



Springfield African American Read-In Chain

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Master Storyteller Comes to Springfield For African American Read-In Chain

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.—Master storyteller Gladys Caines Cogswell, author of the newly published *Stories from the Heart: Missouri's African American Heritage*, will speak at a special presentation of the 21st National African American Read-In Chain in Springfield.

Ms. Cogswell is a master storyteller with the Missouri Folk Arts Program. She will draw on a lifetime of gathering and telling stories in her presentation from 3pm-5pm, Sunday, Nov. 15, at the Meyer Library Auditorium on the Missouri State University campus.

“Gladys Caines Cogswell is a Missouri treasure and we are fortunate that she is participating in Springfield’s African American Read-In Chain,” said Dr. Grace Jackson-Brown, chair of the local Read-In committee and Missouri State University Library Science Assistant Professor. “This is a wonderful opportunity to learn aspects of our state heritage that could be lost if not for our storytellers.”

Ms. Cogswell will also sign copies of her new book, which was published this year as part of the University of Missouri Press Missouri Heritage Readers Series.

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the parking garage at the corner of Holland and Grand or in Lot 19 on John Q. Hammonds Blvd. on the MSU campus.

About Gladys Caines Cogswell: Ms. Cogswell was the first black president of the Missouri Folklore Society and is founder of the By Word of Mouth Storytelling Guild. Her new book is a collection of African American family stories and traditional tales compiled over the past two decades

About the African American Read-In Chain: The 21st Annual National African American Read-In Chain in Springfield will include a series of workshops, book talks and performances, culminating in a two-day celebration on Feb. 21-22, 2010. All events are designed to promote reading and literacy, celebrate African American authors and build a community of readers. Local sponsors are the NAACP Springfield Branch, Drury University, Missouri State University, Springfield-Greene County Library District, and Springfield Public Schools. The national sponsor is the National Council of Teachers of English (<http://www.ncte.org/action/aari>).

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