



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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OPEN SHAKESPEARE READINGS IN HONOR OF SHAKESPEARE'S 500TH BIRTHDAY

Shakespeare enthusiasts can read a part, or just listen and enjoy

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library launches **Monthly Open Shakespeare Readings** sponsored by the San Diego Shakespeare Society on the 3rd Monday of every month starting on **September 15** from **6:30 to 8 p.m.** at the new San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common located at 330 Park Blvd in downtown San Diego. Cherie Peacock, secretary and social media manager for San Diego Shakespeare Society will lead our merry journey through the landscape of Shakespeare. Actors may arrive in costumes and there will be occasional light refreshments.

These open readings are an excellent opportunity for fans of Shakespeare, students and those new to Shakespeare to enjoy the immortal stories of the greatest writer in the English language, and perform along with a lively group of Shakespeare enthusiasts. The series will begin with three of the Bard's greatest plays *Much Ado about Nothing* in September, *The Merchant of Venice* in October, and *The Tempest* in November.

The inaugural play *Much Ado about Nothing* is presented in conjunction with SDPL's participation in the statewide California Reads initiative *War Comes Home: What It Is Like to go to Go to War* sponsored by Cal Humanities. Though a joyful comedy that ends with multiple marriages and no deaths, this play is also about the darker concerns of war and the experience of coming home from war.

The Merchant of Venice and *The Tempest* are being presented in conjunction with the 2014 *One Book, One San Diego* county-wide reading campaign. These two plays with their ideas on social justice, colonization and encounters between cultures resonate profoundly with the themes found in the 2014 selection *Monstress* by Lysley Tenorio, is a book of quirky short stories set amongst Filipino-American communities in California and the Philippines.

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The San Diego Shakespeare Society is a charitable nonprofit whose mission is to introduce, educate and encourage the public's understanding and enjoyment of the works of William Shakespeare; encourage the study of the life and works of William Shakespeare; foster and promote an interest in other literatures, poetry, art and music through lectures, competitions, performances and the like. Visit them at: <http://www.sandiegoshakespearesociety.org/>.

Writer, editor, and educator Cherie Peacock is the secretary and social media manager for the San Diego Shakespeare Society. She is also the director of The Shakespeare Academy, a fun, hands-on, and out-loud learning-through-performance educational program which teaches and introduces Shakespeare to students, grades 4th through twelfth. Please visit them at: www.theshakespeareacademy.com.

California Reads is a program of Cal Humanities in partnership with the California Center for the Book. California Reads is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the BayTree Fund, Whitman Institute and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. For more information, visit Cal Humanities at www.calhum.org.

One Book, One San Diego is an eight-year-old partnership between KPBS, San Diego Public Library, and San Diego County Library designed to bring the community together through a shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. *One Book* is made possible by the Linden Root Dickinson Foundation, Lloyd Pest Control, the Cubic Corporation, the Henry Fox Foundation, and the San Diego Public Library Foundation. Still more *One Book* events are scheduled at various city and county libraries.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.gov.

Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other

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