Make an Impact. Leave a Legacy.

The Altadena Library Foundation needs YOU! As the Altadena Library District continues to grow and expand to reach all of Altadena, it will require the help of even more hard-working volunteers that are dedicated to our mission! The District is supported by three main entities - its Board of Trustees that provides governance and the Friends of the Altadena Library and Altadena Library Foundation that provide financial support through various fundraising activities throughout the year. As we embark on significant projects in the coming years, including the development of an interactive, outdoor learning space around the Library, we will rely on the support of a robust Foundation.

That's where you come in! The Altadena Library Foundation is in need of committed, enthusiastic Board members to help lead the way toward progress and to fully equip the Library to carry out its mission. Ready to make an impact? This is the perfect opportunity for community members with experience that could benefit the Board to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the thousands of people our Library reaches.

Submit a letter of interest to finance@altadenalibraryfoundation.org by September 22, 2017 for consideration.

The Library is the Ultimate Back to School Resource!

The value of today’s libraries goes beyond books. Librarians are leaders in their communities – helping people of any age to find what they need to help improve their quality of life and expand their resources. This September, Altadena Library District is joining the American Library Association and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-up Month, an initiative to make sure that every student has the most important school supply of all -- a free library card.

Libraries build a foundation for children’s future success starting from the earliest stages of development. Librarians provide free and equal access to powerful tools and resources, expanding students’ potential and further equipping them for future success. Here’s the best part -- Altadena Library’s resources are free and available to anyone with a library card. Students of all ages and stages can turn to the library for materials, programs, events, and knowledgeable staff to support their academic achievement. This fall, Altadena Library is proud to offer not only a robust catalog of books, periodicals, games, movies, and music, but also access to specialized databases to help students broaden their knowledge and support what is being covered in the classroom, special PSAT readiness programs for teens, early literacy programs for our youngest patrons, and experiences with modern technologies including 3D Printing and Virtual Reality in our new FabLab.

“We truly have something for everyone here at our Library, and we are proud to offer these for FREE to anyone with a library card,” says Library Director Mindy Kittay, “As students start the new school year, we extend an open invitation to explore and take full advantage of our many resources. We are your one-stop educational resource!”

Our library staff is ready to introduce you to all our Library has to offer for students. To sign up for a library card, visit Altadena Library District’s Main Library or Bob Lucas Branch in person or learn more online at www.altadenalibrary.org.
FROM THE DIRECTOR - MINDY KITTY
The Importance of Banned Books Week
Celebrating the Freedom to Read

Every year, the last week of September is known in the Library world as “Banned Books Week.” Founded in 1982, this important annual tradition highlights and celebrates the books that have, at some point, been banned or challenged.

One of the key freedoms that we enjoy as Americans is the right to free speech. Under the implications of this Amendment, librarians have a unique opportunity to offer free and equal access to a variety of ideas and beliefs through the materials our hallowed shelves hold. In one of the many trials regarding book censorship in the past century, Justice William Brennan aptly wrote in 1982 that “the Library has a distinct role as the institution that affords the public access to discussion, debate, and the dissemination of information and ideas.” At Altadena Library, we wholeheartedly believe this, including in our tagline the very mission of “Bringing People + Ideas Together.”

A common misconception is that censorship of books is limited to historical periods of totalitarian government control, a prime example being the infamous banning of tens of thousands of books under the Nazi regime in the 1930s. However, book censorship occurs around the world to this day, including in the United States. Books that are now considered American classics and are sometimes part of many English curriculums across the country, including The Catcher in the Rye. To Kill a Mockingbird, The Autobiography of Malcolm X, and Fahrenheit 451, have been censored and debated over for years. Take a moment with me and imagine a world where people have not been able to learn from the stories of such inspirational and revolutionary characters, real and fictional, as Malcolm X and Atticus Finch. Seems like a scary world to me.

We hope you will stop by our Main Library or Bob Lucas Branch Library between September 24th and 30th to explore our displays of Banned Books. Throughout this month’s newsletter are lists of previously banned or challenged books that our librarians have compiled for each age group that we serve. Join us in this literary rebellion and read a book that has been deemed scandalous or controversial by our nation’s censors. #StickToTheMan

If you have any questions about Banned Books Week, email me at MKitty@altadena.lib.ca.us or call (626) 798-0833, ext. 103.

- Mindy Kitty, Library Director

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE
Welcome to Koha, Our New Integrated Library System

On September 5, the Altadena Library District will switch to an updated, technologically superior Integrated Library System (ILS) called Koha. A library’s ILS is the key software in operations, tracking the entire inventory of books, music, DVDs, and other materials, such as information, circulation, and the acquisitions of new materials. Our goal through this transition process is to make it easy on our patrons and provide support as needed.

Accessing Koha
Just as you would access the previous ILS, you can access Koha from multiple sources on the Library’s main website, as shown to the right, and from the direct URL link at http://catalog.altadena.lib.ca.us/.

Logging In From the Library & From Home
When you access the catalog from home or when you are checking out materials at the Library, you will see the number on your library card. For ease of use, you can scan your library card at any checkout station and your card number will automatically populate the username field. Whether you had a password set up in the previous system or not, your password has been reset to the last four digits of your phone number on file. If you do not have a phone number on file, your password is automatically “1111.” Don’t worry! You are able to customize your password in the system later under the “Change Your Password” tab in the main left navigation menu.

The Back-End of Koha
Once logged in, patrons have access to the full catalog and to our Readers’ Resources (Library Databases, OverDrive, and Flipster Magazines), a portal through which you can update your personal information, and lists of your checked out materials and holds. Within your account, you can also review and manage your reading history and make purchase suggestions for the Library.

We appreciate your patience throughout this transition. We acknowledge that there may be some minor bumps along the way as we all become familiar with the new system, but we feel confident that you will be thrilled with the increased capabilities of Koha and its ability to enhance your experience at Altadena Library District! As always, if you have any questions about using Koha, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our knowledgeable staff. To learn more about the Library’s commitment to providing the best technology to our patrons, please review our 2016-2017 Year in Review video report at https://youtu.be/0WNH1kKrcR8.

Closing Books Shuts Out Ideas

UPDATE FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE ALTADENA LIBRARY
From President Mark Marsical

At the beginning of July, I took over as the President of the Friends of the Altadena Library (FOAL). Following in the footsteps of Marie Brown will not be an easy task for more than 7 years as President, she helped increase the annual giving to the Library District through careful management of the dollars that all of you have helped raise and have donated. I hope to continue this in the months and years to come.

At our first Friends of the Altadena Library Board meeting, the board approved a budget that will allow us to donate more than $24,000 to support the District this fiscal year (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018). To accomplish this, we will need your assistance! How can you help? Encourage people to join or renew their membership to the Friends of Altadena Library, inform people about our Bookstore in the library, make annual contributions, or just volunteer at one of the Library’s many programs.

Over the last few weeks, my young grandchildren were able to enjoy the library firsthand and experience the joy of story time. My wife and I recently attended “Understanding the Eclipse,” the Library’s pre-eclipse event featuring a fascinating lecture by representatives of Carnegie Observatories, and “Organic Music with Singer-Songwriters.” In all of these special moments, I was struck by how fortunate we are to have a Library that provides so many engaging and educational programs that are relevant to our community. My enthusiasm for the Friends of Altadena Library and our important work was affirmed and continues to grow.

If there are any questions or suggestions on how YOU can support the FOAL, please feel free to call me at 323-816-6713.

Established in 1959, the Friends of Altadena Library is an organization committed to the support of the Altadena Library District and its programs and services. The purpose of the Friends is to stimulate public interest in the Library, assist with funding to purchase library materials and equipment for the Altadena Library. To learn more, make a donation, or become a member, please visit www.altadenalibrary.org/friends-library.

Contact Public Services Director Ryan Roy for eligibility and scheduling! 626-798-0833 x109 wroy@altadena.lib.ca.us
COMMUNITY FEATURES

Bringing “Eco-Friendly” Library Resources to Altadena Farmers Market’s Green Circle

Altadena is full of creative, innovative, and community-minded citizens! In recent months, a new addition to the Altadena Farmers Market has been gaining acclaim. The Green Circle is “dedicated to connecting, inspiring and supporting local ‘green’ groups, shoppers, and farmers at Altadena Farmers Market.” Featuring attractions like the Zero Waste Booth, Buy Nothing Altadena, 30 Days for Earth, Altadena Community Garden, and the Altadena Bicycle Club, the Green Circle is open from 3:00-7:00pm during the winter and 4:00 - 8:00pm during the summer every 1st Wednesday of the month at the Farmers Market.

The Altadena Library District is happy to join Green Circle in their efforts by hosting a booth with educational, eco-friendly materials for passerby. The Green Circle calls themselves “the Earth-loving people who nurture eco-awareness (and) community,” two topics we as a Library District also care about! From our diverse catalog of “green” books and materials to our past programs about the environment, we share the Green Circle’s dedication to providing members of the community with pertinent, environmental information, and we look forward to watching their impact expand and spread eco-awareness to our already eco-minded community.

Are you an artist with work you want to share with our community? Contact Melissa Aldama at maldama@altadenallibrary.org to discuss scheduling and eligibility requirements.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

Introducing Our New Youth Services Clerk Amanda Toledo!

Please join us in welcoming the newest addition to the Youth Services department, Amanda Rose Toledo! Coming on as a part-time Youth Services Clerk, Amanda is excited to join our bustling library team and offer her love of books and strong background in children’s services to the District. Originally from Chicago, Amanda received two degrees in English and Creative Writing from the University of Illinois. Her journey brought her to Los Angeles just two years ago, and she has since plunged into the heart of Pasadena, working at the Pasadena Library and getting to know the community and its needs. Her background includes working for a nonprofit children’s theater, teen mentorship in writing and art, and leadership at children’s recreational summer camps.

Amanda is a lover of books at heart. Her most recent literary adventure was reading Maus, Art Spiegelman’s impactful postmodern graphic novel that depicts the experiences of Polish Jews in the Holocaust. Stop by the Main Library, welcome Amanda to our community, and ask her about what literary adventure she is embarking on next! She is so excited to meet all her new friends in the Children’s Department!

Moving On Up! Recent Promotions at the Library

We at Altadena Library District acknowledge that an enthusiastic and talented staff is key to our success in serving our community, and where we can empower and expand the potential of our staff members, we will! Some of your favorite faces at the library, Melissa Aldama and Selena Alogria, were promoted in August, Melissa from Clerk I to Clerk II and Selena from Page to Clerk I. Next time you’re at the Library, be sure to offer your congratulations! We are so fortunate to have them on our team!

September Artist on Display: Purvi Shah

Did you know that every month there are new artists displaying their work throughout the Main Library? Our glass display case, Reading Room, and Community Room have become meccas for local art lovers! From traditional paintings to mixed media pieces to sculpture to photography, the art on display is always thoughtful and inspiring. In September, the walls of our Community Room and Reading Room will carry the work of one local photographer named Purvi Shah. Of her work, Purvi says,

“I am very happy to be able to share my love of photography at the Altadena Library. When I first learned that my pieces would be displayed in a room used by the library community to meet for various activities I got the idea of doing something that represented meetings of all types. This exhibition contains images of humans, animals, plants, and nature relating to the theme of gatherings. At first, I thought of limiting the pieces to reflect only people getting together, but then as I went through my body of work, I saw that there are all kinds of gatherings that occur organically. Initially, I just didn’t think of them as gatherings, per se, but that’s exactly what they are. As the exhibition came together and it came time to figure out the display order, I noticed a sort of life sequence. From beginning to end, our lives are made up of gatherings. I hope the pieces inspire you to write about a gathering in which you participated or just observed, but which left some impression on you. We will all be richer for the stories you write in the book provided. I thank the Altadena Library for displaying my work.”

Purvi’s photos will be up from September 5th through September 29th.

Second Saturday Block Party

Saturday, September 21
9:00am - 9:30pm
at Main Library

20 Indie Makers • 20 Community Groups • LA’s Top Food Trucks

Free • Family Friendly

All proceeds benefit the development of an interactive, outdoor learning space at the library.

tasteofdena.eventbrite.com
Buy your tickets today!

Above: Happy Library staff sharing our eco-minded books and materials with shoppers

TASTE OF DENA
public library
SATURDAY, NOV 11TH • 1 - 6 P.M.

Altadena
20 Indie Makers • 20 Community Groups • LA’s Top Food Trucks

Free • Family Friendly

All proceeds benefit the development of an interactive, outdoor learning space at the library.
COMMUNITY FEATURES CONTINUED

We are always pleased to feature our community’s movers and shakers, and Collaborate PASadena is just that. An initiative based on Collective Impact research, Collaborate PASadena supports the vision of the children Pasadena, Altadena and Sierra Madre growing up in a safe, stable, and supportive environment that prepares them for success in school and life. Their upcoming Neighborhood Summit event is a great opportunity for those that want to join their efforts!

CALLING ALL NEIGHBORHOODS OF PASADENA, ALTADENA, & SIERRA MADRE!

COME TO A NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT!

Monday, September 18 | 5:30 - 8:00pm | La Casita Del Arroyo | 177 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena

Celebrating & Bridging Our Communities

Come share the story of your neighborhood’s strengths and challenges. Learn from one another’s experiences, and from some specialists, about how we can make our neighborhoods caring, safe, and fun places to live! Come make a difference together!

Learn more and RSVP at www.collaboratepasadena.org/neighborhood-summit

Thank You for Bringing Your Eclipse Excitement to the Library!

In case you have not kept up with the latest in science news, a solar eclipse recently passed over North America and people freaked out about it! Befuddled by NASA and similar organizations, the eclipse craze spread across the country, and eclipse viewing glasses became the hottest commodity in town. Thanks to the recent receipt of a significant in-kind donation, Altadena Library was able to distribute 2,000 eclipse viewing glasses to people in our community!

The highlight of our eclipse journey was our Eclipse Viewing event the morning of the eclipse. Hundreds of community members congregated in the Main Library parking lot to safely experience the partial solar eclipse. The collaborative nature of science was apparent, as community members of all ages shared their eclipse glasses and cereal box eclipse viewers and as local science experts shared their insights in real time. Fun was had by all, and we thank you for joining us to experience such an interesting natural phenomenon!

Do you know of any upcoming scientific incidents around which the Library could provide a program? Are you an expert yourself in a scientific field? Email hello@altadena.library.org and let us know about your idea!

Thank you and save the date for our next eclipse event in 2024.

Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life by Bill Burnett & Dave Evans

No guilt – come even if you haven’t read the books! Meets in the Director’s Office!

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 12TH

No Guilt Book Club

“...but remember, just because you don’t believe in something doesn’t mean it isn’t real.” -Katherine Howe, The Physick Book of Deliverance Dance

19th Wife by David Ebershoff

No matter what we all think we know of the Mormons, our fascination with polygamy is foremost. The 19th Wife gives a complete overview of the horrors of multiple wives in the early days of the Mormon church, and shows how it has carried over into these days with many of the break-away sects still clinging to the practice. The Latter-Day Saints claim to no longer practice it, but they still see “real” men to multiple wives for their enjoyment in the “hereafter”. This book does not show LDS in a bad light, it does however show extreme devotion and abuse of power as negatives, but who could argue those aren’t negatives in any situation? As the world continues to use religion to punish, kill or love thy neighbor, there is mixture of truth and just enough fiction to keep you reading. A wonderful peek into pluralism as it was over a hundred years ago, this story is blended with a modern-day story of Mormonism. Without stating in so many words, the book attempts to expose what the author feels is Mormonism’s hypocrisy and intolerance for any and all who do, or not, live the line.

Fooling Houdini: Magicians, Mentalists, Math Geeks and the Hidden Powers of the Mind by Alex Stone

Who doesn’t like magic? Come on...we all love to be fooled and mystified. This book takes us on a unique exploration into the world of magic; how (some) of it works, who some of the greats were and are. Stone profiles truly amazing folks and provides history going back to the middle ages. We learn how mathematics, probability, and statistics are involved in some cool tricks. In addition to being an accomplished Magician, Alex Stone is also a scientist and a science writer. The book is an entertaining narrative that combats the quirky world of magic with a fascinating scientific perspective, wide eyes, and a keen wit.

The useful novelty of this book is that the author recognized how the profession of magical entertainment is all about tricking the perceptions of the audience. Our club thought this was not just a book about magic but about how that art of magic is spellbinding to both those who perform it and those fooled by it.

Staff Picks for Adults

The last week in September is Banned Books Week, so staff picks in all sections this month have been challenged or banned at some point. Enjoy, rebellious readers!

Cat’s Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

In 1972, voted for removal from an Ohio school library, and in 1982 challenged at a New Hampshire High School, for reasons including the book challenges religion, “sick” and “garbage”

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

This work displays novelistic coverage of real-world events, providing unprecedented insight into the nature of crime in early 1960’s American culture. A parent in GA “complained about sex, violence, and profanity.”

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Challenged for “gambling, offensive language, and political viewpoint.” Also called “politically, racially, and socially offensive”

Make Something Up: Stories You Can’t Unread by Chuck Palahniuk

Challenged for profanity, sexual explicitness, and being “disgusting and all around offensive”

The Holy Bible “Religious viewpoint!”

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Cat’s Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Make Something Up: Stories You Can’t Unread by Chuck Palahniuk

The Holy Bible

Cynthia McCulloch, a patron at the Branch, won an iPad Mini for reading for 24 hours! She is an avid reader & especially enjoys urban fiction.

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Cat’s Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Make Something Up: Stories You Can’t Unread by Chuck Palahniuk

The Holy Bible

Cynthia McCulloch, a patron at the Branch, won an iPad Mini for reading for 24 hours! She is an avid reader & especially enjoys urban fiction.
Staff Picks for Children
Hundreds of children’s books that are considered by most to be classics have been banned. Check out some of these titles in our collection that have at some point been challenged across the U.S.!

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle
One of the most frequently banned books, challenged because the story “promotes witchcraft, crystal balls, and demons” and “undermines religious beliefs”

The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq by Jeanette Winter
Challenged because the book promotes another religion than Christianity and includes depictions of violence

George by Alex Gino
Published in 2015 and challenged for including LGBT characters and a portrayal of a transgender child

Staff Picks for Teens
Teens, get in touch with your inner rebel with these Banned Books!

Drama by Raina Telgemeier
Challenged because it includes LGBT characters, was deemed sexually explicit, and was considered to have an offensive political viewpoint

This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki & Jillian Tamaki
Challenged because it includes LGBT characters, drug use and profanity, and was considered sexually explicit with mature themes

Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan
Challenged because its cover has an image of two boys kissing and was considered to include sexually explicit LGBT content

Looking for Alaska by John Greene
Challenged for a sexually explicit scene that may lead a student to “sexual experimentation”

Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell
Challenged for offensive language

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS - SEPTEMBER

Tail Waggin’ Tutors
Saturday, September 2, at 11:00am

Fun Flick Friday: The Captain Underpants Movie
Friday, September 15, at 3:30pm

Family Movie Sing-A-Long: Mulan
Monday, September 18, at 6:30pm

BOB LUCAS BRANCH LIBRARY UPDATES & EVENTS

Calling All Babies!
Baby & Infant Storytime will be starting this fall on Thursday, September 14, 2017. Studies have shown that reading, singing and playing with your baby helps with language development, as well as strengthens their emotional and social well-being. Join us for sing-alongs, lap-bounce activities and stories that stimulate and engage your little ones. Storytime will occur every Thursday from 10:30am - 11:15am. For ages 0-3 with parents and caregivers.

Baby & Infant Storytime
Every Thursday at 10:30am - 11:15am
Enjoy a morning of rhymes, songs and stories. This program is designed for babies and infants, ages 0-3 years old and their parents or caregivers.

Family Game Day
Friday, September 8, at 2:00pm - 5:00pm (every 2nd Friday of the month)
Board games are available for the public to play. Challenge the librarian to a game of Scrabble if you dare!

Animal Finger Puppets
Thursday, September 21, at 3:30pm
Join us to make some farm animal finger puppets! Make all the animals found on a farm and more! (Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate)

Movie Day
Friday, September 22, at 3:30pm
Come enjoy a free showing of Baby Boss. Popcorn provided for as long as supplies last.
ATTENTION: DISTRICT CLOSURE
Monday, September 4, All Day
Both the Main Library and Bob Lucas Branch will be closed for Labor Day.

All-Ages Chess Night
Tuesdays, September 5, 12, 19, and 26, at 6:30pm
Community chess enthusiast Will Patton will lead this weekly Chess Night for chess players at all experience levels! All you need to bring is your love of the game and willingness to share it with others.

Adult Sewing Class
Saturdays, September 9, 16, 23, and 30, at 10:00am
This popular class has already been filled, but there is still room on the waitlist! To register for the waitlist, email Mikayla at marelalo@altadenalibrary.org.

No Guilt Book Club
Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00pm
No guilt – come even if you haven’t read the books! This fun book club meets in the Director’s Office at the Main Library.

Early Closure for Taste of ’Dena
Saturday, September 23, at 3:00pm
To allow time for set-up for the Library’s big fundraiser, the Main Library will close early.

Taste of ’Dena Fundraiser Benefiting Altadena Library District
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Altadena Library District invites you to Taste of ’Dena! Please join us for a night of delectable wine, beer, and spirit tastings, samplings of amuse-bouches from a diverse assortment of local restaurants and caterers, and exciting prize drawings! Guests must be 21 years old and over.

All proceeds will support the development of a community-oriented, interactive outdoor learning space around the Library. This expanded and improved garden environment will increase the Library’s capacity to provide outdoor learning opportunities for children and teens and a serene reading space surrounded by indigenous flora for patrons of all ages and passersby.

Tickets are going quickly for this special event supporting the Altadena Library District. We encourage you to take advantage of our easy online system to reserve your spot today!

Can’t attend but want to be a part of the impact? You can make a donation in the online ticket portal as well!
TASTEOFDENA.EVENTBRITE.COM

Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, September 25, at 5:00pm

Open Mic Night
Tuesday, September 26, at 7:00pm
Enjoy unique performances by musicians, storytellers, poets, and more in the comfort of your neighborhood library. Some content may not be appropriate for all ages. Discretion is advised.

Cooking Class with the “Urban Forager”
Saturday, September 30, at 2:30pm
Join local food blogger and Altadena resident Elisa Callow for a special cooking class and learn how to make homemade pasta with fresh herbs! Guests will get to take home fresh samples that they help make in class. The program is open to teens and up, and registration is required. Email volunteer@altadenalibrary.org to register and claim your spot.

Main Library
600 E. Mariposa Street
Altadena, CA 91001
626-798-0833

Hours
Monday & Tuesday
10am to 9pm
Wednesday through Saturday
10am to 6pm

Passport Office (Main Library)
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
626-798-2950
Monday and Tuesday
9am to 8pm
Wednesday through Saturday
9am to 5pm

Bob Lucas Branch
2659 Lincoln Avenue
Altadena, CA 91001
626-798-8338

Hours
Monday, Tuesday & Friday
10am to 6pm
Wednesday & Thursday
10am to 8pm

Become a Friend of the Library
The Friends of the Library meet on the first Monday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30pm in the Community Room. You do not have to be a member to attend. For information, go to AltadenaLibrary.org/friends-library

SMILE
The Library often photographs or video tapes programs for use in publicity materials. By being present during these activities, you consent to use of your appearance or likeness by the Library, and its licensees, designees, or assignees, in all media, worldwide, in perpetuity. To ensure the privacy of individuals and children, images will not be identified using names or personal identifying information without written approval from the photographed subject, parent, or legal guardian. Thank you!