It’s Time for Poetry & Cookies!

Be inspired by an afternoon of poetry at the Altadena Main Library and meet the District’s new Poet Laureate! Find joy and inspiration at the Altadena Library on Sunday, April 29, from 1:00 - 4:30 pm (with a break from 2:30 to 3:00) when it hosts one of the largest local poetry readings in our community. This event celebrates the formal launch of the Altadena Poetry Review: Anthology 2017 (published by the award-winning local indie, Golden Foothill Press). Also on the docket is the inauguration of the library’s new Poet Laureate 2018-2020. The 104 poets included in this publication, many of whom will be reading that day, are Pushcart Prize Nominees, Poets Laureate, writing teachers, editors, publishers, professors, and emerging authors. The 167 poems in the anthology are multi-culturally diverse and represent a broad variety of styles: traditional, unrhymed, short, long, humorous, poignant, political, inspirational, experimental, and, “everything in between.”

The creation of this book was led by co-editors: Elline Lipkin, Poet Laureate of the Altadena Library District 2016-2017; and Paul Dutton, editor of the library’s Poetry & Cookies Anthology, from which the Altadena Poetry Review evolved in 2015. The co-editors worked closely with a peer review panel of published poets and editors who discussed all submitted poems. The Anthology Selection Committee, all volunteers, include Tim Callahan, Gloriana Casey, Gerda Govine Ituarte, Briory James, Elisa M. J. Seifert, Mary Fitzpatrick, and Cathie Sandstrom.

This year’s anthology and event were made possible by a generous donation from the Friends of the Altadena Library, although the main library is not open for business on Sundays, the doors will be open on this special day to anyone who would like to attend this exciting event. Just sit back and enjoy. Everyone is welcome! Free to the public with refreshments, cookies, mingling with the poets, books to browse and buy, and photo ops.

Want even more poetry in your life? Celebrate the nominees of the Pushcart Prize for Poetry.

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

Rocking Our Sub-Genres: Women in Mystery
Tuesday, April 3, at 7:00pm

Mystery novels aren’t just classic who-done-its with a puzzle, tea on the veranda, and an old lady amateur sleuth, any more than they are tough looks at lone detectives walking the mean streets. Join us to hear a panel of female authors discuss the sub-genres of mystery and how they use their sub-genre to tell their stories!

Citizenship Classes
Every Tuesday through May 22, at 6:00pm

Enlist in free civil rights training to prepare for the U.S. Citizenship exam! Enrollment today for this class every Tuesday through the end of May at the Bob Lucas Branch. Call (626) 798-0833 x102 to register

All-Ages Chess Night
Every Tuesday, at 6:30pm

Calling all lovers of chess, beginners included! All you need for this fun, all-ages chess experience is your love of the game, good sportsmanship, and willingness to learn! This popular program is led by local chess enthusiast Will Patton.

Seed Library Open Hours & “Raising Chickens” Presentation with Su Falcon
Saturday, April 7, from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Come to the Seed Library for a free talk and meet a local falconer with racing chickens from Su Falcon, author of “How I Survived My First Year with Chickens.”

Choosing Signs Screening and Q&A
Saturday, April 7, at 2:00pm

Love isn’t always a choice... Join us for a screening of a beautiful independent film about a love story by Owen Dara. A Q&A with the director and actors will follow.

No Guilt Club
Tuesday, April 10, at 7:00pm

No guilt – Come even if you haven’t read the book! Meets in the Director’s Office.

BookMobile Meetup at the Market
Wednesday, April 11, at 4:00pm

Meet up with other BookMobile fans to celebrate National Library Week and National BookMobile Day with a special story time, signups for library cards, and a hangout with your friendly BookMobile driver.

Second Saturday Concert with Kenny Sara & The Sounds of New Orleans
Saturday, April 21, at 6:30pm

The sounds of New Orleans are coming to Altadena Library! Food and beverages will be available for sale, and all ages are welcome at this festive event.

Pushcart Prize for Poetry Celebration
Monday, April 6, at 7:00pm

Mindful Meow: Meditation Workshop
Saturday, April 21, at 9:15am

Start your weekend with light movement, mindfulness exercises, and guided meditation in the open air!

Being the Change Screening and Q&A
Saturday, April 21, at 2:00pm

Learn how to live well and spark a climate revolution from atmospheric scientist Peter Kalmus at this screening of his documentary and following discussion.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, April 23, at 5:00pm

Open Mic Night
Tuesday, April 24, at 7:00pm

4x4 Art Workshop - Crocheting with Sonali
Kohlakah
Saturday, April 28, at 11:00am

Build your crocheting skills at our final 4x4 Art Workshop of the year with Sonali Kohlakah, a multi-media artist who paints, sews, crochets, and does the mosaic and paper crafts. Register today by emailing 4x4art@altadenalibrary.org.

Poetry & Cookies
Sunday, April 29, at 1:00pm

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, designers, or assigns, 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!
Libraries Lead. Celebrate National Library Week 2018!

Welcome, Betsy Kahn, to the Library Board of Trustees!

Last month the Altadena Library District Board of Trustees appointed Betsy Kahn as its newest trustee, filling the position vacated by the resignation of trustee Adalicia Zelada-Garcia. Betsy has been a certificated school librarian for nearly 18 years, including eight years in PUSD at Wilson Middle School and Pasadena High School. She has been the librarian at South Pasadena Middle School since 2010. Earlier in her career, she ran the adult literacy program at Hayward Public Library, and served for six years as a trustee for the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. She also served for ten years on the Board of Directors of the Children’s Literature Council of Southern California, including two as its president.

“My mission statement as a school librarian consists of five words,” says Betsy. “Create library users for life.” And my personal mission statement urges me to be a champion of books and reading for children and adults.” As a trustee of this incredible and unique institution, I look forward to serving library users of all ages as we continue to reimagine and celebrate what a public library can become, while cherishing and preserving the things it has always done best.

Betsy and her husband Howard have three grown sons, who are all avid readers. They enjoy having the San Gabriel Mountains in their backyard and love calling Altadena their home.

The Board of Trustees thanks former trustee Adalicia Zelada-Garcia for her service, and welcomes Betsy into its ranks as it moves forward into the challenges and opportunities of 2018 and beyond.

Altadena Library District’s Board is comprised of five local volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and expertise. It is the Board’s responsibility to represent the needs of the community and transform them into the policies that govern the District, through short- and long-term planning and ongoing oversight. Learn more online at altadenalibrary.org/about-board.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

SEED LIBRARY PRESENTATION
- RAISING CHICKENS - WITH SU FALCON

SUNDAY, APRIL 7th 10:00AM - 12:00PM COMMUNITY ROOM

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
A Year in Review Small Changes Building to Greater Momentum
How quickly the time passes when you’re making progress.
A year ago in April 2017, our community gathered to reflect on the findings of the Community Conversations initiative. A year later, we have quantified our progress and compiled a list of accomplishments within our Library. The Library was not alone in making progress throughout 2017; many community organizations have been working hard to make Altadena a better place. We want to hear from you! What action steps have you taken to put the Community Conversations discussion into action in your neighborhood? Do you want to join the Altadena Library in making a difference where you live?

Be sure to check for a special report soon at altadenalibrary.org/community-conversations!

Friends of the Altadena Library
FROM F.O.A.L. PRESIDENT - MARK MARISCAL
Friends of the Altadena Library Update

April showers bring May flowers. This year, Southern California has not yet seen the normal average of rainfall that we would like to receive. What is nice during this month as the days get longer, the Library’s outdoor areas start growing more beautiful and inviting! Now, if you are NOT visiting the library on any regular basis, you may not notice the growth of our outdoor areas.

During April, the Friends organization continues to assist with funding for various programs that you can read about in this newsletter. I invite you to attend the upcoming Second Saturday Concert, as there are only 3 more left before summer arrives...

I want to thank all of you that have renewed your membership for the 2018 year. Even though part of the year has already passed, we still invite those of you who have not sent in a renewal (or want to sign up for the first time) to do so. One great benefit of membership is exclusive access to the special book sale day (Friday, May 18, from 3:00 - 6:00pm) open only to members of the Friends of the Altadena Library who get first pick of our wonderful selection of books and materials in the sale.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Friends Book Sale - May 19 and 20, 2018

Established in 1959, the Friends of the Altadena Library is an organization committed to the support of the Altadena Library District and its programs and services. Learn more and become a Friend at www.altadenaibrary.org/friends-library.

Beginning Crocheting with Sonali Kohlhatkar
Saturday, April 28
11:00am – 1:00pm

Our 4x4 Art Workshop series comes to a close with Sonali Kohlhatkar, who has been crocheting for nearly 10 years and creates one-of-a-kind crochet hats, scarves, and bags. Register to 4x4art@altadenaibrary.org
This workshop is designed for ages 15 and older.

Art Workshops
AT ALTADENA LIBRARY

Be sure to check for a special report soon at altadenalibrary.org/community-conversations!
April Artist on Display
Richard Schuster, Community Room
Starting April 3 and running through April 28, the Community Room will feature the work of Richard Schuster. During the Second Saturday concert on Saturday, April 14, at 6:30pm to 8:30pm, the public is invited to an Artist Reception in the Community Room where they can enjoy light refreshments and an opportunity to meet Richard Schuster in person.

Of his art, Richard says, “I’ve been painting portraits for over ten years. I tend to paint in a realistic fashion using exclusively oils and my mentors are Rembrandt and Sargent. A number of my paintings have been exhibited at Jones Coffee Roasters in Pasadena.”

Totti O’Brien, Reading Court
Starting April 3 and running through April 28, the Reading Court will feature the work of Totti O’Brien. Totti shares, “I work in a mixed media technique involving collage and assemblage, utilizing found objects and recycled materials as well as my own drawings, paintings, photography, ceramics or textiles. The use of fragments is a common thread of my work. I think of each piece like a puzzle; the viewer can unscramble as they wish. I like for my work to be whimsical and enchanting both for adults and children, but also mysterious. There is always an embedded narrative aside, a bit illogical. Recurrent themes are roots and displacement, the layering of cultures, nature and the human body, relationships.”

Are you an artist interested in displaying your work at the Altadena Libraries? Email our artist coordinator Melissa Aldama at maildama@altadenalibrary.org to express interest and learn more about eligibility and conditions!

Choosing Signs Screening and Q&A
Saturday, April 7th, 2:00 - 4:30pm Community Room
Join us for a screening of a beautiful independent film about a love story between a down-to-earth Irishman and an up-in-the-air American woman who makes life choices by consulting the powers of the Universe.
A Q&A with director and actor Owen Dara and actor Jessica Lancaster will immediately follow.

Being the Change Screening and Q&A
Saturday, April 21st 2:00 - 4:00pm Community Room
Atmospheric scientist Peter Kalmus returns to the Library to share his follow-up documentary to his popular book Being the Change. This Earth Day, “live well and spark a climate revolution” at the Library!

Mindful Meow: Learning Zen From Our Feline Friends
As the weather warms and our community heads back outside after a (semi) chilly and rainy winter, we invite the public to join us at the Library for a mindful morning outdoors. Let’s take a note from our furry, feline friends and embrace the peace of a warm spring morning with stretching in the sun and meditation! On Saturday, April 21, from 9:15am to 10:15am, meet on the grassy lawn outside the Main Library entrance and bridge to engage in light movement, mindfulness activities, and guided meditation as a group in the open air. This program is designed for ages 15 years and you are encouraged to bring a yoga mat or towel, as the grass may still be dewy.

“I have lived with several Zen masters — all of them cats.” — Eckhart Tolle

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 10th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
No Guilt Book Club
No guilt — come even if you haven’t read the book! Meets in the Director’s Office!

No Maximum-Security Book Club: Reading Literature in a Man’s Prison by Milika Bottman
Bottman recounts her experiences starting a book club in a maximum-security prison and how the prisoners enlightened her with their interpretations of literary classics.

The Los Angeles Central Library: Building an Architectural Icon, 1872 - 1933 by Kenneth A. Breisch
The history of this beautiful Los Angeles icon of learning and literature includes historic photographs of downtown LA and vivid illustrations.

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and Their Race to Save the World’s Most Precious Manuscripts by Joshua Hammer
A real-life suspense about the librarians in their race to save rare Islamic manuscripts from Al Qaeda militants.

Improbable Libraries: A Visual Journey to the World’s Most Unusual Libraries by Alex Johnson
Johnson takes the reader on a global tour of libraries that are pop-ups, float down rivers, sit on the backs of animals, and highlights how libraries reflect the missions and goals of the people they serve.

Furry Friends Build Readers
It’s never easy to master a new skill. To get good at anything requires a good teacher, practice, patience, and—maybe most importantly—a safe space to try and fail, and then try again.

A safe space is essential for kids learning to read, especially for those who are particularly shy or struggling. Reading Therapy Dogs are a great audience for early readers. They provide a non-judgmental and patient ear for kids who might otherwise be too shy or embarrassed to practice reading aloud.

Our Library has two opportunities for independent readers to practice their fluency and develop their confidence in reading. On the First Saturday of each month, Cocker the Dog leads our Tail Waggin’ Tutors event, and on the fourth Wednesday of the month, the Pasadena Humane Society comes by with some good boys and girls for Books & Bars. See dates on page 6. Each event, students will have the chance to read a book or two aloud to a furry friend.

Those who wish to participate should be able to read independently, and should probably not be afraid of dogs. Our four-legged therapists also request that readers be skilled belly-rubbers and ear-scratchers.

If you have any questions, please contact the Children’s Desk at 626-798-0833 x 108 or at children@altadenalibrary.org.

Rocking Our Sub-Genres Women Authors Talk About the Many Facets of the Mystery World
Tuesday, April 3rd, 7:00 - 8:30pm Community Room
Mystery novels aren’t just classic whodunits with a puzzle, tea on the veranda, and an amateur sleuth, any more than they are tough looks at detectives walking the mean streets. They’re everything in between.

Women authors, Diann Adamson, Linda G. Johnston, Anne Louise Bannon, Pamela Samuels Young, Nancy Cole Silversman, and Carole Sojka, will talk about all the sub-genres of mystery and how they tell their stories.
CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS - APRIL

Pokémon Club
Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:00pm

Baby Lap Time
Wednesdays, 10:15am

Toddler Story Time
Wednesdays, 11:00am

Market Stories
Wednesdays, 4:00pm

Preschool Story Time
Thursdays, 11:00am

Barks & Books
Wednesday, April 25, 3:30pm

Legos Club
Fridays, 3:30 - 5:00pm

Tail Waggin’ Tutors
Saturday, April 7, 11:00am

Pages & Popcorn
Twee Club
Tuesdays, 4:30pm

Market Stories & BookMobile Meet-Up
Wednesday, April 11, 4:00pm

Boba Fett Branch Library Updates & APRIL Events

Seeking Literacy Learners!
Funded in part by a grant from the California State Library, the Adult Literacy Services program has been serving the residents of Altadena since 1986. Instruction is provided by volunteer tutors who have completed our online tutor training course. Do you know an adult who could use one-on-one tutoring in reading? Call the Bob Lucas Memorial Library & Literacy Center at (626) 798-8338 x102 or email: literacy@altadenalibrary.org to get matched with a tutor! Literacy tutors are also always appreciated; email or call the above to get signed up.

Rainy Day Crafting
Reminder—Should the rains return to Altadena, the Bob Lucas Branch offers crafts for children to escape the downpour! Stop by next time it rains and enjoy some cozy craft time!