

# NEWS

## “The Great Read” continues with special winter, spring events

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2010

FOR INFORMATION, CALL

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**Plainfield** – Acclaimed author Luis Urrea will talk about and sign copies of his book, "Into the Beautiful North" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at the Joliet Public Library Black Road branch, 3395 Black Road Joliet.

This free event is the next in a growing list of special programs this winter and early spring supporting the 2009-2010 Great Read community literacy program. See the complete list of programs below.

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.

More information about The Great Read 2009-2010 is available at [www.psd202.org/greatread](http://www.psd202.org/greatread).

Here is the current list of scheduled "Great Read" events:

### **Author Visits**

The community is welcome and encouraged to come listen to and meet author Luis Urrea at any/all of these free events.

- **February 11, 2010 - (7 p.m.)** The Plainfield Public Library, 15025 S. Illinois St. Plainfield, IL 60544
- **March 17, 2010 - (7 p.m.)** Shorewood-Troy Public Library, 650 Deerwood Drive, Shorewood, Illinois 60404.
- **April 8, 2010** - The Great Read closing event, time and location TBA.
- **April 10, 2010 - (11 a.m.-3 p.m.)** Fountaindale Public Library Author Fair, Bolingbrook Library, 300 W. Briarcliff Road, Bolingbrook, 60440.

### **Other Events**

- **January 16, 2010 - (11 a.m.) Bilingual Story-time** - Children ages 6 and under: join us for a very special bilingual story-time! Hear stories in English and Spanish and create a craft. Space is limited, so please call the Shorewood-Troy Public Library to register for this event. **Shorewood-Troy Public Library, 650 Deerwood Drive, Shorewood. 815-725-1715**
- **January 28, 2010 (4:30 p.m.) Painted Words: Marianne's Story - K-3rd Graders** Learn about Marianne's experiences from her homeland and how she adjusted to American life. Hear the book by Aliki and do crafts to go along with the book. This program is part of The Great Reads. Registration Required. Registration begins January 14, 2010. **Joliet Public Library Black Road branch, 3395 Black Road Joliet. (815) 740-2660**
- **February 24, 2010 (6:30 p.m.) "The Magnificent Seven" movie event**  
Come join us as we watch this classic western about how denizens of a Mexican village, weary of attacks by banditos, hire seven gunslingers to repel the invaders once and for all.

"The Magnificent Seven" plays an important part in "The Beautiful North," which tells the story of three Mexican teens coming to America to recruit seven warriors, like those

they had seen in this classic American movie. **Shorewood-Troy Public Library, 650 Deerwood Drive, Shorewood. 815-725-1715**

- **February 25, 2010 (4:30 p.m.) Crossing the Wire 4th-8th Graders**  
Learn about what it takes to make the perilous journey from Mexico to the US. We will discuss the book and show a short movie clip. This program is a part of The Great Reads. No Registration. **Joliet Public Library Black Road branch, 3395 Black Road Joliet. (815) 740-2660**
- **March 13, 2010 - (11 a.m.) Bilingual Story-time** - Children ages 6 and under: join us for a very special bilingual story-time! Hear stories in English and Spanish and create a craft. Space is limited, so please call the Shorewood-Troy Public Library to register for this event. **Shorewood-Troy Public Library, 650 Deerwood Drive, Shorewood. 815-725-1715**