

NEWS

“The Great Read” seeks Great “Coming to America” Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION, CALL

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Plainfield – District 202-area community members are invited and encouraged to express their artistic creativity as part of the “Great Read 2009-2010 Art Contest”.

This special art contest is being held as part of the 2009-2010 “Great Read” community reading program, which this year features the novel, “Into the Beautiful North.” The First Prize winner will receive \$100, and additional prizes will also be given.

“Into the Beautiful North” 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.

The art contest is open to artists of all ages. Entries may be from an individual or a group. They may be of any size, as long as the artist can move them, and in any format (painting, sculpture, video, etc.)

Entries should represent an artistic interpretation of a past, present or future “Coming to America” immigration experience of any nationality. The deadline for entry is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Please visit www.psd202.org/greatread for more information and contest rules.

Entries will be displayed and prizes awarded at the April 8, 2010 “Great Read” Gala Event held at the Bolingbrook Country Club. The Gala Event will start at 7 p.m. and is open to all ages, free of charge.

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, Fountaindale Public Library and Shorewood-Troy 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 a wonderful story about immigration, changing community and similar issues relevant to the Plainfield area, which has experienced significant cultural and racial change in recent years.

The main characters’ 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.

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