Welcome Ira!

When Ira Bershatsky was a Watch Captain from 2009 to 2015 for his Raymond Avenue neighborhood, he discovered “Neighbors who have lived on the same street for 20 years met for the first time!” Ira’s observation is at the heart of his passion: growing a community.

“The Altadena Library is the only institution that is a free and interactive a center of our community.” But Ira wants all Altadenans to know “There’s much more than just books here! With the Altadena Library as a focal point of the community, outreach is a must. From the local Pasadena Jewish Temple to the Altadena Sheriff’s Department and the Senior Center, we can all collaborate and work as a team with key community leaders, the Director, Board of Trustees, library staff, and each other.”

Ira, a volunteer at the Friends Book Sales and a regular attendee at The Friends and Board of Trustees meetings, already has a great relationship with library staff and the district’s board. With the recent departure of a board member, Ira grabbed the opportunity to roll up his sleeves and continue his work on behalf of the Library: “This is a great time to grow the Library’s presence in the community and I look forward to working with Director Mindy Kittay, the Board and staff to help make it happen.” As a board member, Ira notes that “while I’m not a “rubber stamp guy, I will back a good idea all the way.”

Ira, a stock and commodities trader by profession, has lived in Altadena for 11 years with his wife and 2 children. Ira’s wife grew up near Eaton Canyon and his son [12] and daughter [8] grew up visiting the Altadena Library, starting with Storytime as toddlers. Ira’s son is now an avid reader, reading 500 to 1,000 pages of adult-level books each week.

Welcome, Ira, to the Altadena Library Board of Directors. We are grateful for your past contributions and look forward to your continued passion for our library.

Lady

Perhaps you noticed her. Some might say she looks like a Madonna, but she is not. She is simply Lady, an elegant female figure created by the noted Altadenan sculptor Nishan Toor. Toor, ne’ Tooroongjian, was born in Armenia in 1880, emigrated here as a youth, studied art in San Francisco, and served in the US Army during the first World War where he specialized in designing camouflage. After the war, he studied in Paris and in 1936 settled in Altadena where he had a studio and created works in many different mediums. In 1966, he donated two of his works to the Altadena Library, then under construction: the owl statue gracing the children’s reading room and Lady. Unfortunately, Toor did not live to see the opening of the library in 1967.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, Lady has been painstakingly restored after being displayed in the library’s central planter for many years. Linnaea Dawson of Silverlake Conservation did the work, first cleaning the statue and fixing damaged parts, finally stabilizing, patching and using water-colors to repaint the surface. If you haven’t noticed her recently, take a look: Lady once again shows off her original grace and beauty.

Art is part of the essence of our library. We regularly feature the work of local artists and the building itself is a piece of art, the work of noted Altadenan Boyd Georgi, a mid-twentieth century modernist architect. Our library is also home to art: each time you visit using the main entrance, you pass by David Oliver Green’s stunning Tree of Life (originally a fountain), his tree with owls sculpture is located at the parking lot entrance, and George Gardner Symons’ “Millard Canyon at Granite Gate,” a glorious 6-foot painting of sunset in the San Gabriel Mountains, hangs above the Friends’ store. Like Lady, these pieces are badly in need of restoration.

Our library, like many, when hit by the fiscal tightening of the 1990s that forced closures and reduced staff, spent down what reserves we had simply to keep the doors open. Our annual operating budget is stretched thin with caring for our nearly 50-year old library leaving no funds to restore art. If you are interested in contributing to the restoration of our art or in helping to fund the replacement of dated systems like our electrical and air conditioning, please consider getting involved with the Altadena Library Foundation, whose mission is to support capital improvements. You can find out more at: AltadenaLibrary.org/Altadena-Library-Foundation or contact Library Director Mindy Kittay at 626-798-0833 x103 or MKittay@AltadenaLibrary.org.
From the Director

Altadena's experiential library is focused on education, employment, entrepreneurship, empowerment and engagement

Across our country libraries are looking at new ways to adapt to the rapidly evolving information needs of their 21st century patrons. The Altadena Library is working hard to transform our resources and services for the good of our community and is dedicated to providing new services that help our patrons connect more deeply and meaningfully with the library.

The Altadena Library is providing experiences that will help you think about our world and our community in new ways. We want to give you opportunities to connect with an idea and play with it, to do something, learn something and make something happen. We want to deepen our connection with the community and address issues that matter to you by aligning our services with your needs. The Altadena Library is dedicated to being a positive agent for change in this community.

This fall and winter, the Altadena Library will begin efforts to turn outward by engaging members of our community in conversations about Altadena. What are your aspirations and concerns? How can community members and groups work together to address problems and improve the way our community operates? We want to hear your thoughts and will do this by getting out of the library and going out into our community to meet you where you work, worship, gather, learn and play.

The library has always been a hub for self-education for people of all ages and we are constantly looking at new ways to do this in the most progressive ways possible. Our high-speed Internet service allows us to add resources that provide community members with access to research, homework help and other online tools. We provide platforms where you can share your writing and artwork with the world. We are sharing the knowledge we gained creating our Water Conservation Demonstration Garden through a continuing series of open seminars, and we’re rearranging our space in the library and providing places for collaboration, conversation and innovation for all ages.

Experiences, as much as books, are essential to enrichment. As an experiential library, we are introducing new activities focused on education, employment, entrepreneurship, empowerment and engagement that open the door to creativity and invite participants to experience in areas as diverse as cooking, art, dance and more. We are still the place that people visit to borrow books, CDs and DVDs and we will continue to do all of that while also serving as a vigorous and engaged community center.

We are also a place where on a weekend night you can join us for fun and meet your neighbors in a relaxed setting. Our Second Saturday music events kicked off on Oct. 8 with a performance by Upstream playing Caribbean music for hundreds of people. We have lined up eight more concerts in 2016-17 and have other entertaining and enlightening presentations planned throughout the year.

In October, we hosted meetings for our book and Lego clubs, celebrating Mexican painter Frida Kahlo and the women’s liberation movement, as well as having movie screenings, art exhibits, poetry readings, craft workshops and much more.

The strength of the Altadena Library comes from the wisdom of our community to incorporate diverse views into a plan that ensures that this library will always be relevant while honoring and respecting its rich history. We believe that our role is “Bringing People + Ideas Together,” and in what we do for and with people.

Noted Altadenan and author, Bob Lucas, for whom our branch on Lincoln is named, called libraries, “the door to the world and personal freedom.” At the Altadena Library, we believe that truer words have never been said. Join us as we become a 21st century library.

Bob Lucas Memorial Branch

CRAFTernoons + Literacy

Our popular craft series Crafternoons at the Branch has commenced. For our first craft in the series, children created Kaleidoscopes. They experienced how a tube, mirror, and some beads could be turned into spectacular patterns of color! For our October craft, children created pumpkins out of Rice Krispies cereal. What was more fun than decorating the pumpkins was eating them!

On November 17 at 3:30, children will get the chance to create turkey table toppers out of gourds and personalize them with feathers and paint. What a great way to celebrate Thanksgiving!

LITERACY NEWS

Our adult ESL students are enthusiastically learning about computers with bilingual computer instruction from staff members, Kelly and Modesta. For many of the students, it is the first-time working on a computer. As part of the class curriculum, the students learn the basics of using a computer, sign up for e-mail accounts, and learn how to access the Internet. The computer class meets twice a week and runs for 4 weeks. If you are interested in our ESL class or the bilingual computer class, send us an e-mail at literacy@altadenalibrary.org or call 626 798-8338.
**Chris Holden Reading Tour**

A roomful of local children, along with their parents and caregivers, were excited to participate in a very special Story Time at the Altadena Library on October 13th. As part of the First 5 California Official Reading Tour, Assemblymember Chris Holden (of the 41st District) led the group in a reading of two fascinating picture books: *Same, Same but Different* and *Giraffes Can't Dance*. The program also included participatory singing activities – all part of First 5 California’s ‘Talk. Read. Sing. It Changes Everything’ campaign.

First 5 California funds programs that educate parents, grandparents, caregivers, and teachers about the critical role each one of you plays during your child’s first years. The first five years of life are particularly critical for mental stimulation. Talking, reading, and singing with young children helps billions of neurons make stronger, critical connections inside the brain. “The importance of reading and other types of verbal engagement, particularly during early years, can set our children on a life trajectory for success,” said George Halvorson, Chair, First 5 Commission.

Assemblymember Holden was thrilled to participate in this fun and engaging program. As a father of five, he is an avid supporter of the importance of reading to young children. Last year he participated in Read Across America, reading and talking to preschool students. The Altadena Library greatly enjoyed Assemblymember Holden’s participation and will continue supporting important early-learning initiatives like First 5 California’s “Talk. Read. Sing. It Changes Everything.”

**Art Ronnie: Volunteer, Veteran and all-around fun guy**

Our wonderful volunteer, Art Ronnie, has been retrieving donated books for the Library’s Book Store and annual sale for 40 years – a valuable service since 1976! Our reading park was named for Art.

After graduating Loyola High School in 1949, Art joined the US Navy Air Reserve and served four years as an aircraft mechanic. He was drafted into the Army in 1956. He tells this reporter that he “served overseas” in Texas and New Mexico (did I say that Art likes to joke?) in a heavy construction company as a telephone lineman.

After his service, Art bounced around as an import/export manager for a plastic company, delivered flowers for a flower shop, then settled down as a newspaper reporter and columnist for the Los Angeles Herald-Express (later the Herald-Examiner) from 1956 to 1966. Highlights were interviewing Presidents Harry Truman and Richard Nixon.

Art was then employed as a TV/movie publicist, working at one time or another for all the networks and major studios. During the next 33 years, he worked with such movie legends as Bette Davis, Gregory Peck, Angie Dickinson, Henry Fonda and hundreds of others. His last position, in 1993, was Vice President of Publicity for Columbia Pictures Television.

Art has written more than 2000 newspaper and magazine articles and two books which are in our Library: "LOCKLEAR The Man Who Walked on Wings" a bio of a silent movie star and aviation stunt man, and “COUNTERFEIT HERO: Fritz Duquesne, Adventurer and Spy" the biography of a German Spy.

An avid reader and self-avowed “news junkie” since childhood, Art remembers checking out books as a young boy in the 1930s from the still standing Vermont Square Library in South Central.

Art has lived in Altadena since 1976 with his wife, Sharon, and their two boys. Sharon has graced us with her beautiful singing voice during past Altadena Library functions. She has also sung the National Anthem and “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” at several Angels games. Their children are now grown. Matt is a sergeant with the South Pasadena PD and Chris owns an auto repair business in Los Angeles. Art and Sharon’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren were born in Altadena.

Library Director, Mindy Kittay, comments that “I have watched Art now for two years. A day does not go by that he can’t be found around the library, bringing in donations, sorting donations and working in the Friends of the Library bookstore. And he always takes time to say hello, share a story and more often than not put a smile on my face. Thank you, Art, for all you do to make Altadena a better place!”
PROGRAMS for November

Library Closures for November

Veterans Day Holiday
Friday, November 11

Early closure for Thanksgiving
Wednesday, November 23. Library Closed at 5 pm

Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday November 24 through Friday November 25

In-N-Out Cover to Cover
Reading Program
October 3 till November 12 at 6pm
Children 4-12 check out and read 5 books and receive a free hamburger coupon [can be used for grilled cheese sandwich]

Read to Cedar
Saturday, November 5 at 11 am

Ravished Paradise: Forced March to Nothingness
presented by Mardig Madenjian
Saturday, November 5 at 3 pm

“Fall Back” turn your clocks back one hour
Sunday, November 6 at 2am

Friends of the Library meeting
Monday, November 7 at 7:30 pm
Everyone is welcome to attend

No Guilt Book Club
Tuesday, November 8 from 6 to 7 pm [NOTE: special time]

Election Day
Tuesday, November 8

Gardening with California Natives
Saturday, November 12 from 1 to 4 pm
Join us at The Altadena Library as instructor Maureen Taylor gives an overview workshop of California native plant horticulture for beginners. Learn why native plants are important and how to successfully grow them in your garden. Topics will include plant selection, planting techniques, establishment, and irrigation. The second portion of the class will be held outdoors with a hands-on planting demonstration.

Please wear closed-toed shoes, and bring a shovel and watering can if you have them. Everyone is invited to this free event.

Second Saturday with Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans
Saturday, November 12 from 6:30 to 8 pm
Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans are returning to the Altadena Library playing New Orleans music along with various other styles and favorites. www.kkaremusic.com

NextDoor Celebrates
Saturday, November 12 from 6 to 8:30 pm
Celebrate [with cake!] reaching 4,000 Altadena NextDoor members – Main Library Community Room - then enjoy Second Saturday music and food.

Turkey Topper Kid’s Craft
Thursday, November 17 at 3:30 pm Bob Lucas Branch

Fun Flick
Friday:
Finding Dory
Friday, November 18 at 3:30 pm Main Library
AND Tuesday, November 22 at 2 pm at the Bob Lucas Branch

International Games Day
Saturday November 19 from 10am to 6 pm
For children and teens of all ages. A mix of board and video games throughout the day. Join us anytime.

Lego Club
Saturday, November 19 from 2 to 3:30 pm

Altadena Library Board of Trustees meeting
Monday, November 28 at 5 pm
Kathryn Hansen: November Community Room

Artist “It’s been a very natural journey for me to blend my love and devotion of animals and nature with my passion for art. They have been powerful forces in my life since childhood and a never-ending source of inspiration in my art.”

My travels to Africa have greatly influenced my work. Being surrounded by such stunning beauty and the majesty of Africa, I was able to see the most spectacular wildlife in the world.

Kathryn Hansen received her BFA degree in studio arts from the University of Stevens Point, Wisconsin in 1983. She went on to study art at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, the Associates of Art in Sherman Oaks, California and studied under Margo Lennartz in La Crescenta.

Open Studios Art Tour

THE ALTADENA LIBRARY will be operating as the Hub for the December Open Studios Tour. From November 28 through December 9, surrounding the weekend of the Tour, the library will host a display of works from each of our artists and a reception for the artists on Friday December 2 from 6 to 9 pm at the Altadena Library.

The Open Studios Art Tour provides an intimate view into the artist’s life and studio; to be able to see where and how ideas are conceived and developed. Unlike the setting of a typical gallery show, when visiting an artist’s studio, the creative process becomes apparent and provides a personal, individualized experience to each visitor.

On the Open Studios Tour weekend, the library will be open—on Saturday from 10am to 6pm and Sunday, from 11am to 5pm, December 3 & 4—as a Hub to allow visitors to preview the work on display and to obtain brochures, maps and information for the self-guided tour to 23 locations hosting a total of 53 artists. Visitors may select the types of art that interests them the most, visit as many locations as they wish, and with as many artists as they desire. Maps and brochures for the event with details of locations, participating artists, and special events will be available in advance from the Library and from local retail establishments.

Art and other one-of-a-kind, handmade items are available for purchase at most locations and at our retail hosts. Some locations offer food, and some offer music and other amenities. We hope that you enjoy this Open Studios Art Tour, make new friends, and remember to: “Meet Neighborhood Artists, Come Curious and Leave Inspired”

Stuart Fingerhut

November Reading Court Artist

Representing the act of dynamic movement, each piece has a distinct velocity associated with it. “As a materials and process-driven artist, I’ve learned that every material has its own memory and ambition for what it wants to be.” Each piece is a mixed-media assembly...

See more on Stuart at www.StuartFingerhut.com

The idea for Open Studios originated over a cup of coffee between two friends: Mary Gothard and Ginko Ching Lee. Mary and her husband, Patrick, had been hosting a lively open studio at their Altadena home for 10 years. Ginko wanted to support this event and a few more friends were invited to join. Thus the first Open Studios was born in December 2013 with 16 artists participating at 3 locations. With the help of many volunteers, artists and art lovers, this program has expanded into a biannual two-day experience.

For more information visit: OpenStudios.Gallery or AltadenaLibrary.org
**HOT TITLES**

**Thanksgiving Month**

**Children**

*An Awesome Book of Thanks!* by Dallas Clayton. Celebrates all the things for which to be thankful! A picture book for all ages. Available in print.

*The Thank You Book* by Mo Willems. In the final book of the Elephant Piggie series; Piggie thanks everyone who has been in her life. Available in print.

*Thanksgiving Fun* by Ronne Randall; illustrated by Annabel Spenceley. Celebrate all that you are grateful for by creating decorations and making fun food. Available in print.

*Thank you, Sarah: the Woman who Saved Thanksgiving* by Laurie Halse Anderson; illustrated by Matt Faulkner. A history of how Sarah Hale helped to create our national holiday of thanks. Available in print.

*A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* written and created by Charles M. Schulz; directed by Bill Melendez and Phil Roman. In this classic animated story, Charlie Brown reminds his friends about the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Available as a DVD.

**Teens**

*Grateful Teens* Christian Science Monitor article. What are teens grateful for in life? Read this brief article and become enlightened. Available from our Ebsco Mas Ultra database.

*A Thanksgiving Tradition* by David Paticoff article in Teen Ink. Written by a teen for teens, about a memorable Thanksgiving spent with his grandfather. Available from our Ebsco Mas Ultra database.


**Adults**

*Gratitude* by Oliver Sacks. As he was fighting cancer, Sacks wrote these wonderful essays about happiness. Available in print and ebook.

*The Gratitude Diaries: How a Year Looking on the Bright Side Can Transform Your Life* by Janice Kaplan. “Kaplan’s plan to be more grateful is approachable for anyone.” Available in print.

*365 Thank Yous: The Year a Simple Act of Daily Gratitude Changed My Life* by John Kralik. An encouraging read by a local author, who transformed his life by writing thank you notes every day for a year. Available in print.

*The Goodness of Gratitude* article by Lisa Fields in October 2016 *Reader's Digest*. Interesting read about how expressing thanks can actually lower your blood pressure, and improve your relationships. Available in print or via our Ebsco MasterFile Premier database.

Jonathan Miles’ *Want Not* is a satire of America’s culture of greed, excess and waste. It examines the lives of several sets of fringe characters. We found several big problems with the book. First and foremost is that, with the exception of a few extended passages where Miles delves into his characters’ histories, there is minimal character development beyond relying on stereotypes that he establishes for each person. The story lines do not intersect, because the main characters in the novel live in completely different worlds, though in fact reside in the state of New Jersey. As a result, and despite a wide range of ages, occupations, and interests of the characters, we found no one with whom we actually sympathized or cared about. In fact, most of them come off as vacuous and annoying. It’s about want and excess. But, it also leaves us asking about need. Want leads to waste and waste leads to garbage. The central idea in *Want Not*, however, is the ridiculous nature of America and Americans as we produce, finagle for, discard, and constantly rummage and want for more. At the time of our meeting, no one was inspired to finish this book.

Johann Hari’s deeply human, frequently heart-wrenching and tragic, but ultimately hopeful examination of the war on drugs and its unintended consequences offers a well-researched history of our current anti-drug laws, as well as a cogent argument for legalization. We particularly respected that the author was careful not to demonize those currently trying in good faith to enforce drug laws, nor did he gloss over reasonable fears about / objections to legalization. *Chasing the Scream: the first and last days of the war on drugs* has far-reaching implications beyond drug policy, touching race relations and the evolving nature of American influence in the wider world. Hari documents exhaustively the way in which this totally misguided prohibition of drugs (from marijuana to heroin, and everything in between) was based on hysteria, false information and basic greed. He describes a wonderful experiment done with rats (that was almost totally suppressed by the drug-war proponents) that thoroughly debunked the idea that addiction is related only to the “chemical hooks” of various drugs; in fact, it is much more related to the life circumstances of the potential addict. We thought Johann did an excellent job at presenting little known research in an unbiased way and following it up with answers to the questions that many of us readers had while going through the book. He has done an absolutely tremendous job of following this “war” from its roots to the current battlefield where the fight is ongoing.

**Self Help of a Different Kind**

How do you think Grandma got so good at cooking Thanksgiving? **Practice!** Here are some helpful titles to ease you in to a solid menu. Maybe you’ll find a new culinary tradition that must be on the table forevermore. You still have time to do a dry run before the big day.

**Choosing Sides:** from holidays to every day, 130 delicious recipes to make the meal / Tara Mataraza Desmond

**More Vegetables, Please:** delicious vegetable side dishes for everyday meals / Janet Fletcher

**The Cook’s Illustrated Complete Book of Poultry**

**Lobel’s Meat Bible:** all you need to know about meat and poultry from America’s master butchers / Stanley Lobel

**Muffin Tin Chef:** 101 savory snacks, adorable appetizers, enticing entrees & delicious desserts / Matt Kadey

**The Perfect Pie:** more than 125 all-time favorite pies and tarts / Susan Gold Purdy

**Pumpkins:** 50 easy recipes / Chef Mario Grazia

**And for your vast amounts of luscious leftovers, may we recommend** *Dinner Pies: from shepherd’s pies and pot pies to turnovers, quiches, hand pies, and more, with 100 delectable & foolproof recipes* / Ken Haedrich

If you are looking for something a little different, less traditional, or more cutting edge, try perusing the cookbook section of our library, beginning with 641.5. Bet you can’t pick just one!

Don’t see the cookbook you have been waiting to try? Ask us and we will purchase it!

**Seen at the Library: a mystery!**
UPCOMING EVENTS

Library Closures for December

Early Closure for Christmas Tree Lane Lighting
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

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

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

Fun Flick Friday: The Secret Life of Pets
Friday, December 16 at 3:30 pm

A Cinderella Christmas
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

Scientific knowledge for practical purposes applies to more than modern devices, for technology imbues its user with power, creativity, purpose, stability, and novelty – to name a few. Coming from a computer expert [staff IT Manager], technologically savvy encompasses knowledge of medium and low tech, and no better source of scientific knowledge exists, aside from the Internet, than a library. The Altadena Library provides more than updated computer systems, 3D printing, free wifi, computer classes, low cost printing, faxing, a modernized community room, a website bursting with electronic resources, and hands on computer assistance.

Literally – pun intended – the shelves of Altadena Library sag from the immense weight, not of the physical books, from the dense scientific knowledge within the handpicked texts by the Altadena Library Collection Development staff. For example, local Altadena author and naturalist, Christopher Nyerges, details high tech methods in low tech situations in the book: How To SURVIVE ANYWHERE. Not only do the explanations, pictures, and narrative improve upon one’s technical knowhow, the book acts as a veritable gateway to an entire lifestyle, community, and adventure.

Much more awaits at the Altadena Library. Strike up a conversation with the staff, and ask for recommendations. Don’t pigeonhole the scope of technology. Realize new growth. Embrace the utility, practicality, and the voyage across and underneath Altadena Library’s deep technological oceans, where your oyster full of pearls awaits.

The healing place of the soul

Inscription over the door of the library of Thebes.

SMILE

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