Part detective tale, part social and cultural narrative, *Black Gotham* is Carla Peterson’s riveting account of her quest to reconstruct the lives of her 19th-century ancestors. As she shares their stories and those of their friends, neighbors, and business associates, she illuminates the greater history of African-American elites in New York City. *Black Gotham* challenges many of the accepted “truths” about African-American history, including the assumption that the phrase “19th-century black Americans” means enslaved people, that “New York state before the Civil War” refers to a place of freedom, and that a black elite did not exist until the 20th century.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit [www.lib.umd.edu/MCK/booktalks.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/MCK/booktalks.html)