



Puerto Rican Band "Plena Libre" to Perform at Solana Beach Library Grammy-Nominated Afro-Caribbean Dance Band on 15th Anniversary World Tour

Plena Libre, Puerto Rico's multi-Grammy nominated tropical band, will perform Friday, June 13, at the Solana Beach Library, which shares a facility with Earl Warren Middle School, 157 Stevens Avenue. The free concert, part of the San Diego County Library's World Music & Cultural Arts Series, will be held outdoors on the school grounds, with two one-hour shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Co-sponsors are the House of Puerto Rico and the Friends of the Solana Beach Library. Reservations are recommended by calling (858) 694-2415; callers are asked to specify which show. With limited chair seating, it is recommended that attendees bring beach chairs or blankets.

Solana Beach Reads features award winning book: *The Devil's Highway*

Solana Beach Reads – a month long one-book, one-city project presented by Friends of Solana Beach Library features award-winning author Luis Alberto Urrea's *The Devil's Highway*. The project features a wide array of scheduled special events and activities relating to the book: film showings, book discussions, an art exhibit, panel discussions, and an evening with the author.

"We are excited about presenting our first ever community-wide reading program for our town," Friends president Mary Jane Boyd said. "We invite our residents to read the book, participate in related activities which are designed to promote reading, discussion and dialogue about themes and issues relevant to our community," she added.

The Devil's Highway, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2005, has been called a work of grave beauty and searing power—one of the most widely praised pieces of investigative reporting to appear in recent years. The story follows twenty-six men who in May 2001 attempted to cross the Mexican border into the desert of southern Arizona, through the deadly region known as the Devil's Highway, a desert so harsh and desolate that even the Border Patrol is afraid to travel through it. Urrea tells the story of this modern odyssey, unsentimentally but with compassion, revealing how a simple

political boundary manages to scramble the basic humanity of all whose lives it divides and defines.

The Devil's Highway examines the border from many different points of view. The writer puts a human face on the lost walkers, and discovers the humanity in the Border Patrol agents. It explores the complexity of the border and immigration issue, the discussion of which often produces more heat than light.

About the Author: The critically acclaimed author of 11 books, Luis Alberto Urrea is an award-winning poet and essayist. He won the 2004 Lannan Literary Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for *The Devil's Highway*. The writer uses his dual cultural life experiences to explore greater themes of love, loss and triumph. Born in Tijuana, Mexico to a Mexican father and an American mother, Urrea graduated from UCSD, and did graduate work at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He is a professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago. *The Devil's Highway* was selected as one of the best books of the years by the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Arizona Republic and the Chicago Tribune

Schedule of Events for Solana Beach Reads:

June 10 Tues at 6:30 pm at the Library – Discussion of *The*

Devil's Highway led by Roni Seay, League of Women Voters

June 17 Tues at 6:30 pm at the Library - Panel Discussion on Fences and Borders: The Immigration Quandary. Moderator: Amy Isackson, KPBS Border Reporter. Panelists: Peter Nunez, former U.S. Attorney; Ruben Navarrete, San Diego *Union-Tribune* Columnist; Tomas Jimenez, Professor of Sociology, UCSD; Luawanna Hallstrom, Co-Chair, Agricultural Coalition for Immigration Reform.

June 21 Sat 6:30 pm at La Colonia Community Center - El Norte. Bilingual discussion of film and similar issues raised in *The Devil's Highway*, led by Racquel Shantal

June 26 Thurs 7:00 pm at the Library – Evening with Author Luis Urrea – Discussion of the book, book signing, followed by a reception for the author

June 30 Mon 7:00 pm – at The Book Works, Flower Hill Promenade. Book discussion led by Lisa Stefanacci

Art Exhibition at the Solana Beach Library May 15-June 30, 2008: *Living Under the Trees – Photographs by David Bacon*, Oakland and Berkeley-based writer, photo-journalist who explores issues of labor, immigration and international politics. His work has been exhibited nationally, in Mexico, the U.K., and Germany

All events are free and open to the public.

Sweetwater International Student Mariachi Conference

Featuring the Sensational Mariachi Internacional Guadalajara

The 2008 Conference will offer mariachi instruction to students of all ages at novice, intermediate, and advanced levels in addition to instruction in Mexican folkloric dance at three levels. Instructors are recognized professionals including the virtuoso members of Mariachi Internacional Guadalajara. Famed arranger Rigoberto Alfaro will be the Musical Director of the Conference. This year's Conference will pay tribute to

Heriberto Molina ("El Cura"), lead vocalist of the Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán for more than thirty years. Mariachi historian, Jonathan Clark, will conduct an in-depth live interview with Mr. Molina accompanied by a multimedia presentation. Legendary trumpeter Miguel Martínez, will once again join the instructional staff. Dance workshops will be taught by Benjamín Hernández, Ramón Morones, and Leticia Ceja all trained at the famed Escuela

de Artes Plásticas at the University of Guadalajara. The Sweetwater School District welcomes students and groups from outside the area and encourages them to take advantage of the Conference's workshops and performance opportunities.

Workshops: **June 19 & 20**, 8:30am to 4:30pm, Chula Vista High School, 820 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista, CA 91911 www.suhsd.k12.ca.us/mariachiconference

12th Annual Intertribal Powwow at the Historical San Luis Rey Mission in Oceanside, California

A Celebration of Native Americal Culture and Heritage

OCEANSIDE, CA — San Luis Rey Mission Indian Foundation will sponsor the San Luis Rey Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Twelfth Annual Inter-Tribal Powwow on Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th, 2008. This free two-day event shares with the community local tribal history and spiritual traditions of the Luiseno people.

The Powwow will be held Saturday, June 14th and Sunday June 15th, on the grounds of the Old Mission San Luis Rey, 4050 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, CA.

The event schedule is as follows: Saturday, June 14, 2008, 9:00 am-11:00 pm; Sunday, June 15, 2008, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Gourd Dancing will start at 10:00 am both days. Grand Entry will be at Noon & 7:00 pm on Saturday, and at Noon on Sunday. Intertribal and Competition Dancing will follow Grand Entries on both days. More information about this event can be found at:

<http://slrmissionindians.org>

Powwows celebrate Native American culture and many different tribes will be represented in dance, art, and music. The event consists of Gourd Dancing, Grand Entries, Intertribal Dancing, and Competition Dancing including: Northern and Southern Traditional, Grass, Fancy, Fancy

Shawl, and Jingle. Indian tacos and fry bread are a favorite among participants and spectators alike. Visitors will enjoy shopping and browsing through the vendor village consisting of many unusual and unique Native American jewelry, artwork, music and crafts. The public is invited and welcomed to come, enjoy and learn about Native American culture.

La Prensa San Diego is on the Web
<http://www.laprensa-sandiego.org>

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Crossing Tracks Gallery

Crossing Tracks Gallery located in the heart of Normal Heights at 3275 Adams Avenue, is in its fifth year of presenting an exhibition venue for contemporary artists. The gallery is operated and managed by contemporary artists sympathetic to the lack of exhibition opportunities for emerging artists in the San Diego area.

Artists are invited by the gallery curators to exhibit work in one or two person shows. Our exhibition history is diverse in terms of concepts and medium, varying from painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, video and other interdisciplinary formats. Artists from the San Diego area have included Richard Keely, Yoshimi Hayashi, Peggy Ann Jones, John Dillemath, Anna O'Cain, Gilbert Neri and Siobhan Arnold.

Artists from other areas have included David Andersen and Gene Flores from Portland, Oregon; Pamela Blotner, San Francisco; Jim Randall, New York; Dan Fuller, Albuquerque; and Gabriel Gaytan, El Paso.

Crossing Tracks Gallery continues to curate exhibitions reflective of the gallery mission and the personal, and often challenging vision of individual artists.

Crossing Tracks Gallery, in conjunction with Art Around Adams, will presents three visual art events on Saturday, June 7:

Opening Reception: *Measure/Counter Measure*, New Work by Thomas Johnson, 6-9pm.

TheInfinityLab presents: *Open Wound of History*, The Tale of the Third Ritual featuring an installation and performance by: Dr. Hueso (Robert J. Sanchez), Dr. Niku (Emiko René Lewis-Sanchez), 8:00 - 9:00 pm in the lower patio.

Post by Hollis Swan, video projection on the west facing wall of the Normal Heights post office (across from the gallery), 8:00pm - 10:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Roberto Salas at 619/521-0676 or email crossingtracksgallery@yahoo.com.

Crossing Tracks Gallery, 3275 Adams Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116. 619/521-0676.

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