Christmas Tree Lane

Christmas Tree Lane is a 0.7-mile (1.1 km) boulevard of deodar cedar trees in Altadena, California. The trees on the Lane, Santa Rosa Avenue, have been lighted annually as a Christmas Holiday display since 1920.

In 1885, real estate magnate John P. Woodbury of the Woodbury Family, the founders of Altadena - planted 134 deodar trees (Cedrus deodara) as a grand mile-long driveway entrance to the mansion he would build. Woodbury’s mansion was never built, but the trees thrived and the “driveway” became Santa Rosa Avenue.

Just in time for our 50th Anniversary Celebration, we are very excited to announce that at the November meeting of the Altadena Library District Trustees, the Board approved the District’s proposed plan for a first phase renovation of the main library.

This plan will use the remaining funds in the library’s grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to update the library with ADA accessible and seismic safe shelving and replacement of our existing entrance doors on both levels with ADA-accessible doors. When the old carpet is pulled up to install the new shelves, we’ll add more electrical outlets to the floor, something so essential to all who use electronic devices while visiting the library. Through a generous donation from the Altadena Library Foundation, we will also be able to put new carpet and flooring in the library. While this major work is being done, we’ll be restoring some of our planters and reupholstering and repairing furniture.

This work is extensive and to complete it most expeditiously will require that we temporarily close the library for an estimated six weeks beginning in mid-March. To help patrons get reoriented, we’ll be putting up new signage so that you can easily find what you’re looking for when we reopen.

While the main library is closed, we’ll extend hours at the branch library and staff members are planning ways to meet your needs through special programs and outreach activities. If you have suggestions for ways to bring the library to you while we’re closed, please contact the Library director, Mindy, at MKittay@AltadenaLibrary.org or stop in and visit. We’ll keep you apprised of our progress and provide additional information on what services will be available while we’re closed through special notices in this newsletter as well as on our website (www.altadenalibrary.org) and in special displays at both

continued on p. 3
From the Director

Altadena Library as Community Connector

Next year the Altadena Library will be taking its role as a community connector even more seriously by facilitating a series of neighborhood conversations. The purpose of these conversations will be to find out what you, the residents of Altadena, want for your community. What are your aspirations? What needs to change in order for those aspirations to become reality? What is your personal role in that process of change? And who else needs to be a part of that process?

This is a new and dynamic way of engaging the community which will enable relationships to form, not only with the Library but between neighbors as well. It will also create new pathways for people to get involved in improving where they live. And it will give residents of Altadena the opportunity to voice their opinion and know that those thoughts and ideas will help to inform all levels of decision-making and future planning for the Library.

Bob Lucas Memorial Branch

Digital Literacy Impact for ESL Students at our Literacy Center

While the foundations of adult literacy programs are to improve reading and writing skills, these days it includes information literacy, financial literacy, health literacy and digital literacy.

The University Library of The University of Illinois defines digital literacy as: “The ability to use digital technology, communication tools or networks to locate, evaluate, use and create information.”

At the Branch we strive to help our literacy learners with meeting a wide range of literacy and informational needs. We have small group ESL classes that meet Monday through Thursdays mornings. This Fall we were able to offer a 5 week beginners computer class to our eager ESL students. The bilingual computer instructors taught the students much needed computer skills. For the first time, all the students were able to sign up for their own e-mail addresses, use Word and practice typing, and learn how to search the Internet.

Many had expressed that they had been intimidated by the computers and that with this exposure, they had less fear and felt more comfortable using the computers. The students took this opportunity to practice their skills at the library during open hours. Most of the students do not have a computer at home and rely on the library for internet access. Many students have language barriers to employment and lack proficiency in computer skills. With improved computer skills, that is one less hurdle to overcome to seeking better employment.

According to ProLiteracy, an organization that advocates for adult literacy, low literacy costs the US $225 Billion or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce and a loss of revenue due to unemployment.

According to the World Bank, only 52.5% of adults reporting lack of computer skills were employed, compared to 72.7%. The positive effects of improved computer skills translates to improved self-sufficiency and improved work opportunities benefiting all aspects of the students’ lives.

Lucio, a student from the class states, “Thanks to the personnel of the Bob Lucas Library for providing the much needed computer classes. With the lessons they taught, I am able to practice on my own and gain confidence working on the computer. In particular, I like to practice my typing which helps me run my small business as a washing machine repair man.”

During the months of January and February we will hold 15 community conversations all over Altadena. In living rooms and kitchens, to community centers, schools and churches, our aim is to reach all sectors of the Altadena community and invite them to participate. These sessions will take between 90 minutes and two hours and will be fun, engaging and beneficial to all involved. We will synthesize the data gathered at these events and produce a series of recommendations for creating change and suggestions for how to reach those aspirations.

Would you like to be a part of this conversation? Do you have a group that would like to take part? A location? If so, please contact me at the Library (626) 798-0833 x 103 or mkittay@altadenalibrary.org.

“Libraries are the great evolving democratic institution that we must hold onto. Someone said to me you are going to have to fight for them.... If we have to fight we’ll fight until hell freezes over and then we’ll fight on the ice because libraries aren’t going away. When libraries go away our democracy goes away.” Ken Brecher the President of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles. www.arts.gov/art-works/2016/ken-brecher-power-libraries-21st-century
WHAT'S HAPPENING

Want to Learn to Sew?

The Altadena Library is here to help. We just finished a series for those just learning to sew and we will be offering more beginning sewing and some intermediate and clothing design classes in the New Year.

Our first class was a huge success due to our outstanding teacher Naomi Lewis. Naomi tells us that Jean Buennagel was her mentor/teacher when she became a sewing teacher. “Jean is retired and likes to sew so she offered to volunteer and I took her up on it - she is the person who suggested teaching at the Library. My oldest student, Ernestine, is 89 years old - and she completed all the projects!” If you want to see all the project instructions, go to Naomi’s website at: lewisteach.com/altalibrary.html.

Keep an eye on our website and calendars for announcements of the new and upcoming classes. Space is limited and the class fills up fast.

Altadena Library Board

The Altadena Library has an opening for a Library Trustee

Our Library trustees are powerful advocates for our Library. Through their coordination, hard work, and determination, we have been able to revive and modernize our library and improve our service to our community. As a part of our trustee board you will serve on a volunteer basis and must agree to be willing to run in the 2017 election for the 4-year term for this seat which expires in 2021. You will help to direct the funds and policies of our District. The Library board of trustees has a role in determining the mission of the library, setting the policies that govern the library and hiring and evaluating the Library Director. This is a wonderfully exciting time to take part in the direction of the Altadena Library District. We are just starting a Phase I renovation of the main library and we are also holding community conversations to find out the aspirations, desires, needs and challenges of our community so that we can better provide for our community.

With the resignation of Trustee David Tuck, the Altadena Library Board of Trustees is accepting letters of interest from anyone who would like to serve on the board for the unexpired 2016/2017 term. Those applying must be at least 18, a resident of and registered to vote in Altadena. The board will interview potential candidates at a special board meeting at 5 pm on January 10, 2017.

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest, resume, and completed supplemental questionnaire (on library’s website) to the Library Director by 5 pm on Friday, December 30, 2016. Further information can be found at http://www.altadenalibrary.org/blog/mkittay/2016/11/29/open-announcement-board-vacancy, or by visiting with the Library Director.

At the Pasadena Playhouse December 8, 2016 through January 8, 2017.

Save 20% on your tickets while you help raise money for the Altadena Library Foundation.

USE CODE: ALF
**PROGRMS for December**

Open Studios
RECEPTION: Friday, December 2 from 6 to 9 pm
OPEN STUDIOS TOUR WEEKEND: Saturday, December 3 from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday, December 4 from 11 am to 5 pm
OPEN STUDIO GALLERY DISPLAY IN LIBRARY: Through December 9

Read to Cedar
Saturday, December 3 at 11 am

Page to Table Book Club
Saturday, December 3 from 1 to 3 pm

Second Saturday Concert with Young Dempsey
[First] Saturday, December 3 from 6:30 to 8 pm
Dance, eat and drink to that hot-rodded nostalgic Doo Wop and Country sound.

Friends of the Library Meeting
Monday, December 5 at 7:30 pm

Graham Cracker “Gingerbread” House Decorating Party
Saturday, December 6 at 4 pm
The whole family is invited to come create gingerbread houses out of graham crackers, frosting and candy.

Teen Holiday Party & Gift Exchange
Thursday, December 15 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm
Teens ages 12-18 are invited to a Holiday Minute to Win It Party. Complete a variety of different themed challenges while enjoying cookies and our hot chocolate bar. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift (max of $5) for our gift exchange.

Fun Flick Friday: The Secret Life of Pets
Friday, December 16 at 3:30 pm
Children and parents are welcome to enjoy this feature film. The quiet life of a terrier named Max is upended when his owner takes in Duke, a stray whom Max instantly dislikes.

Lego Club
Saturday, December 17 from 2 to 3:30 pm

Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 17 from 2 to 4 pm
See details on page 5.

Library Closures for December

Early Closure for Christmas Tree Lane Lighting + Winter Arts & Crafts Festival
Saturday, December 10 at 4 pm

Closed for Staff Holiday
Friday, December 23

Closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas
Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26 – Reopening on Tuesday

Early Closure for New Year’s Eve
Saturday, December 31 at 5 pm

**Christmas Tree Lane Lighting + Winter Arts & Crafts Festival**
Saturday, December 10 Winter Arts & Crafts Festival begins in the Library parking lot at 2 pm with the Lighting Ceremony at 6 pm

**Marshmallow Snowman Pop!**
Thursday, December 15 at 3:30 pm at Bob Lucas Branch
Kids, come create a Marshmallow Snowman Pop. Add a chocolate hat, licorice scarf, pretzel hands and icing eyes to marshmallows. Kids can have fun eating them before they melt away! While supplies last.

**Teen Holiday Party & Gift Exchange**
Thursday, December 15 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm
Teens ages 12-18 are invited to a Holiday Minute to Win It Party. Complete a variety of different themed challenges while enjoying cookies and our hot chocolate bar. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift (max of $5) for our gift exchange.

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In 1920, Altadena resident and department store owner Frederick C. Nash organized the first tree-lighting spectacle. In that first December when deodars were decorated with colorful lights with the goal of attracting shoppers to Nash’s store, one of the most celebrated Los Angeles-area traditions was born. The Lane is recognized as the oldest large-scale outdoor Christmas display in the world, listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated as the California State Landmark No. 990.

Every Christmas season for more than 80 years, the majestic deodars on the “Mile of Christmas Trees” are strung with 10,000 lights. The Christmas tree lighting ceremony is Saturday, December 10 at 6 pm with the Winter Arts & Crafts Festival in the Library parking lot beginning at 2pm. See their website for more information: www.ChristmasTreeLane.NET.
Altadena Library Open House

Join us on December 17 from 2 to 4 pm for an introduction to our Phase 1 Renovation; meet our New Employees and enjoy refreshments while visiting our new Collaborative Space.

Second Saturday CONCERT SERIES

Second Saturday’s [mostly] from 6:30 to 8 pm
Listen to great music as you sip craft beer and fine wine from The Ale House; savor wonderful dishes from El Patron and Guerrilla Chef Mateo; and sample delectable desserts from Sweeter Than Honey.

- Young Dempsey
  Hot-rod late nostalgia Doo Wop and Country
  December 3 [First Saturday]

- Todd Washington Trio
  Blues, Rock, Soul and Gospel
  January 14, 2017

- Louis Van Taylor Quintet
  Jazz
  February 11

- DeRumba
  Spanish Guitar to the beat of the Gypsy Rumba
  March 11

- Splish Splash Band
  Acoustic Classic Rock, Folk ‘n Blues
  April 8

- Michael Haggins Band
  Funk and Smooth Jazz
  May 13

- The Satisfaction Band
  Dance music, Top 40, Latin Rock, R&B, Cumbias and Oldies
  June 10

Passports

Shortened hours for December 2016

In December we will have shortened hours for our Passport Office in order to accommodate our Holiday schedule.

- Monday December 12: 1 to 8pm
- Monday December 19: 1 to 8pm
- Tuesday December 20: 10am to 5pm
- Thursday December 22: Passport Office Closed
- Friday December 23: Library and Passport Office Closed
- Saturday December 24: Library and Passport Office Closed
- Monday December 26: Library and Passport Office Closed
- Tuesday December 27: 1pm to 8pm
- Wednesday, December 28: 10am to 5pm
- Thursday December 29: Passport Office Closed
- Friday and Saturday December 30 and 31: 10am to 5pm

So that we can serve you without long waits all Passport appointments must be made in advance at 626-798-2950.

More information can be found on our web page at: www.AltadenaLibrary.org/Passports
**HOT TITLES: Family**

**Children**

*Meet the Bobs and Tweets* by Pepper Springfield; illustrated by Kristy Caldwell. First in a series, a rhyming story about two families learning how to be neighbors. Book

*My New Mom and Me* by Renata Galindo. A puppy, who is adopted by a cat, learns that family members may look different, but, it is how they treat each other that counts. Book

*The Family Fletcher Takes Rock Island* by Dana Alison Levy. Join the Fletchers, a family composed of four adopted racially diverse boys, and their two dads, on their summer vacation filled with all kinds of excitement. Book

*Camping Activity Book for Families: the Kid-tested Guide to Fun in the Outdoors* by Linda Parker Hamilton. Do you like to roast marshmallows, create art of pine cones, or play flashlight tag? Your family is sure to have an excellent camping trip with all of the activities and games found in this book.

**Teens**

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. While living outside of Munich in 1939, foster child Liesel steals books which she shares with her friends and family. Book, DVD, ebook, Audiobook

*The Road of the Dead* by Kevin Brooks. Two brothers leave their London home to hunt down the man who murdered their sister. Book

*Saint Anything* by Sarah Dessen. After Sydney’s brother, golden boy Peyton, is in jail, Sydney must rebuild her life and her family with the help of her new friends the Chatham family. Book

**Adults**

*Winter Storms* by Elin Hilderbrand. The final book in the Winter Street Trilogy, wrapping up the saga of the Quinn family. Book and audiobook

*Family Tree* by Susan Wiggs. Heartbreak causes Annie Harlow to return home to family, where she rekindles a past love and regains her life. Book and audiobook.

*The Awakened Family: a Revolution in Parenting* by Shefali Tsabary, Ph.D. Tsabary, a clinical psychologist, shows how relationships in the family can transform parenting style. Book

*The Big Dark* by Rodman Philbrick. When a natural disaster strikes, Charlie Cobb races against time and weather, to find the medication that will save his mother’s life. Book and audiobook.

*Wrong Side of Right* by Jenn Marie Thorne. Kate, whose mother died last year, learns that her father is a prominent politician who is running for president. Book

*First Part Last* by Angela Johnson. When Bobby’s girlfriend becomes pregnant, he must reevaluate his life to create a family. Book

*Same But Different: Teen Life on the Autism Express* by Holly Robinson Peete, Ryan Elizabeth Peete & RJ Peete. Through alternating narrative, Ryan Elizabeth Peete and her twin brother RJ share their experiences about what it is like to have a family member with autism. Book

*Been There, Done That: Family Wisdom for Modern Times* by Al Roker, Deborah Roberts with Laura Morton. Popular television news hosts, Roker and Roberts, share how they balance busy careers with caring for their children. Book

*The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap* by Stephanie Coontz. A provocative look at stereotypes about the American family, and, whether the American family we are nostalgic for ever really existed. Book

*The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* by Blaine T. Bettinger. Have you thought about using DNA to search your family tree? This handbook will guide you through the process. Book
Altadena Library has been hinting about it for six months, and it is finally going to happen. Our wifi system will be upgraded. At the end of November the installation began, and is expected to be completed by December 9th.

So what? Wifi already exists in Altadena Library District. Yes, but the wifi system going into place is going to be powerful enough to support our entire infrastructure if we chose to run it off of the wifi, and the public would still have high speed access to spare.

However, only a micro fraction of the infrastructure will actually run off of the wifi – the wifi will actually be 99% public usage. The wifi access points going into place are the Meraki MR32 access points; these are the Lamborghini Veneno of wifi access points, and there will be 13! of them at the Main Library, and two at the Bob Lucas Branch Library. The current wifi system only has 3 access points that are, comparatively, 1984 Yugo’s.

For those interested in the specifications of the new access points, you can read more about them here: https://meraki.cisco.com/products/wireless/mr32.

Merry Christmas Altadena!

Kate New Teen Librarian

Our new Teen Librarian, Kate Shumaker, is looking forward to our Library’s Phase 1 Renovation. The teen space will be further expanded with new shelving, furniture, and new books added to the Teen Collection. Kate notes that teens are interested in Anime and Manga.

“Teens are important to the Library as they are our society’s future – plus, they are FUN!” says Kate. She has had a chance to hear them talk about their concerns for the future and is excited to play a role in their lives and help empower them to make a difference in their world.

The Library is important to our teens as some have no other safe place to go after school; and there is an influx of Fake News on sites like FaceBook emphasizing that teens need, and want, access to accurate information. And, teens use the Library to connect to other like-minded people – which is enriching socially, emotionally and mentally.

The Maker Movement we participate in adds components of science, math and technology [STEM – Science/Technology/Engineering/Math] to Arts [STEAM – with A for Arts]. Our schools are recognizing that those elements that have been relegated as non-essential ARE essential. The Maker Movement is placing all those elements back in the hands of the students. When we design a robot, all the elements of STEAM come into play. This includes music, arts, woodworking and other creative outlets. “Teens often don’t have healthy ways to express themselves,” remarks Kate, “we want to change that.”

Kate will hold a monthly Craft event, a Maker event, as well as a Teen Advisory Board meeting, and plans to soon add a larger monthly event with an outside teacher – such as an Illustrator to teach our teen participants to draw Anime.

Kate holds a Master’s Degree from Kent State University in Library and Information Sciences specifically in Children and Teen Services. She has worked in libraries since 2003 – most recently at a Pasadena Unified Elementary School and the Simi Valley Public Library.

“I’m very excited to get the Teen Space designed for teens to relax and enjoy,” says Kate. We are excited to have her join our team!

WiFi for Christmas

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Merry Christmas Altadena!

New Movies Now Available on Blu-ray!

You know...the best thing about weekends is that there is always one coming up. And what better way to relax and enjoy the weekend than with a stack of movies from the Altadena Library. If you’re a movie fan, the Altadena Library is the best place around to pick up the perfect selection of films for any time or any mood. Our premiere film collection draws patrons from all around to browse our 3,700 titles and place holds on all the newest releases.

If you’ve already discovered this, and you’ve been waiting for us to add high-definition Blu-ray Discs to our collection – THE WAIT IS OVER. We’ve been ordering all the biggest movies on Blu-ray since July, and our hi-def collection is growing fast. But wait, you say – I don’t see many Blu-rays on the shelf. That’s because the Blu-ray Discs of newer titles are quite popular, and they checkout fast. If there’s a new title you want to see in high definition, be sure to tell the library staff to reserve you the Blu-ray copy of the movie. Chances are, that movie will be back and in your hands just in time for the upcoming weekend.

Book Clubs

No Guilt Book Club will not be held in December.

January 10, 2017
Garlic Ballads by Mo Yan
Anything by Mark Bittman – cook and share!

February 14, 2016
To Rise Again at a Decent Hour by Joshua Ferris
Playing Dead: A journey through the world of death fraud by Elizabeth Greenwood

Kate New Teen Librarian

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of the Library Meeting
Monday, January 2 at 7:30 pm

DIY Nebula Jars
Thursday, January 5 from 4 to 5 pm
Teens! Take a study break and create a Nebula Jar.

Ghost Signs Talk and Display
Saturday, January 7 at 2 pm
Ken Jones returns with his highly popular discussion and photos of early 1900s painted advertising on buildings.

Maker Monday Presents Popsicle Stick Catapults
Monday, January 9 from 4 to 6 pm
Teens, create a catapult from popsicle sticks and rubber bands then test and see who can launch a marshmallow higher and farther.

No Guilt Book Club
Tuesday, January 10 from 7 to 8 pm

Author Presentation:
For the Love of Money
Saturday, January 14 from 4 to 6 pm
Former hedge fund trader Sam Polk is a writer, co founder and CEO of Everytable, a social enterprise that sells fresh, delicious meals at prices everyone can afford, and the founder and executive director of Groceryships, a nonprofit that

Second Saturday Concert with
The Todd Washington Trio
Saturday, January 14 from 6:30 to 8 pm
The Todd Washington Trio will entertain with a mix of blues, folk, rock, soul and gospel.

Library Board of Trustees Meetings
Regular meeting: Monday, January 23 at 5 pm
WITH ADDITIONAL SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 TO INTERVIEW FOR A PROSPECTIVE NEW BOARD MEMBER

Teen Film:
Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children
Friday, January 27 at 3:30 pm

Main Library
600 East Mariposa Street
Altadena CA 91001
626-798-0833

Hours
Monday and Tuesday
10 am to 9 pm
Wednesday through Saturday
10 am to 6 pm

Passport Office (Main Library)
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
626-798-2950
Monday and Tuesday
10 am to 8 pm
Wednesday through Saturday
10 am to 5 pm

Bob Lucas Branch
2659 Lincoln Avenue
Altadena CA 91001
626-798-8338

Hours
Monday, Tuesday & Friday
10 am to 6 pm
Wednesday and Thursday
10 am to 8 pm

Become a Friend of the Library
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 AltadenaLibrary.org/friends-library

“The healing place of the soul”
Inscription over the door of the library of Thebes.

SMILE
The Library often photographs or video tapes 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!