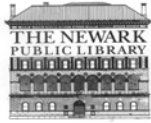


THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102



PRESS RELEASE

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NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2012

The Newark Public Library will commemorate Hispanic Heritage with an exhibit and series of programs exploring the African influence in Mexico, Central and South America.

The celebration which begins on Wednesday, September 19, at 6 pm in the Main Library's Centennial Hall will feature a talk by Dr. Samuel Cruz, Associate Professor of Religion and Society at the Union Theological Seminary, titled "Africa in the Americas: Doing Justice to the Black South Atlantic." The evening's festivities will include a performance of traditional Afro-Peruvian music and dance.

The exhibit *Invisible History: The African Spirit in Latin America* explores the unknown history and deep-seated influence of Africa's people in Central and South America and Mexico, areas of Latin America not commonly associated with a strong African presence. This exhibit, curated by Ingrid Betancourt, will be on view from September 19 through December 15 in the Main Library's Second Floor Gallery.

This year's Hispanic Heritage Celebration is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

Other events include:

Saturday, September 29, 2:00 pm, Centennial Hall

Dance performance /

¡Festejo! Afro-Peruvian Dance

Afro-Peruvian music incorporates a wide variety of Spanish, African and indigenous elements, rhythms, dances and instruments. The *Centro Académico de Expresión Afro-Peruana* (CADEAP) presents a lively performance of this little-known genre of Peruvian music and dance.

Saturday, October 13, 2:00 pm, Centennial Hall

Concert / lecture demonstration

The History of Salsa: 350 Years of African Influence

José Obando traces the development of this unique Latin American rhythm from its African roots through the slave trade to the Latin American colonies and into contemporary American ethno-musical culture. José Obando is one of the incorporators of the Salsa Museum in Spanish Harlem. The program includes a lecture demonstration and musical performances by Mr. Obando and his group.

Saturday, October 20, 2:00 pm, Auditorium

Lecture / Afro-Mexico: The Untold Story

Herman Bennett, renowned scholar on the history of the African diaspora in Latin America, will examine the role that African slaves and freedmen played in Mexican society during the colonial period using narratives and real-life accounts. This talk, based on Dr. Bennett's essay "Sex, Lies, and Incest: The Afro-Mexican Experience," explores the interaction between Native American, Europeans and Africans in colonial Mexico and will discuss the effects on the identity of present-day Mexico.

Saturday, October 27, 2:00 pm, Auditorium

Lecture / Roots, Ritual & Rhythm: African Belief Systems in Latin America

Dr. Samuel Cruz, Associate Professor of Religion and Society at the Union Theological Seminary, will discuss how traditional African belief systems and practices have influenced religion and culture in Latin America.

ALSO AT THE LIBRARY THIS FALL:

Wednesday, October 24, 6:00 pm, Centennial Hall

Latino Oral History: Justice

The New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Newark Public Library launches the Latino Oral History: Justice website, which features interviews of New Jersey Latinos with distinct perspectives on justice. Keynote speaker, Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, will discuss the Latino community's long history of community service and engagement on issues of civil rights, justice and the search for equal treatment for all.

Saturday, December 1, 2:00 pm, Centennial Hall

Book Presentation / Cubans in New Jersey: Migrants Tell Their Stories

New Jersey is home to the second-largest Cuban community in the country. In this study Milagros Castillo-Montoya, Doctoral Candidate at Columbia University, presents a carefully researched social history of this vibrant immigrant group, enriched with the words and vignettes of the people who actually lived the experience of dislocation and adjustment, while creating meaningful new lives in New Jersey. Published by the Newark Public Library, this book is the first in a series exploring the Latino immigrant experience, being developed by the NJ Hispanic Research and Information Center.

All programs are free and open to the general public. For additional information, please call 973-733-7772 (Sala Hispanoamericana) or email ibetancourt@npl.org.