

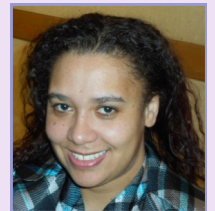
Honoring the Past,
Cultivating the Present,
Empowering the Future.

Special points of interest:

- From the Director
- Bob Lucas Branch
- Children
- Teens
- Adults
- Save the Date
- Book Clubs

Children's is the Department of FUN!

Having fun isn't hard at the Altadena Library -- especially if you are a child. We have age appropriate activities for just about everyone. Just as you might suspect, we like to read to children. Bring your 0 to 5 year-olds to any of a number of StoryTime offerings. We have special times for babies and preschoolers, and even Teddy Bear StoryTime so you can come in your pajamas. There's a bilingual StoryTime and our new Sensory StoryTime for children ages 2-5 who have autism, sensory integration challenges, or difficulties simply sitting still. Reading to children is so important for so many reasons. It stimulates language and cognitive skills; it also builds motivation, curiosity, and memory. According to Cassandra Stearns, senior librarian in the Children's and Youth Services area, "My goal is to get kids to read and to read for pleasure. It's the motivation behind everything we do. And all reading is good. Comics books, cereal boxes, Dr. Seuss — it doesn't matter."



Librarian Cassandra Stearns



Librarian Carlene Chiu with volunteer Andrew celebrating Chinese New Year.

While it's clear that our librarians are all about the books, they are clearly in touch with their inner child and their outer parent. That means, in addition to reading activities, like our summer programs, they do lots of playful things. Librarians Cassandra, Carrie, and Lucy at the main library, and Carlene at the Branch, are behind the amazing craft projects that are scheduled monthly. Carlene Chiu, the Branch librarian, reports, "Some of our most popular crafts have to do with food — such as making snowmen out of marshmallows for the holidays or Christmas trees out of ice cream cones. We bring the supplies and the children bring their imaginations!" There are movies and popcorn on Friday, Lego Club, video games, and lots of surprises and special programs, too. We have had DIY stations of all sorts, puppet shows, petting zoos, magicians and story tellers. Kids can read to Cedar, the beautiful collie dog. Clearly, for fabulous, free, fun family entertainment, you have to go to the library. Check out our calendar online at www.altadenalibrary.org/programs or get a paper copy in the library.



The Libraries will open at noon on Friday, March 4. We apologize for the inconvenience.



From the Director



Mindy Kittay, Director



The public library is a center of public happiness first, of public education next.

— John Cotton Dana, *A Library Primer*, 1896

What a joyful month February was here at the Library! From dancing to live music to writing notes of kindness and encouragement (in exchange for the removal of fines, I might add). We had children reading to dogs and a Chinese calligrapher creating beautiful, inspiring messages for our patrons to take home. There was a special drum circle and dancing, and we ended the month with a community potluck as part of our brand new book club called **From Page to Table**. Who wouldn't find joy in a club that involves cooking, sharing recipes, and eating? And then there was the day that Charter Cable services went down in Altadena and our local work-from-home force needed our support. Our IG Internet access was up and running and we had a rush of business people, entrepreneurs, and students coming in to take advantage of it and get their work done. It was wonderful. We saw people who had not visited our library in years and many first-time users. They were astounded at all we had to offer.

But this is part of the heritage of this library. As I sift through the history of the Altadena Library District, I can see that this Library has always been a source of public happiness for our community. That happiness might lie in finding the missing piece to answer a burning question or providing the opportunity to forget, even if just for a few minutes, the everyday problems of life by diving into a book or seeing

beautiful art or hearing great music. Or it might come in the form of reliable internet.

And there is so much more to celebrate.

In a little over a year, the Main Library will be 50 years old. Recently, I was researching our history for a presentation to the Pasadena Historical Museum Volunteers. I found some of the original architectural drawings done by Boyd Georgi. And there was a big surprise! He had planned a Pagoda for the northeast corner of the property. Wouldn't it be fabulous to finish Mr. Georgi's vision and create the Pagoda as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration?



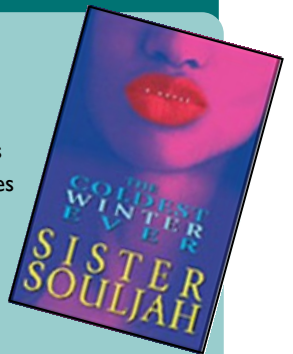
If this idea appeals to you and you would like to help (either financially or in the planning process), we would love to talk to you! Let's make our 50th a special celebration. The Altadena Library – bringing People + Ideas together!



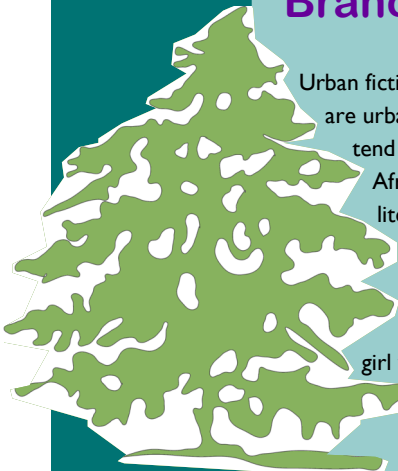
Branch Notes: Highlighting Urban Fiction

Urban fiction or street lit is a popular genre at the Bob Lucas Branch Library. Many of our patrons are urban city dwellers that find the grittiness and rawness of urban fiction appealing. The stories tend to reflect the contemporary lives and culture of African-Americans. The primarily African-American authors give voice to experiences not always reflected in mainstream literature. Urban fiction describes the dark side of urban living and features coming of age stories, love stories, and gangster sagas.

A good introduction to urban fiction is Sister Souljah's *The Coldest Winter Ever* (followed by the sequel, *A Deeper Love Inside: The Porsche Santiago Story*). The first book is a coming-of-age story about a 17 year-old girl who starts to question the ethics of drug dealing after her drug dealing father is sent to jail. Another classic urban fiction title we carry is *Push* and *The Kid* by Sapphire. Avid reader and library patron Cynthia McCulloch likes urban fiction because "the stories are entertaining, face-paced, and real."



Carlene Chiu





Children: Jose-Luis Orozco is Coming in May!

La departamento infantil está llena de sorpresas! The Children's Department is full of surprises! We are pleased to announce that Grammy-nominated Jose-Luis Orozco will be performing at the Latino Cultural Festival at the library on May 14th. The award winning educator,

author, and recording artist has been entertaining children for 40 years with his books and songs in Spanish

and English. Mr. Orozco prides himself in “providing rich Latin American culture in my music and it is my desire to pass on this heritage to the children of today so that they may take pleasure in passing it on to the children of tomorrow.” He has produced more than a dozen CDs and three songbooks. His most recent CD *Come Bien! Eat Right* was nominated for 2016 Grammy for Best Children’s Album — the first bilingual recording to be nominated in that category. You can check out his CDs at the library! *Sus CDs están disponibles en la biblioteca.*

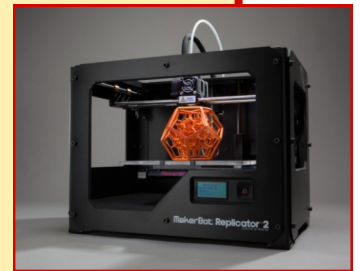
Cassandra Stearns

Teens: 3D Printing Demystified!

Our teen 3D printing workshops will begin April 1st and many library patrons have been asking how 3D printing actually works. (No, it’s not magic). I like to compare it to 2D printing. It is very much like sending a print job from your computer to an inkjet printer. Instead of ink, however, you are printing with a substance called a thermoplastic. Thermoplastics are ideal for 3D printing because they are soft when heated and harden when cool. When you send your 3D design to be printed, the thermoplastic is deposited in many successive layers. Very thin layers! Here’s where it pays to be patient -- some objects take several hours to print.

So, how does the printer know what to print? Well, the 3D object is designed using special software. The object is “sliced” in a series of layers and then descriptions of the slices are sent to the 3D printer which then constructs the layers. The teens at our workshops will be designing their objects using a 3D design/building program. The 3D printers are 5th generation Makerbots, which we were able to purchase through our \$30,000 award from the *Pitch an Idea!* grant.

Pitch an Idea! 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

Adults: New Reading Lounge Makes Debut



Here at the Altadena Library District, we are constantly considering new ways to redefine our existing spaces – not only to better serve our patrons, but also to create an environment that inspires creativity, awakens the imagination, and fosters a climate of life-long learning. The space we have most recently updated and improved is our magazine area. The new magazine area — or reading lounge — offers comfortable seating, gorgeous views of the outside garden, and over a hundred different magazine titles, from *Antiques* to *Women’s Health* (and everything in between). We literally have a wall of periodicals to choose from, including our newest subscriptions: *Do It Yourself Magazine*, *Craft Beer and Brewing*, and *Dr. Oz The Good Life*. Wherever your interests lie, we encourage you to visit our new reading lounge and let your imagination run wild.

Ryan Roy

Babble, Blather and Buzz

Altadena Libraries Have Fans!

I really enjoyed this band [PCH]. What a great evening! I hope you have them again in the near future. Thank you Altadena Library!

Marla Watanabe

Thanks, Mindy for hiring such a terrific band [PCH]. We had a blast.

Dario Ciriello

And our Reference Desk made a lot of new friends during a recent Charter Cable outage:

About 30 students from **Aveson's** elementary school showed up last week after they lost their internet connection right in the middle of their research project. They flooded the reference desk with questions. Librarians Sue, Cassandra and Helen worked as a tag-team, serving lines of kids.

Program Highlights

The Joy of Designing with Nature

Saturday, March 5, 1:00 to 3:00

Please join us for a lively look at how

Lisa Novick turned her suburban yard into a vibrant native plant habitat. She will discuss the ins and outs of designing with native plants, and how to combine them with orchard trees or other edibles. Come with your questions. Leave with possibilities. Lisa works on behalf of the environment at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, where she is Director of Outreach.



the Mariel exodus – floods Miami . The same decade sees the sudden arrival of hundreds of thousands of Central Americans fleeing death squads and mass murders. By the early 1990s, a political debate over illegal immigration has begun. This screening will be followed by a discussion led by special guest Dr. David Hayes-Bautista., currently Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture at the School of Medicine, UCLA.



Latino Americans is a part of an ongoing series of Latino-American library programming. *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* has been made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Tea@Two -- a Steeped in Culture presentation by Linda Louie

Saturday, March 12, 2:00 PM



Join Linda Louie, owner of Bana Tea Company, for soul warming samples of pu-erh and black teas as well as tales of her travels purchasing

for her passion. From its origins in the forests of Yunnan to its role in scientific studies on longevity, tea has served many functions for thousands of years. Find out how tea and tea culture evolved . Most importantly, learn what constitutes the perfect cup.

Latino Americans: 500 years of History, Episode VI: Peril and Promise (1980 to 2000)

With David Hayes-Bautista

Saturday, March 19, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

This is the finale of our series on Latino History. In the 1980s the nature of the Latino Diaspora changes again. From Cuba, a second wave of refugees to United States –

Second Saturday featuring Petrella and Mixed Influence

March 12, 6:30 PM

Imagine Tina Turner singing Country Music. This is **Petrella** the first lady of Country Soul. She has performed on the Ernest Tubbs Midnight Jamboree Radio Show (Nashville, TN) and has opened for Gladys Knight (Bill Pickett Black Cowboy Rodeo, Pomona, CA). With seven nationally distributed CD's Petrella has made history as the first African-American female country singer on the cover of Cashbox Magazine (1993). **El Patron, Sweeter Than Honey, and The Altadena Ale & Wine House** will add to the fun.



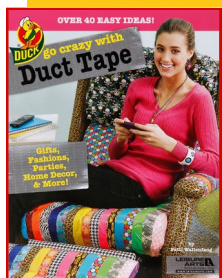
Dear Library,

I like your book's and your library is awesome. The staff is nice and the books are amazing. Thank you for all you do to help out our community. We are greatfull for what you do.

From Aveson schools

Local writer **Michael Sedano** shared his experience attending the Latino Americans program at the Altadena Library in the online publication **La Bloga**. Check it out at labloga.blogspot.com/2016/02. It's the second article in his post.

Hot Titles! National Craft Month

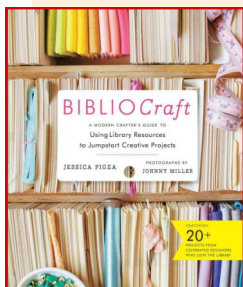


ADULT Go Crazy With Duct Tape / Patti Wallenfang

Wake up your world with today's DUCK™ brand duct tape! Use their cool colors and prints to design your own jewelry and all kinds of bags. You can customize sunglasses, boots, belts--even a recliner! Lots of photos and the basic how-tos make it easy to finish over 40 projects!

Scissors, Paper, Craft: 30 Pretty Projects All Cut, Folded And Crafted From Paper / Christine Leech

This charming book makes the most of our current love affair with all things simple and handmade. It is filled with easy projects that are suitable for all crafters, no matter what their level of skill. From very basic mobiles and gift bows to notebooks, frames and decorative storage boxes, this book proves that you can do just about anything with paper!



Bibliocraft: A Modern Crafter's Guide to Using Library Resources to Jumpstart Creative Projects / Jessica Pigza

Pigza, a rare-books librarian at the New York Public Library, connects her two passions—libraries and crafting—in this collection of book-inspired craft projects. This was voted a Best Book of 2014 by Library Journal.

CHILDREN

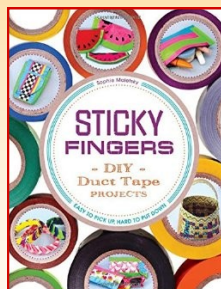
Cool Collage: The Art of Creativity for Kids! / Anders Hanson

This book takes the reader through the basic terms and techniques of collage. Step-by-step projects are highlighted to provide a fun and creative way to familiarize kids with different mediums and techniques. These activities take the "how-to" further and really encourage kids to explore and expand their own artistic talents.



TEENS

Sticky Fingers- DIY Duct Tape Projects / Sophie Maletsky



Teens can get in on the duct tape craze, too! The book includes tons of photographs alongside directions designed to make creating a wallet and making a bag even easier, while also providing a steady stream of ideas for personalizing and embellishing your duct tape creations.

Lauren A. McCoy, Cassandra Stearns & Carrie Wilson

Looking Up!

The Library is honored to present the debut of photographer **Roger Kelly** for our March Art Exhibit in the Barbara J. Pearson Community Room. His exhibit, *Looking Up*, is a series of black and white photographs that encourage viewers to notice the beauty in details, patterns, shapes, and imperfections found in likely and unlikely places.



What Are You Reading?

These books are not only a good read, but a good twin read: Albert Camus' *The Stranger* (written in 1942) and its corollary, Kamel Daoud's *The Meursault Investigation* (written in 2013). It becomes obvious on page one of either book that from now on these two must be paired together. Camus' novel leaves a big unanswered question: who, really, is the l'Etranger? Daoud's book seeks to answer that question.

The crux of *The Stranger* is that an Algerian-born French colonial (Meursault) knifes to death a native-born Algerian Arab on the beach, because, essentially, the heat of the sun temporarily

destroys his shaky equilibrium. Camus leaves the Arab dead, but also unnamed and totally unimportant through the rest of the novel.

The Meursault Investigation, written from the point of view of the dead Arab's brother, becomes an intriguing parallel to Camus' original tale, and an answer to a question that a colonialist might not think to ask: what was that Arab's life about? Though that was deliberately not the concern of Camus, Daoud's novel adds a powerful dimension, a sense of balance. These two books together make one powerful story. (By the way, the victim's name was Musa.)

Louise Miller, Patron

Linda Weaver Clark presents Family Legacy Workshop

Tuesday, April 5 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Linda Weaver Clarke believes that it is important to teach our children their heritage. Each of us has a story to tell. It's up to us to write these experiences down. She will teach you the most important elements of how to develop your writing skills so you can document your family history or your autobiography. Find out how to get your books edited, and ready for print, and published. Your life and your ancestors come alive on paper!



Save the Date!

Leigh Adams presents The Art and Delight of Water Harvesting

Tuesday April 19 at 7pm

Please join us for an invigorating evening with local artist, educator, and water conservationist Leigh Adams. She reconfigured her Altadena yard to capture and hold as much water as possible. She utilized resourceful measures to turn an arid hillside into an oasis of fruit trees, herbs, and edibles. Leigh will explain water capturing techniques you can try at home such as bioswales, hugelkultur, French drains, grey water, and more. She

will also speak of conservation measures that have worked for her and the enjoyment she has experienced along the way. All will be amply illustrated with her photos.

Author Rebecca Bricker and *The Secret of Marie*

Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 PM.

Rebecca is a former Altadenan who has written an art-history mystery set in Monet's Giverny. *The Secret of Marie* weaves a modern-day love story with the romantic tale of American Impressionist painter Theodore Robinson and his favorite model — a woman known only as Marie, who has perplexed art historians for years. The presentation will include a slide show and tips for those interested in visiting Giverny. Rebecca also will share how, during her research in a museum vault, she made a significant discovery that sheds new light on the mysterious Marie. She currently lives in Florence, Italy. She will have all her books for sale that evening.



Our Altadena Libraries. Read On

- ◆ Click here for more Events
- ◆ Click here for the March Calendar
- ◆ Main Library
600 E. Mariposa St.
Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 798-0833
- ◆ Bob Lucas Branch
2659 N. Lincoln Ave.
Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 798-8338

Become a Friend of the Library

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It's a never failing spring in the desert.”

— Andrew Carnegie

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.

No Guilt Book Club:

Truly Horrific and Truly a Crime -- or Is It Vice Versa?

The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson cruises between past and present to present a tale that is a bit choppy, dark and very morbid. In retrospect, it can be said that it was a book well worth reading, both for the gritty understanding of the ravaged country of North Korea under the control of a mad man, and for an appreciation of the fine art of trauma narrative. It read like non-fiction, while our other selection, the true crime classic **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil** by John Berendt bops along like a fun novel. If you're curious about stories of drag queens, murder mysteries, and towns with voodoo rituals and beliefs, and if you dote on colorful characters rife with eccentricities and foibles, you'll love it.

Berendt is open and honest in telling this story. By inserting his opinions and reactions to what he uncovers, you feel like you're experiencing Savannah right by his side. For the March 8 meeting of the *No Guilt Book Club* we will be reading **Dead Wake: the Last Crossing of the Lusitania** by Erik Larson for non-fiction and **A Little Life: a Novel** by Hanya Yanigihara is our fiction choice.

Please don't forget our new cookbook club.

From Page to Table meets on the 4th Saturday every other month, from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Cook a new recipe from a book and bring your creation and a copy of the recipe to share and discuss. See you April 23!

Helen

IMPORTANT!

The Library often photographs or videotapes 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!