September is Library Card Sign-up Month — a time when the American Library Association and libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. The observance was launched in 1987 to meet the challenge of then-Secretary of Education William J. Bennett who said: “Let’s have a national campaign...every child should obtain a library card — and use it.” Since then, thousands of public and school libraries join each fall in a national effort to ensure every child does just that. The card is free and the application is simple. Ask any librarian how your child can sign up for his or her very own library card.

Last month Altadena Library was pleased to receive a small grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. With this funding we will be screening the PBS series, Latino Americans: 500 Years of History. Says Director Mindy Kittay, “We are very fortunate to have Roberta Martinez as our presenter for the screening of the first episode. Roberta is such an engaging speaker and her knowledge of the history in this area is outstanding.” She will introduce themes before the video is shown, and lead an audience discussion, and answer questions following the showing. Please join us on Saturday, September 26 from 2 to 4 PM to learn what Altadena and other parts of California were like before 1850.

September 27 through October 3 is Banned Books Week. This annual event celebrates the freedom to read. It highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. Look for a special display of Banned Books at the main library. Then be daring and check one out!

Board Welcomes John McDonald

The Altadena Libraries are pleased to announce that John McDonald has been appointed to the Board of Trustees to serve the remainder of David Datz’s term (Datz retired in July). Then, he will be on the ballot for the November election. John is currently an Assistant University Librarian and Associate Dean for Collections at the University of Southern California. He admits with a smile that libraries are in his blood.

John’s enthusiasm started as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where he took a part time job in the library — a job he kept until he graduated with a master’s in Library Science. He has years of experience in the world of academic libraries, and freely admits that public libraries are different. His day-to-day work is more narrowly focused on intense academic needs of students and professors. He is energized by the wide range of services offered at the Altadena Libraries. “The public library doesn’t just provide information. It offers ESL programs, business resources, job-seeking support, internet access and more. The kinds of things that can impact the lives of community members.”

John sees his role on the Board as one of support for the staff and the programs they feel fit the needs of the community. That includes financial support, but his general understanding of libraries, their needs, and the latest trends in library science may also help his fellow board members appreciate the challenges librarians face. He looks forward to being involved in renovation of the building, space allocation, and updating the collection. John lives in Altadena with his wife and daughter and the Angeles National Forest for a backyard.
From the Director

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, a great time to be thinking about the role of our library in the community.

Yes, libraries are all about access to information, but we are much more than checking out and checking in information. We are about creating a lifelong learning center dedicated to helping people, and our community, reach their full potential. We’re about discovering and telling our own human story through community programs, such as our summer reading programs for children, DIY/makerspace for our teens, Winter Reading Program for our Adults, and Second Saturday music events for the whole family! Each plays a role in helping you — our community — thrive and flourish!

I am excited about the current and near future opportunities that the Altadena Library will be presenting for you. As always, we want to hear your thoughts and desires about the role that your Altadena Library can play in your life. Stop by, email, or give us a call — your voice is vital to our success!

Branch Notes: Crafts and Aliens

School has started and the afternoon crafts programs at the Branch are back! We have free and fun crafts programs designed to celebrate the seasons and holidays.

Children are invited to spend time with us after school and unleash their creativity. Every program is planned to engage elementary age school children and appeal to both boys and girls. Our first artistic endeavor took place on August 27. Kids got to choose colored paper and pair it with regular paper to make an origami pen and pencil holder.

Our next crafty session will be on September 24 at 3:30 PM. We will be making and decorating rainsticks to celebrate the coming fall and to offer Mother Nature a little encouragement. We will shake our finished rain sticks at the sky to see if that will bring on the rain! On October 22 at 3:30 PM, our young patrons are invited to create their own creepy lantern. Make a monster, ghost, or ghoul with paints on a jar. Free flameless tealight candles will be provided to complete the creepy effect.

Fun Flick Friday returns September 18 at 3:30 PM with the animated movie, Home. We will be showing movies every third Friday of the month! Join us!

Carlene Chiu
Need a few extra servings of Book Club flavor to tide you over to the next monthly meeting? Or maybe you’ve been hungering to join the library’s Book Club, but you can’t make the regularly scheduled sessions? Either way, we have just the thing to satisfy your reading appetite – online book clubs! Here’s how it works:

You pick your favorite genres, and we send you a chapter to read, daily, via email. The book club comes directly to you! Each week, a new title is featured for each genre category. And with a wide range of genre selections – from popular fiction to science fiction, from mysteries to romances – the online book club is exploding with possibilities. So join up, explore new titles, and find your next favorite book in your own email inbox. Click the book club icon on our website’s home page, www.altadenalibrary.org, to sign up today!
Join Friends of the Altadena Library!

Our libraries are changing. We are about so much more than just books. We are much-loved community incubators of personal happiness and informal self-education. We are centers of information, places for reading, activities, speakers, games, and lifelong learning. Support for these changes means that Friends of the Altadena Library are needed more than ever.

Friends of the Altadena Library are a devoted, active, and friendly group. Members not only raise funds to support library programs, events, and purchases, we also raise awareness of how important our libraries are to the Altadena community. We are always looking for new ideas and new volunteers to get the message out! Ongoing activities include running the Friends Book Store and Book Sales at the Main Library, manning a booth at community events such as the Christmas Tree Lane Lighting Ceremony, Second Saturday, and the Altadena Best Fest. We are also planning new fundraisers. The support of our libraries takes all of us working together to make them the best they can be and it takes money. If you think you would like to join us, start by attending our monthly Board Meetings at the Main Library at 7:30pm on the 1st Monday of each month (or on the 2nd Monday if the library is closed on the 1st). You are welcome to volunteer with us, but we hope that you will become members. Individuals can join us for as little as $10 a year. Everyone is welcome! We currently need volunteers to help sort donated books at the Main Library every Monday from 7-9 PM (or on Tuesday if the library is closed or there is a Board meeting on Monday).

For more information on the Friends and how you can get involved as a volunteer, please contact us at friends_altadenalibrary@yahoo.com or call the Main Library at 626-798-0833.

Babble, Blather and Buzz

Teen librarian Carrie Wilson was the recipient of this quarter’s Above and Beyond Award, which recognizes an Altadena Library staff member who exemplifies the role of a creative, dedicated, and service-oriented team member. Congrats to Carrie!

The Library is many things to many people. One day this past month it was a sea of tranquillity for a new Altadenan. Joanie was delighted to find The Science of the Mind by Ernest Holmes waiting for her, as well as a quiet place to read while construction is going on at her house.

From our fans:

Suzanne was great in helping me on the computer. She’s a great asset to the Library.

Phil Caron

Claudia Lennear, our guest speaker for the screening of 20 Feet from Stardom, called to say that coming to our library was probably the best experience she has EVER had at a screening. Guests were delighted to hear her stories of life as a back-up singer.

What Are You Reading?

Ann from the No Guilt Book Club was in loading up on new books for the week. She told the librarian that she had just finished her own Hunger Games series reading marathon. The two agreed that this exciting and well-written trilogy by Suzanne Collins, appeals to all generations, perhaps because it is a timeless tale of good vs. evil. The books, audiobooks, and DVDs are popular library requests.

Sarah C. was looking for The Warriors #2: Fire & Ice by Erin Hunter. Fire and Ice, part of a children’s fantasy series, takes place in a fictional forest which is home to four clans of wild cats, each of which lives in a territory best suited to their skills and abilities. Unfortunately, the book was checked out — but the Library put a hold on it for her. Sarah’s brother proudly told the librarian she has read all 64 books by Erin Hunter! This upwalker clearly spent her greenleaf reading.

Librarian Helen Milner just finished reading LAPD ’53 by James Ellroy and Glynn Martin, the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Police Museum. She reports that “it’s not the most calming bedtime fare. The photography is from the archives. The descriptions and photos don’t match up that well, but it does make this true-crime fan want to make a beeline to the police museum.”
The Altadena Library promotes awareness of challenges to library materials and celebrates freedom of speech during Banned Books Week, September 27 — October 3. This is the national book community’s annual celebration of the freedom to read. It was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores, and libraries. More than 11,300 books have been challenged since 1982 according to the American Library Association. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. As such, they are a threat to freedom of speech and choice.

**All Quiet on the Western Front / Erich Maria Remarque**

The affects of war on young soldiers in 1918 is graphically portrayed in this period work. It was challenged by the National Socialists in Germany as being slanderous to their ideals of home and fatherland. In Munich, it was burned for being Marxist and un-German. It was banned from Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Italy. In the U.S., it was banned for obscenity, attacks on the Freedom to Learn, and for some sentences “too robust.”

**Gorillas in the Mist / Dian Fossey**

This is the acclaimed story of her experiences over the 14 years in which she conducted field studies among four gorilla families in the Virunga Mountains in Zaire, Rwanda, and Uganda. Challenges against her book were over objections of sexuality and mating behavior of the gorillas.

**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets / J.K. Rowling**

Still, parents of Cedarville, AK challenged the book because it characterized authority as “stupid” and portrays “good witches and good magic.” It was also challenged but retained in the New Haven, CT schools despite claims the series “makes witchcraft and wizardry alluring to children.”

Fils have also been challenged. Here are just a few:

- All Quiet on the Western Front (1930)
- Brokeback Mountain (2005)
- Bruno (2009)
- Monty Python’s Life of Brian (1979)
- Noah (2014)
- Seven Years in Tibet (1997)
- The DaVinci Code (2006)

**Library Hosts Local Artist Terri Lloyd**

The Altadena Library is honored to exhibit the works of Los Angeles artist, Terri Lloyd. Terri presents images that encompass psychological, socio-political, and personal explorations that meet at the corner of DADA and Absurd. From design and illustration, to cut and paste memes, Terri’s work is frequently described as renegade, disruptive, transgressive and — under its colorful demeanor — subversive. It has a kind of “pop” feel on the surface, but deals with issues pop never touched. Lloyd’s work will be on display for the month of September.

Tina Wallin
Best Fest — In Support of YOUR Altadena Libraries!
Saturday, October 3, 2015 9:00 to 6:00 PM
Food! Fun! Art! Music! And a great cause!

Second Saturday Returns!
Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015 7:00 PM
The Verdugo Swing Society has been bringing back Big Band memories since 1986. Originally formed by members of the Glendale College Jazz band, they now have local musicians from aerospace to academia. Come see a trombone slide and a bass walk! Good friends, good food, good fun!

Francisco Ramirez, Local Civil War Hero!
Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015 7:00 PM
Come learn about California’s little-understood but crucial role in the nation’s greatest conflict, and about an equally unknown local Latino hero. 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. This program is co-sponsored by Altadena Heritage, a partner in the Altadena Libraries’ year-long series bringing Latino history and culture to our community.

NEUTRA post NEUTRA
Dion Neutra, architect
Saturday, October 24, 2015 2:00PM
Fans of modernism take note! Dion Nuetra, son of the iconic Richard Neutra, will hold a lecture and book signing for “The Nuetras, Then & Later.” A slide show and Q & A will accompany the presentation.

No Guilt Book Club:
We SEE Everyone Enjoying This Book!

All the Light We Cannot See was a unanimous good read for our fiction selection of August.
“String and spit and wire and a voice on the radio offering a loom on which to spin his dreams.” With rich sentences like this, Doerr creates an enthralling tale through the “eyes” of a blind French girl and a young German boy’s perspective of life in Occupied France and Germany during the later years of the Second World War. We had a new member join us just to talk about this book!

Leaving Before the Rains Come by Alexandra Fuller was our nonfiction choice. She has an extraordinary gift for lyrical, insightful, often humorous writing that is still brutally honest. Her intimate knowledge of life in Africa is conveyed with a fascinating appreciation of both its beauty and its dangers. It was well received by our group, although a few of us thought that “Bobo” was selfish and spoiled.

We will meet in the Director’s office on Tuesday, September 8 at 7 PM to critique our fiction choice, Fourth of July Creek by Smith Henderson and our non-fiction choice, The Human Age by Diane Ackerman. Please join us.

Helen

Become a Friend of the Library
“When I got my library card, that’s when my life began”
–Rita Mae Brown

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 www.altadenalibrary.org/friends-library.

IMPORTANT!
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