

NEWS

Residents invited to name special Great Read beverage, win prizes

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Plainfield -- The 2009-2010 Great Read Committee is kicking off this year's community reading program with some creativity -- and a tasty holiday season beverage.

Acclaimed author Luis Urrea will formally begin the **2009-2010 Great Read program** with a reading/discussion/signing 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.

As part of that event, area students and adults are invited and encouraged to suggest a name for a special beverage -- white cinnamon hot chocolate -- being made in honor of Urrea, whose father is Mexican and mother is American.

The winning student (prekindergarten through high school) will receive a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card. The winning adult (18 years and older) will receive a signed copy of "Into the Beautiful North."

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. December 1, 2009

Please visit the Great Read web site for more information and to submit your ideas to name this special beverage: www.psd202.org/greatread

"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 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 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