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NEWS RELEASE

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History Discussions Set for Every First Friday Feb. 6 Event to Focus on Segregation, to be Aired Live on CCTV 4

Panel discussions about Clark County's history set for every First Friday in 2009 will kick off on Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. with a discussion about racial segregation.

The 90-minute roundtable discussions, called "Centennial Stories: Examining Our Past," will include an opportunity for those who attend to ask questions of the panelists of pioneers and historians. They will take place in the County Government Center Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway.

Additionally, the roundtables will be aired live and later replayed on Clark County Television (CCTV) Channel 4 and viewers will be able to call in with questions at (702) 455-CCTV (2288). All Channel 4 programming also may be viewed live on the county Web site at www.accessclarkcounty.com.

The Feb 6 debut event is called, "Segregation in Las Vegas: The Real Story," will feature

Las Vegas native Trish Geran, director of an award-winning documentary about African Americans in Las Vegas and author of "Beyond the Glimmering Lights"; the Rev. Marion Bennett, who has been in Las Vegas since the 1950s and who was instrumental in helping to dismantle segregation locally; Lucille Bryant, a longtime resident who came to Las Vegas to escape the poverty of Tallulah, La.; and historian Dennis McBride. Moderating will be county Museum Administrator Mark Hall-Patton.

"One of the goals of the county's year-long commemoration of our centennial is to engage the community and celebrate our common heritage," said Commission Chairman Rory Reid. "These monthly roundtables are a great way to do that." 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Clark County, and the county is commemorating the event with a year of activities.

"Las Vegas and Clark County have thousands of new residents who may not know this area's history, so this is a chance for everyone to learn something about our shared past," said Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, whose district includes the Government Center and predominantly African-American historic West Las Vegas. "This roundtable discussion is also a timely contribution to the celebration of February as Black History Month." Weekly will welcome attendees to the event.

Roundtable discussions slated for later in the year are March 6, "The Women of Clark County"; April 3, Clark County's Mining History; May 1, "Architecture and Neon in Clark County"; June 5, "The History of the Strip: The Early Years"; July 3, "The History of the Strip: Howard Hughes and Beyond"; August 7, "The Mob and Las Vegas"; Sept. 4, "Entertainers on the Las Vegas Strip"; Oct. 2, "Hispanics in Clark County"; Nov. 6, "Military History in Clark County"; and Dec. 4, "Marketing Las Vegas."

"I would hope that listeners will leave with a better understanding and greater appreciation of their community, by learning from those who were there," said Hall-Patton. "Hearing people tell their own stories, in their own words, is a wonderful and fun way to learn, and affirm, our history."

CCTV Channel 4 is also producing a 12-part video series about Clark County history called, "A Leap Back, a Look Forward: 100 Years of History." The first show debuted earlier this month and focuses on area museums. A new one is slated to be shown each month. They are for February, African-American history; March, women of Clark County; April, local culture; May, marketing Las Vegas; June, history of the Strip, part one; July, history of the Strip, part two; August, military; September, Hispanic culture; October, haunted historical places; November, history of county government; and December, What Clark County will look like in 100 years.

Also in February, an opening reception for the Centennial will be held at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Clark County Museum, 1830 S. Boulder Highway in Henderson. On this day in 1909, Gov. Denver Dickerson signed the Clark County enabling legislation into law. The event is free to the public and will include entertainment, refreshments and tours of the historic homes on the museum's Heritage Street. Commissioner Steve Sisolak, who represents the district where the museum is located, and Chairman Reid will host a reception.

Other centennial celebrations will include a touring history exhibit about rural Clark County, additional historical programming on Channel 4, the grand opening of the Candlelight Wedding Chapel and a 1910 railroad cottage at the Clark County Museum, the release of "Asphalt Memories: A Dictionary of Clark County Street Names," a book-length publication; the placement of historical markers, a Web-based history of Clark County commissioners, brochures, a mural at the Winchester Cultural Center, and partnerships with the Clark County School District and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Clark County also has nominated the famous "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign to the National Historic Register. The Strip is located in unincorporated Clark County and is not part of

any city. The Centennial Web site also will feature historical information, events listing, trivia contest, link to a geocaching project and a section where residents can share their historical stories.

Clark County was officially formed on July 1, 1909, out of what had been Lincoln County and is named for railroad baron William Andrews Clark. The city of Las Vegas, which includes downtown and the area north of the Strip, was incorporated two years later in 1911. Those interested in additional information on Clark County's Centennial celebrations can visit the Web site at www.accessclarkcounty.com/100 or call 455-8200.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 15th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 44 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 7th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development. In 2009, Clark County celebrates a "century of service."

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