Altadena Best Fest to Benefit Library Foundation!

On October 2 and 3 join others from our community at the inaugural Altadena Best Fest. It all starts Friday night in the Library Community Room where the reception for artists participating in Art on Millionaire’s Row takes place. Sponsored by Lori and Scott Webster, owners of Altadena’s own Hoopla! Emporium, festivities begin at 6 PM and everyone is welcome.

Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM it’s all about the Library and its supporters. The Library is hosting special programs all day long. The staff will be signing up folks for library cards. Come and visit the inspirations stations, and please, take the Library tour. According to outgoing Library Foundation President Dale LaCasella, “Altadena Best Fest will not only raise money for the Foundation, but it will raise awareness in the community about the library.”

Outside and all along Mariposa you will find over 90 vendors. Among our many local foodies look for Jabberwocky Foods and Gypsy Eats, along with Pizza of Venice. There’s music all day. Firebird Sweet, Cruise Control, Anne Louise Bannon, Bohemian Soul Riders, Licata Brothers, Susan Molhini Kane, Pasadena Rosebud Academy Cheersquad, Waldorf School, Altadena Baptist Church Worship Team, and Calvin Banks & the Tellers are all performing. Funky Junk Farm will set up some of their fabulous travel trailers and there is a car show! Prepare to do Christmas shopping at the booths of local artists. And that’s just a small sample.

See the art, shop the festival, enjoy the music and food! It’s fun for the whole family! Altadena Best Fest is operating under the umbrella of the Altadena Library Foundation and proceeds will be donated to the Foundation for Library use.
From the Director

The BIG news this month is that there are NO MORE RENTAL FEES for movies and video games! And you can now place holds on movies. This ensures that you have a steady stream of the movies you want to watch heading your way. Is the movie you are dying to see already checked out? NO problem. Place a hold (we can help you or you can do it yourself from your computer), and just as soon as it is returned to the library you will be notified via email. You can actually place holds on any of our materials (with the exception of reference books), and have a constant flow of bestselling books, music and movies coming your way.

I also want to remind everyone that Second Saturday starts again this month. On October 10th at 6:30PM we have Verdugo Swing Society for your listening and dancing pleasure. And as always, the Altadena Ale House will be serving up outstanding craft ales and fine French Wines. El Patron's delicious tacos will be available, as well as Sweeter Than Honey cupcakes. The Friends of the Library will be providing non-alcoholic libations. On November 14 we welcome Kenny Sara & The Sounds of New Orleans – another not-to-miss musical night at the library!

What Are You Reading?

Tinseltown: Murder, Morphine, and Madness at the Dawn of Hollywood by William J. Mann has just arrived in the Library and patron Don has snatched it up. He heard from librarian Helen that it was an engrossing look at the murder of director William Desmond Taylor set in the early days of Hollywood. One of the suspects, actress Mabel Normand, even has an Altadena connection. The book includes insight into how moving pictures moved west from New York, who the original financial backers of studios were, and how stars were protected by their studio. Don is intrigued by the Roaring Twenties setting and because of his own connection to Hollywood's KTLA studios, where he worked for many years.

Patron Gail was seen checking out both Resurrection Men, an Inspector Rebus novel by Ian Rankin and Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America by Jill Leovy. She's a longtime fan of the fictional Rebus series, but also likes true crime. Reporter Leovy started the Los Angeles Times' Homicide Report blog to combat the inattention paid to the victims from poor, predominantly African American neighborhoods in South Central L.A. This work provides an in-depth and personal look at the hearts, minds, and lives of people on both sides of the violence.

Truth or fiction – Altadena readers love a mystery!

Branch Notes: Not Norman and Cheeseburgers!

Kids flocked to our craft program in late September! With the hope of encouraging Mother Nature, they created rain sticks out of paper tubes, biodegradable Styrofoam peanuts, and rice. At our next craft program we will make Halloween lanterns with jars, paints, and tea lights. Join us on October 22.

On that same day, there is another exciting event happening at both the Main Library and the Branch that you won’t want to miss. It’s time for Read for the Record. Read for the Record is a national campaign by Jumpstart to bring preschool children together with valued grownups in their lives to read the same book, on the same day, in communities all over the world. This year we will be collectively reading Not Norman: A Goldfish Story, written by Kelly Bennett and illustrated by Noah Z. Jones, a humorous tale about a child who finds a new friend in an unexpected place. Readings will be held on Thursday, October 22 at the Branch at 10:30 and 3:30 and at the Main Library every hour on the hour from 11-5. Children participating will get a free copy of the book (while supplies last)! Help us to once again break the world record for the most people reading the same book on the same day!

Nothing goes better with a good book than a good hamburger. All through the month of October and into November kids ages 4-12 are eligible to participate in In-N-Out Burger’s Cover to Cover Reading program. Read five books and receive an achievement award good for a free hamburger or cheeseburger at In-N-Out Burger. You can receive up to three awards. Sign up at the children’s desk at the Main Library or at the Branch!
Children: New Sensory StoryTime and a Chance to Meet the Author

The Youth Services Department is excited to announce Sensory StoryTime for children 2-5 years-old with autism and sensory challenges. If your child has difficulty sitting through one of the library’s traditional storytimes, this program may be just what you are looking for! It combines books, songs, movement, sensory play and therapeutic activities that use the five senses. A small group setting is part of what makes Sensory StoryTime effective, therefore registration is REQUIRED. Please contact Cassandra Stearns at cstearns@altadenalibray.org to register.

Each autumn, Pasadena resident and avid gardener Maezie Powell would donate her prizewinning pumpkins to the Children’s Garden at the Huntington Library. In August of 2012, vandals destroyed Maezie’s pumpkin patch. The story made the local papers and the television news. The crime was never solved, but Maezie received cards and letters of sympathy from both young and old. When Maezie showed her friend, Lynn, the collection of cards and letters, Lynn was so moved she wrote a lovely children’s story about the incident. Lynn enlisted the help of Maezie’s granddaughter, Kyle, to illustrate it. Come meet author Lynn Snowden on October 3 at 11:00 AM in the children’s room!

Cassandra Stearns

Teens: Huge Response to New Workshops!

The first workshops organized under the Pitch an Idea grant are huge hits with local teens. Fall programming kicked off with a Filmmaking 101 workshop taught by Kent Yoshimura. Kent taught basic shooting and lighting techniques and encouraged hands-on learning. The teens and tweens were told to find their own style and split up into three “crews” to film an original story. The end results were creative and exciting and classes will continue on October 23 and November 13 at 4 PM at the Main Library.

The response to our new teen sewing workshop series, taught by Koalani Walkoe, was truly overwhelming. Registration was required, and we soon had a lengthy waiting list. (Don’t worry, we will offer the same workshop series again in winter 2016. Those on the wait list will get first priority.) The teens learned sewing basics at the first class, including how to iron and cut fabric, follow a pattern, wind the bobbin, and thread the machine. These lessons culminated in the fabulous finished product — a snazzy pillowcase. Four more sessions are scheduled.

The Pitch an Idea grant is awarded annually and supported in whole or in part by a California State Library grant supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Carrie Wilson
Program Highlights for October!

Join Us for a Journey of Creativity, Inner Clarity, and Intuition

Roll up your yoga mat, grab a pillow, and journey to the library for a new workshop series aimed at rebuilding the foundation of who you are – from the inside out. Award-winning writer, composer, and performer, Mimi Seton, will facilitate a fun and unique experience for those who seek to explore their inner self, unblock their creativity, and deepen their spiritual connections to Life. Held on Sundays – October 11, 18, and 25, from 2-5 PM, while the library is closed for regular business – this special workshop series will offer its participants a safe environment in which to open your mind, connect to your higher self, and develop innate abilities of observation, meditation, and intuition!

Latino Americans Series Continues

The Latino Americans: 500 Years of History program series continues in October with two events: The Life of Francisco Ramirez and Empire of Dreams (1880-1942). Up first, on October 15, at 7 PM, local historians Paul Bryan Gray and Michele Zack will take us back to the Pueblo of Los Angeles in its first years as an “American” town, via an illustrated talk and dynamic conversation that introduces us to a young Francisco Ramirez. Eventually Ramirez would found the English/Spanish language newspaper El Clamor Publico to express ideas of liberalism and democracy on the heels of California’s statehood. Then on October 17 at 2 PM, the Altadena Library will screen the second episode of the Latino Americans documentary series, Empire of Dreams (1880-1942). A discussion after the screening will be led by Dr. Francisco Balderrama.

Babble, Blather and Buzz

We want to congratulate Silvia. She did not speak any English when she first came to the Branch Literacy Classes. She attended our ESL classes for a year-and-a-half. For the past eight months she has been working one-on-one with a tutor. Her progress has enabled her to get a job at a nearby restaurant. Letters like Silvia’s remind librarians why we do what we do.

Pictorial Exhibit of Historical Families of the San Gabriel Valley, 1820-1920

The history of early Spanish-speaking settlers is often invisible, but in the Library’s newest art exhibit, the past is revealed. The often faded and frayed photos of young beauties, baseball players, grandmothers, and families put faces to names that remain part of our history as cities, off ramps, canyons, and streets. This exhibit focuses on local families who lived in the foothills of the San Gabriel range from 1820 to 1920. Among the surnames that may sound familiar: the Verdugo, Sepulveda, Poyorena, Peña, Perez, Trujillo, Cruz, Rubio, Duarte, Marquez, and Carrillo families.

The exhibit, which is on display in the main library reading court from now until November 3, was researched and curated by Mary Ann Chavez and Roberta H. Martinez. Chavez has an M.A. in Human Development and is an Independent Oral Historian/Writer and Producer. Martinez is an independent lecturer and scholar with an MA in Music History.

Inez Trujillo Mendiblez, Circa 1900. She was 16 years old.

Doña Eulalia Perez de Guillen de Marine’ (????-1878).

Francisco Chavez Esperanze League of Baseball 1909. They played near Lake Ave. and California St.
BOOKS

The Secret Chord / Geraldine Brooks

Brooks, who won the Pulitzer Prize for March, has always triumphed with historical subjects and she's back at it with this novel about King David. She takes her David from shepherd to soldier to king to despot, often showing him from the perspective of others — the prophet Nathan, his three wives, and his son, Solomon.

The Murder House / James Patterson

King of the best sellers list, Patterson delivers (with Ellis, his coauthor) a stand-alone thriller about a Hamptons house with a private beach and a terrible history of violence that has given it the name Murder House. It burned down in a suspicious blaze with a couple caught inside, after which it was rebuilt. Now, a Hollywood mogul and his mistress have been found dead there.

The Heart Goes Last / Margaret Atwood

This is her first stand-alone novel since the Man Booker Prize winning novel The Blind Assassin. Charmaine and Stan are barely getting by when they answer an ad for Consilience, a social experiment that allows them a comfortable home of their own in suburbia. The one hitch is that every other month they must spend time in a prison cell. So what does it mean to be a lawbreaker and who’s spending time in their home when they're gone?

FOR KIDS

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School / Jeff Kinney

Life was better in the old days. Or was it? That's the question Greg Heffley is asking as his town voluntarily unplugs and goes electronics-free. But modern life has its conveniences, and Greg isn’t cut out for an old-fashioned world. With tension building inside and outside the Heffley home, will Greg find a way to survive?

Laureen A. McCoy

Adults: NEUTRA post NEUTRA

Renowned modernist architect Dion Neutra – well known for designs that include the Huntington Beach Main Library and projects in Silver Lake and abroad – is sure to captivate audiences at the Altadena Library with his interactive presentation NEUTRA post NEUTRA. The audience will have the opportunity to view a special exhibition he organized to answer the question "What have you done since the departure of your father?" Dion teamed with his legendary father, Richard Neutra, for 30 years – a man who was featured on the cover of Time Magazine in 1949 and ranked by that publication as being second only to Frank Lloyd Wright in the who’s who of American architecture. Dion has had his own astonishing career of nearly 80 years and will take audience members on a journey through it, with an emphasis on the last 45. Most recently, he has been highly involved in preserving the legacy of his family’s work – striving to protect many of the iconic structures that he and his father designed in order to keep them from ruin, disrepair, or even demolition. He continues to write, and is working on Volume 2 of his series The Neutras, Then & Later, along with other books. This fascinating presentation in the Altadena Library Community Room on Saturday, October 24, at 2:00 PM will be followed by an audience Q&A and a book signing.

Ryan Roy
Pet a Pot Bellied Pig!

Thursday, November 12  Noon to 3 PM

Danny’s Farm is coming and bringing goats, rabbits, ponies and pigs. Oh my! Danny’s Farm was founded by Jim and Cathy Gott in honor of their son Danny, who is diagnosed with Autism. Jim is a former Dodger pitcher and current pitching coach for the Los Angeles Angels. Danny’s Farm offers a safe and nurturing petting farm and social environment for all children and adults, including those with autism and other developmental disabilities. This program is being generously sponsored by the Altadena Rotary Club!

Second Saturday Features Jazz

Saturday, November 14  6:30 PM

Kenny Sara & The Sounds of New Orleans is a four piece band that plays New Orleans based music ranging from New Orleans Jazz to straight ahead Jazz to New Orleans R&B, 70’s and 80’s Funk. Bring your friends! Great food and drink to accompany great music.

Wine History and Wine Tasting

Friday, November 20  6:00 PM

Los Angeles Wine author Stuart Byles, will discuss his book on the wine history of Los Angeles and by extension, Southern California, the San Gabriel Valley and Altadena/ Pasadena. This is a fascinating study of a little known facet of our local history, especially of its late 18th century establishment of the first non-mission vineyards. Included is a tasting of six Spanish wines. The Altadena Ale & Wine House will be providing the wines and information on each sample.

No Guilt Book Club: Two Kinds of Love in October

No Guilt Book Club member Bridget was enthralled by Smith Henderson's gorgeous prose in our September fiction read, Fourth of July Creek. It's a rugged story, not pretty, but neither is the life of the social worker, Pete. It nails the system for exactly what it is — a cesspool of users and abusers in charge of saving others even though they can hardly save themselves. Astonishing that this is the author's first novel!

No Guilt bestowed on Diane Ackerman the moniker “Nature's Cheerleader,” for her work in The Human Age: The World Shaped by Us. She believes that we need to change how we look at the world and concentrate more on using science to live in harmony with nature, rather than as a tool to overcome it. Her genius is the sense that so much is possible. Her writing style is very flowery and poetic. The group agreed that there are many topics in this book to be further explored.

Join us in October for The Newlyweds by Nell Freudenberger, our fiction choice, and Timeless: Love, Morgenthau, and Me by Lucinda Franks, our non-fiction choice. We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the director’s office at the main Library.