
MEDIA ADVISORY/ PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 27, 2015

**Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) Kicks off Black History Month with
A Special Musician Visit by Njacko Backo**

WHAT: Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) kicks off Black History Month with a special visit by percussionist, singer, storyteller, choreographer and composer Njacko Backo on Feb. 4 at Dufferin Clark Library. Two Grade 8 classes from Glen Shields Public School will be attending to enjoy the amazing performance by Njacko Backo.

VPL also invites the public to celebrate Black History Month by taking part in a book club discussion to share their thoughts on a special selection of Black Heritage themed books. Families can join VPL for a fun [African & Caribbean Storytime](#) program that explores African and Caribbean history and culture.

An [art exhibit](#) will take place throughout the month. Artwork from local Black Heritage artists will be displayed at various branches for public viewing.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 4, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Dufferin Clark Library - 1441 Clark Avenue West
[Click here for map](#)

WHY: To provide destinations where the citizens of Vaughan can celebrate and share the historical and present contributions of Black Canadians.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Njacko Backo
- VPL's Black History Programs
- VPL's Black Heritage Collection
- Recommended Black History Books, Music and Movies

NJACKO BACKO

Njacko Backo creates joyful African-influenced “world music” that instantly evokes images of sun-drenched music festivals, ecstatically-dancing crowds and the spirit of peace, love and social harmony found within.

Njacko has released a total of 10 albums – seven with Kalimba Kalimba – and has performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival, the Louisiana Folk Festival and the Houston International Jazz Festival, among countless other events. He has also composed music for films including *To Walk with Lions*, *Born Free*, and *Spirit in the Tree*.

As an educator, Njacko has released three instructional African drumming CDs and an instructional DVD. He has given guest lectures at York University, the University of Guelph and the University of Waterloo. He teaches music to young people through [Mariposa in the Schools](#), and he’s even written a popular children’s book, *Baki and the Magic Egg*, and is working on a follow up!

In addition, Njacko has performed at fundraising concerts for countless charities and non-profit organizations, including Amnesty International, Foster Parents Plan, The Stephen Lewis Foundation, and The David Suzuki Foundation. Since 2010, he and his wife, Valery Woloshyn and their friends have also been raising money to rebuild the [École St. Albert Le Grand in Bazou, Cameroon](#).

For more information on Njacko Backo, please visit www.njackobacko.com.

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAMS AT VPL**Musician Visit**

Njacko Backo is a percussionist, singer, storyteller, choreographer and composer. Come and celebrate Black History Month with his music drawing parallels and differences between Canadian and African family life.

Dufferin Clark Library	Feb. 4	10 a.m.
Maple Library	Feb. 6	10 a.m.

African & Caribbean Storytime

In celebration of Black History Month, join us for stories that explore African and Caribbean history and culture. Fun for the whole family!

Dufferin Clark Library	Feb. 12	11:30 a.m.
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Art Exhibit

Celebrate Black History Month throughout the month of February by viewing artwork from local Black Heritage artists - Andrenne Finnikin and Haley Cobran.

Dufferin Clark Library	Feb. 1 – 28
Pierre Berton Resource Library	Feb. 1 – 28
Maple Library	Feb. 1 – 28

Book Clubs

Celebrate Black History Month with a special book club selection.

Ansley Grove Library	Feb. 25	7 p.m.
<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> by Maya Angelou		
Bathurst Clark Resource Library	Feb. 24	7 p.m.
<i>The Willow Tree</i> by Hubert Selby Jr.		
Woodbridge Library	Feb. 23	7 p.m.
<i>The Long Fall</i> by Walter Mosley		

VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES' BLACK HERITAGE COLLECTION

VPL's Black Heritage Collection was started in 1989 and is the first of its kind in York Region. It was established in response to the needs of the local community. While the emphasis of this collection is on Black Canadian and Caribbean literature, history, and culture, it also includes materials about the Black experience in general as well as African literature and Afro-American materials. Books, CD's and DVD's that portray Black culture through its arts, crafts, poetry, drama, and fiction are available for all age groups.

Black Heritage materials are available at all branches of VPL. The main collection is located at the Dufferin Clark branch. Non-fiction items are indicated as "BH" (Black Heritage) in the library catalogue. You can find items either in the library or online, by using an author's name, title of work or subject keywords such as "Black Canada" "Black Canadians" "African Americans" or "Caribbean Area".

BLACK HISTORY RECOMMENDED BOOKS, MUSICS AND MOVIES

Looking for something to read, watch or listen to during Black History Month? Librarians at Vaughan Public Libraries have selected popular titles related to African and Caribbean culture just for you. Use the list below to find recommended items at VPL branches, or contact a librarian for more information.

Adults**[At the Full and Change of the Moon: A Novel](#)**

Brand, Dionne / BH FIC Brand

In 1824, on the island of Trinidad, Marie Ursule, queen of a secret society of militant slaves called the Sans Peur regiment, plots a mass suicide. It is also the beginning of a new world, because she cannot bring herself to kill her small daughter, Bola, whom she smuggles away from the estate in the early dawn light.

[Beloved](#)

Morrison, Toni / BH FIC Morri

Pulitzer Prize winning story of the strange things that start happening when a former slave takes in a girl named Beloved.

[Daughters Who Walk This Path](#)

Kilanko, Yedije / FIC Kilan

Morayo, a spirited and intelligent girl grows up in a traditional family in modern-day Nigeria, but her sheltered life is shattered when her family welcomes a distant and troubled cousin into their home.

On Black Sister's Street

Uniwe, Chika / BH FIC Uniwg

Four very different women have made their way from Africa to Brussels but a murder tears apart their fragile world.

Children

A Mighty Big Imagining (Our Canadian Girl, Rachel #1)

Kositsky, Lynne / J-PB Our Series

Rachel's new freedom in Nova Scotia is marred by the cold weather and barren land.

Still I Rise: A Graphic History Of African Americans

Laird, Roland Laird / BH Graphic Novels YA –PB Laird 2009

A graphic novel showing how throughout history African Americans have persevered despite overwhelming odds.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963: A Novel

Curtis, Christopher Paul / J-PB Curti

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Underground to Canada

Smucker, Barbara / J-PB Smuck

This is a classic story of two young girls' flight from slavery at a plantation in Mississippi via the Underground Railway.

Music and Movies

Beyonce (CD)

Beyonce / CD Popular Beyon

Magna Carta Holy Grail (CD)

Jay-Z/ CD Popular Jayz

Unapologetic (CD)

Rihanna / CD Popular Rihan

12 Years A Slave (DVD)

DVD Fic Twelve

In pre-Civil War United States, Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery.

Cool Runnings (DVD)

DVD FIC Cool

The story of four Jamaicans who have an impossible dream – competing in the Olympics in bobsled racing.

Sparkle (DVD)

DVD FIC Spark

Three sisters form girl group and soon become local sensations with major label interest, but fame becomes a challenge as the close-knit family begins to fall apart.

VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Vaughan Public Libraries offers welcoming destinations that educate, excite and empower the community. Annually, VPL welcomes over two million visitors making it one of the top leisure and information destinations within the City of Vaughan. VPL is more than just a place to borrow books. Each year we offer hundreds of programs for people of all ages, you can enjoy our incredible array of content everywhere – in the library, at home or on your handheld device. For more information on VPL's programs and services visit www.vaughanpl.info and subscribe to our [eNewsletter](#).

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Elaine Barr

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Vaughan Public Libraries

905.653. READ (7323) ext. 4108

elaine.barr@vaughan.ca**Karen Yang**

Marketing & Communications Assistant

Vaughan Public Libraries

905.653. READ (7323) ext. 4146

karen.yang@vaughan.ca