



Luis Alberto Urrea

**BE A PART OF
THE BIG READ
MARCH 29
THROUGH
MAY 4, 2014**

For free public book discussion groups, special events and workshops, check THE BIG READ event page at smp.l.org/Urrea2014.aspx or call 310-458-8600.

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THE BIG READ

Welcome to THE BIG READ and the 12th year of citywide reading in Santa Monica! THE BIG READ is a community reading initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Arts Midwest, designed to celebrate literature by encouraging people to read and discuss the same book at the same time throughout their community.

This year's book is *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. A contemporary novel set in the U.S. and Mexico, *Into the Beautiful North* features strong characters and universal themes that are sure to promote quality group discussion and enjoyable events. New this year is the opportunity to explore the book's themes in artistic workshops offered in partnership with the Santa Monica Museum of Art.

Into the Beautiful North is available from Santa Monica Public Library or your local bookstore. Spanish-language copies are available at the Library. We encourage you to attend one of the many free, public events being held around the city from March 29 through May 4.

About the Book

Nineteen-year-old Nayeli lives in Tres Camarones, a Mexican town nearly empty of men, including Nayeli's father, after most have gone to the U.S. to seek work. Inspired by the classic film, *The Magnificent Seven*, Nayeli and her three closest friends are commissioned by the new village president, Nayeli's Aunt Irma, to travel north into the U.S. to bring back men to protect their town from encroaching drug dealers. In this classic quest tale, Urrea uses humor and compassion to address issues of cultural differences and depict the many borders in life that both divide and connect.

About the Author

Luis Alberto Urrea is the author of fourteen books including poetry, short stories, novels, non-fiction and memoirs. He is the recipient of a 1999 American Book Award (*Nobody's Son*), a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize (*The Devil's Highway*) and a member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame. Raised in both Tijuana and San Diego by his Mexican father and American mother, Luis is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, and the University of Colorado Boulder. He is currently a professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois at Chicago and resides in Naperville, Illinois.

More information about the novel, the author, related works and discussion questions can be found in the NEA Reader's Guide for *Into the Beautiful North* available at all Santa Monica Public Library locations.

THE BIG READ Special Events

The Big Read Kick-off Celebration
Saturday, March 29 at 12:30pm / Main Library*
Alfredo López, leader of the Mexican musical group Quetzalcóatl, and special guests take us on an exciting musical tour of Mexico in an outdoor concert highlighting the richness and variety of traditional Latin Music. Pick up a copy of *Into the Beautiful North*, enjoy some refreshments and start reading!

Into the Beautiful North
Filmmaking Workshop Series
PART 1: Saturday, March 29, 2:00-5:00pm
PART 2: Wednesday, April 2, 7:00-9:00pm
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Avenue
The Echo Park Film Center leads a cinematic exploration of borders in this 2-day workshop of short film making. Films will premiere during a public screening at the Main Library on April 26. Ages 13 and up. Space is limited. You must attend both sessions. Registration required: contact education@smmoa.org or 310-586-6488, ext.118.

Food and Fiction at the
Santa Monica Farmers Market
Saturday, April 5 at 11:00am
Pico Farmers Market, 2200 Virginia Avenue
Celebrate the flavor of *Into the Beautiful North* with local author Amelia Saltsman (*The Santa Monica Farmers Market Cookbook*) who demonstrates cooking with seasonal flavors and serves small bites.

Into the Beautiful North Toy Theatre Workshop
Saturday, April 5, 2:00-5:00pm
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Avenue
In this hands-on workshop, puppeteer and filmmaker Yulya Dukhovney shares cutting, collage, and assemblage techniques to create miniature scenes from *Into the Beautiful North*. Ages 13 and up. Space is limited. Registration is required: call 310-586-6488, ext.118 or contact education@smmoa.org.

Orchestra Santa Monica:
North and South of the Border
Saturday, April 12 at 3:30pm / Main Library*
Join us for a concert by the OSM Strings and guitarist Ricardo Escobar. The musicians, who are active on both sides of the US-Mexico border, also discuss the cultural influences that inform their music.

An Evening with Gustavo Arellano
Thursday, April 17 at 7:00pm / Main Library*
Award-winning author Gustavo Arellano presents a talk on his popular nationally syndicated column, and books *¡Ask a Mexican!* and *Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America*.

Conversation with Luis Alberto Urrea
Monday, April 21 at 3:00pm / Main Library*
Luis Alberto Urrea, joins us for a virtual author talk via a web link from his home state of Illinois. Learn more about our acclaimed Big Read author and hear the story behind *Into the Beautiful North*.

Echo Park Film Center Filmmobile @ SMPL
Saturday, April 26 at 1:00pm / Main Library*
Visit the EPFC Filmmobile to view the short films created during the Santa Monica Museum of Art workshops inspired by the themes of *Into the Beautiful North*.

An Afternoon with Rubén Martínez and Friends
Saturday, April 26 at 3:00pm / Main Library*
Writer, musician and Emmy-award winning journalist Rubén Martínez and guests present a special program of spoken word and music exploring the theme of immigration. Author of *Crossing Over* and *Desert America*, Martínez has spent over two decades giving voice to those who imagine a new life for themselves.

All programs are subject to change without notice.

In Discussion: Latino Literature and Into the Beautiful North

Tuesday, April 29 at 7:00pm / Main Library*

Marissa López, author of *Chicano Nations*, moderates a panel discussion on the history of Latino literature and its contemporary incarnations. Panelists include authors Daniel Olivas (*The Book of Want*); Reyna Grande (*The Distance Between Us*); and Verónica Reyes (*Chopper! Chopper! Poetry from Bordered Lives*).

Inocente: Documentary Screening and Discussion

Saturday, May 3 at 3:00pm / Main Library*

Be inspired by this Oscar-winning documentary about a young Mexican immigrant who found her way out of homelessness with the help of an after-school arts program. A discussion with representatives from a similar local program focused on at-risk youth follows the screening. [Film run time: 40 min.]

The Latin Experience Movie Series

A Better Life (2011) 98 min.

Thursday, April 3 at 3:00pm / Main Library*

Under the Same Moon (2007) 106 min.

Thursday, April 10 at 6:00pm
Ocean Park Branch*

Sin Nombre (2009) 96 min.

Friday, April 11 at 2:30pm
Fairview Branch*

Quinceañera (2006) 90 min.

Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30pm
Montana Avenue Branch*

Magnificent Seven (1960) 128 min.

Saturday, April 19 at 12:30pm / Main Library*

Trained volunteer facilitators lead these free public discussions. No registration required.

Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00pm

Barnes & Noble, 1201 Third Street Promenade

Thursday, April 3 at 7:00pm / Ocean Park Branch*

Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30pm

AMF Bay Shores Lanes, 234 Pico Blvd.

Discussion is followed by bowling. First-come, first-served.

Thursday, April 10 at 4:00pm

Ken Edwards Center,* 1527 4th Street

Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00pm

Montana Avenue Branch*

Saturday, April 19 at 10:00am

Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2525 Michigan Ave.

Tuesday, April 22 at 2:00pm

El Cholo Restaurant, 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

Wednesday, April 23 at 7:00pm

Spanish Language Discussion / Patio Room*
Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue

Saturday, April 26 at 11:00am / Main Library*

Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00pm / Patio Room*

Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue

Saturday, May 3 at 11:00am / Fairview Branch*

Santa Monica Main Library and Branches

Santa Monica Main Library

601 Santa Monica Boulevard

Fairview Branch Library

2101 Ocean Park Boulevard

Montana Avenue Branch Library

1704 Montana Avenue

Ocean Park Branch Library

2601 Main Street

Pico Branch Library

2201 Pico Boulevard

*City of Santa Monica facilities are wheelchair accessible. For special disabled services, call Library Admin. 310-458-8606 at least one week prior to event.

Thanks to these organizations for their support of The Big Read event:

**Santa Monica Museum of Art / Santa Monica College
Echo Park Film Center / Olympic High School**

SMMoA

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Thanks to these businesses for supporting Book Discussions and Programs:

**AMF Bay Shore Lanes
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