



January 22, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### African American Literature Read In at the Library for Black History Month

(PANAMA CITY, FL) -- Families are invited to attend the “African American Literature Read In” at the Bay County Public Library on February 2, 2016 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and then again from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Read In will promote diversity in children’s literature, encourage young people to read, and shine a spotlight on African American authors.

The community is invited to come in from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. and listen to librarians and children read picture books and poetry by African American authors.

The Read In from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. will feature a special dance performance as well as spoken word artists.

Destiny Young will perform a solo dance piece based on the Martin Luther King Jr. *I have a Dream* speech. Destiny began her artistry in dance at the age of eighteen, studying dance and movement as well as political science at Emory University in Atlanta. Destiny has a concentrated background in modern dance. She co-founded and is currently serving as the Managing Director and Co-Artistic Director of Global Arts Society. Destiny teaches modern, ballet, African, and creative movement.

Global Arts Society’s performances are collectives of dancers, singers, musicians, poets, painters, actors, and other art forms. Their productions incorporate all of the arts, but their greatest strengths are dance, music, drama, and the ability to integrate and translate these art forms into bold choreographic works, which speak to the heart and move the soul.

Two spoken word artists will perform their original poetry during the evening. Spoken word is performance-based poetry that focuses on the aesthetics of word play and storytelling. Due to its immediacy and direct rapport with its audience, this type of poetry often contains references to current events and issues relevant to a contemporary audience.

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Anthony Peterson, a native of Panama City, is an inspirational speaker and poet. He believes in the power of words and filling one's self with knowledge. This father of six believes that the library and reading play a vital role in his family's enjoyment of reading and learning.

Ashley Frink, also known as "Psalmist Flow," has been writing poetry since age ten and performing since age seventeen. She is attending Gulf Coast State College, majoring in journalism, and wants to attend Florida A&M University for her bachelor's degree.

Several community members will share their favorite poem or excerpt from their favorite book. Audience members are asked to bring their own favorite poem or short excerpt from a favorite book if they would like to share.

Visit the library during the month of February to browse and checkout from the displays of materials by African American authors and Illustrators.

The Bay County Public Library is located at 898 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Panama City. Please call 522-2100 or visit [www.nwrls.com](http://www.nwrls.com) for more information.

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