, and the 12 years it took for all Major League teams to field at least one black player.
- **Baseball's Post-Integration Era (1959-present)** looks at the progress of integration and how it has affected baseball on the field, in the executive offices and at the managerial level.

The Events

In collaboration with the exhibit, the Greenville County Library System will offer a series of in-depth programs on the topic. Dr. Abel Bartley, Director of the Pan-African Studies Program at Clemson University, will serve as the humanities scholar for the series.

Kickoff Event

Jackie Robinson, Baseball and the Evolution of American Social Policy

Thursday, November 5, 6:30p-8:30p

Hughes Main Library, Meeting Rooms A-C

Dr. Able Bartley will present the first program, which looks at the impact of Jackie Robinson's integration of baseball and how it set the stage for future integrative efforts. Join us afterwards for an opening reception with refreshments. Call 527-9241.

The Baseball Sculpture of William Behrends

Tuesday, November 10, 7:00p-8:30p

Hughes Main Library, Meeting Rooms A-C

Sculptor William Behrends will discuss preparation behind sculpting and how the artwork moves from idea to monument. Some of his athletic sculptures include baseball greats Jackie Robinson for the Brooklyn's KeySpan Park, Willie Mays for the San Francisco Giants, Tony Gwynn for the San Diego Padres and Negro League legend Buck O'Neill for the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Call 527-9241.

Negro Textile League Baseball in the Upstate and the Story of Negro Leaguer "Chino" Smith

Thursday, November 12, 7:00p-8:30p

Hughes Main Library, Meeting Rooms A-C

A panel of players, authors and researchers, including special guest, former Greenville Black Spinner Cornell Blakely, will discuss South Carolina Negro Textile Leagues. Tom Perry, author of *Textile League Baseball*, and research assistant Mac Kirkpatrick will discuss experiences and research. Mr. Perry and Pat Obley will also talk about their upcoming biography of little-known baseball legend "Chino" Smith. Call 527-9241.

Negro League Baseball: Its Development and Impact in the Upstate

Thursday, November 19, 7:00p-8:30p

Hughes Main Library, Meeting Rooms A-C

Dr. Abel Bartley will discuss the development of the Negro Leagues and their impact on African-Americans in the Upstate of South Carolina. The program offers insight into the early history of black baseball leagues and baseball legends that pervaded black society during the period. Call 527-9241.

The Jackie Robinson Story

Friday, November 20, 6:30p-8:30p

Hughes Main Library, Meeting Rooms A-C

Starring Jackie Robinson, this 1950 feature film portrays the player's struggle to integrate baseball. *Contains strong language referring to race.* Recommended for ages 12 and up. Popcorn, drawings and door prizes courtesy of the Greenville Drive and the Russell Sportswear Company accompany this program.

The Cannon Street All-Stars

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00p-8:30p

Hughes Main Library, Meeting Rooms A-C

The Cannon Street All-Stars was the first African-American Little League All-Star team in the state to qualify for postseason play. The team's subsequent exclusion from tournaments at city, state and regional levels culminated in the ban from the 1955 Little League World Series, garnering huge national media attention. Presenters include former team member, John Rivers and Gene Sapakoff, author of the Sports Illustrated article about the team. Call 527-9241.

Depression and World War II Era Baseball

Thursday, December 3, 7:00p-8:30p

Hughes Main Library, Meeting Rooms A-C

Dr. Abel Bartley offers an overview of baseball during the Depression and the World War II periods. He will examine how the sport served as a diversion from the Great Depression and helped keep American spirits high during the traumatic war years, including the proliferation of women's leagues. Call 527-9241.

Visit www.greenvillelibrary.org or call 527-9241 for more information.

About Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience

Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience, a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, New York, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office, Chicago. The traveling exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life. The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name on permanent display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

About the Greenville County Library System:

Founded in 1921, the Greenville County Library System operates 12 facilities, a bookmobile, and a website that provide information, materials, and engaging programs delivered with world-class technology and a customer-centric approach. The Library System offers free access to resources and experiences and continually strives to be the community's destination of choice for exploring the world. For more information, visit the Library's website at www.greenvillelibrary.org.

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