New Year, New Strategic Direction

In late 2019, the Altadena Library District (ALD) undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process facilitated by Margaret Sullivan Studio (MSS). From input gathered through a series of community engagement sessions, focus groups, one-on-one conversations, and a survey, the plan incorporates specific community input from a diverse cross-section of community members, Town Council representatives, and patrons of the Altadena Libraries.

The goal of this process was to develop a flexible strategic framework for the future of our libraries. ALD will continue to be a central organizing hub that serves a diverse set of patrons, provides a wide range of services, and overlaps with many other community assets, institutions, and groups in Altadena.

The final Strategic Plan sets out a strategic framework for the Altadena Libraries’ future that prioritizes the community’s needs and aspirations while honoring the unique characteristics that make Altadena a special community. The next-generation Altadena Library District will be a powerful contributor to the civic, cultural, economic, and educational health and well-being of all Altadena’s residents. Our library district can and should be a national example of how a public library creates a stronger community.

Guided by the newly developed values of Equity, Innovation, and Empathy, below are the three primary priorities of the Altadena Libraries’ new strategic plan that will guide district operations for years to come:

To learn more about these priorities and read the Executive Summary of the Strategic Plan, visit www.altadenalibrary.org/strategicplan2020. A comprehensive report discussing the process in its entirety and summarizing the data gathered is in development and will be available in early 2020.

Happy New Year from the Altadena Libraries!
Enjoy a fun New Year’s video from library staff at www.altadenalibrary.org/NewYear2020!
January Events

Seed Library: Water & Weeds
Saturday, January 4, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Main Library
For adults. Sylvia Holmes will share water saving tips and lessons learned from three of Transition Pasadena’s garden projects and the Beautiful Bioswales project.

All-Ages Chess Night
Every Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00pm, Main Library

Open Mic Night
Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 - 8:30pm, Main Library

Nature Treks in Virtual Reality
Wednesday, January 8, 5:00 - 6:00pm, Main Library
For ages 15+. Sign up to try out the latest in Virtual Reality at www.altadenalibrary.org/programs!

Crafternoon: DIY Kaleidoscope
Thursday, January 9, 3:30pm, Bob Lucas Branch
For children ages 5-12. See the world in a whole new light through your own DIY kaleidoscope!

Author Talk: “More Things in the Heavens”
Saturday, January 11, 2:00pm, Main Library
For adults. Join NASA scientists Michael Werner and Peter Eisenhardt for a talk about the remarkable results obtained by NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope over the past 16+ years.

Star Wars in Virtual Reality
January 11, 17, and 31, 5:00 - 6:00pm, Main Library
For ages 15+. Sign up to try out the latest in Virtual Reality at www.altadenalibrary.org/programs!

Nom Nom Club: Sushi
Tuesday, January 14, 4:00pm, Main Library
For teens in grades 6-12. Learn how to make sushi with simple ingredients at home!

Pages & Popcorn Club
Tuesdays in January starting January 14, 5:00 - 6:00pm, Main Library
For tweens ages 10-12. Learn more and sign up online at www.altadenalibrary.org/tweens.

No Guilt Book Club
Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 - 8:00pm, Main Library

PRIDE Book Club
Wednesday, January 15, 4:00pm, Main Library
For teens in grades 6-12. LGBTQ teens and allies are invited to a new, inclusive gathering!

Town Hall Meeting: Architectural Planning
Thursday, January 16, 6:30 - 7:30pm, Main Library
Review options of phased plans for facility improvements at the Main Library, prepared by the Architectural Resources Group, and give your feedback!

Adult Craft: Mandala Art
Friday, January 17, 11:00am, Bob Lucas Branch

D&D @ ALD
Saturday, January 18, 10:00am, Main Library
For teens in grades 6-12. We will provide snacks, refreshments, player handbooks, and extra dice; you bring your friends, your character sheets, and your Dungeon Master! This is an event for teens only, and there will not be instruction for beginners on playing D&D.

Chinese New Year Crafts
Saturday, January 18, 1:00pm, Main Library
For children ages 5-12. Ring in the Year of the Rat with DIY finger puppets and paper lanterns crafts!

True Crime All the Time Book Club
Saturday, January 18, 4:00pm, Main Library

DISTRICT CLOSURE – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Monday, January 20, Both Libraries

Mt Lowe Chamber Players Concert
Sunday, January 26, 3:00 - 6:00pm, Main Library
For adults. The Friends of the Altadena Library are pleased to present the Mt Lowe Chamber Players at a free chamber music concert featuring early works from Rossini, Mozart, Ives and Juan Chrisostomo Arriaga for strings. Musicians include Joel Fargman and Carrie Kennedy, Dmitri Bovard, Delores Bing and Christina Soule, and Steve Edelman.

Check out www.altadenalibrary.org/programs for updates and even more upcoming events!
Introducing... Readadena!
Made possible by funding from the Friends of the Altadena Library

The Altadena Libraries are proud to introduce Readadena, Altadena’s very own “one community, one book” initiative launching in March 2020. The book chosen for the initiative by a committee of library staff and community collaborators is the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County’s Wild LA: Exploring the Amazing Nature in and Around Los Angeles, by Lila M. Higgins, Gregory B. Pauly, Jason G. Goldman, and Charles Hood. While perhaps an untraditional pick for typical book clubs or other literacy initiatives, this book is “equal parts natural history, field guide, and trip planner,” lending itself to celebrate the outdoor experiences and scenic features unique to Altadena.

The idea behind the initiative is simple. The library will order hundreds of copies of the book and put on a series of engaging events about the topics covered in the book. Reading groups will form around town, with support from the libraries. Everyone reads! Neighbors connect and learn together, and our community is strengthened by the bonds that grow over the simple acts of reading and exploring together.

The initiative will culminate in a final event on Saturday, May 30, featuring a panel of some of the authors of the book and a related activity. Save the date and stay tuned for more details about how to get involved!

Graphic Novel Workshops for Tweens

The Altadena Libraries are pleased to announce receipt of an Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant that will empower tweens (ages 10-12) to bring their stories to life through the creation of their own graphic novels, from start to finish! Over the course of 10 weeks in the spring of 2020, 10 participants of all experience levels will get to write original stories and create illustrations to fill three publish-ready pages.

All participants’ finished pages will be compiled into a book that will be published in May 2020 and that will live in the Altadena Library collection. Participants will also get their own copies of the book to take home!

Email childrens@altadenalibrary.org for more information!

cloudLibrary: A New Digital Reading Experience

Do you currently use Overdrive or Libby to check out e-books and e-audiobooks? Your digital reading experience is about to get a whole lot easier! cloudLibrary by bibliotheca, available for Apple iOS, Android, Windows, Amazon Fire, Nook, and more, will soon replace Overdrive and provide Altadena Library patrons access to thousands of additional titles on an easy-to-use platform. In late February, Overdrive will no longer be accessible – more information about how to transfer to cloudLibrary will be emailed out in late January! Make sure you are signed up for email updates at www.altadenalibrary.org/newsletters.

cloudLibrary™
by bibliotheca

Explore the Virtual Universe

Sign up to discover the latest advancements in virtual reality with the library’s Oculus Quest VR headset. From self-guided nature experiences to lightsaber battles with Darth Vader himself, learn the basics of VR and get a taste of all the virtual possibilities!

SEE DATES & SIGN UP AT www.altadenalibrary.org/programs!

Limited to 10 people per session. Each guest guaranteed 30 minutes in headset.
We are connectors.

Need Meeting Space?

The Main Library offers free, quiet meeting space in its Small Study Room. Reservations for one-hour sessions can be made when the library opens at 10:00am and are valid for that day only. Equipped with a table, swivel chairs, and now a Microsoft Surface Hub, the Small Study Room is ideal for groups of 6-8 people in person (and even more remotely through the Surface Hub’s conference call feature with Skype).

Do you have questions about using the Microsoft Surface Hub for your next meeting? Call the District Administrative Assistant at (626) 798-0833 extension 118 or email hello@altadenalibrary.org to learn more!

Stories & Play!

Connect with other local parents and learn critical early childhood reading and social skills!

- **Pajama Story Time (All Ages)**
  - Mondays, 6:30pm, Main Library

- **Early Literacy Playtime (Ages 0-5)**
  - Tuesdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Main Library

- **Baby-Toddler Story Time (Ages 0-3)**
  - Wednesdays, 10:30am, Main Library

- **Baby Story Time (Ages 0-2)**
  - Thursdays, 10:30am, Bob Lucas Branch

- **Bilingual Story Time (Ages 0-5)**
  - Fridays, 11:00am, Main Library

- **Lego Club (All Ages)**
  - Fridays, 3:30 - 5:00pm, Main Library

Community Resource on Display: Braille Institute

In celebration of Braille Literacy month, Braille Institute will be displaying braille technology from over the last 100 years, as well as their plans for the future, in the glass display case at the Main Library! Braille Institute is a non-profit organization offering a broad range of free programs, classes and services serving thousands of students of all ages to empower themselves to live more enriching lives with blindness and vision loss. They serve the community from seven centers and 330 community outreach locations throughout Southern California. Learn more at www.brailleinstitute.org.

Adult Book Club Reads

**No Guilt Book Club**

- **Tuesday, January 14, at 7:00pm**

  - *All the Ugly and Wonderful Things* by Bryn Greenwood
  - *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

**True Crime**

- **Saturday, January 18, at 4:00pm**

  - *The Lazarus Files* by Matthew McGough

Equipping You for Community Connection

As part of the Readadena initiative (see page 3 for details), the Altadena Libraries want to help you connect with your neighbors through reading! When Readadena launches in March 2020, the libraries will have reading group kits available for you to make hosting a neighborhood book club easy! Each kit will include discussion guides and materials to empower your group to explore your neighborhood in new ways with Wild LA in hand.

Want to host your very own reading group for friends and neighbors this spring?

Email marketing@altadenalibrary.org to get more information!
Local Artists on Display

From January 3 through February 27, the walls of the Community Room will feature the work of local artist Joyce Miles (right). Of her art, she says, "My art depicts a variety of African Americans colorful life styles. I also enjoy painting nature in its natural setting." Joyce’s art also delves into historic subjects to memorialize African American history. Her large body of work includes acrylics, water, oil, paintings and sculptures as well.

From January 4 through February 27, the Reading Court will showcase the art of students in Room 13/Eliot Arts (left). Room 13/Eliot Arts is an afterschool art program at Eliot Arts Magnet Academy in Altadena which fosters four main pillars: Creative Expression, Collaboration, Philosophical Inquiry, and Business Enterprise.

Learn more about the artists on display at www.altadenalibrary.org/january2020art.

Share Local Events Online!
At www.altadenalibrary.org/altadena, everyone can post their upcoming community events, meetings, fundraisers, and more on the Altadena Libraries’ free Community Calendar! Simply click the Submit an Event button, fill out your event details, and your event will appear! If you ever need to make edits, simply email your changes to marketing@altadenalibrary.org and staff will make your edits promptly!

Supporting Our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness
Throughout January, bring in donations of travel-size toiletries to the libraries to make “Hygiene Kits” that will support Union Station Homeless Services and their efforts to meet the basic needs of people rebuilding their lives and transitioning homelessness.

For a detailed wish list of donations, stop by the libraries! If you would like to be part of an assembly event in February to build the actual kits and learn more about homelessness in our community, email volunteer@altadenalibrary.org.

Friends of the Altadena Library Update

Thanks to your support throughout 2019, we were able to donate $34,500 to the Library for the 2019-2020 FY. Among other things, this will pay for the Second Saturday Concerts and (new in 2020!) three Chamber Music Concerts at the Library; the Summer Movie Nights; Parent Workshops; Literacy and ESL Materials; the Readadena program; Poetry and Cookies; Children’s Resources; more Wi-Fi Hotspots that can be checked out; and printing of this newsletter.

We owe tremendous thanks to all of you who donated to us, or who joined the Friends, in 2019. We would especially like to thank those who joined at a higher membership level, in particular our Lifetime members. But in addition to monetary donations, we would also like to thank all of you - both FOAL members and Library volunteers - who donated your valuable time to helping the Friends in 2019. From helping at weekly book sorting, to working at book sales, to taking photos or videos of our events, we couldn’t do it without you!

In 2020, we will continue our plan of having three big book sales per year with a huge 2-day sale on February 22 - 23, followed by a massive 3-day sale from May 15 - 17, and another 2-day sale in September. We’re currently busy arranging a speaker for our next Annual Meeting in June, and we plan to hold another entertaining “Book Pitch Party” later in the year too. We hope to see you at one or more of these exciting events!

Claire Newman | President

P.S. Please check out our website, Facebook, and Twitter feed for photos and news: www.altadenalibrary.org/friends

@AltadenaFriends

To get more involved with what we do, please contact us at altadena_friends@yahoo.com, or come to our next Board meeting on Monday January 6, at 7:30pm in the Main Library’s Community Room. And all are welcome to join the fun at Friends book sorting in the Main Library’s basement from 7-9pm most Mondays.

Left: Martha Maynard shared a book at the Book Pitch Party in November.
Don’t Miss Out!
Our online calendar has even more opportunities to ignite your curiosity and connect with your neighbors at the Library! Bookmark this link: www.altadenalibrary.org/programs so you never miss a library event!

Follow us on social media for even more fun updates:

Process Your Passport Application at the Library
The Passport Office is located at the Main Library and is open for walk-ins and appointments (recommended):

Monday & Tuesday
9:00am - 8:00pm
Wednesday - Saturday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Call (626) 798-2950 to make an appointment and visit www.altadenalibrary.org/passports to learn how to prepare for your visit!

Monthly Library Board of Trustees Meeting
The public is welcome to attend the Altadena Library Board of Trustees monthly meeting on the 4th Monday of the month. January’s meeting will take place on Monday, January 27, at 5:00pm in the Community Room at the Main Library.

Agendas and resources can be found online at: www.altadenalibrary.org/board-materials.

Miss a meeting? Recordings of the Board meetings can be found on YouTube typically the day after the meeting. Search Altadena Library on YouTube to find past meeting videos.

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!