



Friends of the Altadena Library

WINTER 2009

Altadena Library District ♥ 600 East Mariposa Street ♥ Altadena, CA 91001-2266

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It will soon be the start of a new year and our library has some ambitious projects in mind. First and foremost are continued efforts toward reinventing our library facility. As many of you know, this effort began with the goal of bringing the Altadena Library into the 21st century by meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

With a great deal of community support, that effort evolved into a major restoration bringing a strong focus on the expansion of children's services. Also provided in our planning was ease of access to all library materials for our senior community. Since the construction of the Altadena Library in 1967, there has not been such an ambitious undertaking.

Meanwhile, a small group of dedicated community members is now actively pursuing the idea of staging a community arts fair at the Altadena Library. This would involve artists, craftspeople and food service providers from the Altadena community. With the loss several years ago of the Old Fashion Days parade, the Altadena community is in real need of such an event.

The Friends support these efforts and many more. This year the Friends have helped bring to our community speakers like George McGovern, John Dean, Robert Wagner and Jonna Doolittle Hoppes. What other community library can boast a continuing speaker program like that? The Friends also continue to support our annual book sale and the Friend's Book Store, raising money for our library and providing books at a tremendous discount to our community. 2010 looks to be a great year of growth for our Library.

The Friends are looking forward to hosting our first major fund raising effort by staging the Zane Grey Play-Writing Contest, reviewing submitted scripts for a reading to be staged by the Moveable Theatre Company at Zane Grey's heritage home in Altadena. We have had offers of scripts from as far away as New Zealand. This should be an extraordinary event!

None of this is possible without the incredible efforts of our Friends Board and our general membership. Now, more than ever, your participation is encouraged. Today, we need our Friends to do more than just make a donation; we need your involvement and encouragement to make our goals a reality. Please take the time to renew your membership and offer some part of your time to the future of our library. Many thanks.

TREVOR BRYANT
President, Friends of the
Altadena Public Library

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Some thoughts about e-books...

Recently in the news we have seen some discussion of introducing e-books into the classroom as a cost-saving measure. Most textbooks can now be accessed electronically or downloaded to an e-reader, which may be less expensive than providing multiple copies of printed and bound textbooks. For some time, I've been mulling over the advantages and disadvantages of e-books and e-readers for personal use. On the one hand, some would say that it seems foolish to spend scarce money on hard copies when the content is available free in electronic form. On the other hand, I am still having a lot of personal difficulty imagining the experience of reading the words on a computer screen or e-reader, which not everyone can afford to purchase. Somehow curling up with an e-book reader to read an e-book is just not the same experience as turning the pages of a nice hard-bound or paperback book. That is just my opinion. So, I doubt I'll be purchasing a Kindle, a Nook, a Daily Reader, or the new reader from Irex for holiday gifts.

We wish you all a happy holiday season! We begin the holiday season with two family fun-filled events. On Friday, December 11, 2009 the Friends and Board of Trustees are jointly sponsoring an evening of holiday music featuring the Handbell Choir and Dulcet Singers from the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena. The event begins at 7 pm in the Main Library Community Room. Then on Saturday, December 12, 2009, the Friends of the Library will be jointly sponsoring the first winter Crafts Festival with the Christmas Tree Lane Association in the Library parking lot. This festival will be held in conjunction with the annual Christmas Tree lighting. The Friends will have a table where they will be selling holiday gifts: stocking stuffers, Friends tote bags, wrapped mugs stuffed with cocoa, coffee and candy, and new Children's books. All proceeds will go to supporting purchase of library materials and events. Additionally, the Altadena Library Foundation, incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in October 2009 will be hosting a table and introducing itself to the Community. We hope you to see you at both events!

Because of the Friends generosity, we were able to complete these projects during the fall:

- Purchase of a Early Literacy Station bilingual version for the Children's Department;
- Purchase of Children's Spanish books (\$1,400) and Adult collection health books (\$1,300), as well as Literacy Services materials (\$900);

- Contracting with CWA, Inc., an architectural firm, to draw up plans for a joint parking lot with the Senior Center. The latter will expand parking opportunities for both the Senior Center and Library and will also provide access to and from Mariposa to the Library parking lot as well as from Santa Rosa Street.

The Friends also sponsored the highly successful events: 'Talking Politics,' with former White House Counsel John Dean and former Senator George McGovern; and, 'An Afternoon with Robert Wagner.' Once again, many thanks from the staff and the Board of Trustees!

Many other children's and adult & young adult events and distinguished speakers are scheduled in the coming months, as detailed in the following articles. All these are also listed on our website, where dates and times are posted. We hope you and your families will join us for these many Friends-sponsored cultural and educational programs!

With gratitude for your continued support, we, the staff and Board of Library Trustees, wish that you all have a joyful, healthy, and happy holiday season!

Kindest regards,

Barbara J. PEARSON
District Director

BRANCH & LITERACY SERVICES

Black History Month Reading Program

The Branch Library will celebrate Black History with a special reading program throughout the month of February. Children ages four to twelve can read (or be read to) a book by an African-American author and earn a free kid's meal from Carl's Jr. Stop by the Bob Lucas Branch for more information. February 1 to 26.

Mardi Gras—Mask Making

Celebrate Mardi Gras with an afternoon of mask making. Friday, February 19th at 3:30 PM.

Valentine Cookie Decorating

Decorate a special Cookie Valentine to keep for yourself or give to someone special. Friday, February 12 at 3:30 PM.

Earth Day

Join us for an exciting afternoon of recycled arts and crafts activities. Thursday, April 22 at 3:30 PM.

Literacy Services

Altadena Library District Literacy Services meets a vital need by providing free instruction for those who want to improve their lives by enhancing their reading and writing skills. A Tutor Training Workshop will be held on January 23, 2010 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The workshop provides guidelines, information, and materials for those working with adults who are learning to read.

Tutor Support Meetings

These meetings provide a forum for tutors to share their success stories, ideas, and challenges. Additional training tips and updates will also be shared at these meetings. All Literacy Services activities are free to the public. February 6, March 6 and April 3, 2010, 11 AM to 1 PM.

Looking for something new to do in the New Year? Consider becoming a tutor. Give the gift that lasts a lifetime ... give the gift of literacy.

Computer Classes

Literacy Services will continue to offer free introductory computer classes. Classes are held on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The first eight-week session of 2010 will begin on January 4. Classes cover Microsoft Word, Online Searching, and e-mail. Call the Bob Lucas Library at (626) 798-8338 to register.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Thank you, Friends! Thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Library, Children's Services now has an AWE Early Learning Computer Station! The Early Learning station comes loaded with 40+ educational games for preschoolers. The brightly colored keyboard, tiny mouse and headphones make them easy for children to use. An additional donation of \$1,300 has allowed us to purchase much needed books in Spanish for the Children's Collection.

Children's Services Programs and Events

All library events are free and open to the public. Programs are subject to change without notice. Please visit the library's website at:

www.altadenalibrary.org/events

for current information.

Third Annual Winter Reading Program

Children's Services is pleased to present the third annual winter reading program. This year's theme is 'Poetry.' Kids check out and read poetry books, and write or draw a brief book review, which you turn in for prizes! December 13 to January 31st.

SUPER Saturday Family Storytime

Join us for stories, songs, and finger plays followed by a Scholastic film adaptation of an award-winning, classic children's picture book. Film screening times range from five to fifteen minutes. Appropriate for children three to eight years. This program will run the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM.

Infant and Toddler Storytime

Designed for children younger than three years of age. Parents, caregivers and children interact through stories, songs, and rhymes. Stories are kept short to fit the toddlers' short attention spans. Each Toddler storytime is 20 to 30 minutes long followed by 10 to 15 minutes of creative play with toys provided by the library. Thursdays at 11:00 AM.

Preschool Storytime

A fun and unique storytime for children ages three to five, with engrossing stories, finger plays, crafts, snacks and our musical parade. Wednesdays at 11:00 AM.

Teddy Bear Storytime



For children six years and younger: Put on your pajamas, grab a bedtime buddy, and join us for stories, songs and a bedtime snack! Mondays at 7:00 PM.

Barks & Books

Children ages five to twelve are invited to visit the library to read to Pearl. Pearl is a sweet, lovable standard poodle from the Pasadena Humane Society's Home Companion Program. This reading enrichment program makes reading fun, boosts confidence and encourages respectful, humane treatment for all animals. The Barks & Books program runs the fourth Saturday of each month, at 11:00 AM.

Friday Flicks

The library is more than a great place to get books. It is also a fun place to enjoy a film...for free! Enjoy popcorn and a fun children's (G or PG) or teen (PG-13) movie one Friday a month. Visit the library's website at:

www.altadenalibrary.org/events

for the current screening selection. Children under 13 years old must be accompanied to PG-13 movies by a parent or caregiver.

Drop-In Craft Days

Fridays are Drop-in craft days! Stop by the Children's Room during regular business hours and make a simple, fun craft. Each week features a different craft. This is appropriate for all ages.

ADULT SERVICES

Computer Classes for 2010

The Altadena Library District Technology Training Program will continue in the New Year, offering monthly classes on Wednesday mornings at the Main Library. Classes include Introduction to the World Wide Web, Introduction to Email and Beginning Word.

Introduction to the World Wide Web

Learn about the World Wide Web, learn about the Altadena Library District online catalog and our online databases and learn about some popular online resources.

Introduction to email

Learn how about free internet email, how to set up an email account, create and send messages and attach and send a document. This will be offered every Wednesday.

Beginning Word

Learn how to use the various Word functions and capabilities, how to create a Word document, and how to edit and save a Word document. Classes are one hour in length. Reservations are required. Sign up for classes at the Information Desk. You must have an Altadena Library District library card for registration.

For more information call the Altadena Library District at (626) 798-0833 or visit us on the web at:

www.altadenalibrary.org

Writing: The Basics, with Dorothy Randall Gray

Bestselling author, nationally acclaimed writing workshop leader, and motivational speaker. Ms Gray has thrilled audiences throughout the us and abroad. Both new and seasoned writers will gain much from her inspired teachings in this stimulating participatory workshop. Saturday, January 9, at 2:00 PM.

Poetry Writing with Don Kingfisher Campbell

Mr Campbell is a prize-winning poet, and host of Saturday Afternoon Poetry, inspires the poet in all ages and stages. Even those who have never written poetry will come away with a poem to publish in the library's annual anthology, *Poetry and Cookies*. Saturday, February 6 at 2:00 PM.

Blogging for Fun (and Profit)

A workshop with Anne Louise Bannon, an experienced blogger, teacher, and full-time freelance journalist. Bannon offers a lively program that will answer such questions as 'What is blogging?' 'Why do it?' 'How do I create content?' and 'How can I make it pay?' Check out these websites:

www.yourfamilyviewer.com

www.oddballgrape.com

www.whitehouserhapsody.com

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2:00 PM.

Poetry & Cookies

The eighth annual Poetry & Cookies celebration will feature the crowning of the library's Poet Laureate for May 2010 through April 2011. Those attending will have

the chance to meet and hear poets from Altadena and the surrounding area read their poetry. There will also be several drawings for great prizes. If you would like to be a part of the program and be included in the library's annual poetry publication, please submit poems single spaced along with a short bio to:

pdupton@altadenalibrary.org

by February 15. Up to 78 lines not more than 50 spaces in length may be printed in the 2010 edition of Poetry and Cookies. Since children may be in the audience, submissions should be family rated. Open mike readers are limited to one short poem. Following the program there will be a poet's corner where poets may sell their poetry books. Saturday April 10 at 2 PM.

Beauty Bites Beast

A presentation by Ellen Snortland, who is a writer, producer, director, humorist, dormant lawyer, columnist, and women's and children's self-defense advocate. Snortland inspires audiences in this workshop, which is based on her book, and offers a history of women, together with a tough yet entertaining guide to awakening the warrior within women and girls and how to go-for-it! Monday, March 29, 7:00 PM.

Burst Out with Your Creative Juices

Ellen Snortland, an author, columnist, and writing coach, has an impressive résumé of talents. Known especially for her terrific writers' workshops, she will demonstrate several exercises to activate the writer within. This fun workshop is for both beginning and advanced writers. Monday, April 19, 7:00 PM.

Altadena Poet Laureate

The library is now accepting both nominations and applications for its biannual Poet Laureate award for poets who live or are active in the Altadena community. The crowning of the laureate will take place on April 10, at the library's annual Poetry & Cookies celebration. The laureate's poetry will be featured at this event and in the library's annual publication of poetry which will be available at the presentation. The term will be from May 2010 through April 2011. If you are a poet or know of a poet in the area, please send sample poems, a biography, and contact information to Altadena Library District, Attention Poet Laureate Selection Committee, 600 East Mariposa Street, Altadena, CA 91001, or email to

pdupton@altadenalibrary.org

by February 1.

Library No Guilt Book Club:

The next meeting of the Library Book club will be on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, from 7 to 8 PM. Books by your

favorite mystery writers and *The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness* by Karen Armstrong will be the featured books discussed at that meeting. The new book entitled *Blame* by local author Michelle Huneven, and *The Young Elizabeth* by Alison Plowden will be discussed at the February 2 meeting. Please join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM, even if you haven't read the scheduled discussion book titles. You may talk about any book you have been reading.

Santa Claus Is Coming to the Library!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa will be taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the library. Grab your kids and your cameras for a chance to meet Santa.

- Wednesday, December 16 at 11 AM (Altadena Library Community Room); and
- Wednesday, December 16 at 12 M (NOON) (Bob Lucas Branch Library)

Start Your Holiday off on the Right Note!

The Handbell Choir and The Dulcet Singers from The First United Methodist Church of Pasadena will be performing at the Altadena Library on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 7 PM.

YOUNG ADULT SERVICES

These programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Altadena Library District. The Altadena Library is getting ready for spring, with these fun events for teens and tweens:

Transform a T-Shirt at the Altadena Library.

We will be offering a creative and 'crafty' program for teens and tweens in the Community Room. Teens will bring a T-shirt from home to 'transform' with scissors, ribbons, buttons, braiding, etc. and give it a 'New Attitude.' Thursday, January 21, at 4:30 PM.

Travel Candle Craft

Just in time for Valentine's Day, teens will have the opportunity to give an empty altoids tin a second life by transforming it into a beautifully decorated and extremely handy travel candle. Supplies will be provided; all you have to bring is your imagination and your creative spirit! Thursday, February 11 at 4:30 PM.

SAT Practice Test and Review Program

The Altadena Library and Kaplan Test Prep will be offering a practice SAT for teens ages 13 to 17. Take the SAT practice test and then attend a test review and analysis program. Prior registration is required for the test, which will be on Saturday, February 20 at 10:30AM; prior registration is also required for the review and analysis, which will be on Tuesday, March 2 at 6 PM. Look for more information at:

<http://www.altadenalibrary.org/teens>



Friends of the Altadena Library
600 East Mariposa Street
Altadena, CA 91001

Tax ID# 23-7168227
www.altadenalibraryfriends.us

Dear Friend of the Altadena Library:

On behalf of the Friends of the Altadena Library, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support. Through charitable events, fundraisers and your contributions, the Altadena Library's mission of providing effective, expanding, free library service can continue.

The newsletter you have been receiving is our way of providing the Friends of The Altadena Library membership, news and information about upcoming activities and events. Unfortunately, the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter can no longer be provided to members who are delinquent in their contribution. If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter and remain on our active membership list please send a contribution in the enclosed membership envelope.

Your gift will go a long way towards promoting literacy and making reading materials more accessible in our community. All donations are tax deductible, accumulated by the Friends into an account and then distributed by request of the Altadena District Librarian.

Your participation was instrumental in surpassing our goals for 2009. Please continue your support for 2010.

Thanks again for your kindness,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Bryant'.

Trevor Bryant
President



FRIENDS OF THE ALTADENA LIBRARY
 Altadena Library
 600 East Mariposa Street
 Altadena, CA 91001-2266

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Calendar of Events

(In the Main Library Community Room,
 unless otherwise noted)

January ...

- 4 Altadena Poet Laureate applications un-
til February 1
- 4 Free Intro computer classes, 6 to 8 PM,
Branch Library
- 5 Library No Guilt Book Club, 7 to 8 PM
- 9 Writing: The Basics, with Dorothy Ran-
dall Gray, 2 PM
- 21 YA Transform a T-shirt, 4:30 PM
- 23 Tutor Training Workshop, 9 AM to 3 PM,
Branch Library

February ...

- 1-26 Black History Month Reading Program,
Branch Library
- 2 Library No Guilt Book Club, 7 to 8 PM
- 6 Poetry Writing with Don Kingfisher
Campbell, 2 PM
- 6 Tutor Support meeting, 11 AM to 1 PM,
Branch Library
- 11 YA Travel Candle Craft, 4:30 PM

- 12 Valentine Cookie Decorating, 3:30 PM,
Branch Library
- 19 Mardi Gras Mask Making, 3:30 PM,
Branch Library
- 20 YA SAT Practice Test, 10:30 AM Prior
registration required.

March ...

- 2 YA SAT Review and analysis, 6 PM. Prior
registration required.
- 2 Library No Guilt Book Club, 7 to 8 PM
- 6 Tutor Support meeting, 11 AM to 1 PM,
Branch Library
- 20 Blogging for Fun and Profit, with Anne
Louise Bannon, 2 PM
- 29 Beauty Bites Beast, Ellen Snortland, 7 PM

April ...

- 3 Tutor Support meeting, 11 AM to 1 PM,
Branch Library
- 6 Library No Guilt Book Club, 7 to 8 PM
- 10 Poetry Program, 2 PM
- 19 Burst Out with Your Creative Juices,
with Ellen Snortland, 7 PM
- 22 Earth Day, 3:30 PM at the Branch

OFFICERS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE ALTADENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Trevor Bryant, *President*
 Sharon Sand, *Vice President & Membership*
 Elizabeth Ivers, *Treasurer*
 Kristine Larson, *Membership Chairman*
 Marge Wood, *Recording Secretary*
 Dianne Moore, *Corresponding Secretary*
 Marne Brown, *Book Sale*
 David Datz, *Liaison—Altadena Library Trustees*
 George Arndt, *Newsletter Editor*

LIBRARY HOURS

DAYS	MAIN	BRANCH
Monday–Tuesday	10–9	10–6
Wednesday–Thursday	10–6	10–8
Friday	10–6	10–6
Saturday	10–6	Closed
Sunday	1–5	Closed
Sunday	1–5	Closed