The Library You May Not Know

When you think of libraries, if you only think of books, well . . . that is sooo last millennium. Libraries have existed since approximately 2600 BCE. As repositories for tablets and scrolls, then eventually books, they have cataloged resources and served as bricks-and-mortar centers of knowledge. Today, information is no longer distributed from a single physical location. We have the internet. So while printed books are critical to libraries, communities no longer need libraries simply as an access point or as an archive. Today libraries are more like community centers. Our New Year’s resolution here at the Library is to be responsive to our community so that our changes, upgrades, programs, and classes reflect all of Altadena. Here’s a sample of what to expect in 2016:

♦ We will be expanding our 1G wireless internet to the Bob Lucas Branch.

♦ New computers will be available with the most up-to-date software in both locations. In addition to our desktop computers we will have laptops available for check out within the Library.

♦ Second Saturday returns with the Emmy Award Winning Gerry Rothschild and his band. We have a great line up of Second Saturday musicians through June.

♦ Our first Latino Cultural Festival will be held in conjunction with Second Saturday on May 14 and will include award-winning entertainment for children, an author panel, artists booths, Latino-themed food and drink, and live music throughout the day and into the evening.

♦ From Page to Table — a new style of book club — which includes a potluck, live cooking demonstrations and cookbook author events — will begin in February and run bi-monthly throughout the year.

♦ Sensory StoryTime will reconvene starting in March and will run through April, and the highly popular Lego Club will again be meeting monthly beginning in January.

♦ The Library is creating a Water Conservation Demonstration Garden on our grounds. Along with the garden, we will be featuring educational opportunities throughout the year around the theme of water conservation and drought tolerant planting.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg! Throughout the year, we will have many opportunities for our community to experience, create, learn, and grow. But in order to follow through on our resolution, we need to hear from you. What would you like to have at the Altadena Library? What would you like to Learn, Create, or Experience? Contact Mindy Kittay at MKittay@AltadenaLibrary.org to share your ideas.

Business Services and Passports

The Altadena Library is happy to announce that starting January 1, 2016 we are expanding our hours for the Business Office. We will now be open six days a week. The New Passports Hours are:

♦ Monday-Tuesday 10am-8pm
♦ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am-5pm

In order to better serve you, all passport applications are by appointment only. Please call (626) 798-2950 to schedule your appointment. More information is available on our website at www.altadenalibrary.org/passports. We hope you will take advantage of all our Business Office services, including passport photos and notary services. You can fax/scan/print and copy. We offer color and black and white, and can handle larger production jobs such as newsletters and other items that require folding/collating/stapling/3-hole punching. If you need our services, please contact us at 626-798-0833 x 103 or email MKittay@AltadenaLibrary.org for details.
From the Director

It’s been a very good year at the Altadena Libraries. In 2015 we were fortunate to receive a number of grants which enabled us to provide opportunities to our community to learn and create. One of those grants, *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History,* is continuing into 2016 with a number of exciting and informative presentations. It has already proven to be an excellent way to learn about the history and influence of Latinos right here in Altadena. Here’s a brief outline of the upcoming programming.

- In February we will screen episode 5, “Prejudice and Pride (1965-1980)” with Daniel Castro on hand to lead a discussion and answer questions.
- In March we will screen episode 6, “Peril and Promise(1980-2000)” with special guest Dr. David Hayes-Bautista from UCLA.
- In April, we have scheduled Representing Ourselves: Giving Voice To The Latinas We Know with Désirée Zamorano and Isabel Quintero. Désirée, an Altadenan, will be reading from her novel *The Amado Women* which is about four women linked by birth, separated by secrets. Isabel Quintero will be reading from her recent novel *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces.* In it, Gabi Hernandez chronicles her last year in high school in her diary: Cindy’s pregnancy, Sebastian’s coming out, the cute boys, her father’s meth habit, and the food she craves. And best of all, the poetry that helps forge her identity.

- We are very excited to announce that this series will culminate with a *Latino Cultural Arts Festival* on May 14th.

In anticipation of our Cultural Arts Festival, we are issuing a **CALL FOR ARTISTS!** We want to showcase 30 or more Latino Artists and Craftspersons who would like to display and sell their work at the Main Library from 1 PM to dark. The booth fee is $25 and you must provide your own table/tent/display. There is no other fee or commission to participate. We expect to have over 500 visitors on that day and will be advertising the event heavily. This is also *Second Saturday* and that means we will have live music, drink, and food starting at 6:30pm. If you are interested, contact Mindy Kittay at mkittay@altadenalibrary.org.

The Staff and the Board of Trustees of your Altadena Libraries wish you a New Year full of joy, good books, and prosperity!

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Branch Notes: Give the Gift of Reading and Writing

The new year is a great time to be grateful for the things you can do. But maybe there is room for a new challenge. If you can read this, imagine someone who cannot. Do you have time to help? **We need volunteers.** At the Bob Lucas Memorial Library and Literacy Center, the Literacy Department’s goal is to help adults improve their reading and writing skills. Our Literacy Coordinator, **Edward William,** matches a volunteer tutor to a learner and that’s when the work starts. Tutors help learners with a wide range of skill building: learning the alphabet, letters and sounds; reading a book, newspaper, or magazine; writing a letter; learning to type; filling out a job application; preparing for the GED test; basic computing skills and more.

The tutor and learner arrange their own study sessions – deciding how often to meet, when to meet, and where to meet. Typically, one tutor is assigned to one learner and a tutor and learner meet once a week for an hour. We also offer print and online study materials for the tutors to use for their teaching sessions or for learners to study on their own. Edward is available to offer support to the tutors and there are tutor workshops during the year so that the tutors can meet each other and share ideas and tips.

If you would like to give the gift of reading and writing by becoming a volunteer tutor, you need to attend a six hour online training workshop. Volunteers learn about literacy, teaching methods, lesson planning, and learning styles during their training sessions. Volunteers may train on their own computer or use one of our library computers. Many of our volunteers have expressed the joy it gives them to see their learners making progress.

The Literacy Center also offers a small group ESL class that meets Monday-Thursday mornings. As students of the ESL class make progress, they can advance into the Literacy program and work one-on-one with a tutor.

Clearly, the people who may need our help are the ones least likely to know what we offer. Help us spread the word. If you know anyone who would be interested in our literacy program, our ESL classes, or in volunteering as a tutor, please contact Edward at ewilliam@altadenalibrary.org or at 626-798-8338.
Children: Winter Reading and Creating Bookmarks

Kids and teens can check out and read books for prizes through Jan. 31. Participants that turn in three book reviews will receive a coupon for a bowl of soup from O Happy Day Café. Five book reviews will earn participants a free book!

Kids, teens and, adults grab your crayons, colored pencils, markers or paint! It's time for the annual Summer Reading Bookmark contest! Create a hand drawn bookmark using the form provided by the library based on the Summer Reading Theme. Summer Reading 2016’s theme will be a celebration of sports and achievement: Read for the WIN! The winning bookmarks will be professionally printed and distributed during the 2016 summer reading program. Visit the Youth Services Department for more information and to pick up a form. The bookmark contest will run January 20 to March 19, 2016.

Over 90 kids built gingerbread houses this year at one of our most popular events.

Santa stopped by during the holidays.

Cassandra Stearns

Teens: Quirky Cookies and Karaoke Followed by Paying for College

Cookie decorating for teens is a tradition at Altadena Library. On December 11, teens got into the holiday spirit with quirky cookie decorating, transforming plain cookies into colorful anime and video game characters as well as snowgoons (from Calvin and Hobbes), sugar skulls, and unicorn horns. We added a new element to the tradition this year with a karaoke machine. The teens entertained each other with heartfelt solos and duets of ballads, pop tunes, and classic rock including Blue Oyster Cult’s “Burning for You.” Stay tuned for a 2016 encore!

Affording a college education is a challenge for most families these days. On January 11 at 6:30 PM learn about financial aid and scholarships from the perspective of a college admissions office at our free workshop with Ashley Sim, former admissions officer at Caltech. She will discuss common misconceptions, types of aid available, and questions all parents and students should be asking the financial aid offices of colleges they are considering.

Ashley Sim is an educational consultant who provides individualized academic advising and college and law school admissions counseling to students and parents. In addition to advising her own clients, Ashley works as a consultant for Colledge, a college admissions consulting company, and as a producer on Access College on KPFK 90.7 FM in Los Angeles, a radio show dedicated to providing better information about college admissions and promoting greater access to higher education. She lives in Altadena with her husband and two children.

Adults: Enjoy Free eBooks and eAudiobooks

Did you get an eBook Reader as a holiday gift? Or maybe you’ve had one for awhile, but you don’t have anything to read on it. If that’s the case, then the Altadena Library is the perfect place to start downloading books to your device. Just by clicking the “Now Available – eBooks” photo on the right side of our website’s home page, you can begin browsing our ever-growing collection of eBooks. Using your Altadena Library Card, the eBooks you find there can be checked out just like printed books.

“What if I don’t have an eBook Reader?” The truth is, you don’t even need one! You can access our eBooks using a computer, a tablet, or even a Smartphone. And our digital collection includes more than just books. We have eAudiobooks as well. For booklovers on the go, eAudiobooks can download to almost any electronic device that plays music, so you can enjoy audiobooks while traveling, working, exercising, or even just relaxing at home.

To learn more about checking out eBooks and eAudiobooks, drop by the library or call our reference desk. You can also visit our collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks online at http://ald.lib.overdrive.com.
¿No Habla Ingles? Modesta Nava Can Help

“Se lo difícil es cuando tu no habla el idioma.” Modesta Nava, a Library Clerk at the Lucas Branch, runs the English as a Second Language (ESL) classes there and she understands this sentence on every level. If you can’t quite make it out, you have a hint of what many who study ESL must feel. Translated, it reads “It is so hard when you don’t speak the language.”

When she arrived in LA from Guerrero, Mexico, Modesta had taken English classes as part of her school curriculum. She remembered lots of nouns. Chair, bed, cup. Certainly not enough to make the world understandable. She was so overwhelmed by the new culture, she locked herself in her room at night, too afraid to come out. But Modesta has a fighter’s spirit. She started listening carefully, talking to her nephews, and eventually she went to English classes at night at the local high school. When she graduated from her class, it was a very big day! By the time she and her family moved to Altadena, she had put her skills to use as a teacher’s assistant in LAUSD. She helped non-Spanish speaking teachers connect with their young students as the “English only” rules were phased out.

She says she remembers the first time she came into the Bob Lucas Branch Library. There was an ESL class in session, but the teacher had limited Spanish skills. She knew the students were unhappy, but not why. So, she asked Modesta to translate. Turns out, the students wanted more of a challenge than the videos they were using. That was 2002. Modesta became a volunteer and eventually was hired to work with the Literacy program.

In the intervening years, dozens of people have attended her classes. They meet four times a week to practice their English. They range in age from 26 to 85. And Modesta thinks each of them is amazing. “They help each other,” she says with a smile. But she also makes sure that it’s not just lessons in language but in culture, as well. They celebrate birthdays, holidays, and other life-altering moments together. She always encourages them to write about what happens to them. And, she makes sure they see more of the world. She arranges field trips for her charges -- from JPL to the beach. So if you know someone who would like to learn or improve their English, bring them by the branch and introduce them to Modesta. Ella entiende.

Art in the Library

The Library is honored to present local artist Keni Arts for our January Art Exhibit in the Barbara J. Pearson Community Room. This exhibit features paintings from a number of Keni’s series, such as Jesus En Plein, The Dena’s (Pasadena and Altadena street scenes), The Art of Literacy, and Hollywood Backlots.

signed: In Appreciation

Fabulous Holiday Spread accompanied by the great sounds of Joel Taylor Jazz Trio featuring Jeff Richman and Dean Taba!

Nadine thinks some books are just better under a table.

Tina Wallin
Hot Titles! For a Better You

ADULT

The Gratitude Diaries / Janice Kaplan
Kaplan (I'll See You Again) shares her journey of embracing a lifestyle of gratitude for one year, and the practice's remarkable effects on her physical and mental well-being. Over the course of the year, Kaplan focuses on being thankful for her husband, children, sister, career, and financial status. She keeps a “gratitude journal,” adheres to a “gratitude diet,” and begins reframing negative situations to accentuate the positive.

Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear / Elizabeth Gilbert
Gilbert (Eat, Pray, Love) offers an empathetic and inspiring guide to mustering the courage to live a creative life. That doesn’t necessarily mean a career in the arts, she’s quick to point out. “If you’re alive, you’re a creative person,” she states. Instead, she proposes a life fueled by curiosity rather than fear. She encourages readers to let go of perfectionism and embrace being good enough.

Rising Strong / Brene Brown
Brown (Daring Greatly) wrestles with that moment when we fall — and, as she argues, the brave person attempting to live wholeheartedly will always fall. Encouraging readers to be curious about their emotions, Brown guides them through the process of accepting vulnerability and emerging from the shadow of shame and fear. With a fresh perspective that marries research and humor, Brown offers compassion while delivering thought-provoking ideas about relationships — with others and with oneself.

CHILDREN

Dangerous Book for Boys / Conn and Hal Iggluoden
The bestselling book for every boy from eight to eighty, covering essential boyhood skills such as building tree houses, learning how to fish, finding true north, and even answering the age old question of what the big deal with girls is.

Daring Book for Girls / Andrea J. Buchanan
The Daring Book for Girls is the manual for everything that girls need to know — and that doesn’t mean sewing buttonholes! Whether it’s female heroes in history, secret note-passing skills, science projects, friendship bracelets, double dutch, cats cradle, the perfect cartwheel or the eternal mystery of what boys are thinking, this book has it all.

TEENS

Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul -- The Real Deal : Friends /Compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Deborah Reber
This book focuses on the ups and downs of friendships as told from a teenager’s perspective: how to make them, keep them, and help them.

Laureen A. McCoy , Cassandra Stearns & Carrie Wilson

What Are You Sewing?

Devoted daughter Rocio, hand sewed a Christmas tree skirt for her mother’s birthday, which falls right before Christmas. She was at the library the whole week before the big day, working away in front of our holiday tree. Rocio was working in secret, away from home, so her mom wouldn’t know. Since this issue of the newsletter came out after her mom’s birthday, we didn’t spill the beans on her precious gift!

Libraries are very flexible spaces. There’s room for reading, cookie decorating, and making surprises for Mom.
No Guilt Book Club: Try Our Online Book Clubs

Since the No Guilt Book Club didn’t meet in December, I want to tell you about the Altadena Libraries Online Book Clubs. You can subscribe and each week you get 2-3 book chapters emailed a few pages at a time! A new book starts each Monday. You can click on the links and join in discussions with readers across America. (Or just read for your own enjoyment.) Many times the author will join in the discussions. There’s a group for teens and it’s written by the teens themselves.

Just go to our Home Page www.altadenalibrary.org and under Activities & Events go to Book Club. In the first sentence, click on link “here.” Under the Altadena Library District Book Clubs drop down menu choose a genre – Mystery, Romance, Science Fiction, Good News, Classics, etc., or more than one. Enter your email address to subscribe.

This is a fun way to make sure you stick to your New Year’s resolution to read more books! You can read whenever you have a peaceful moment and wherever you like with the Online Book Clubs. Wouldn’t that make your lunch hour much more civilized? And who knows? Maybe you will find that “I just have to finish this” book!

Helen

PBS Documentary Screenings Continue

Latino Americans: 500 Years of History
Episode IV: Prejudice and Pride (1965-1980)
Saturday, February 20, 2-4PM
Barbara J. Pearson Community Room
The film will be followed by a discussion led by Daniel Castro. In the 1960s and 1970s a generation of Mexican Americans, frustrated by persistent discrimination and poverty, find a new way forward, through social action and the building of a new “Chicano” identity. The movement is ignited when farm workers in the fields of California, led by César Chavez and Dolores Huerta, march on Sacramento for equal pay and humane working conditions.

New Book Club That You Can Sink Your Teeth Into!
Saturday, February 27  1 PM to 3 PM
Main Library
Just guessing that at least one of your New Year’s Resolutions has something to do with food. Maybe you crave a healthful diet. Or you would really like to experiment with a new cuisine. Maybe you just want to get better at the basics. And what do you use turmeric in? From Page to Table is the Altadena Library’s new Book Club. It’s simple: choose a recipe from a cookbook (one of yours or one of ours), prepare, and share! Have staff print copies of the recipe for distribution. That’s it. All ages welcome. Multi-generational potluck, anyone?

Tail Waggin’ Tutors!
Saturday, February 6  11:00 AM
Bring your children to read to Cedar, the certified therapy dog! Cedar is a book hound and loves all kinds of books. His owner, Michelle Doram, will bring him to the library the first Saturday of the month through April.

Second Saturday Rocks on with PCH!
Saturday, February 13  6:30 PM
Using lush harmonies, acoustic instrumentation and intricate arrangements, PCH brings their signature sound to some of rock’s greatest songs by artists like Steely Dan, James Taylor, The Eagles, Neil Young, The Beatles, Eric Clapton, Pink Floyd, and many more. You’ll hear David Blasucci on vocals, guitar, banjo and mandolin. Pat Thomi also does vocal and lead guitar. Charles Frichtel is the resident percussionist and bass player aided and abetted by drummer Matt Starr. So let’s eat, drink, and dance the night away.

No Guilt Book Club: Try Our Online Book Clubs