

For Immediate Release

Contact: Paul Burns 502-574-1683 [Office]

“Read your way around the world” for fun, to enrich understanding – and to explore the diversity of Louisville

Louisville, Ky. (August 17, 2011) – As Louisville prepares to celebrate its diversity at WorldFest, the Library is launching *Read Your Way Around the World*, an initiative encouraging reading groups and all readers across Louisville to explore books with roots in different countries and cultures. The program includes activities at every branch in September, a new Mayor’s Book Club and a book list of 50 titles.

“In a city and nation that are becoming increasingly diverse, it’s a way to celebrate our international roots and expand our horizons,” said Mayor Greg Fischer.

The Library’s 18 locations are preparing to celebrate International Month throughout September. Each library has selected a country and is planning programs all month – from children’s storytimes to book discussions to food-and-culture activities. A complete listing of the Library’s International Month programs can be found online at LFPL.org, or in the September issue of *Library News*.

The Main Library will host a new Mayor’s Book Club on the third Wednesday of the month from noon – 1p.m., beginning September 21. The Mayor’s wife, Alex Gerassimides, an avid reader, will attend the book club as often as she can – and the Mayor hopes to stop by occasionally as well. The Mayor’s Book Club will select titles in the coming year from the library’s *Read Your Way Around the World* book list. At least a dozen are books families can read together. The complete list is available online at LFPL.org, along with background and discussion questions.

“We hope a lively mix of readers will join us, including downtown workers with brown-bag lunches,” said library director Craig Buthod. “It will be relaxed – a way to enjoy reading a book every month and hear different perspectives.”

The first book will be *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese – for September 21. For more information on *Read Your Way Around the World* or the Mayor’s Book Club, visit LFPL.org or call 574-1611.

Also part of International Month, LFPL welcomes Ingrid Betancourt to its *Authors at the Library* series. Betancourt, a former Colombian senator, will discuss her kidnapping and years in prison in *Even Silence Has an End: My Six Years of Captivity in the Colombian Jungle* at the Main Library, September 26, 7 p.m.. Tickets for this event will be available beginning at 10 a.m., August 24. Order online at LFPL.org, or by calling 574-1644.

These September programs are part of a wide range of ongoing international programming at the Library. The library’s collection includes books and movies in many languages and more than 500 learn-a-language CD sets from Arabic to Urdu. The Iroquois branch, in the heart of a diverse part of the city, offers a rich mix of international activities, including multilingual story times, cultural showcases, conversation groups, foreign films and literary “salons” in several languages. Downloadable audio selections also include foreign language courses.



For more information:

The reading list for *Read Your Way Around the World* is at LFPL.org. You will find background information on each book and some discussion questions. Some books on this list have book kits with 10 copies. Others have multiple copies.

The Mayor's Book Club: To join in, just come to the first meeting at noon, Wednesday, September 21. Brown-bag lunches are welcome.

For details on branch activities during International Month please go to LFPL.org and click on "International Month."

Louisville Free Public Library connects the residents of Louisville and Jefferson County to knowledge and information at our 18 locations and on the Web at www.lfpl.org. Come on in, the whole world's inside.

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