

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY CELEBRATES 2020 NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK WITH FIND YOUR PLACE AT THE LIBRARY

National celebration shows appreciation for libraries, librarians and library workers.

Charlotte, NC – April 20, 2020 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library celebrates National Library Week April 19-25, 2020 with the American Library Association (ALA) theme, “Find the Library at Your Place.” The week-long celebration is an opportunity to show appreciation for the innovative and dedicated ways the Library, its librarians and library staff continue to serve the Mecklenburg community - even during this time of crisis while it remains open online. The Library will participate by highlighting different services and resources on its social media platforms and website. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community is invited to participate in the National Library Week campaign by following, sharing and commenting at @cmlibrary on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtags #NationalLibraryWeek and #CMLfindthelibrary.

“We are linking to the national theme of “Find the Library at Your Place” which takes on a whole new meaning this year as we stay at home while staying connected during the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Ann Stawski, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library marketing & communications leader. “The Library is offering an insightful and informative campaign to engage the community in a larger national conversation about the future of libraries and how they provide the virtual and online resources needed during this time and moving forward.”

National Library Week is an opportunity to highlight the changing role of public libraries in our society and first sponsored in 1958. With an annual April observance by the ALA and libraries across the country, this year’s celebrations include: Monday April 20 - the release of ALA’s State of America’s Libraries Report, including the Top Ten Frequently Challenged Books of 2019; Tuesday, April 21 - National Library Workers Day, a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers; and Thursday, April 23 - “Take Action for Libraries Day” and “Library Giving Day,” a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

Maia and Alex Shibutani, known as the ShibSibs, are two-time Olympic bronze medalists and three time-world medalist U.S. ice skaters and serve as the 2020 Honorary Chairs. Libraries are about more than the services they offer; they are about the people and communities they serve. With the changing information landscape and skills needed to thrive in our online world, libraries are expanding beyond their traditional roles and providing more opportunities for community engagement and services aligned with virtual programming. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library does this every day, committed to its mission to improve lives and build a stronger community.

The novel COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic represents a serious public health threat for communities of all sizes. As central public spaces and trusted resources for health and wellness information, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library took the proactive measure to close all facilities on March 17, 2020 to encourage social distancing while reducing the spread of disease.

###

Image caption: Charlotte Mecklenburg Library celebrates National Library Week 2020 with “Find the Library at Your Place.”

About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America's leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

Media Contact:

Ann Stawski

Marketing & Communications Leader

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

o:704-416-0702 c: 980-293-5634

astawski@cmlibrary.org

Media resources:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library newsroom: cmlibrary.org/library-news

Social sharing:

Hashtags: #cmlibrary #icanwithCML #NationalLibraryWeek and #CMLfindthelibrary.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cmlibrary

Twitter: @cmlibrary

Instagram: @cmlibrary

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/charlotte-mecklenburg-library