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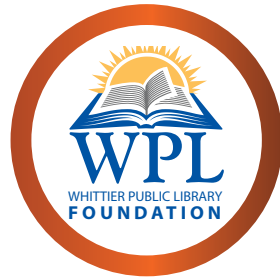
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News

Winter 2021

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Representatives of the Whittier City Council and the Whittier Public Library Foundation

Update on Central Renovation

Hurray! The Central Library Remodel and Improvement Project has begun! At the Groundbreaking Ceremony on October 27, the Whittier Public Library Foundation kicked off our Campaign to add the extras and enhancements not in the City budget for the renovation.

The City budget calls for the basics of what is needed for a good library. We plan to add all the things needed to make a **great library!** We will make the children's area one that kids clamor to visit, a Veterans Resource Center we can all be proud to provide to our deserving vets, and more computer access for us all.

Of course, in order to provide these, we need everyone's involvement. Soon we will have opportunities for you to contribute toward enhancements in different areas of the library. You could honor a loved one, a community organization, or put your family's name on our donor wall.

Stay tuned for that exciting information. There will be opportunities to contribute at every level.

For more information, please email me at suesettlage@gmail.com.

Sue Settlage
*Vice President, Fundraising
Chair, Renovation Campaign*

Sad News

I am saddened to report the recent loss of our good friend and well-respected member of the Whittier Public Library Foundation, Don Alvarado. Don passed away suddenly of a heart attack on September 2, 2020, while visiting family in St. Louis.

Don grew up in Pico Rivera, attended Don Bosco Technical Institute and graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 1977 and USC Gould School of Law in 1980. He was active in many local nonprofit organizations. He had served on the WPL Foundation board since 2017 and on the Executive Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs since 2010. He was the long time Co-Chair of the *Youth of the Year* Committee.

An attorney by profession, Don had been in both private practice and corporate law, having served more than 28 years in the legal department of Smart & Final Stores, retiring in 2016.

Don is survived by Michele, his wife of 36 years, his three adult children: Karla, Kristina, and Alex, and his granddaughter Josie. Don served the WPL Foundation and our community at large with grace and elegance. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Alvarado family. ~ Norm Kirschenbaum

Booktoberfest 2020

“They said it couldn’t be done!” But of course these words were never spoken by this year’s Booktoberfest Committee. At the very beginning of the pandemic, the committee met and was determined: There had to be a way! And indeed, determined is the word that best defines the attitude of this year’s committee members!

In the past, Booktoberfest has been a social evening, pairing good food with good drink and a lot of fun. This year, Booktoberfest took place on Thursday, October 8 with an online program and silent auction, as well as curbside pick-up of food and beer. Drawing on the support from the Whittier Public Library Foundation board members, Whittier Public Library staff, and community sponsors—and enthusiastic backing from beloved local craft breweries—we figured out a way to make the best of an unusual situation.

Booktoberfest ticketholders enjoyed a wonderful, literature-inspired meal by Chef Stephen Trujillo of Auntie’s Bakery and Cafe, as well as delicious, first-rate beers from Angry Horse Brewing in Montebello, Brewjería Company in Pico Rivera, and Whittier Brewing Company in Uptown Whittier. Ticketholders drove up to a distribution point at the Whittier Community Center for a curbside pick-up of packaged pairings by Chef Trujillo, plus a six-pack of 16-ounce beer cans prepared especially for the event by the local brewers.

Thanks to the efforts of and help from WPL staff, the distribution went off without a hitch, and Booktoberfest’s beer lovers, foodies, and bibliophiles had plenty of time to make it home to watch a 45-minute online video program for the event and to get their final bids in for the silent auction.

Much gratitude goes to Booktoberfest Committee members Bruce Lazenby (our fearless leader), Mike Garabedian, Laila Jacobsma, Virginia (Ginny) Ball, and Norm Kirschenbaum; our brilliant consultant (and adjunct committee member) Ross Gile of Digical; WPL Foundation board member Sonia Chaidez for her filming and videography skills; and our wonderful WPL staff. Thanks too go to our WPL Foundation board and community supporters, and for the tireless efforts by Laila Jacobsma, who helped organize the 81 silent auction items generously provided by these constituents (to say nothing of taking photos of, describing, and publishing these silent auction items online)!

As successful as it was, we most definitely missed seeing everyone’s faces and the special fellowship we usually enjoy together at Booktoberfest. We look forward to what the Booktoberfest Committee will surprise us with next year—you won’t want to miss it!

See the youtube video of Booktoberfest:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MArtEsPhj5c>



Gustavo Arellano Talks Tacos!

WhittierLibrary.org • Thursday, November 12 • 6:30

Free. Register in advance at WhittierLibrary.org/Events. Log on for an evening of food talk with our favorite taco expert! Gustavo Arellano will discuss his book, *Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America*, reveal the names of his favorite local eateries and talk about his quest for the best flour and corn tortillas in Southern California.

Gustavo Arellano is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. “[His] Ask a Mexican! column has a circulation of more than two million in thirty-eight markets (and counting). He has received the President’s Award from the Los Angeles Press Club, an Impact Award from the National Hispanic

Media Coalition, and a 2008 Latino Spirit Award from the California State legislature.

Arellano has appeared on the Today show, Nightline, NPR’s *Talk of the Nation*, and The Colbert Report. For more information, visit AskAMexican.net.

The itaLiAn project

WhittierLibrary.org • Thursday, November 19 • 6:30

Free. Register in advance at WhittierLibrary.org/Events.

Jo LoPiccolo will perform online at WhittierLibrary.org on Thursday, November 19. He has selected a series of Neapolitan and opera songs that he will reinterpret to reflect the rich, diverse musical culture of Los Angeles.

“Joe LoPiccolo is a guitarist and composer whose work is influenced by Classical, Jazz and World Music styles. Writer Dan O’Heron of the Pasadena Weekly states his music is “Soft spoken eloquence, fascinatingly improvised.” and “The music is comforting and visual, it takes you to a better place, a paradise found.”

Joe LoPiccolo is a graduate of The California Institute of the Arts, receiving his BFA in Jazz Guitar and his MFA in Guitar Performance. He is also a graduate of the Berklee College of Music Youth Summer Program and has taken masterclasses with guitarists Guinga, Paco Serrano and Mick Goodrick.

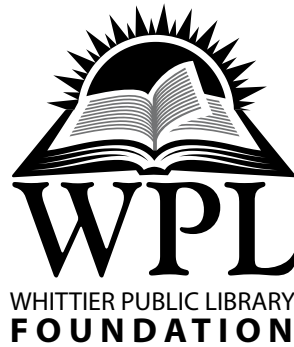
He is music faculty at Mt. San Antonio College and College of the Canyons where he teaches World Music, Rock Music History, Music Fundamentals, Group Guitar, Guitar Improvisation and Individual Guitar Instruction in both Jazz and classical genres. He has authored two texts, *Guitar Mosaic* and *Improvisation for Guitarists* and was a contributor to Andrew York’s *Jazz Guitar For Classical Cats* series by Alfred. Joe was a columnist for *Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine*, writing a column entitled “The Global Guitarist.” <https://www.joelopiccolo.com/biography>

Wednesday Night Book Group Goes Online

Our monthly Wednesday Book Group now meets Online! On November 18 we will discuss the book “Animal Dreams” a novel by Barbara Kingsolver. For more Fall events and recordings of past programs visit WhittierLibrary.org/events.



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