Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township presents

¡VIVA!
COMING TOGETHER

A Celebration of Latino & Hispanic Cultures

Book Selections & Events
January - April 2016
The Book of Unknown Americans
By Cristina Henríquez. A dilapidated apartment building in Delaware is the final destination for its Spanish speaking, immigrant neighbors. The Rivera family, newly arrived from Mexico, has suffered recent tragedy that has left their daughter Maribel with a traumatic brain injury, but that doesn’t keep her from being noticed by one of the young boys in the building. At turns wrenching and hopeful, Henríquez’s novel is a beautiful and compassionate coming-of-age story.

Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant
by José Ángel N. (Latinos in Chicago and Midwest). Author José Ángel N. recounts his story of coming to the United States, learning English, obtaining both a GED and higher education, and securing a job, all while being undocumented. It’s a poetic memoir that gives a face and humanity to the millions of undocumented workers in the United States.

Yes! We are Latinos / ¡Sí! Somos Latinos
by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy. Pictures by David Diaz
What makes someone Latino? Twelve narrative poems tell the stories of 12 fictionalized young Latinos, reflecting the rich diversity and individual experiences of the Latino community—from migrant farmworkers to Jewish Latinos to Spanish emigrés. Each poem is followed by a piece of nonfiction that offers the reader an insight into the history, challenges and triumphs of real Latinos.

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music
By Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael López
This wonderful picture book is inspired by the true story of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a young Chinese-African-Cuban girl growing up in Cuba in the 1930s who dreamed of playing timbales, congas, and bongos. Cuba’s traditional taboo against female drummers did not stop Millo from practicing secretly and quietly, and she ultimately became a member of Cuba’s first all-girl dance band, “Anacaona.” Drum Dream Girl will inspire everyone to dream big dreams and overcome obstacles to make their dreams a reality. An author’s note offers additional background on the real percussionist behind the story.
Cristina Henríquez’s *The Book of Unknown Americans*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2014 and one of Amazon’s Top 10 Books of the Year. It was a *Washington Post* Notable Book, an NPR Great Read, and was chosen one of the best books of the year by *BookPage*, Oprah.com, and *School Library Journal*. Henríquez also is the author *The World In Half* (a novel), and *Come Together, Fall Apart: A Novella and Stories*. Cristina earned her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

José Ángel N. came to the United States from Mexico in the 1990s with a ninth grade education. An undocumented immigrant, N. traveled to Chicago where he found access to ESL and GED classes. He eventually attended college and graduate school and became a professional translator.

Alma Flor Ada is an award-winning Cuban-American author of children’s books, poetry, and novels. A Professor Emerita at the University of San Francisco, Dr. Ada is recognized for her work promoting bilingual and multilingual education in the United States.

F. Isabel Campoy has written numerous children’s books in the areas of poetry, theatre, fictional narrative, biographies, and art as well as of pedagogical books in the areas of language arts and English as a Second Language. Her work aims at providing children keys to interpret the world in a fun, challenging, and affirmative way. She is a frequent speaker in national and international conferences on issues of transformative education, second language acquisition and authentic writing.
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Margarita Engle, author of *Drum Dream Girl*, is a Cuban-American writer. She became the first Latino awarded a Newbery Honor in 2009 for *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba’s Struggle for Freedom*. Engle was born in Los Angeles and became a botanist and professor at California State Polytechnic University. Her young adult novels in verse include: *The Surrender Tree*, recipient of the first Newbery Honor awarded to a Latino, as well as the Pura Belpré Medal, Américas Award, and Jane Addams Award. Engle is also the author of picture books *Summer Birds*, *When You Wander*, and middle grade novel in verse *Mountain Dog*. She lives in central California, where she enjoys helping her husband with his volunteer work for wilderness search and rescue dog training programs.

Rafael López is an internationally recognized illustrator and artist. A children’s book illustrator, he won the 2010 Pura Belpré Award with his illustrations for *Book Fiesta!*, three Pura Belpré honors for illustration in 2004, 2012 and 2014, and two Américas Book Awards. In 2012, he was chosen by the Library of Congress to create the National Book Festival Poster and was a featured book festival speaker again in 2013. López has illustrated seven stamps for the United States Postal Service. In 2008 and 2012, the Obama/Biden campaign selected him to create two official posters called Estamos Unidos and Voz Unida.
Lourdes Duarte is co-anchor of WGN Morning News from 4-6 a.m. Prior to the early shift, Lourdes was co-anchor of WGN Evening News and a reporter for WGN News at Nine. Lourdes came to WGN-TV in September 2007 as a general assignment reporter.

Before joining WGN-TV, Lourdes worked for three years as a reporter and fill-in anchor for WJBK-TV, in Detroit, Michigan. She also worked for two years as a reporter for WXIN-TV in Indianapolis. While there, she launched and hosted the station’s public affairs program, “Hoy en Día.” She got her start here in Chicago, working as a freelance reporter for Telemundo.

Lourdes has won several awards including an Emmy award for her work on “Hoy en Día” and Society of Professional Journalists awards for minority issues reporting. Most recently, she won an Emmy for her story titled “Unlicensed and Serving.” She also received an Emmy nomination for a story on deportation. Lourdes and a WGN photographer were aboard the plane that transported undocumented immigrants to their home country.
Join us for the Opening Ceremony

¡VIVA!
COMING TOGETHER

Sunday, January 31
Niles West High School
5701 West Oakton, Skokie

A variety show featuring the Latino & Hispanic culture and lifestyle with traditional performances and much more! Celebrate with food, friends and fun at this year’s Opening Ceremony.

1 p.m.  Refreshments & Art Display
2 p.m.  Program in Auditorium

Emcee
Lourdes Duarte, WGN-TV

Artist, Alfonso “Piloto” Nieves Ruiz

Music by AfríCaribe

Book Exchange organized by Open Books
(Bring a book to exchange)
¡Viva!, this year’s Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township, highlights the Latino and Hispanic cultures. We remain deeply committed to this important and unique collaboration between many different groups in Skokie and neighboring Niles Township communities, as the program presents the opportunity for collaboration, dialogue and a valuable learning experience.

It is my hope that the entire community will participate in the 2016 Coming Together project and celebrate the Latino and Hispanic cultures. Since the program began in 2010, it has served as a catalyst for celebration, conversation and education as we collectively examined “The Voices of Race” last year and focused on the Indian, Filipino, Assyrian, Greek, and Korean cultures in years past.

Coming Together leaders have selected *The Book of Unknown Americans: A Novel* by Cristina Henríquez and *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant* by José Ángel N. as the recommended literary selections for adult readers. The committee has once again selected several entertaining and inspiring books that will provide children and adolescents with a view of the Latino and Hispanic cultures. The more we know about other cultures, countries and people, the greater our compassion and the stronger our community.

I look forward to participating in many of the Coming Together program activities, and also hope to meet many residents who participate. Once again, the committee has worked tirelessly to develop a wide variety of activities and events, and Susan and I are grateful for the many community partnerships that make Coming Together possible. Special thanks to all the organizations and institutions in both Skokie and throughout Niles Township for participating in the program. Additionally, Susan and I are grateful to the many representatives of the Latino and Hispanic cultures for their valuable contributions and dedication to the 2016 program.

¡Viva Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township!

George Van Dusen  
Mayor  
Village of Skokie
Dear Neighbors,

This year’s Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township is yet another departure from our usual practice of examining one particular country. ¡Viva! Coming Together is a celebration of one of the fastest growing demographic groups in our community, people of Latino/Hispanic heritage.

As we are a tremendously diverse community, an in-depth look at Latino/as will be exciting as well as educational. It is, indeed, a challenge to bring you an overview of the Latino community, which includes Mexico, Central America, South America, the Latin American and Caribbean Islands, and Spain. Members of the Coming Together committee, many of whom are Latino/as who work and live in Niles Township, have been working very hard to give you a taste of the many riches Latino culture offers.

Over the past 400 years, Latinos have been influenced by Pre-Columbian cultures, notably in Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Paraguay; European colonial culture of Spain, Portugal, and France is reflected in literature, painting, and music. African immigrants have also influenced music, dance, cuisine, and religion in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Panama, Uruguay, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico. And, Chinese, Indian, Filipino and Japanese immigration has influenced the culture of Brazil, Cuba, Panama, and Peru in their cuisine, art, traditions, and music. There is a great deal for all of us to learn.

¡Viva! Coming Together offers a wide range of activities throughout Niles Township, including Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, and Niles. Programs offer singing, dancing, food, and a look at Latino history and life in Latino countries as well as in the United States. We hope you will join us at our opening ceremonies at Niles West High School, at 1 p.m. on January 31, 2016, and at the many events that will take place over the following weeks. This booklet is your guide to this year’s activities. For more details, or updates, please go to www.comingtogether.in.

Coming Together in Skokie & Niles Township
Since 1492, when Spanish and European explorers entered the New World, the Americas, new societies emerged as a result of the racial, cultural, religious and linguistic mixtures of these colonial encounters. The mestizaje (racial mixing) that characterizes Latino America was the result of the social inequalities, the violence, and the abuse of power of the Spanish and Portuguese empires. Yet these hybrid identities have informed the vitality and resilience of Latin Americans and of Latino/as in the United States. In Latin America, African slaves labored next to Indigenous peoples, both of whom were robbed of their humanity by the policies that justified slavery for the sake of profit.

The European imperialism ended after the Wars of Independence were fought across Latin America in the early 19th century. Developing nations struggled with social, cultural and racial hierarchies, as well as socioeconomic status that divided the upper classes, mostly European and criollos, from the very poor, blacks and mestizos.

By the 19th century, the United States exerted strong influence in Latin America through the Monroe Doctrine and Manifest Destiny. Through war, the United States occupied what used to be the northern part of Mexico in 1849 and Puerto Rico and the Philippines, in 1898. Since that time, many workers and families in Latin America living in poverty or fleeing persecution from violence or civil wars, have come to the United States as economic immigrants, exiles, or war refugees. Immigration, thus, became a way toward a better life.

Through the 20th century, many workers, from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and more recently Central American countries, have served as cheap labor, fulfilling the economic needs of the United States. Many of these workers were, in fact, Mexican and Puerto Rican, recruited by the U.S. during World War II. The Bracero Program in Mexico and Operation Bootstrap in Puerto Rico, are examples of the U.S. attracting cheap labor in times of need. On the other hand, during economic crises such as the Great Depression during the 1930s, or in 2008, immigrant workers were excluded from the U.S. Thus, in the 1930s, Mexicans were repatriated and deported back to Mexico and since 9/11, militarization of the U.S./Mexico border has made it very difficult to cross into the United States to find work.

Cuban exiles fled Cuba after Fidel Castro’s rise to power and many Nicaraguans fled the Sandinista revolutionary government during the 1970s. Salvadorans and Guatemalans fled the violence of civil wars, and death squads. The U.S. federal government did not categorize them as refugees, rather as economic immigrants, a legal status that limited their access to resources and aid.
Despite these differences, Central Americans have settled down in cities such as Los Angeles and Washington DC, and have opened businesses, restaurants, and contributed to our economy and to the vibrant diverse cultures in those urban centers. Given their financial capital and the support and aid they received as exiles, the first waves of Cuban exiles were central in the development of Miami as a modern, global urban center that serves as a bridge between the North and the South in the Americas. While their lives in the United States have not been seamless, they have successfully integrated themselves to American society and have contributed economically, culturally, linguistically, and artistically.

Latino/as have made significant contributions in the United States. Their labor—as recruited workers during the Bracero Program (1942-1964) or as agricultural and factory workers—has made possible farming and the harvesting of the food we eat daily, the railroads, mining, manufacturing, clothing, and construction, among many other industries. Latino/as have also transformed American culture through their rich musical traditions, introducing this country to the syncopated rhythms of salsa and cumbia, and to the romantic lyrics of bachatas and boleros, not to mention reggaeton and rap/hip hop.

Mexican and Latin American restaurants populate our urban centers, offering us the flavors and scents of their cuisines. Spanish in the United States has been transformed from a private language spoken mostly or only at home, to a public language that circulates in newspapers, radio, television, and social media. Advertising and marketing have acknowledged the importance of Latinos as consumers as well. Religious beliefs and practices have reformed churches throughout the United States. In baseball and sports, Latino/as have likewise become visible and successful athletes, and so has Hollywood with the increasing presence of Latino/a actors and film directors. More importantly, this country now proudly includes Latinos and Latinas as elected officials, from local aldermen to the U.S. Congress.

Latino/a communities continue to struggle with quality of education, financial and economic inequities that have limited the growth of the middle-class, immigration policies and high rates of detentions and deportations, and with a long history of racial subordination, all of which represent challenges for all of us and which continue to inspire civic engagement and social movements.

Latino/a demographics in the United States point to growth in population, a factor that will continue to offer hope for more inclusivity as this community continues to come of age.

We are America.
LATINO

Includes Brazil.
Does not include Spain.

HISPANIC

Includes Spain.
Does not include Brazil.

- Argentina
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- French Guiana
- Guadeloupe
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Martinique
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Martin
- Spain
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
**DEFINITIONS**

**Latino** - (in North America) a man or a boy of Latin American origin or descent.

**Latina** - (in North America) a woman or a girl of Latin American origin or descent.

**Hispanic** - Of or relating to Spain, especially those of Spanish-speaking Latin American descent who consider themselves descendants of Spaniards (Hispañola being the name given by the Romans to the peninsula that is today known as Spain and Portugal).

**Afro-Latino** - The short definition of the term Afro-Latino refers to people of African descent whose origins are in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is much more about where people and their ancestors came from, than it is about language or where they live.

**Mestizo** - is a term traditionally used in Spain and Spanish America to mean a person of combined European and American descent, or someone who would have been deemed a Castizo (one European parent and one Mestizo parent) whether the person was born in Mexico or outside of Latin America. The term was used as an ethnic/racial category in the Casta system that was in use during the Spanish Empire’s control of their New World colonies.

**Latin American Culture** - From a cultural perspective, Latin America generally includes those parts of the Americas where Spanish, French or Portuguese prevail: Mexico, most of Central America, and South America. There is a major Latin American presence in the United States (e.g. California and the Southwest, and cities such as New York and Miami). There is also increasing attention to the relations between Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole.

*Latino/a History and Definitions made possible by Frances R. Aparicio, Henry Brown, Michael Schumann, Joaquin Stephenson, and Susan Van Dusen.*
BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS


1. How does Alma’s perspective in the novel’s first chapter illustrate her and her family’s hopes for their new life in America? Take another look at her statement after the trip to the gas station: “The three of us started toward the road, doubling back in the direction from which we had come, heading toward home”. What are the meanings of “home” here, and how does this scene show how America meets and differs from the Riveras’ expectations of it?

2. How is the scene where the Riveras sit down for a dinner of oatmeal a turning point for the family and for the book? Discuss the role of food in the novel, especially how it evokes memories of home and establishes a sense of community. Are there any other cultural values or traditions that do the same thing?

3. What are some key differences in the way that the women in the novel respond to challenges of assimilation compared to the men? How does Alma’s point of view highlight these differences?

4. Was Alma’s decision to return to Mexico with Maribel the best one? Were there alternatives, or did their departure seem inevitable to you?

5. Alma and Mayor are the primary narrators of the book, yet they have very different voices and perspectives. How does pairing these points of view affect the telling of this story, even as they are punctuated by the voices of the neighbors in Redwood Apartments? And how does the chorus of voices affect this main story and pose larger questions of immigration and the Latino experience in the United States?

6. Were you surprised that the book takes place in Newark, Delaware, rather than in the larger Latin American communities of Florida, New York, Texas, or California? What does this setting suggest about immigrant families like the Riveras and the Toros across the country? Do you feel differently about the immigration debate now raging in the United States after reading this book?

7. Do you, the members of your family, or your friends have stories of moving to another country to start a new life? Did any of the stories in the novel resonate with those you know?

8. How does the final chapter, told in Arturo’s voice, influence your understanding of what he felt about America? What do you make of how he ends his narrative, “I loved this country,” and that it is the last line of the book?
Please join us for discussions of this year’s highlighted books. Copies of books are available at your local libraries, or through local book sellers.

**Book Discussion: The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henríquez**

Monday, January 25  
Lincolnwood Public Library’s Books in the Woods  
7:30 p.m.  
L. Woods (see page 17)

Thursday, February 4  
1 p.m.  
Niles Public Library

Monday, February 8  
Lincolnwood Public Library Program  
11 a.m.  
Lincolnwood Community Center

Thursday, February 18  
Between the Lines Book Group  
10 a.m.  
Morton Grove Public Library

Tuesday, February 23  
7 p.m.  
Skokie Public Library

Tuesday, February 23  
Between the Lines Book Group  
7 p.m.  
Morton Grove Public Library

Thursday, March 31  
12 p.m.  
Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, Room A151
Bilingual Book Discussion: *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez

Join us for a bilingual book discussion of Cristina Henríquez’s novel *The Book of Unknown Americans/El Libro de Los Americanos Desconocidos* at the Niles Township Schools’ ELL Parent Center. Register and pick up a book in English or Spanish at the ELL Parent Center, located at 9440 Kenton Avenue in Skokie.

**Venga a platicar con otros miembros de la comunidad sobre El Libro de los Americanos Desconocidos en el Centro Para Padres ELL. Un edificio de departamentos en ruinas en Delaware es el destino final de la Familia Rivera. La familia es recién emigrada de México, ha sufrido una tragedia que ha dejado a la hija, Maribel, con trauma cerebral, pero eso no evita que sea notada por uno de los jóvenes en el edificio. Entre conmovedora y llena de esperanza, la novela de Henríquez es una hermosa y compasiva historia para la mayorÍa de edad.**

Thursday, February 11  
6:30 p.m.  
ELL Parent Center

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Book Discussion: *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant* by José Ángel N.

Thursday, February 18  
7 p.m.  
Skokie Public Library

**Uncharted Territory: Narratives on Latino Migration**  
A lively discussion challenging the usual narratives of Latina/o migration. Chicago resident and writer José Ángel N., author of the book *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant*, will talk about the migration experience as an undocumented individual. (More on page 22).

Thursday, February 25  
7 p.m.  
Skokie Public Library
All events are open to the general public. Some events require advance registration, and they are noted in the program descriptions.

Event Locations:

- 90 Miles Cuban Cafe, Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy Avenue, Lincolnwood
- American Legion Memorial Civic Center of Morton Grove, 6140 Dempster Street, Morton Grove
- Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Evanston
- Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Avenue, Evanston
- Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood
- Lincolnwood Place, 7000 N. McCormick Boulevard, Lincolnwood
- Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Avenue, Lincolnwood
- L. Woods Tap & Pine Lodge, 7110 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood
- Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove
- National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th Street, Chicago
- Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler Avenue, Skokie
- Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton Street, Niles
- Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton Street, Skokie
- Niles Township Schools’ ELL Parent Center, 9440 Kenton Avenue, Skokie
- Northwestern University, Black House, 1914 Sheridan Road, Evanston
- Oakton Community College, Des Plaines Campus, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines
- Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie
- Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Avenue, Skokie
- Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street, Skokie
- Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton Street, Skokie
- Whole Foods Sauganash, 6020 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago

Visit the Coming Together website at www.comingtogether.in
Morning Matinee: *Frida*
A biography of artist Frida Kahlo, who channeled the pain of a crippling injury and her tempestuous marriage into her work. Rated R.

Thursday, January 21, 2016
10:30 a.m.
Lincolnwood Public Library

**Books in the Woods**
Registration required at www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Monday, January 25, 2016
7:30 p.m.
L. Woods Restaurant

**U.S. Latino/as: Languages, Hybrid Identities and Poetry**
This presentation will examine the social realities of Spanish and Spanglish in the U.S. and will also introduce the ways in which Latino/a poets combine Spanish and English as a poetic tool in reaffirming the hybrid identities of U.S. Latino/as. Presenters: Professor Lourdes Torres, Chair, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies, De Paul University and Professor Frances R. Aparicio, Director, Latina and Latino Studies Program, Northwestern University.

Thursday, January 28
7 p.m.
Skokie Village Hall

**The Motorcycle Diaries**
Based on the true story of two young men who embark on a thrilling and dangerous road trip across Latin America that becomes a life-changing journey of self discovery. Rated R.

Tuesday, February 2
2:00 p.m.
Niles Public Library

**Spotlight on Latino Writers**
This book talk will feature the top contemporary Latino writers who explore their identity and heritage through novels and nonfiction writing.

Wednesday, February 3
1 p.m.
American Legion Memorial Civic Center of Morton Grove
McFarland USA
The Latino Club at Niles North hosts this movie. Based on a true story, track coach Jim White is a newcomer to a predominantly Latino high school in California’s Central Valley. Coach White and his students find that they have much to learn about one another, but things begin to change when White realizes the boys’ exceptional running ability. More than just physical prowess drives the teens desire to succeed; their strong family ties, incredible work ethic and commitment to their team all play a factor in forging these novice runners into champions. Rated PG.

Friday, February 5
6 p.m.
Niles North High School Student Commons

¡Viva! Dream and Drum
Drum yourself awake and enjoy Mexican hot chocolate while listening to Margarita Engle’s beautiful book, Drum Dream Girl. Then make and take your own drum! For ages 4-7 with family. Registration required at www.nileslibrary.org or call (847) 663-6622.

Saturday, February 6
10 a.m.
Niles Public Library

Samuel Del Real Latin Jazz Trio Concert
Latin jazz pianist Samuel Del Real and his jazz trio will entertain you with the hot rhythms of Latin America.

Sunday, February 7
2 p.m.
Morton Grove Public Library

Appetizers and Artist Talk at 90 Miles Cuban Cafe
Join Lincolnwood Public Library and enjoy a taste of Cuba at 90 Miles Cuban Cafe at Lincolnwood Town Center. Selected appetizers from 5 - 5:30 p.m., with an artist talk by Alejandro Figueredo Diaz-Perera and Cara Megan Lewis from 5:30 - 6 p.m. No other plans that night? Stay after the event for live music. Registration required at www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Tuesday, February 9
5 p.m.
90 Miles Cuban Cafe, Lincolnwood Town Center
Raising Children in Bilingual Households
Join Megan Riordan, Speech language pathologist, as she shares general information regarding speech and language development in bilingual children and bursts myths about bilingualism and its effects on language development. She will give recommendations for parents and caregivers raising children in bilingual households. Limited to 30 participants. For parents and caregivers of young children. Preregister at skokielibrary.info.

Wednesday, February 10
6:30 p.m.
Skokie Public Library

Segundo Sabado Lotería
On this special Saturday, we will be using traditional Lotería images on our Bingo cards and mixing in a Mexican treat or two with our usual snacks. For grades K-8.

Saturday, February 13
9:30 a.m.
Niles Public Library Board Room

Los Hermanos Escamilla Trick Rope Show
You won’t believe your eyes! Enjoy amazing feats of rope work called “Floreo de Soga,” traditionally known as the national sport of Mexico. Watch “Floreadores” defy gravity and re-think what you know about physics! Grades K and up.

Sunday, February 14
2 p.m.
Niles Public Library Board Room

Identities and Multiplicities and New Configurations: Dominican/Puerto Rican Visual Artist, Sonia Báez Hernández
In this presentation, Ms. Báez employs the multiplicities of identities to account for her artistic expression. “I contextualize my visual art and performance arts at the edge of the gathering of memories marked by cultural differences, heterogeneous histories, displacements, movements of territories and deterritorialization, radicalized/ethnic corporality and foreign accents... Immigrants and those who claim multiple identities are always situated in relation to the outside, in localized situations, in heterogeneity, transformation, social formation, and rapture. The multiplicities of identities open up the possibilities to enunciate possible communities, new consciousness, and forms of contestation, political solidarity, and artistic expressions”. Sponsored by the Latina and Latino Studies Program and the Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University.

Monday, February 15
5 p.m.
Evanston Public Library, Room 1703
The Iberian Inquisition Comes to the Americas
A panel discussion with Professor Rifka Cook, Marguita Zaretsky and Alba Salgado about the little known history of the Inquisition and its repercussions in the “New World”, the Americas.

Tuesday, February 16
11 a.m.
Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, Room P103

The Sea Inside
Ramon Sampedro wants to end his life because a diving accident 28 years before turned him into a quadriplegic. Spain’s Best Foreign Language Film 2004 is a poignant, emotional film. Rated PG-13.

Tuesday, February 16
2 p.m.
Niles Public Library

Wrap it up: Tamales and Pasteles
The art of wrapped foods dates back to the beginning of civilization. Indigenous practices influence the way we prepare and eat food today, such as wrapping dishes in leaves and other organic materials. Join Jorgé Félix and Mac Mendoza as they have a comparative conversation and demonstration, teaching the traditions of Central American tamales and Caribbean pasteles. Tastings will follow the conversation.

Tuesday, February 16
7 p.m.
Skokie Public Library

Chef Demo with Live Music
Join Lincolnwood Public Library for a Chef Demonstration at Lincolnwood Place that will revolve around Latino foods and feature live Latin American music by Gabriel Medina from the Old Town School of Folk Music. Registration required at www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org

Wednesday, February 17
11:15 a.m.
Lincolnwood Place
A Presentation by Dr. Sherwin Bryant
Dr. Bryant is Associate Professor of African American Studies and History and Director of the Center for African American History, Northwestern University. As an historian of colonial Afro-Latin America and the Atlantic/Pacific Worlds, Bryant works at the intersection of cultural, legal, social history and political economy, with an emphasis upon Black life in the Kingdoms of New Granada and Quito (what is now modern Colombia and Ecuador).

Thursday, February 18
4 p.m.
Niles North High School

Cantar y Jugar with CATS Music
Families of children with special needs are invited to join Tricia Sebastian, founder of Creating Arts Together with Songs (CATS), who will lead the children in singing in English and Spanish and playing instruments. Kids will have fun interacting through games, using props, and moving to the beat as they celebrate Latino cultures. Limited to 20 participants. For children ages 3 to 8 with parents/caregivers. Register at Skokie Public Library at skokielibrary.info.

Saturday, February 20
10:30 a.m.
Skokie Public Library

Meet the Artist: Alfonso “Piloto” Nieves Ruiz
Alfonso “Piloto” Nieves Ruiz is a self-taught artist from Queretaro, Mexico whose sculptural pieces will be on display at the Library as part of this year’s ¡Viva! series. Piloto will guide people through the exhibit which explores themes of migration and borders and features recent political events in Mexico, all while using recycled materials. The talk will be followed by a reception.

Monday, February 22
6 p.m.
Skokie Public Library

Taste of Ecuador
Join Lincolnwood Public Library at Whole Foods Sauganash for an interactive cooking class where you’ll learn to make the following Ecuadorian dishes: Llapingachos (stuffed potato pancakes), Fritada de Chancho (braised pork), Encebollado (tomato-onion relish), and if there’s time, Empanadas de Viento (cheese empanadas). Registration required at www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Also offered on March 2.

Wednesday, February 24
6 p.m.
Whole Foods Sauganash
Abuela’s Stories: A Time of Magic
A proverb that says: “You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother” and “There is nothing you can understand until your grandma tells you a story!” The stories of our Abuelas rejoice us, and bring us back to our childhood years. We remember their love and understanding of our crazy teenage adventures, and in adulthood, we knew they would always have the right answers for those hard life questions.
This event is made in collaboration with National Louis University and the ELL Center.

Thursday, February 25
6:30 p.m.
Niles Township Schools’ ELL Parent Center

Uncharted Territory: Narratives on Latino Migration
Join us for a lively talk challenging the usual narratives of Latina/o migration. Chicago resident and writer José Ángel N., author of the book *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant*, will talk about the migration experience as an undocumented individual. Scholars Amalia Pallares and Joel Huerta will contextualize the movement of Latina/os as they’ve moved north, while local activists Julián Lazalde and Juliet de Jesus Alejandre will provide further insight into what the Latina/o community is doing to advocate for its well-being.

Thursday, February 25
7 p.m.
Skokie Public Library

Create Mola! Panamanian-Inspired Folk Art
Make beautiful cut paper collages inspired by the folk art tapestries of Panama. Mola style art uses nature, patterns, and intense color to create beautiful pictures that have a unique spirit. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

Friday, February 26
4:30 p.m.
Morton Grove Public Library
Book Discussion: *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea
Join us for a lively book discussion. A quest novel in the grand tradition, though there are no medieval knights, magic rings, or light sabers within its pages. Author Urrea sets the novel in the present day, in the highly charged world of the U.S.-Mexico border region. Copies of the book will be available at both Oakton Community College campuses four weeks before the discussion.

Saturday, February 27
11 a.m.
Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, Room P103

The Many Tastes of Salsa
Enjoy a reading of the book *Salsa* by Jorge Argueta, then learn about all of the ingredients and flavors used to make salsa in different cultures. Limited to 30 participants. For grades K-5.
Pregister at www.skokielibrary.info.

Saturday, February 27
2:30 p.m.
Skokie Public Library

Kaia String Quartet
With their focus on music of Latin American composers, both contemporary and traditional, the Chicago-based string quartet has been the Ensemble in Residence of the Latin Music Festival of Chicago since 2012. The quartet has been featured in the LMF since 2010 and opened the festivities in 2011 with the world premier of Elbio Barilari’s quartet, Antique Store.

Sunday, February 28
3 p.m.
Skokie Public Library

Hora de Cuentos / Bilingual Storytime
Read books, sing songs, and have fun in both English and Spanish in this special bilingual storytime. Drop-in event for ages 2-5, kids and families.

Monday, February 29
10:30 a.m.
Skokie Public Library
A Very Special Listen Up!: *Drum Dream Girl*

Tuesday, March 1
10 a.m.
Morton Grove Public Library

**Taste of Ecuador**
(see description on page 21). Also February 24.

Wednesday, March 2
6 p.m.
Whole Foods Sauganash

**Lecture: Gendered Geographies of Citizenship Amongst Central American Activists in Los Angeles**
Presented by Professor Arely Zimmerman, New York University. This lecture is part of the Latina and Latino Studies Program Lecture Series for 2015-16 on “Central Americans and other Latino/as.”

Thursday, March 3
5 p.m.
Northwestern University, Black House, 1st Floor Conference Room

**Evening of Latino and Hispanic Culture**
Join Oakton Community College students and community members for a festival of music, dance, food, and fun celebrating Latino/Hispanic culture. The $3 entrance fee includes food and entertainment. Children under 5 are free.

Thursday, March 3
6:30 p.m.
Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, Room P104

**DIY Teen Craft: Guatemalan Worry Dolls**
Learn about Worry Dolls, tiny handcrafted dolls clothed in traditional Mayan costumes. According to Mayan legend, a Worry Doll takes over its owner’s worries at night, so that they are gone in the morning. Make your own Worry Doll with fabric and yarn to try its relaxing powers for yourself.

Friday, March 4
4 p.m.
Morton Grove Public Library
The National Museum of Mexican Arts Field Trip

Join us for a trip to the National Museum of Mexican Arts located in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. This docent-led tour will introduce participants to the permanent collection of the museum, one of the most prominent first-voice institutions for Mexican art and culture in the United States. It is home to one of the country’s largest Mexican art collections, including more than 7,000 seminal pieces from ancient Mexico to the present. Afterwards participants will have a chance to explore additional exhibits on display. Only registered riders will be allowed on this special tour. The bus is expected to return to Skokie by 2:30 p.m. Lunch will not be provided. Registration through the Skokie Park District is required. Registration code: 110150-01. Fee: $20 per person due at time of registration.

Saturday, March 5
10 a.m.
Bus departs from and returns to the Skokie Heritage Museum

Latino Film Screening and Discussion presented by the International Cultural Center of Chicago: East Side Sushi

After being forced to give up her fruit-vending cart, Juana secures a position as a kitchen assistant at a local Japanese restaurant. At work, she secretly observes the sushi chefs and eventually teaches herself to make a multitude of sushi. But gender and ethnicity turn into an obstacle to her dreams of becoming a sushi chef.

Sunday, March 6
2 p.m.
Morton Grove Public Library

Hora de Cuentos/Bilingual Storytime

Read books, sing songs, and have fun in both English and Spanish in this special bilingual storytime. Drop-in event. Ages 2-5, and caregivers.

Monday, March 7
10:30 a.m.
Skokie Public Library
Lecture: Evanston Public Library’s Big Read Keynote: Luis Alberto Urrea

“Into the Beautiful North” author, Luis Alberto Urrea, will present his lecture “Universal Border: From Tijuana to the World.” Mr. Urrea will share his story of transformation from his beginnings on a dirt street in Tijuana to Pulitzer Prize finalist and beloved storyteller. Though recognized as a writer who concentrates on the border regions of the Southwestern United States, Urrea says, “Borders don’t interest me. I’m really in the business of building bridges.” The author will be available to sign copies of the book following the lecture.

Wednesday, March 9
7 p.m.
Evanston Township High School Auditorium

Sumak Kawsay and Suma Qama: Learning about and from the Indigenous Communities of Bolivia and Peru

Presented by Oakton faculty participants who went on a 5-week Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Grant, Summer 2015.

Thursday, March 10
2 p.m.
Oakton Community College, Des Plaines Campus, Room 1604

Viva Salsa Night at 90 Miles Cuban Cafe, Lincolnwood Town Center

Get ready for a fun and lively evening of salsa. Instructors will demonstrate the rhythms and steps of salsa. Then, let the music move you as you dance to a live salsa band! Drinks and food available for purchase.

Thursday, March 10
6 - 7:15 p.m.
90 Mile Cuban Cafe, Lincolnwood Town Center

World Language Storytime: Spanish

Come one and all to share stories and songs in Spanish (with a bit of English). Craft and snack included. Ages 3 and up with adult.

Friday, March 11
6 p.m.
Niles Public Library
**Sounds of Brazil with Dedé Sampaio**
Explore a new culture through the ‘Sounds of Brazil’. This program explores many aspects of Brazilian history, geography, and customs through its music. Adults and children will be invited to participate in a hands-on percussion line.

Saturday, March 12
2 p.m.
Morton Grove Public Library

**Crafty Saturday**
Join us for a very special Crafty Saturday. Before or after enjoying the Sounds of Brazil, head to the Youth Services Department to create a colorful mini piñata!

Saturday, March 12
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Morton Grove Public Library

**Salsa in America: Discussion and Performance**
Laura Flores and Del Dominguez of Mixed Motion Art Dance Academy dance “salsa” and discuss the evolution of the dance in the United States.

Monday, March 21
12 p.m.
Oakton Community College, Skokie Campus, Room 166, Cafeteria

**Precious Knowledge Documentary and Discussion**
*Precious Knowledge* illustrates what motivated Tucson High School students and teachers to form the front line of an epic civil rights battle regarding the teaching of ethnic studies in Arizona.

Monday, March 21
4 p.m.
Niles North High School Auditorium

Wednesday, March 23
4 p.m.
Niles West High School South Lobby
Juegos y Juguetes Tradicionales (Games and Traditional Toys)
We will teach the new generation some traditional toys and games from our culture, e.g., trompo, balero, yoyo, matatena, lotería, serpientes y escaleras, pirinola, canicas, etc.

Friday, April 22
6 p.m.
Niles West High School Student Commons

Stand Against Racism
Stand Against Racism is a movement of the YWCA that aims to eliminate racism by raising awareness through its annual event. On April 29, join in as individuals and groups participate in a public stand throughout Evanston and Niles Township. This is the second year that Coming Together has participated. For information: www.standagainstracism.org.

Friday, April 29
TBD
Throughout Niles Township and Evanston

Dinner and a Movie: The Book of Life
Amanecer Breakfast Tacos, a Latin food car, will have brunch tacos available for purchase from 5 – 7 p.m. They will be located in the parking lot next to the Skokie Heritage Museum. Check them out at www.amanecertacos.com. Stay for The Book of Life (rated PG, animated): Manolo, a young man who is torn between fulfilling the expectations of his family and following his heart, embarks on an adventure that spans three fantastic worlds where he must face his greatest fears. Starts at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Museum. Space is limited to the first 50 people. Admission to the movie is free.

Friday, April 29
5 - 7 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Movie
Skokie Heritage Museum

La Historia y El Uso del Rebozo (History & Use of the Shawl)
Know the different uses of shawls, through its history, and participate in an exhibition of rebozos.

Friday, May 13
6 p.m.
Niles West High School Student Commons
Suggestions for additional reading. Check your local library for available copies.

**Fiction**
- *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Prayers for the Stolen* by Jennifer Clement
- *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz
- *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez
- *Before the End, After the Beginning* by Dagoberto Gilb
- *Julio’s Day* by Gilbert Hernandez
- *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* by Meg Medina
- *Across a Hundred Mountains* by Reyna Grande
- *Mexican Whiteboy* by Matt de la Peña
- *The Madonnas of Echo Park* by Brando Skyhorse
- *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea

**Non-Fiction**
- *Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States* by Felipe Fernández-Armesto
- *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande
- *Still Dreaming: My Journey from the Barrio to Capitol Hill* by Luis Gutiérrez with Doug Scofield
- *The DREAMers: How the Undocumented Youth Movement Transformed the Immigrant Rights Debate* by Walter Nicholls
- *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy’s Odyssey from a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League* by Dan-el Padilla Peralta
- *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor

**Books for Youth**
- *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* by Marjorie Agosín
- *Caminar* by Skila Brown
- *Lowriders in Space* by Cathy Camper, illustrated by Raúl the Third
- *Mountain Dog* by Margarita Engle
- *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba’s struggle for Freedom* by Margarita Engle
- *Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes* by Juan Felipe Herrera
- *The Circuit: Stories of the Life of a Migrant Child* by Dr. Francisco Jiménez
- *The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz-Ryan
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz-Ryan
- *Baseball in April* by Gary Soto

**Books for Younger Children**
- *Marisol McDonald Doesn’t Match* by Monica Brown
- *Tulípán: The Puerto Rican Giraffe* by Ada Haiman
- *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale about a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart* by Pat Mora
- *Viva Frida* by Yuyi Morales
- *Green is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong
- *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin* by Duncan Tonatiuh
- *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant’s Tale* by Duncan Tonatiuh
- *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

90 Miles Cuban Cafe
Affinity
Alfonso “Piloto” Nieves Ruiz
AfriCaribe
Assyrian Community
Evanston/North Shore YWCA
Evanston Township High School
Fairview South School District 72
Filipino Community
Golf School District 67
Greek Community
Hispanic Unity Group (HUG)
Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore
Indian Community of Niles Township
Korean Community
Latino Resources
Latinos in Skokie
Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce
Lincolnwood Public Library
Lincolnwood School District 74
National Louis University
Morton Grove Community Relations Commission
Morton Grove Public Library
Morton Grove School District 70
Niles Elementary School District 71
Niles Public Library
Niles Township High School District 219
Niles Township Schools’ ELL Parent Center
Northwestern University
Open Books
Skokie Human Relations Commission
Skokie Park District
Skokie Public Library
Oakton Community College
Skokie School District 68
Skokie School District 69
Skokie School District 73
Skokie School District 73.5
Village of Skokie
WGN-TV
Youth Organizations Umbrella, Inc. (Y.O.U.)
Coming Together in Skokie began in 2010 as a program to interact with different cultures in the community by building knowledge, awareness, and appreciation of the diverse residents in the community through literature and special events.

2010: Culture: Indian
Book:  • *Motherland* by Vineeta Vijayaraghavan

2011: Culture: Filipino
Books:  • *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept* by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard
• *Growing up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults* Collected and Edited by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard
• *Willie Wins* by Almira Astudillo Gilles
• *Lakas and the Manilatown Fish: Si Lakas at ang Isdang Manilatown* by Anthony D. Robles
• *Tall Story* by Candy Gourlay

2012: Culture: Assyrian
Books:  • *Gilgamesh: A New Rendering in English Verse* by David Ferry
• *Home Is Beyond the Mountains* by Celia Barker Lottridge
• *Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees* by Deborah Ellis
• *Sahra=Moon*, Written and Illustrated by Romil and Victor Benyamino

2013: Culture: Greek
Books:  • *The Green Shore* by Natalie Bakopoulos
• *War Games* by Audrey Couloumbis and Akila Couloumbis
• *Marianthe’s Story: Painted Words and Spoken Memories* by Aliki

2014: Culture: Korean
Books:  • *Everything Asian* by Sung J. Woo
• *Kimchi & Calamari* by Rose Kent
• *Rabbit and the Dragon King: Based on a Korean Folk Tale* by Daniel San Souci and Eujin Kim Neilan

2015: Voices of Race
Books:  • *The Supremes at Earl’s All-You-Can-Eat* by Edward Kelsey Moore
• *Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice* by Gail Bush and Randy Meyer, Editors
• *Black, White, Other: In Search of Nina Armstrong* by Joan Steinau Lester
• *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters* by Barack Obama
• *Xander’s Panda Party* by Linda Sue Park