

NEWS

“The Great Read” ’09-‘10 kicks off with Dec. 7 reading, signing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plainfield – Acclaimed author Luis Urrea will read and sign copies of his book, "Into the Beautiful North" at 7 p.m. Monday, December 7, 2009 at the Joliet Barnes and Noble store, 2621 Plainfield Road, Joliet.

This free event will kick off the 2009-2010 Great Read community literacy program. The Great Read was created in 2004 and designed to promote literacy, reading, conversation and community in the greater Plainfield area.

“The Great Read” is presented by the Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield School District 202, Joliet Public Library and Fountaindale Public Library; and the Joliet, Bolingbrook, Plainfield and Naperville Barnes and Noble stores. The program is supported by a generous grant from the Plainfield Foundation for Excellence.

“Into the Beautiful North” is the selection for this year’s Great Read. It tells the story of a trio of modern Mexican girls inspired by a classic American movie to immigrate to the United States and bring back old-fashioned warriors to save their tiny village.

Their town is being overrun by bandits because the men left years ago to find work in “Los Yunaites.” Along the way they meet a cast of characters as interesting as any in modern literature.

Their journey also provides a thought-provoking overview of the many-faceted issue of immigration; changing community; and the kind of challenges and opportunities experienced by the Plainfield area in recent years thanks to its growing cultural, racial and ethnic diversity.

Urrea is a master story teller who knows first-hand about living in both Mexico and America. The book is rich, charming and inspirational.

He also knows quite a bit about cultural diversity, having been born in Tijuana, Mexico to a Mexican father and American mother, and raised most of his life in the United States.

Urrea now lives in Naperville and teaches creative writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is a critically acclaimed author of 11 books, and award-winning poet and essayist.

This year's "Great Read" will feature public and school programs, author readings and book signings, and special community events illustrating and celebrating America's inherent immigration history, and the myriad contributions of its many immigrant populations.

More information about The Great Read 2009-2010 is available at www.psd202.org/greatread.