

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Waiting to Exhale Author Terry McMillan Comes to Stark County for Library's Speaking of Books Author Series

**January 10, 2017 (Canton, Ohio)** –Join Stark County District Library for the next installment of the new *Dr. Audrey Lavin Speaking of Books Author Series*, which brings acclaimed writers to Stark County who inspire lively discussion and community conversation while exemplifying literary excellence. The debut 2016-2017 season includes four special evenings planned at the Canton Palace Theatre.

On February 15, New York Times bestselling author Terry McMillan visits the Canton Palace Theatre at 6:30 p.m. to discuss her body of work, answer questions and sign books. McMillan is best known for her world-renowned titles, *Waiting to Exhale* and *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, which topped the New York Times bestseller list and were adapted into award winning movies. She studied journalism at UC Berkeley and screenwriting at Columbia before making her fiction debut with *Mama*, which won both the Doubleday New Voices in Fiction Award and the American Book Award.

McMillan's signature humor and warm style made her wildly popular with successful, independent women – including Oprah. The latest book in her line up, *I Almost Forgot About You* is the story of a woman's journey through her past loves to answer the question "What if?"

"Terry is such a large and vibrant personality and it shows in her work. Her books are relatable and speak to a generation," said Marianna DiGiacomo, Community Services Director. "We're excited to bring such a talented writer to Stark County."

Terry will speak about her books, followed by a question and answer session. The evening will end with a book signing and Friends of the Library volunteers will have copies available for purchase.

This new series launch is one of the Library's newest innovations to help Stark County "Share Smart" as part of its reimagination as The Smart Store®. It is named for Dr. Audrey Lavin, a local "celebrity" author, a globe-trotting academic, a champion of writers, and a tireless supporter of the Library.

Reserve free tickets to any of the author events at [StarkLibrary.org/Speakingofbooks](http://StarkLibrary.org/Speakingofbooks) or by calling the Library at 330-452-0665.

The complete debut season's schedule includes:

**Michael Hingson**

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Michael's book, *Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust* chronicled his harrowing escape from the World Trade Center with the help of his guide dog, Roselle.

**Forrest Pritchard**

Tuesday, October 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Forrest Pritchard, seventh generation farmer and New York Times bestselling author, discussed his book, *Gaining Ground, A Story of Farmer's Markets, Local Food and Saving the Family Farm*.

**Terry McMillan**

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

#1 New York Times bestselling author Terry McMillan discusses her award-winning body of work and her latest novel, *I Almost Forgot About You*.

**Garth Stein**

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Garth discusses his bestselling book *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, the contemporary classic narrated by the beloved dog, Enzo, his writing process, and more.

**ABOUT THE LIBRARY**

One of the 9 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county's oldest library – Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 105,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.85 million items from its 1.4 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents more than 9,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 260,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its "no overdue fines" policy, the BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

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*Stark County District Library: Start Smart. Stay Smart. Share Smart.*