Altadena Library’s Second Saturday music events return with Upstream!

Saturday, October 8 from 6:30 to 8:30

UPSTREAM has been spreading their message of love and positivity through their exhilarating Caribbean Music, namely, Reggae, Calypso, Soca and Steel Drum Music. This concert is sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich. www.upstreammusic.com

The Altadena Libraries

Your Community Connection

Do you wonder why we named the District’s newsletter CONNECT? Libraries are working harder than ever to meet the needs of their communities and we are no exception. We are generating new ways to deepen our connection to community and help you, our community, address issues that matter to you.

Focus on Our Community

In the upcoming months you will see us outside of the Library holding Community Conversations and asking you questions about your Altadena. What are your aspirations? Concerns? Challenges? We aim to strengthen our role of a library as a positive change agent for our community, enabling you to connect more deeply and meaningfully with the Library and in return we will be responding to community needs, not just library needs. We are using Harwood’s Turning Outward approach, which shifts the District’s orientation from internal, or library-focused, to external, or focused on the greater community.

Turning Outward means we work with the community to determine what will be our choices and actions so that we are able to do more than serve as a lender of books and other materials; rather, an organization that brings groups together to address problems and improve the way the community works.

Coming up on October 8th is the return of one of our great community connector events! Second Saturdays return with a special guest appearance of Upstream. Another way we are part of the Community is by supporting our local businesses and you can help us do that by taking advantage of the wonderful offerings and great prices that the Altadena Wine and Ale House, El Patron and Sweeter than Honey offer at our Second Saturday events [see details at left and on page 8]. Grab a craft beer, tacos hot off the grill and a delectable dessert and then join us inside the library for some uplifting music that will get you out of your chair and on your feet dancing.

Come, do the West Indian boogie with us!
From the Director

Celebrating Change

Our library is a gateway to knowledge – we provide lifelong learning – or as I like to say, we provide each and every member of our community with the tools to reach their full potential. And we ourselves are part of the community. We are a team of lifelong learners in a learning organization!

The Library is a Learning Organization

What is a learning organization? It is one that makes it possible for its members to continually enrich themselves and help transform the organization to keep up with the needs of those they serve, an essential aspect of a successful library. Libraries across the country are going through major transformations; they have been for a long, long time. Even the most seasoned librarians struggle with the constant change, expectations and transformations that our libraries are experiencing.

Professional Development Day

Two years ago, our District created an annual Professional Development Day. This is one day each year that all staff, and invited guests, can leave behind the stress and busyness of our normal working day and focus on our changing role as a public library. It gives us time to consider future trends and see how we can best meet the rapidly changing needs of our community. It is an opportunity to review what we have accomplished and what we have ahead of us. It is a time to be inspired and excited about what the future holds and to work as a team to brainstorm. It’s a time to let our creativity flow.

Guest Speaker, Miguel Figueroa

This year, the Library is fortunate and excited to welcome guest speaker Miguel Figueroa from the Center for the Future of Libraries. Miguel runs a new program that seeks to keep libraries ahead of the curve as they prepare for what’s to come. He will engage our library staff members on how best to navigate the uncertain future of libraries and how the connections we make and the collaborations we form can help shape this future.

This year, staff members will also have the opportunity to participate in “Technology Breakout Sessions” featuring training on a variety of topics including: 10 Amazing Applications for Smart Phones, A Taste of 3D Printing, Make Your Own Movie, and Social Networking Sites Beyond Facebook and Twitter. These technology training opportunities will help us to better serve our patrons as the Library moves into the 21st century and focuses its efforts on providing new resources and exciting programs in the community.

Created by Staff, for Staff

The ‘Professional Development Day Committee’ that includes staff members of all levels and positions planned the day’s line-up. Staff volunteers joined the committee to offer their insight and ideas as to what events would be the most enjoyable and beneficial.

As Director, I’m looking forward to this year’s Professional Development Day and all that we will learn and do together during the day’s events.

Bob Lucas Memorial Branch Free Flu Shots

Fall is upon us and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm) recommend that people try to get the flu vaccine shot from now until the end of October.

For the first time, we are happy to be offering free flu shots in partnership with the Huntington Hospital! You can come by and get a free flu shot from a registered nurse from the Huntington Hospital on October 27 from 3 to 5pm. The flu vaccines are for adults aged 18 years and over and children aged 9-17 years with parent/guardian present for consent.

(There must be no allergy to eggs or previous influenza vaccine, no history of Guillain-Barre syndrome, and no serious illness or fever on day of vaccination).
The Altadena Library a Historical Perspective Leading to our 50th Anniversary

Humble Beginnings
Our library starts with a bushel basket of donated children’s books tended to by parents and teachers in an elementary school. The year is 1908, and the Altadena Grammar School has only 3 rooms.

Growing, Expanding
Five years later, the library in a school expands its collection to include adult books and becomes a branch of the Los Angeles County system. In another five years, the county hires the first Altadena librarian and establishes a branch at the Andrew Jackson School. In 1926, Altadenans vote to establish their own library district, with the prominent local citizen Mrs. Zane Grey serving as the president of the district’s first Board of Trustees. The Board soon purchases and moves a bungalow to the school playground to house the newly independent main library, though they still get books and personnel from LA County. Two years later, the branch moves from the Jackson School to a building on Lincoln Avenue. The independent district now operates out of its own library buildings.

Moving
In 1936, the Trustees purchase a plot of land on Lake Avenue at Beverly Way, by 1938, federal and local funds help build a new main library, designed by Altadena architect Frederick Marsh. (The building still stands: it’s a private home but you can see it at 2366 Lake Avenue.) In 1955, the library withdraws completely from the county system and takes complete control of its own buildings, collections and staff. Two years later, the branch moves to a more accessible location on Lincoln at Ventura Street and becomes the Arroyo Seco Library.

Outgrown
In 1959, library supporters organize to form The Friends of the Altadena Library [see article on page 7] and in 1961 the Trustees buy almost two acres of land at Santa Rosa Avenue and Mariposa Street, the former estate of Colonel G.G. Green. In 1963, a survey paid for by the Friends finds that Altadena has outgrown its main library and needs one 4 times bigger. The Friends help to get a bond passed to pay for a new library. In 1965, the library joins the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System making many thousands of additional books available to patrons and the district eligible to apply for federal construction grants. The $500,000 bond combined with a $250,000 federal grant will cover the construction of the new library.

Moving, Again
Altadena architect Boyd Georgi wins the competition to design the structure, with local landscape architects Eriksson, Peters and Thoms designing its surrounding garden setting. Construction of the 24,000 square foot building started on July of 1966 and is completed on schedule and under budget and the doors open to patrons on August of 1967. The library, an exquisite mid-century modern structure in a park-like setting, wins several design awards and is described in newspapers as “the most beautiful small library in the US.”

continued on page 5

Marjorie Beacom, reference librarian, using teletype machine

San Gabriel Library System leaders launch interlibrary loaning system.

Pictured above: top: Library building on Lake Avenue; Arthur L. Ferris, Altadena businessman with librarian, Gladys Babcock and Architect Boyd Georgi viewing plans; Boyd Georgi’s modern library concept; Bottom two images: construction begins.
**PROGRAMS for October**

**Friends of the Library Meeting**
Monday, October 3 at 7:30 pm

**Closed for Professional Development Day**
Monday, October 10

**Second Saturday**
Returns with: UpStream
Saturday, October 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

UpStream has been spreading their message of love and positivity through their exhilarating Caribbean Music, namely, Reggae, Calypso, Soca and Steel Drum Music.

**No Guilt Book Club**
Tuesday October 11 from 7 to 8 pm

**Lego Club**
Saturday, October 15 from 2 to 3:30 pm

**Celebrating Frida Kahlo**
Saturday, October 15 from 2 to 4:30 pm

Join us as we celebrate the life of Frida Kahlo – one of the most important 20th century artists of the Americas – with an exhibition and movie inspired by her life and work. Behind Frida Kahlo portraits lie the many faces of this extraordinary artist, who painted her pain, her solitude, the returning to her Mexican origin, and her political activism. Our presenter is the wonderful Miriam Quezada.

**Fun Flick Friday:**
**Alice Through the Looking Glass**
Friday, October 21 from 3:30 to 5:45 pm

**Poetry Reading**
Saturday, October 22 from 1 to 2:30 pm

Featuring multi-award winning poets Victoria Chang and Blas Falconer. Open mic at 1pm, followed by readings and a Q&A with our guest poets. This promises to be an electrical combination of two well-loved master poets.

**Spoken poetry is a little like jazz improvisation as poets improvise new color and meaning into the text that the reader won’t find on the written page. – Saeed Jones.**

**From Page to Table**
Saturday, October 22 from 1 to 3 pm

Join us for another Community Inspired Event – Pot Luck, Conversation and Fun! Bring a dish of your choice, the recipe and let’s talk food!

**Assemblymember Chris Holden to Read to Young Children at Altadena Library**
Thursday, October 13 at 11 am

All are invited to free event. See article on page 9.

**Lit Crawl LA**
Wednesday, October 26 in the NoHo Arts District
A Walkable Smorgasbord of Over 40 Literary Happenings. 36+ NoHo Arts District locations in one night! Volunteer and participate in this event. See www.LitCrawlLA.org for more information.

**Free Flu Shots at Branch**
Thursday, October 27 from 3 to 5 pm at the Bob Lucas Branch
For ages 9 and up

**Children’s Halloween Craft**
Thursday, October 27 at 3:30 pm at the Bob Lucas Branch
Edible rice krispy pumpkins, Rice Krispies treats

**Woman’s Liberation History**
**For the Month of October**

DON’T MISS: WOMAN’S LIBERATION HISTORY Jennifer Hall Lee, who made the film Feminist: Stories from Women’s Liberation, created a display in the Library of women’s liberation artifacts, ephemera, buttons and small posters.
Do you believe in ghosts? Some people do. Some don’t. But many library patrons and staff members over the years have encountered something – someone – rather supernatural at the main Altadena Library.

The library stands on property where Colonel George Gilbert Green built his home on Altadena’s Millionaire’s Row in 1883. Green was a larger than life millionaire who sold patent medicines through extensive advertising and by giving away free samples. His medicine, Green’s August Flower, was mostly morphine. By 1900, 1 in 5 Americans were addicted to his and similar medicines and the Colonel was richer than the other local gentry whose names are more familiar to us: McNally, Scripps, and Kellogg. With his wife, the former Angie Brown, Green moved into his mansion on the corner of Mariposa at Santa Rosa and lived there until the turn of the century. The house was torn down in 1964 to make way for the new library.

In Haunted Houses of Pasadena (2002), the author Michael Kouri writes about a library staff member comforting a crying child frightened by her brother’s tale of an old witch who would abduct children if she caught them. While discounting the story, the book the librarian was searching for at the child’s request suddenly fell into her arms from a tall shelf. In a second incident, the same librarian spied the old woman clutching a boy in her arms with a pile of the books he wanted at her feet. The librarian told the woman to let go of the child and the apparition dematerialized. When the librarian picked up the books, she found one opened to a page showing a photo of Mrs. G.G. Green.

Kouri tells of another library employee who encountered the ghost while searching for an audio tape. Records showed the tape was available, but the employee couldn’t find it and asked a reference librarian for help. While searching together, the employee asked about a framed photograph showing an impressive house and learned it was the home of Colonel G.G. Green, once located on the corner where the library now stands. At that moment, the employee said a woman in Victorian dress appeared holding the missing tapes. She held them out to the employee, pointed to the photo, then vanished.

Such sightings are, thankfully, rare and no children (or adults for that matter) have ever disappeared in the library. But many library staff members and patrons tell of hearing strange noises, smelling the light scent of orchids where there are none, and finding little hints that the ghost has been visiting our library – the site of her former home?

Mrs. G.G. Green (Agnes) photograph courtesy of The Pasadena Museum of History.
HOT TITLES Month: National Friends of the Library Month

**Children**

*My Thumb* by Karen Hesse; illustrated by Rich Deas
For kids who love to suck their thumbs and their parents who wish they would stop! Picture book

*Wolf Camp* by Andrea Zuill
Homer the dog, along with his friends, learns what it is like to be a wolf! Picture book

*Ninja Bunny: Sister vs. Brother* by Jennifer Gray Olson
Ninja Bunny is on a quest to enjoy eating Farmer McGregor’s prize winning carrot.

*Ghosts* by Raina Telgemeier; with color by Braden Lamb
Almost sixth-grader Catrina is moving with her family to a town inhabited by ghosts!

Harry is all grown up, with three kids and working for the Ministry of Magic. A tale for readers of all ages!

**Teens**

*Black Panther 1* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
T’Challa, the leader of Wakanda, faces a violent uprising sparked by a superhuman terrorist group.

*Girl Mans Up* by M-E Girard
Sixteen year old Pen must decide whether she is true to herself or conforms to what her parents want her to be, a girl who dresses like a girl.

*The Hidden Oracle* by Rick Riordan
Punished by his father Zeus, the god Apollo is sent to live in New York City as a human, but can he survive?

*How to Hang a Witch* by Adriana Mather
“It’s like Mean Girls meets history class in the best possible way.”–Seventeen Magazine

*This Is Where it Ends* by Marieke Nijkamp
A high school shooting told from four perspectives.

**Adults**

**FICTION**

*Commonwealth: a novel* by Ann Patchett
This enthralling tale begins with a christening party and a bottle of gin in Southern California. Print/Audiobook/eBook

*The Nix: a novel* by Nathan Hill
The New York Times calls The Nix, “the Love Child of Thomas Pynchon and David Foster Wallace!” Print/Audiobook

*Nutshell: a novel* by Ian McEwan
Doubleday labels the book as, “A classic tale of murder and deceit from one of the world’s master storytellers.”

*Razor Girl: a novel* by Carl Hiaasen
Hiaasen is back with another humorous tale featuring Detective Andrew Yancy. Print/Audiobook/eBook

*Rushing Waters: a novel* by Danielle Steel
Steel’s latest novel catapults New Yorkers into a hurricane and the aftermath of disaster. Print/Audiobook

*American Heiress: the Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst* by Jeffrey Toobin
“The details that flesh out the saga of Hearst and the group calling themselves the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) are weirder and more compelling than any work of fiction!” Library Journal. Print/Audiobook

*Hillbilly Elegy: a Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance
“You will not read a more important book about America this year.” The Economist

*The Perfect Horse: the Daring US Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis* by Elizabeth Letts
A riveting read about Lipizzaners and the covert operation to save them from slaughter, well researched with stunning photographs.

*White Trash: the 400-year Untold History of Class in America* by Nancy Isenberg
Library Journal calls this, “essential reading,” and O Magazine states it is an, “eye-opening investigation.” Print/audiobook
Friends of the Library

The word “Friend” immediately brings to mind the people who help celebrate all the goodness in life and stand steadfast when times are troubled, who offer support when it’s needed and offer counsel to help us see the straight path. We count on our friends and they count on us.

Our library has friends – Friends of the Library! In 1959, a couple of hundred civic-minded residents joined together to form the Friends of the Altadena Library. After a couple of years of highly successful book sales, the Friends paid for the professional survey that ultimately led the district from a small building on Lake Avenue to the mid-century modern library of today. But they didn’t stop there, the Friends organized support for the bond campaign that paid for more than half of the library’s construction. And with continued revenue from their annual sales, the Friends paid for all the furnishings in the new library’s community room.

Paging through the library’s collection of scrapbooks filled with old photos and faded news clippings, it’s easy to see that the Friends have been good and constant friends over the years. Trying to tabulate all their support produces an incredibly long and varied list of programs and materials. Large-print books. Sound-films (a long ago precursor to DVDs). Summer reading prizes. In 1976, the Friends commissioned and completed a quilt featuring Altadena symbols to commemorate the American Bicentennial. Once hanging in the library, it’s now preserved and on display at the Altadena Historical Society if you’d care to see it.

The Friends paid for repairs to the library’s roof and lighting and circulation desk enhancements. They purchased a copier and paid for the library’s Christmas tree every December. For fans of verse, Poetry and Cookies, the library’s annual poetry review, is brought to you courtesy of the Friends. In 2006, they refurnished the children’s library with new carpet, child-sized tables and the distinctive owl-emblazoned chairs. And a few years back, they presented the world premiere staged reading of the Zane Grey Playwriting Contest winner, “Surprise Valley” by Mary Casey, in an event held at the Zane Grey Estate with speakers and guests including Ray Bradbury, Jervey Tervalon, local authors Naomi Hirahara and Lian Dolan, John Dean, historian Dr. Kevin Starr, and JPL planetary scientist Dr. Rosaly Lopes. Proceeds from this event helped get the Altadena Library Foundation started.

The Friends mission at their founding was:

“...to inform the public of the resource needs of the library, foster the development of cultural programs for the community centered in the library, and to encourage gifts of desirable collections for public use and enjoyment.”

– History of the Altadena Library, 1908-1967

Their mission, in more current language, remains the same today. The organization is run entirely by volunteers, people who are devoted to the library. And the Altadena Library District is much richer for having such good friends, these dedicated individuals who embody the philosophy of the French poet and priest Joseph Roux:

“Have friends, not for the sake of receiving, but of giving.”

Though they gladly receive our donated books!

We celebrate our Friends through the month of October. If you love our library like they do, consider becoming a Friend, too. www.AltadenaLibrary.org/Friends-Altadena-Library
The Second Saturday Concert Series Returns in October

Second Saturday’s [mostly] from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Listen to great music as you sip beer and wine from The Ale House; savor grilled eats from El Patron; and sample delectable desserts from Sweeter Than Honey.

UPSTREAM
Streaming in on October 8

Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans
Returning November 12

Aaron Atkins: Into the Cole.
One Man Show December 3 (First Saturday)

Todd Washington Trio
Blues to Gospel on January 14, 2017

Louis Van Taylor Quintet
Jazz n More on February 11, 2017

DeRumba
Rumba with us on March 11, 2017

Splish Splash Band
Travel through Time on April 8, 2017

Michael Haggins Band
Funk and Smooth Jazz on May 13, 2017

Listen to great music as you sip beer and wine from The Ale House; savor grilled eats from El Patron; and sample delectable desserts from Sweeter Than Honey.

If you enjoy intellectual conversation and the sense of community as well as camaraderie that defines the best traditions of a neighborhood watering hole, then our pub is the place for you. Gail Casburn of the Altadena Ale & Wine House – since 1989. Gail is a big believer in community. She believed Altadena needed a place to converse – a place to being the community together. Gail loves participating in Second Saturday events as the “people are very happy – there is culture, food and music comparable to Farnsworth Park events – and the music is FREE!”

2329 Fair Oaks Avenue in Altadena
info@AltadenaAleHouse.com
626 794-4577

2555 North Lake Avenue in Altadena
626 296-2818
and 2234 Lincoln Avenue in Altadena
626 296-0686

This really is “Sweeter than Honey”!
Briana Arevelo – who creates all of these delicious treats that you can find at amazing prices at the Second Saturday events, sums up her experience as “a great opportunity – it’s fun to visit with the community and meet the bands – this has been a great opportunity for growing my business!”
The West Without Water: What Past Floods, Droughts, and Other Climatic Clues Tell Us About Tomorrow by B. Lynn Ingram is a book with so much history and insight about the true gold of the west, water. We get that these scientific methods and data are foundational to the books premise but at some point early - it overwhelms. The unfortunate part is that the book leads the reader to deduce that we can’t nor do we truly impact the water issues – both out west and globally. Just sit back and wait for the big flood/drought that has historically happened and will happen sometime - maybe not our short lifetimes but a blink in Mother Nature’s timeline.

Using forensic clues from gnarled trees, layered sediments and abandoned ancient settlements, the authors reveal the West’s past century as an anomalous period of hydrological stability against a darker prehistoric background of century-long civilization-destroying “mega droughts.” When the West’s waters rebel again, they warn, we must be ready. Part detective story, part call to action, this book offers vital advice on how to fix the West’s looming water crisis. We especially enjoyed reading about the core samples taken from ancient trees in California, some 4800 years old.

Our protagonist, Margo, is the river. Or the river is so much a part of her that they blend together. She ebbs and flows through events rather than being completely present sometimes. Once Upon a River by Bonnie Jo Campbell is a painting with moving characters. The backdrop of the river provides a rich canvas on which the author can place Margo and the various people she meets. As she searches for something that she has lost, she experiences fear and violence; and like many young women of her age, she often mistakes sex for love.

It is a heavy story and doesn’t start to show some rays of sunshine until the very end. However, the deeper themes explored in this book are worth sticking with it. It is truly a unique story of growing up, and it raises the very legitimate question of whether we all need to have the suburban house and picket fence to be happy. The book also explores how judgmental we can be about the way that others choose to live, simply because they are different from us. The characters in this book find contentment all around them just by paying attention to life.

Welcome, Estella Terrazas

Estella, our newest employee, is responsible for our Library District’s collections. Estella is a native of Los Angeles – attending Hollywood High School; Cal State LA; San Jose State; and MSU in Bozeman, Montana. She has worked at the Huntington Beach Public Library; UC Irvine Libraries; and the Teton County Library in Jackson Wyoming. Estella also worked for the LA Zoo as a Volunteer Coordinator and she is also a volunteer!

Estella comments, “I look forward to providing the best possible collections to the Altadena community and finding new ways for the Library to provide community collaborations.” She lives with her big fluffy white dog, Ryder.

As the father of five, Assemblymember Holden is an avid supporter of the importance of reading to young children. He participated in Read Across America last year and enjoyed reading and talking to preschool students.

First 5 California funds programs that educate parents, grandparents, caregivers, and teachers about the critical role they play during a child’s first five years. Visit First5California.com for more information.
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Friends of the Library meeting
Monday, November 7 at 7:30 pm
See Friends of the Library story on page 11

Election Day [register to vote now]
Tuesday, November 8
The Altadena Library is your place for Voter Information and Registration Forms. Stop in and pick up your Easy Voter Guide from the League of Women Voters of California and the forms for registration. We can help you to check and see if you are already registered to vote. www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status/
See also: voterguide.sos.ca.gov/en/audio/

Second Saturday with Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans
Saturday, November 12 from 6:30 to 8 pm

International Games Day at Your Library
Saturday November 19 from 10am to 6 pm
For children of all ages.

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

Altadena Library Board of Trustees meeting
Monday, November 28 at 5 pm

UPSTREAM has been spreading their message of love and positivity through their exhilarating Caribbean music, namely, Reggae, Calypso, Soca and Steel Drum Music. This concert is sponsored by Los Angeles County Library and the Altadena Library. Featuring the Todd Washington Trio and The Gerald Wilson Orchestra. Louis played in June with JazzZone at the Altadena Library with one of his most prolific collections of work. He has performed with many notable artists including Chaka Khan, Sarah Brightman, The Isley Brothers, Earth Wind & Fire, Taj Mahal, and many others.

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

“THE HEALING PLACE OF THE SOUL”
Inscription over the door of the library of Thebes.

SMILE
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