**The Science of Collection Maintenance**

You hurry through the library doors, anxious to find the perfect book for your weekend. Not sure what type of book you are looking to enjoy, you walk through the rows of library shelves, occasionally stopping to flip through the pages of a book with a title that catches your eye. After spending some time in several sections, you check your books out, having decided on three more books than you originally intended. You just couldn’t help yourself.

The simplicity in this special experience is what brings people to the library – the potential to find gems in the various stacks that unlock new knowledge, worlds, and adventures with every turn of a page. What most don’t realize is that the maintenance of a library’s numerous collections is a complex and involved science that requires the attention of specialized library professionals on an ongoing basis. The Altadena Library was originally designed by architect Boyd Georgi to hold close to 80,000 items. Fifty years later, as it adapts to meet the needs of the modern patron by increasing its technological capacity, how does the library maintain an up-to-date collection in its limited physical space?

**Collection Maintenance continued on page 3**

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**A Gesture of Love to Our Library**

Love is in the air! Traditionally, February is the month of love, but as we continue to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our library’s main building, we are beginning to see 2017 as the year of loving our library. What is the ultimate gesture of love for a historic library? A renovation, of course!

Built in 1967, our beloved library is due for some much-needed touch ups, and in order to fix the effects of 50 years of heavy use in a cost-effective way. The project will use grant funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, a donation from the Foundation and some general budget funds.

The Phase I Renovation will begin with important changes to shelving and doorways throughout, to meet compliance requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and seismic safety code. Beautifully crafted, state-of-the-art shelving and displays will be installed across the library floor, including the Children’s Section. Brand new, artful book bins will be provided to optimize the space allocated for our youngest patrons.

The most visible of planned changes will undoubtedly be the updates to flooring and carpeting. Thanks to the generosity of the Altadena Library Foundation, floors will be replaced with modern Shaw Contract® flooring. Say goodbye to the worn, aging carpets we have grown accustomed to! Per the swatches at right, the color of the primary library carpet will be a deep mossy pine, reflective of the lush foliage surrounding the library. The teens’ lounge will be updated with rust- and clay-colored carpet, and our child patrons will enjoy a timeless teal.

While the floors receive their well-deserved renewal, the library will take an important step toward expanding its potential for technology usage: installation of additional electrical and data outlets throughout the library. More outlets allow for charging stations for mobile device users and increased computer capacity in the future.

Finally, to keep up with the bright, colorful carpeting and flooring, the last steps of the renovation will include creation of innovative signage and rejuvenation of the library’s planters, original wood and tiling. Sadly, time has come to retire the 50 year old palm in the atrium and replace it with a new palm that will hopefully last another 50 years.

**Gesture of Love continued on page 3**
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Loving Your Library Has Never Been Easier!

The Altadena Library loves its constituents and community, and we know you love us… We want to know why! Along with many events you’ll be hearing about in the near future, we are launching the #50ReasonsWhy campaign in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Altadena Library Main Building and launch of the Phase I Renovation.

Over the coming months, we will be counting down the fifty biggest reasons why we love the library on social media, and we invite you to join us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to share your very own reasons!

BOB LUCAS MEMORIAL BRANCH

Community Conversations

The Bob Lucas Branch Library and Literacy Center has a long history of serving the Western Altadena community. The Branch is deepening its engagement with our neighborhood by participating in the Libraries Transforming Communities Initiative from the American Library Association. We will facilitate 15 Community Conversations as a part of this initiative, with the aim of discovering what Altadena residents seek from their community.

Members of the community braved the rain and met to discuss ways to improve our neighborhood at our first Community Conversation on Friday, January 20th. Community leader Brian Biery facilitated the meeting in Spanish, providing a platform to those who may feel voiceless. Conversation participants identified community concerns and barriers to addressing those concerns, and discussed potential ways to solve those concerns and overcome obstacles.

This process not only informs us of community concerns, but builds bonds between neighbors and empowers community members to realize positive change. As a 21st century library, we are excited to facilitate these valuable conversations! In March, the results of the Community Conversations will be shared with participants, along with community leaders and organizations. Please feel free to join us for one of our future conversations! Contact Library Director Mindy Kittay, at mkittay@altadenalibrary.org or 626-798-0833 x103, or Consultant Brian Biery, at bbiery@altadenalibrary.org for details.

Share your love by using the hashtag #50ReasonsWhy and tagging Altadena Library with our handles @altadenalibrary (Facebook and Twitter) and @altadenalibrarydistrict (Instagram).

Not a social media user? There are plenty of other ways you can share your love for your library!

• Join the Friends of the Altadena Library.

As a Friend, you receive access to exclusive benefits, and the reasonable annual dues go directly to helping cover the library’s operational costs and advocacy for the Altadena Library.

• Support the Altadena Library Foundation.

Altruism and community – these are some of the core principles of the Altadena Library Foundation that guide their involvement and support of the library. Whether you support the Foundation financially or help raise funds that support capital campaigns, you can make a significant impact and show your library love.

• Fundraise for or donate to multiple library projects that require funding.

We love our library for its retro charm and beauty, but it is aging and needs our support all around. From restoration of original art and sculptures, to sponsorship of library events, to donations in support of future renovation of the building, the library has a plethora of needs and relies on community support to reach its goals.

Head on over to www.altadenalibrary.org for more information about any of the previously mentioned entities, or stop in for a visit, and help us make 2017 the year of loving our library!

Share your love for your Altadena Library using #50ReasonsWhy or leave us feedback at facebook.com/altadenalibrary – we want to hear from you!

Ihsaan | 28

“ I love the Altadena Library because knowledge is power! ”
Selection and De-Acquisition

Behind the scenes of a library, librarians face a special, ongoing challenge – to keep the numerous collections up-to-date without overwhelming the library’s capacity. One half of the process is called “selection,” where librarians augment the collections with new releases, new additions to series, and recent editions. The other side of the process, to balance the ongoing influx of items, is called “de-acquisition.” The basic goals of de-acquisition:

1. To provide the community with accurate information;
2. To keep collections appealing, attractive, and current;
3. To remove books with excessive blemishes or wear and tear, and;
4. To keep series complete.

Different types of books have different standards for maintenance. For example, novels and other fictional works may have a longer shelf life than other genres. While Mark Twain’s work is of a different time period, there is historical significance in his writing. On the other hand, in the nonfiction section, a technical book about computers written in the early 1990s could be misleading to someone looking for assistance with modern technology. Thus, computer books, as a rule, are removed after two years. Medical books also have shorter removal standards specific to their subject, while history books may have longer shelf life. Every section has its own criteria.

So with a collection of almost 80,000 items, how does this process happen efficiently and effectively? Altadena Library welcomed Collection Development Manager Estella Terrazas to the team in September 2016, and she has been working with Christina McTighe and Kate Shumaker, librarians of the Children’s and Young Adults’ sections, and other staff, to ensure Altadena Library’s collections are as current as they can be. The process can range from simply walking through and examining the condition of the stacks to visually catch any damaged books, to using library technology to analyze circulation metrics of certain genres, series, or editions. It is not uncommon for a library that has been in existence as long as Altadena Library to house some outdated materials that have fallen through the cracks, and Terrazas and her team are working diligently to bring the library up to speed.

Impacts of the Phase I Renovation

One of the significant parts of the Phase I Renovation, to occur from mid-March to end of April 2017, is replacing the shelving and displays around the library. Because the first phase of the renovation will not include a major overhaul of the library’s structure, the physical space and layout will remain at a capacity of 80,000 items. However, the restructuring of shelving will allow for changes in different sections. Librarians will be carefully examining the adult collection, as a small number of items will need to be removed. Alternatively, the children’s section, one of the library’s most popular collections, will gain more space with the new shelving, as will the young adults’ section.

Changes in the collection during the renovation will only serve to better equip Altadena Library District for serving the needs of its community. All of the science behind the selection and de-acquisition is carried out for the very purpose of the library itself – “to provide free and equal access to information, ideas, technology and the joy of reading to educate and empower our diverse community” – and to continue to allow its community to enjoy the simple magic of finding the perfect book.

Want to learn more about the process of maintaining the library’s collections? Feel free to contact Collection Development Manager Estella Terrazas at ETerrazas@AltadenaLibrary.org or in person at the Library.

A Gesture of Love to Our Library

To accomplish the extensive Phase I Renovation, the Main Library will be closed from mid-March through the end of April.

Please mark your calendars and come love the new library at our culminating Grand Reopening celebration on Saturday, June 10th! After weeks of closure, the community will gather for a day of excitement, community building, and discovery. As we explore the newly renovated library, we will celebrate the Library’s 90+ year legacy and its 50 years in the Main Building, originally designed by renowned architect Boyd Georgi in the 1960s.

Have questions? We have answers! Have suggestions? We want to hear them! Please contact Library Director Mindy Kittay at MKittay@AltadenaLibrary.org or in person at the Library.
PROGRAMS Community Connections for February

Presidents’ Day – Library Closed
Monday, February 20

Teen Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 1 from 3:30 to 5 pm

DIY Duct Tape Creations
Thursday, February 2 from 4 to 5 pm
Teens! Take a study break and make Duct Tape Creations.

Poetry with Suzanne Lummis
Saturday, February 4 at 1 pm
A workshop suitable for poets at all levels, or for those who have not yet tried their hand at poetry. Imagery, voice and sources for inspiration will be explored, and participants will evolve one new poem, or material for a poem, in response to a writing prompt.

Anime Your Way Teen Workshop
Saturday, February 4 from 3 to 5 pm
Using simple shapes and easy to understand instructions, participants will gain an insight into the world of anime drawing and come away with the knowledge and confidence to create their very own stylized anime characters. Anime Your Way draws from art, history, reading, geometry and creative writing! All materials are included.

What’s Happening, Teens?

February is a great month for our teen department. The month kicks off with our Teen Advisory Board Meeting on the 1st at 3:30. There are still a few slots left so be sure to get your applications in! Thursday, February 2nd, is the second crafting program. We’ll be making a variety of creations out of duct tape. Be sure to stop in at this fun filled activity in the teen space.

Join us on Saturday, February 4th for a two-hour workshop by Carlos Nietro III where teens will learn to draw anime. All skill levels are welcome, and all materials will be provided. February 13th is the return of Maker Mondays. Teens will create and explore kinetic sand seeing what shapes they can make and how different changes to the recipe affect the outcome.

February 23rd is Teen Game Day returns. Teens can play a variety of Wii U, PlayStation 4, Virtual Reality, and Board Games in the community room. If you have a game for those consoles that you would like to share, please bring it. Just no games rated M, please. On February 24th, stop by at 3:30 to watch the movie Captain America: Civil War. Enjoy watching a film with old and new friends.

We look forward to seeing you at teen programs this month!

Friends of the Library Meeting
Monday, February 6 at 7:30 pm

Chinese Calligraphy
Tuesday, February 7 from 3 to 4 pm BRANCH; 4 to 6 pm

Library Furniture/Tech Auction
Saturday, February 11 at 10 am to 8 pm
As part of our Phase I Renovation, we will be auctioning off all our extra furniture, typewriters, and technology in the Community Room – Come treasure hunting!

Second Saturday Concert with Splish Splash Band
Saturday, February 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Join us for live Rock, Jazz and Blues with Splish Splash Band along with Beverages, Food, Deserts and Dancing!

Maker Monday Presents Kinetic Sand
Monday, February 13 from 4 to 6 pm
Teens, spend some time hanging out while using STEAM skills to make Kinetic Sand. Explore how the sand interacts with the environment while crafting your designs.

No Guilt Book Club
Tuesday, February 14 from 7 to 8 pm

Lego Club
Saturday, February 18 from 2 to 3:30 pm

Teen Film: Captain America: Civil War
Friday, February 24 at 3:30

Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, February 27 at 5 pm

Bruce 72
"I love the Altadena Library because it is always developing new services and maintains a terrific book selection."
Welcome, Christina!

New Children’s and Family Services Librarian

Please join me in welcoming Christina McTighe, our new Children’s and Family Services Librarian! Christina received her MLIS from Kent State University in 2015, and she was most recently a Youth Services Librarian for the Arlington Public Library in Arlington, VA. Before that she was a Children’s Librarian at the DC Public Library in Washington, DC where she worked with DCPL’s Center for Accessibility to promote library services to children without traditional library access, and as an intern with the Young Readers Center at the Library of Congress. We are very excited to have Christina joining us, and I’m certain that she will be a fun, enthusiastic, and invaluable member of our Youth Services team and our ALD family.

Christina is passionate about diverse and reflective library collections, expanding library access to children and families who haven’t been traditional library users, and promoting a lifelong love of reading. She’s ghostwritten for a popular children’s series (but she’s sworn to secrecy and can’t tell you which one), loves to travel and eat new foods, and likes making things. Her favorite book is A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN by Betty Smith and the book that made her fall in love with reading is ALANNA: THE FIRST ADVENTURE by Tamora Pierce. Come visit her to talk about the Hogwarts sorting process, how great graphic novels are, and to tell her what you’ve been reading lately.

Isaura | 73

“I love the Altadena Library because it is near my house and I like studying English at the ESL class.”

ART AROUND THE LIBRARY

To create or not to create? There’s no question – Create!

When I view my creations, I can see/feel every year, every tear, every emotional moment (good and bad) that’s been my life. From the musician portraiture that remind me of the music my mother and older sisters loved, to the sports/athletic paintings that remind me of all of the ball games that my father and I watched together. To my large scale abstract creations which encompass all of the joy and pain of being alive.

Come to Kevin Newton’s Opening February 18th – 4pm to 6pm

Silent Auction

Saturday, February 11 all day and through The Second Saturday Concert. Visit the Library’s Community Room to view and bid on items. Bidding ends at 8 pm. You do not need to be present to win the bid. We will contact bid winners and give 24 hours to respond. Items may be paid for and picked up that night or the next Monday.

Questions? Call 626-798-0833 x 118
Children

Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems, multiple-award winning author Jacqueline Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life written + illustrated by Ashley Bryan

Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, Ashley Bryan offers a moving and powerful picture book that contrasts the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams a slave owner could never take away.

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio; illustrated by LeUyen Pham

When Grace’s teacher reveals that the United States has never had a female president, Grace decides to be the first. And she immediately starts off her political career as a candidate the school’s mock election!

Teens

Copper Sun by Sharon Draper

After being stolen from her home in Africa, Amari must find a way to survive her new existence. When Polly, a white indentured servant, begins working together with Amari, maybe they can achieve freedom, together.

A Certain October by Angela Johnson

When a train accident turns Scotty’s life upside down, she must come to terms with the tragedies that have befallen her and her role in the accident.

Darius & Twig by Walter Dean Myers

Writer Darius and runner Twig are an unusual set of friends. Both want more than their hometown can offer them. They support each other through bullies, an abusive uncle, and the fear of being stuck forever.

Adults

The Mothers: A Novel by Brit Bennett

A moving story following the lives of three black teens into adulthood and how they cope with hopes, dreams, and secrets.

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

Although segregated from their white coworkers, four women helped shape the history of NASA and the space program.

My Life, My Love, My Legacy by Coretta Scott King; as told to the Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds

King recounts her life before, and after, her marriage to Martin Luther King, Jr., relaying her activism with nonviolent social change.

Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue by Julius Lester

March 2 and 3, 1859 held the largest slave auction in America. A rainstorm lasted throughout the entire event. Multiple enslaved Africans and their owners reflect on the events of those few desperate days.

Because They Marched by Russell Freedman

In this nonfiction work, Freedman documents the 1965 Selma march. Using primary sources and photographs, the story of these pivotal days comes to life.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Ghost has been running his whole life – but always away from something. But when he gets a chance to join an elite track team, and to maybe compete in the Junior Olympics, he finally has a finish line in sight. But that’s only if he can stay out of trouble, which is not as easy as it sounds.

Preaching to the Chickens, by Jabari Asim; illustrated by E. B. Lewis

John wants to be a leader whose words stir hearts to change, minds to think, and bodies to take action. But why wait? When John is put in charge of the family farm’s flock of chickens, he discovers that they make a wonderful congregation! John will grow up to be Congressman John Lewis, hero of the Civil Rights movement. Older readers may enjoy his National Book Award winning graphic novel trilogy, MARCH.
NO GUILT BOOK CLUB

Fields of Garlic

Mo Yan, Nobel Prize winner of 2012 for his literature using a dream-like state that combines folk tales, contemporary Chinese life and history, was our author of choice for his novel The Garlic Ballads.

The story tells the sad existence of farmers in China during the 1980’s. The corruption and misguided policies are still creating treacherous lives for the poor. There are main characters and a plot in this book, but the main points are social and political criticism. This sort of heavily politicized literature flourishes when the usual media for criticism (newspapers, TV, internet) are censored. By disguising his critiques as literature, Yan can publicly discuss topics which are usually taboo in the press.

There is some wonderfully descriptive language which made us re-read some of the sentences, but the tale is so sad and full of anguish it was terribly hard to get through. The relentlessness of the suffering of the people, the casual savagery of the officials, the animalistic brutality of a family towards their rebellious daughter and her lover—most of us gave up and never looked back.

What the original “The Joy of Cooking” was to our mother’s generation, Mark Bittman’s cookbook collection, How to Cook Everything, could very well be to the current generation. Bittman, the acclaimed cookbook author and food policy columnist, provides a tremendous range of good, basic recipes without any trendy nonsense or the kind of “playing with your food” cuisine typical of too many contemporary cooks and authors. He manages to be with it and international without going overboard. Studying the relationships among eating, health, and the environment, he is committed to simple recipes that for the most part do not call for bizarre ingredients, and that showcase the chosen components true flavors. The recipes are fairly modern and there is interesting background information on ingredients. His books are a good reference when you have an idea already of what you want to make.

Mr. Bittman has succeeded in producing cookbooks that allow people to prepare delicious meals, in little time, with his expert guidance and instruction. Bittman’s books are a great resource, not just for the beginner, but for any cook.

His stance is that cooking a decent meal can happen in the same time it takes to order pizza, so there really is no excuse not to cook was one of the reasons all his published collection was chosen. Adhering to this principle was member Cynthia, who whipped up Rosemary-Lemon White Bean Dip from The Minimalist Cooks At Home to share at Book Club. Inspired by the recipes, she also made Roasted Walnuts with Blue Cheese; Roasted Carrots with Olive Oil and Sesame Seeds; and Roasted Eggplant. These books are tools for cooking, and you will constantly be reaching for them to find new ideas and fresh ways of cooking old favorites.

Volunteers, Meet Yuni!

Yuni LaFontaine, our new Volunteer Coordinator, has lived in the Altadena/Pasadena area, on and off, since she was four.

Yuni tells us, “The Altadena Library is the first library I remember going to. I’ve always loved the architecture. I’m proud to be from our area and have always appreciated that we have such a vibrant community that is enriched by, and contributes to, the arts and sciences.

We are lucky to be able to take for granted the diversity and wealth of experiences that we have at our finger tips here in our community. I especially appreciate that our library is not just a place to find knowledge, but also a place to experience and participate in our wonderful community. I look forward to being a part of that here at the Altadena Library.”

If you are interested in volunteering for the Library you can contact Yuni at extension #120 or ylafontaine@Altadenalibrary.org
UPCOMING EVENTS March

Teen Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 1 from 3:30 to 5 pm

Teens: DIY Polymer Clay Creations
Thursday, March 2 from 3:30 to 5 pm

Making the Most of Your College Visits
Saturday, March 4 from 3 to 5 pm
with Ashley Sim

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Monday, March 6 at 7:30 pm

Second Saturday
Concerts with DeRumba
Saturday, March 11
from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Spanish Guitar to the beat of the Gypsy Rumba. Join us as we listen to DeRumba, dance, drink, eat and enjoy delectable deserts!

Altadena Library Phase I Renovations Begin
Monday, March 13
Please enjoy The Bob Lucas Branch Library while we renovate the Main Altadena Library!

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
www.AltadenaLibrary.org

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

“Smile”
Inscription over the door of the library of Thebes.

Phase I Renovation CLOSURES
The MAIN LIBRARY will be closing for the Phase I Renovation from Monday, March 13 until April 30.

THE BRANCH LIBRARY will have EXTENDED OPEN HOURS: Monday through Thursday 10 am to 8 pm; Friday and Saturday 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday Noon to 4 pm – until the Main Library reopens. Thank you for your patience while we make these much needed upgrades.

Raquel | 75
“I love the Altadena Library because it is my second home.

Email MKittay@AltadenaLibrary.org or drop by and ask for Mindy, Kylynn, or Ryan.

Were you here when the NEW Altadena Library opened in August 1967?
We want to hear from you! Your memories are important to the community — and the library!

Email MKittay@AltadenaLibrary.org or drop by and ask for Mindy, Kylynn, or Ryan.

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