



## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Leimert Park Village Book Fair Announces Its Lineup of Headliners, Crowd Pleasers and Fan Favorites For Its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Zane, Bobby Brown, Meagan Good & DeVon Franklin and Miss Robbie of Sweetie Pie's are Among Featured Headliners*

LOS ANGELES – Powerhouse and best-selling author/publisher Zane will headline the Leimert Park Village Book Fair (LPVBF)! Zane is a *New York Times* best-selling author of 32 titles, and considered one of, if not the most, powerful African-American female in the publishing industry. She is the publisher of Strebor Books International -- an imprint of ATRIA Books/Simon and Schuster, and the third largest publishing corporation in America. Interestingly, until 2006, Zane, Toni Morrison and Terri McMillan were the only three African-American females to make the print list of the *New York Times* Best Seller List in this century.

“Voted One of LA’s Five Best Annual Book Festivals,” the LPVBF will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the outdoor promenade of the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza (BHCP), located at 3650 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in LA. Thousands are expected to flock once again to this family-oriented festival held in the heart of Leimert Park, the epicenter of the Los Angeles area African American arts, intellectual and literary scene. The Leimert Park Village Book Fair’s tribute to the love of reading cleverly merges the worlds of literary, entertainment and the culinary arts, offering an eclectic mix of literature, art, music and food.

“With exciting headliners and authors -- new to the Leimert Park Village Book Fair, and returning authors, who have supported us for this years – the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary promises to be our biggest and best yet,” said Cynthia Exum, executive director and founder of LPVBF. “It’s been a wonderful journey. It has grown into an important cultural institution in our community. It’s been truly rewarding and humbling. I hope everyone enjoys our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary extravaganza because it will indeed be a wonderful day of celebrating the written word!”

The book fair’s line up includes headliners, crowd pleasers and fan favorites, offering an intellectually engaging day, promoting literacy. Along with **Zane**, who will be signing her latest tome, “Vengeance;” celebrity power couple **Meagan Good and DeVon Franklin** will share bits about their courtship and love affair from their best-selling novel, “The Wait.” White House correspondent and political commentator **April Ryan**, author of “The Presidency in Black and White,” and economist and political analyst **Dr. Julianne Malveaux** author of “Are We Better Off?” will take time away from the Capitol to talk about the topic of “Are We Better Off?” AND Grammy Award-winning recording artist **Bobby Brown** will spill the dish in his new biography, “Every Little Step,” on his life and love, Whitney Houston.

Crowd pleasers like media personalities **Rolonda Watts** and **Flo Anthony** will share excerpts from their new books, “Destiny Lingers” and “One Last Deadly Play,” respectively. There will be an iconoclast conversation between pioneering director-turned-author **Matty Rich** (“Straight Out of Brooklyn and the “Inkwell) and legendary musician **Charles Wright** (writer of the hit song, “Express Yourself”). Rich will discuss “Bev,” a gripping novel that centers on the real-life story of a little-known figure in the Civil Rights movement – a white social worker by the name of Beverly Luther. Rich has also secured the movie rights to the book for a film adaptation. And Wright will talk about his new book, “Up: From Where We’ve Come,” which highlights historical accounts of his past long before he gained status as a musical legend.

For readers who like thrillers and mysteries, they'll love meeting fan favorites like **Pamela Samuels Young**, winner of the NAACP Image Award for *Outstanding Fiction* for "Anybody's Daughter" and **Gary Phillips**, author of "Cowboys" and "The Cocaine Chronicles." Best-selling husband-and-wife writing duo **Tananarive Due and Steven Barnes** will be signing their latest releases, including "Ghost Summer" and the "Seacape Tattoo." An award-winning novelist and screenwriter who teaches creative writing at UCLA, Due also nabbed an NAACP Image Award literary nomination for the short story collection "Ghost Summer" this year. Directing the main stage's incredible line-up will be known inspirational speaker, award-winning executive life coach, and author of "Betrayal", **Barbara Perkins**, joins us as the Mistress of Ceremony.

The culinary stage will also be heating up with reality star **Miss Robbie of OWN's "Welcome to Sweetie Pie's"** serving up something special – like her famous mac 'n cheese -- and signing her new cookbook. Titled "Sweetie Pie's Cookbook: Soulful Southern Recipes, from My Family to Yours" the celebrity chef welcomes you into her kitchen to experience more than 150 tasty foods as she shows what it means to put heart and "foot" into a dish. And celebrity **Chef Rome Brown** – who has cooked for former Secretary of State General Colin Powell, NBA champion Shaquille O'Neal, and NFL player Cam Newton – will share his passion for cuisine and sign his new cookbook, "Eat Like a Celebrity: Southern Cuisine With a Gourmet Twist." Foodies may be familiar with Chef Brown from competing on season one of the Food Network's reality show, "Extreme Chef." And while Miss Robbie and Chef Rome will be serving up some serious soul food, **Chefs Jaime Martin Del Campo and Ramiro Arvizu** of Mexicano Restaurant at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza will bring an authentic taste of Mexican fare to the book fair's culinary stage. Affectionately known together as Jaime and Ramiro, the chefs are two of the biggest stars in the Mexican cooking world. In 2008, the two nabbed a nomination for *Best Chef* from the James Beard Foundation, and continue to earn recognition for their exemplary Mexican cuisine.

And for the sports lover, Los Angeles Laker, **Metta World Peace**, author of "Metta's Bedtime Stories, former NBA players **A.C. Green** (LA Lakers) and journeyman NBA/CBA player **Jauquin "Hawk" Hawkins** (Houston Rockets), who is the author of "Stroke of Grace," will grace the sports lounge and children's stage for storytelling and to offer words of inspiration.

The day will culminate with a closing keynote speech by motivational speaker, **Ramsey Jay Jr.**, author of "Empower Dreamers to Become Achievers." Jay is a Wall Street-trained, Ivy League-educated finance professional with more than a decade of global investment management experience. Named by *Ebony* magazine as one of the top "30 Young Leaders Under 30," he recently delivered opening remarks at the White House where President Obama and the First Lady hosted an event, honoring Ray Charles. His message and enriching inspiration has touched many lives, encouraging all people to live their best lives without fear and limitations.

"We are thrilled to host this grand celebration, and honored that this outstanding event has found its home in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw community," said Rachel Freeman, general manager for Baldwin Hills Crenshaw. "This event is part of our ongoing commitment to bring high-quality activities to our neighborhood, and we are proud to support efforts promoting literacy, history and culture. We hope the entire community will come out and enjoy this event, where there really will be something for everyone to enjoy!"

For more information about the LPVBF, including an electronic press kit with downloadable talent photos for promotional use, visit [www.leimertparkbookfair.com](http://www.leimertparkbookfair.com).

For the extended lineup with blurbs about headliners, crowd pleasers and fan favorites, visit <http://bit.ly/2ab0KNU>

For more information about the LPVBF TURNING 10! visit <http://bit.ly/23kqbkr>

**ABOUT THE LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE BOOK FAIR**

The LPVBF is produced by Exum and Associates in collaboration with in collaboration with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas – the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; and Capri Capital Partners of Baldwin Hills Crenshaw. Sponsors include: Sempra Energy- The Gas Company; Caremore; Time Warner Cable; Nestle USA; KABC-Channel 7; Los Angeles Lakers; Lakers Youth Foundation; Loyola Marymount University; KLCS -TV (PBS); ATLS Worldwide; Mel Assagai, Strategic Counsel; Ralphs/Food 4 Less; and The Kinsey Foundation. Philanthropists and art historians Dr. Bernard W. and Shirley Kinsey serve as the book fair’s chairpersons, leading the fund-raising efforts and increasing the book fair’s brand awareness in the corporate community.

The Kinseys are one of the most admired and respected couples in Los Angeles. They are known for their collection of African-American art, books and manuscripts that document and tell the remarkable story of African Americans triumphs and struggles from 1632 to the present. The Kinsey Collection: “Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey” has been on a national tour and seen by millions.

Cynthia Exum, an alumnus of the prestigious California State Senate Fellows program, holds a Master of Arts from UCLA’s School of Urban Planning and Public Policy. She founded Exum-Casey and Associates, a public affairs and events management firm in 2005. Exum is also the co-author of “Images of America: Leimert Park,” with Maty Guiza-Leimert -- the wife of Walter H. Leimert, whose grandfather developed the area in 1927.

The mission of LPVBF is to promote, encourage and advocate literacy, education and the love of reading throughout the Greater Los Angeles areas. LPVBF is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to producing year-round educational programming, as well as to the presentation of events in collaboration with our partners, in addition to the annual summer fair for which the organization is named. With the backing of partners and supporters, Exum built a high-quality cultural event, and the people came!

#### **ABOUT BALDWIN HILLS CRENSHAW (BHC)**

Baldwin Hills Crenshaw (BHC) is an 870,000-square-foot retail destination located at the intersection of Crenshaw Blvd. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in Los Angeles, California. Anchored by Macys and Sears, with over 100 specialty stores, state-of-the-art cinemas and dining options, BHC has long been recognized as the hub of the surrounding communities. From a signature concert series known as BHC Live!, monthly Kid’s Club and a weekly Farmers’ Market to the many public services offered at the mall, it is clear that BHC is more than just a place to shop, it’s a central gathering place for the local community. BHC is entrenched in the local lifestyle, and is committed to making this neighborhood an even better place to live, work, shop and just BE! BHC partners with several leading community partners to support a variety of worthwhile events throughout the year, and continue to support programming that reflects the history and interests of its local residents.

#### **FOR LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE BOOK FAIR**

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#### **WANT TO GO?**

Leimert Park Village Book Fair  
Saturday, August 20, 2016  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Baldwin Hills Crenshaw (BHC) – on the promenade outside  
3650 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

LA, CA

The event is free and open to the public. The Leimert Park Village Book Fair will feature iconoclast interviews, book-signings, workshops, panel discussions, poetry readings, stage performances, musical entertainment and a variety of activities for the whole family.

**GET SOCIAL WITH THE LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE BOOK FAIR**

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**“Voted One of LA’s Five Best Annual Book Festivals”**

<http://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/california/articles/la-s-5-best-annual-book-festivals/>

Leimert Park Village Book Fair is TURNING 10!

<http://bit.ly/23kqbkr>