From Mexican Revolutionary to Methodist Minister: *Weaving the Past* Reveals One Family’s Story

“Weaving the Past: Journey of Discovery is about family, heroes, justice, life and death. It is about finding meaning in our lives,” says Walter Dominguez. Join the Altadena Historical Society and Altadena Library District for a very special event. On July 27, filmmaker and historian Dominguez discussed the personal journey that provides the backstory for his new film. His talk was a prelude to a screening of the film on August 4 followed by a Q & A with the filmmaker. The screening will be held at 6:30 at the main Altadena Library.

According to Dominguez, “Twelve years ago I was in a mid-life crisis that was devastating. I realized I needed to return to the roots of my being and from there find renewal, to rekindle my life. I chose to go on a quest, a journey that ultimately required over a decade to complete. I set out to uncover secrets and mysteries in the early life of my late and remarkable Mexican-born immigrant grandfather, Reverend Emilio N. Hernandez.”

This screening is part of an ongoing series of Latino-American library programming. *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* has been made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Ryan Roy Joins Staff as Public Services Director

The Altadena Libraries welcome Ryan Roy, our new Public Service Director. Ryan will be assisting staff in planning, organizing, and coordinating library services and projects, among other duties, and he’s ready to go. 21st Century Libraries are reinventing themselves to meet the needs of a different kind of clientele. According to Ryan, “Libraries are becoming social and cultural hubs of the community. We are moving away from the idea that a library is simply a book depository. We use the phrase ‘lifelong learning centers’ to describe all that a modern library offers. It’s a place to engage intellectually and recreationally.”

Ryan describes himself as a person who loves libraries. “For a creative person like me, they are full of ideas and that’s exciting!” Ryan graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Master’s in Library and Information Sciences. He comes to Altadena from Waynesboro, VA, where he was the assistant library director at the local public library. Among his other accomplishments, he taught conversational English at Wuhan University of Technology in China. When asked what people would find most surprising about him, he said, “I’ve written a book. It’s historical fiction based on the Jonestown Massacre, called simply *Jonestown*. But when he isn’t writing, he likes to read, hike (he was happy to find mountains in Altadena), and travel and he’s video editing a feature film for a friend.

Ryan is hoping that if you have any ideas about how the library can better serve you — “needs, wants or just fun stuff” — you will drop by and talk to him or email him at wroy@altadenalibrary.org.
From the Director

“The ability to access digital information is essential to every Californian and our remarkable libraries are places where access, the expertise of librarians, and a wealth of opportunities are available to all. Bandwidth should never constrain access and innovation in our libraries,” said Louis Fox, President and CEO of The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC).

Public libraries across the state of California are being connected to CalREN, CENIC’s high-capacity 3,800-mile fiber optic network in the second year of the High-Speed Broadband in California Libraries Project, and I am happy to report that the Altadena Library District is one of them. By joining the CalREN network, the District will be able to increase bandwidth from 80 Mbps to 1 Gbps at EACH of our two locations. This will dramatically expand our connectivity. We will be developing bandwidth intensive programs and services such as video-conferencing; streaming live events into the library; expanding digital content such as e-books and e-audio books; online learning and opportunities for patrons to create content as part of our operational planning over the next few years. If that weren’t enough, the other exciting news is that these upgrades actually come at a cost savings for the District!

The frosting on the cake is that in the fall, once we have connected with CalRen, we will be installing wireless printing, making the Library a great (and affordable) place to print and create all the documents you need for work, school or fun.

See you soon @ Your Altadena Library!

Branch Notes: Lucio Martinez, an Adult Literacy Success Story!

July was life-changing for literacy learner Lucio Martinez. Lucio decided to open his own appliance repair business. A decision like this requires a lot of planning, training and motivation. The challenge is greater if you need English literacy skills to read repair manuals and forms. Lucio’s daughter visited the library and learned about the ESL program; she promptly shared the information with her father. Since beginning English classes, he has improved his reading, writing, speaking and listening.

In preparation for starting his new business, Lucio has also learned to download and read appliance repair manuals on the Internet, to watch training videos, and how to create his own business cards and advertisements. He even ordered custom shirts online for his new business.

Lucio attributes some of his achievements and his goals to the library’s staff and the program. “All of the staff have helped me, since they are good people. This has helped me 1,000%!”. For more information about the literacy program, please drop by the Bob Lucas Branch Library on Lincoln or call (626) 798-8338.

Edward William, Literacy Coordinator
Children: We Had Visitors!

We love it when special groups visit us at the library! Last month approximately 100 Girl Scouts in grades K-6 from Camp Mariposa came to tour the library as part of their “Literally Fun” week, where they explored the wide world of their imaginations, favorite books, and writing their own stories. Do you have a special group you’d like to bring to the library? Call us to schedule a visit tailor-made to suit your needs.

Calling all KFOLs (Kid Fans of Legos)! Our popular LEGO Club resumes August 8, meeting from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM on the 2nd Saturday of the month. This is our regular day, but this is a new time. This month we are making LEGO Minions!

Teens: We Pitched an Idea and Got a Grant!

In mid-July, teen librarian Carrie Wilson got word that the Altadena Library was the recipient of $30,000 from the Pitch an Idea grant. These grants are awarded annually by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and administered by the California State Librarian in an ongoing effort to provide training and access to information for library users and staff so that they have the skills needed to be successful in the 21st Century. The Library plans to use the funds to expand its very successful teen makerspace, the monthly DIY Club at the main library. The Club kicked off in January 2014, and is an essential part of teen programming.

Teens and staff alike are excited by the addition of new technology such as 3D printers, filmmaking equipment, MacBook Pro laptops with digital editing software, and sewing machines — all supplemented by print resources. “Our goal was to tech up our makerspace, which has focused on lower-tech activities like string art, duct tape crafts, and hand sewing stuffed animals. I’m extremely excited at the potential that comes with this grant,” said Wilson.

Beginning in September, the library will offer several workshop series to introduce the makerspace upgrades. On Sept. 11, filmmaker and editor Kent Yoshimura will present “Film Making 101.” Other workshops will include an introduction to sewing, the art of taking oral histories, and 3D printing. Check the online calendar for dates and details.

Adults: New Furniture Creates Inviting Space

This mid-century modern furniture arrangement and open space offers a refreshing view of the library garden and the San Gabriel Mountains in the distance. You can sit and read, or use your laptop, or simply relax and look out the window and get lost in your own thoughts.

Laureen McCoy
Babble, Blather and Buzz

Sue Colasurdo from the reference department received a telephone request for copies of pages from the book The Homeric Hymns (translated by Charles Boer, 1970) for a patron in Commerce, CA. The book wasn’t available from any of his local libraries, but we had it. Sue was able to “Scan to Email” on our new printer by the Adult Computers. Our new fan was able to receive it in his personal email account and then he could print it out. Librarians save the day!

A little free library was spotted at Santa Rosa and Highland, a few blocks away from the library. Helen, Library Associate, dropped off paperbacks there. Good place to go to find something to read when the library is closed!

From our fans:
I love these libraries! The people who work here ARE: Polite, Patient, Helpful…Everything that makes you RETURN.

Monica M. Villanueva

Suzanne was great in helping me on the computer. A great asset to the library.

Phil Caron

Summer Reading Roundup!

Read to the Rhythm, the summer reading program for all ages, is a resounding success. We hosted so many wonderful performances! Children enjoyed a puppet show, a juggler, a magic show, and an animal show. In July, Megan from Pacific Animal Productions brought a sugar glider, a barn owl, a chinchilla, an anteater, a Madagascar hissing cockroach, and a monitor lizard to impress the children. The room sounded like a night in the jungle.

As part of other activities, children submitted weekly book reviews. One review especially impressed the staff. Seven-year-old Avery gave Donavan's Word Jar by Monalisa DeGross three stars because “the book was ok, but if it had more action like if he could fly and fight villains and also save the world.” Thanks for the review, Avery! The children’s part of the program ends on August 4 with an ice cream party and the grand-prize drawing. It starts at 2 PM at the Main Library and 3 PM at the Bob Lucas Branch. The Bob Lucas Branch will follow the drawing with a screening of Dolphin Tale 2.

Librarian Carrie Wilson had quite a list of creative challenges for teens to complete, such as writing an alternative ending for a book they’ve read and creating fan art for their favorite literary character to win weekly prizes. Week 1 challenge winner was Katie Y., who won a $25 Target gift card. Week 2 winner was Ariel M., who won a Michael's gift card. Teens also learned about medieval weapons with a sword scholar, made plastikobots, and had a Dr. Who party where they dressed in character and made a TARDIS out of graham crackers!

Back by popular demand! Adults got to have fun this summer, too, with our second annual Adult Summer Reading Program. To qualify for the weekly Laemmle Theatre ticket raffles, participants had to report to a librarian that they had read one of the qualifying items for that week. Winners were Nancy Schmieder, Tara Holmes, and Taylor Kerr. The grand prize drawing for a Nook e-reader is on August 1 at 2 PM! Be

Carlene Chiu
Did you know that the Altadena Library subscribes to almost 200 periodicals, and that non-current issues can be checked out just like books? We’ve got everything from popular titles like *People* and *Better Homes & Gardens*, to more lifestyle-specific magazines like *Runner’s World* and *Vegetarian Times*. Our newest subscriptions include *Do It Yourself*, *Field & Stream*, and *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. And it’s not just for grown-ups. Our collection includes magazines for teens and children, as well. So no matter your age or area of interest, chances are the Altadena Library has the perfect periodical for you. Here’s a closer look at what’s inside some of the magazines you’ll find on our shelves.

**PERIODICALS**

**Ranger Rick**

*Ranger Rick*, published by the National Wildlife Federation, is a vibrant and colorful look at the many facets of glorious Mother Nature, aimed at readers ages 7-12. Dating back to 1967, it’s one of the oldest and widely circulated children’s magazines. It’s the perfect place for young minds to learn and explore. And for even smaller adventurers, ages 4-7, there’s *Ranger Rick, Jr.*

**Seventeen**

Fashion tips, love advice, celebrity gossip, and how to attain the ever-elusive “perfect hair”… *Seventeen* is a veritable guidebook for navigating the diverse and complex experiences of teen life. In 2012, *Seventeen* stopped airbrushing their photos of models as a way of fostering more realistic conceptualizations of body image among young adults. *Seventeen* promotes real self-confidence in young women.

**Mother Jones**

Are you looking for bold and original reporting on trending issues in politics, human rights, culture, education, and environmentalism? If so, then *Mother Jones* is the magazine to read. Operating as a nonprofit organization, *Mother Jones* is not beholden to any owners, stockholders, or corporate conglomerates, fostering a culture of unique news reporting and journalistic freedom.

**Discover**

*Discover* is a magazine that delves into the most fascinating recent developments in science, technology, medicine, and nature. Each issue is its own adventure. If your interests lie in exploring the frontiers of human knowledge, then *Discover* will be your guide.

**What Are You Listening To?**

Have you ever flipped through our music recording section? We’ve got Jazz, Country, Popular, Soundtracks, just about everything. There are CDs for children, too. These items check out just like a book. When you take them to the circulation desk, the cases will be unlocked so you can pop them in the car for a listen on the way home. This is all brought to you by Pam, our music collection specialist. She orders the CDs and processes donations from our generous public. We encourage you to Read and Listen to the Rhythm this summer!

Patron Dennis Fitzgerald has been listening to Beethoven and other classical music that he checks out of the library. He says it calms him. Dennis also shared a great place for music on the web. If you are a Dead Head or even if you aren’t, you want to listen to “Ripple” on YouTube. This Grateful Dead tune, with its American folksong qualities, has been made into a music video as part of the *Playing for Change* Foundation’s worldwide program of music schools and programs for children. It’s proof of the power of music to connect us!

Inspired by Willa Cather’s *The Song of the Lark*, Librarian Helen decided to read more deeply about the novel. She googled the title and found a blog with the same name written by a woman violinist. The blog led her to a piece of music titled “The Lark Ascending.” Curious, she checked to see whether it was part of the library collection. It is! It’s on Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis, composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. **Check it out!**

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September is **Library Card Sign-up Month**! Don’t forget to get the most important school supply of all! Join Snoopy, Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month, at the library and get your very own card.

**Latino Americans: 500 Years of History Continues!**

**Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015  2:00**

Robertta Martinez, Executive Director of Latino Heritage, will speak prior to a screening of *Foreigners in Their Own Land (1565-1880)*, part of an ongoing series of Latino-American library programming made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. The cornerstone of the project is the six-part, NEH-supported 2013 documentary, “Latino Americans.” The award-winning series chronicles Latinos in the United States from the 16th century to present day. Over time, we will be showing all six of the episodes!

**BestFest!**

**Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015**

Fun, food, festivities galore! BestFest will have it all. This event helps support your local library. If you would like to participate in some way, please contact Diana Phillippi at altadenabestfest.com.

**Second Saturday Returns!**

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015  7:00 PM**

The Verdugo Swing Society has been bringing back Big Band memories since 1986. Originally formed by members of the Glendale College Jazz band, they now have local musicians from aerospace to academia. We’ll round up the usual suspects for music, food, and fun.

**Francisco Ramirez, Local Civil War Hero!**

**Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015  7:00 PM**

Come learn about California’s little-understood but crucial role in the nation’s greatest conflict, and about an equally unknown local Latino hero. Historians Paul Bryan Gray and Michele Zack will take us back to the Pueblo of Los Angeles in its first years as an “American” town, via an illustrated talk and dynamic conversation. This program is co-sponsored by Altadena Heritage, a partner in the Altadena Libraries’ year-long series bringing Latino history and culture to our community.

**No Guilt Book Club: Century-Old Novel Still Sings!**

Willa Cather’s *Song of the Lark*, written in 1915, proved a winner for members. Cather conveys in a telling gesture or brief description a sense of place that is deep and textured. Chosen for summer’s *Read to the Rhythm* theme, it is the story of a young girl and her experiences exploring her musical gifts. Readers loved the vivid portraits of the characters and descriptions of the Moonstone, Colorado, landscape.

Our option for non-fiction was any biography of a musician. Lori read about the life of B.B. King because she and her husband had seen him perform over 25 years ago. Grannie read about her favorite musician, John Coltrane. Along with books we also talked about food: pizza, Chinese food, local eateries – we had it covered. Book club really can go off topic!

Our choices for August are the 2015 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, and in the non-fiction category, *Leaving Before the Rains Come* by Alexandra Fuller. Her title is based on the South African expression for “get out while you can.” Doesn’t that sound intriguing?

Come join us at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of the month (Aug. 11).

Helen

**Becoming a Friend of the Library**

“A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.”

Henry Ward Beecher

The Friends of the Library meet on the first Monday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 pm in the Community Room. You do not have to be a member to attend. For info go to www.altadenalibrary.org/friends-library.

**IMPORTANT!**

The Library often photographs or videotapes programs for use in publicity materials. By being present during these activities, you consent to use of your appearance or likeness by the Library, and its licensees, designees, or assignees, in all media, worldwide, in perpetuity. To ensure the privacy of individuals and children, images will not be identified using names or personal identifying information without written approval from the photographed subject, parent or legal guardian. Thank you!