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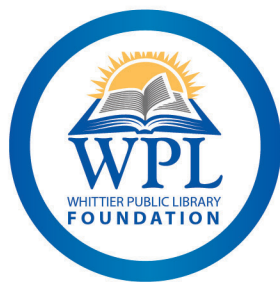
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WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

7344 Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602-1730
562.567.9920

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News

WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

Spring/Summer 2023 whittierplf.org



President's Message

Springtime tidings! I am so excited to be able to share with you the extraordinary efforts of WPLF friends, members, and board members who have worked collaboratively with our outstanding library staff in recent months—bringing to library patrons a variety of outstanding programming at Whittier Public Library in 2023!

As just one example, after a COVID-reflected hiatus of a few years, the Foundation's Annual Spring Tea was held at the newly renovated Central Library on March 2. Its theme, "Celebrating Women's History Month," gave attendees an opportunity to reflect upon the courage and countless contributions of women in/to our local community and shared history, and an opportunity to contribute to the great work of WPL via donations and renewed memberships. The tea was a lovely opportunity for fellowship, but it was also an important reminder that the library is not only a place where stories from the past are archived—it's also a resource whereby community members can share their own stories and create new knowledge for the future, as reflected in WPL's succinct but powerful mission statement, which I share whenever I can: "Connecting people to knowledge, to ideas, and to one another." With this in mind, I am thrilled to be able to share with you that just like the Annual Tea, Whittier's "one city, one book" program, Whittier Reads, is back! Throughout the month of April, there will be opportunities for friends and patrons of WPL to attend multiple cultural events at the library related to the themes and subjects of the Whittier Reads book, absolutely free of charge. This month of excellent programming will culminate in a free-to-the-public, in-person interview at WPL with Javier Zamora, author of the 2023 Whittier Reads book: *Solito: A Memoir* (Hogarth Books, 2022)! On behalf of the Whittier Public Library Foundation, I want to express how honored we are to host Mr. Zamora, who will also join us for a ticketed author dinner following his public interview. For more information about Whittier Reads, including how to purchase or check out a copy of the 2023 Whittier Reads book—again, that's *Solito* by Javier Zamora—please turn to page 2.

I know I speak for many members when I write how *wonderful* it will be to host Mr. Zamora in a space that has been a WPLF goal for over two decades: Whittier's gorgeous, newly renovated Central Library. As I wrote in the last issue of this newsletter, Central Library is "a clean, well-lighted, comfortable, safe, indeed beautiful and new space designed to meet all your information needs." Of course, that means an amazing, professional staff dedicated to helping you; hundreds of thousands of print, electronic, and audio books; DVDs, streaming videos, periodicals, and magazines; and community-focused services and resources like a well-used Homework Center and the first-rate Veteran's Resource Center I described last time. But it also means a shared, public space for community members to come together to learn, share, be inspired, and have good conversations with neighbors and friends.

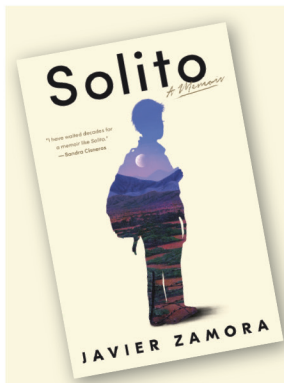
I have no doubt that the culmination of Whittier Reads on April 27th will be one of the first of many events at Central Library that will bring our community together in such generative, gratifying ways. As a Whittier Public Library Foundation member, it's your annual membership that helps to fund these important efforts directly and immediately—as do your generous donations. If your membership has lapsed (it happens!), and/or you are interested in making a tax-deductible to the Foundation, please visit us online at whittierplf.org, where you can take care of either (or both!) activities entirely online.

As ever, thank you for your attention, and your continued support!

Sincerely,

Mike Garabedian

President, Whittier Public Library Foundation



Whittier Reads is Back!

Solito: A Memoir

Author Javier Zamora in person on
Thursday, April 27th at 5:00PM

Submit your questions for the author at
tinyurl.com/WhittierReadsQs (english)
tinyurl.com/WhittierReadsPs (spanish)



Whittier Reads Returns

The Whittier Reads selection for this year, 2023, is *Solito*. Whittier Reads proudly welcomes Javier Zamora to discuss his New York Times best-selling memoir. We look forward to seeing you for an invigorating conversation with highly acclaimed author Javier Zamora.

On Thursday, April 27th at 5:00 p.m., Javier Zamora will be speaking in conversation with Whittier Public Library Foundation President, Michael Garabedian. Following the talk, please join us for a ticketed dinner with the author at the Whittier Public Library. In addition, the library will have other supporting programs throughout the month of April.

"Trip. My parents started using that word about a year ago: one day, you'll take a trip to be with us. Like an adventure."

Solito recounts Javier Zamora's harrowing 3,000-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador to Guatemala and through Mexico, and eventually across the U.S. border. Told from the perspective of *Chepito*, Zamora's 9-year-old self, he narrates in detail his travels as an unaccompanied minor encountering treacherous border crossings and trekking through the parching Sonoran Desert in a death-defying effort to be reunited with his parents in *la USA*.

In *Solito*, the young narrator's innocence compels us to follow his moments of unrealized and unaware dangers but also allows us to feel the humor in his boyish triumphs and joys. Zamora's memoir is as gripping as it is moving, and it is touching as it is sad, yet it exudes hope and love as we witness a miraculous kindness that is delivered from complete strangers that help *Chepito* along his journey. This is not just a tale of migration but a story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.

Salvadoran author and poet Javier Zamora is the winner of the 2022 Christopher Isherwood Prize for Autobiographical Prose for his debut memoir *Solito*, which recounts his journey migrating from El Salvador to California when he was nine years old. Sponsored by the Christopher Isherwood Foundation, the award honors exceptional work and encompasses fiction, travel writing, memoir, and diary.

"What's impressive about this book is not just the story, but the way it's told," commented the judges of the Isherwood Prize. "Somehow Zamora, an award-winning poet, stays true to the child's perspective at no sacrifice to language or craft. We're delighted to give him this prize."

Please stop by the Central or Whittwood Library to checkout or purchase a copy of *Solito*. Copies are available in English and Spanish. We look forward to the Community reading and embracing this enriching story told by Javier Zamora.

Myra Weiss
Whittier Reads Chair

Whittier Reads 2023 Events

Tuesday, April 4

How to Prove You're Undocumented

Presented by Erick Galindo

Central • 6:00pm • Free • Ticket Required

Monday, April 10

Eder's Pupusa Technique Class

Food Demonstration with Eder of

"What's That You're Cookin'?"

Central • 6:00pm • Free • Ticket Required

Space is limited

Thursday, April 13

Linguistic and Cultural Codes in Solito

Presented by Dr. Rafael Chabran

Central • 6:00pm • Free • Ticket Required

Wednesday, April 19

Wednesday Night Book Group

Discussion on *Solito* (Author will not be present)

Central • 6:00pm • Free

Tuesday, April 25

Solito from another perspective: Interviewing Detained Immigrant children

Presented by Dr. Kathie O'Gorm

Central • 6:00pm • Free • Ticket Required

Thursday, April 27th

Author Talk: Author Javier Zamora discussing his book *Solito*.

Central • 5:00pm • Free • Ticket Required

Thursday, April 27th


Author Reception & Dinner

Catered by *"What's That You're Cookin'?"*

Central • 7:00pm

Tickets: \$55 WPLF Members/ \$60 Non-Members

Copies of Solito are available for checkout and for purchase at both libraries — \$20 for English Hardback and \$15 for Spanish Paperback. Programming tickets are available starting in March. Visit whittierplf.org to purchase your Author Reception & Dinner tickets today!



VETERANS



Resource Fair

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

JOIN US AT THE
CENTRAL LIBRARY
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
FOR INFORMATION ON

HOUSING, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION,
BENEFITS, AND JOBS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
562-567-9905
VRC@WHITTIERLIBRARY.ORG

ADDITIONAL PARKING AT COMMUNITY
CENTER ACROSS THE STREET



WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY
DIY DIGITAL
MEMORY LAB
presents

DIGITAL DAYS

MARCH 20 - MARCH 31

Bring your photos, slides, or documents you would like to digitize to preserve your treasured memories.

Reservations are available
Monday-Friday,
10:30am-12:30pm &
1:00pm - 3:00pm
To book a reservation,
please call (562) 567-9940.



THE
REEL
CLUB

a documentary film club
presents...


Tales of the Rat Fink*

*Including a special screening of the upcoming
Mooneyes Documentary "Craft of Speed" trailer.




Monday,
March 20

6PM-CENTRAL LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM

LEARN 3D DESIGN AND PRINTING

Mega-Makers

MONDAY
MARCH 27TH

For Teens
and Adults

Class sign-ups at the Central Library



LEARN THE UKULELE

for teens & adults

Saturday, April 15th
Central Library
1:00 PM



Ukuleles will be provided.
Space is limited.
Register at the Central
Adult Reference Desk.




THE
REEL
CLUB

a documentary film club
presents...

Monday, April 17

6PM-CENTRAL LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM



City of Gold

About the film:
A documentary portrait that takes us into
Jonathan Gold's universe to tell the
improbable story of a revolution inspired
by the pen, but driven by the palate.



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Susan G West CFP®

Vice President
Financial Advisor
10 Pointe Drive
Brea, CA, 92821
+1 714 674-4117
Susan.West@morganstanley.com
CA Insurance Lic. #0H61531

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Brian Choi, D.M.D.
John K. Sudick, D.D.S.

Gentle Caring Family & Implant Dentistry

www.WhittierDentalOffice.com

13318 Bailey St., Whittier, CA 90601

562.698.8739



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