



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, February 14, 2005

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“Historias!” Bilingual Book Discussion Series to Explore Mexican-American Experience *Program will Celebrate Diverse Contemporary Latino Literature*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library and the Media Arts Center San Diego will host a four-book series of bilingual (Spanish and English) discussions entitled “Historias! – Mexican/Mexican American Literature.” The participants will examine the Mexican-American experience through the prism of contemporary Latino literature.

Literature has always been a catalyst for greater cross cultural understanding and readers will have a chance to participate in these provocative monthly discussions facilitated by Marta Gonzales, a Ph.D candidate in the Literature Department at the University of California, San Diego. Each session, focused on a different book, will take place on the third Monday of the month (see dates below) at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Linda Vista Branch Library, located at 2160 Ulric St. This series is free to the public and will take place as follows:

- Monday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.: “**Peregrinos de Aztlán / Pilgrims in Aztlán**” by Miguel Mendez. “Peregrinos de Aztlán / Pilgrims in Aztlán” by Miguel Mendez is one of the most enduring and highly-recognized Chicano novels. “Peregrinos de Aztlán” sets for all time the collective voices of the millions of migrant workers who enter the United States from Mexico in search of sustenance. The story revolves around the progeny of the Aztec empire who have returned to the United States, to the tribe’s mythical homeland in Aztlán.
- Monday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.: “**Dia de La Luna / Day of the Moon**” by Graciela Limón. In “Dia de La Luna / Day of the Moon,” Graciela Limon tells a story of forbidden loves. The novel spans the 20th century, the Southwest from Mexico to Los Angeles, skin colors, the sexes, religious boundaries, life and death, and four generations of a family named Betancourt.
- Monday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.: “**El Camino A Tamazunchale / The Road to Tamazunchale**” by Ron Arias. “El Camino A Tamazunchale / The Road to Tamazunchale” by Ron Arias is a profoundly human novel that deals creatively with death. This 1975 masterpiece, the first Chicano novel to be nominated for the National Book Award, tells the story of Don Fausto, a very old man on the verge of death who lives in the barrio of Los Angeles. Rather than resigning himself to death, he embarks on a glorious journey in and out of time, space and consciousness with a cast of companions that includes his teenaged niece, a Peruvian shepherd, a group of mojudos, and others.

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- Monday, June 20, 6:30 p.m.: **“Canícula: Imágenes de una Niñez Fronteriza/ Canicula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera”** by Norma Elia Cantú.
Norma Elia Cantu chronicles the coming of age of a Chicana in the U.S.-Mexico border towns of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo in the 1950s and '60s in her book “Canícula: Imágenes de una Niñez Fronteriza / Canicula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera.”

Participants who need copies of the books, which are available in either English or Spanish, may pick them up at the Linda Vista Branch Library, or call to have a copy sent to another branch library or the Central Library. Anyone interested in attending these book discussions will need to register. To sign-up, please call the Linda Vista Branch Library at (858) 573-1399.

“Historias!” is a partnership between the San Diego Public Library and the Media Arts Center San Diego’s San Diego Latino Film Festival. This ongoing partnership consists of year-round book discussions, film screenings and youth digital story workshops in celebration of the Latino Experience.

The books selected in the series are evocative of events in an historical continuum that will give readers insight into how Chicana/o writers have built off of each other stylistically.

“Historias!” is a project made possible by 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, call the Linda Vista Branch Library at (858) 573-1399 or visit the San Diego Public Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>.

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