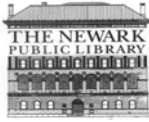


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Newark Library Salutes Peruvians in New Jersey

The Newark Public Library explores the history and cultural traditions of Peru and its people, including those who now call New Jersey home, this September in its yearly tribute and celebration of Hispanic Heritage.

The four-month salute featuring an exhibit, *A Journey from Ancient Times: Peruvians in New Jersey*, opens at 6 p.m., Thursday, September 17 with a reception in the Main Library's Centennial Hall. The exhibit will showcase Peruvian culture and traditions, as well as the mystical and magical aspects of Peru and will be on display through December 31 on the second floor gallery during regular library hours. The building is located at 5 Washington Street in downtown Newark.

Dr. Carlos I. Lopez Cano Vieira, an international lecturer and professor at Portugal's Algarve University, will be the keynote speaker for the opening program. Over the past five years, he has been traveling the world, speaking on a variety of subjects. Born in Lima Peru, Vieira is expected to give a unique perspective of his native country describing the growing Peruvian diaspora in Europe, the United States, Japan and Argentina over the last three decades.

Rounding out the exciting evening is a musical performance by Peruvian singer, Liliana Perez and the group *Contigo Perú* and a traditional Peruvian dance presentation by past winners of New Jersey public television station NJN's Hispanic Youth Talent Showcase.

"Each year we seize the opportunity to learn more about our state's burgeoning Hispanic community by exploring a different country or aspect of Latino culture. This fall we will share the rich and fascinating history of Peru and pay tribute to the growing number of New Jerseyans who trace their roots to this ancient land," said Library Director Wilma Grey . In recent years, she noted, the Library's Hispanic Heritage salute featured Latino films in 2008, the culture of Ecuador in 2007 and the history of Latino dance in 2006.

New Jersey enjoys the distinction of having more residents of Peruvian background than any other state, noted Ingrid Betancourt, curator of the exhibit and director of the Library's Sala Hispanoamericana. The largest communities are in Harrison, East Newark, Kearney and Paterson.

The Peruvian Exhibit Organizing Committee is chaired by Daniel Jara, a native of Lima, Peru, who immigrated to Paterson when he was 14. Jara is the Founding President and CEO of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, an umbrella organization seeking to represent the economic interests of 70,000 Hispanic-owned firms in New Jersey. He also is President and CEO of the Peruvian American National Roundtable (PANR).

"We are extremely honored and privileged that this exhibit will highlight the contributions of Peruvian Americans residing in the great state of New Jersey," he said, Peruvian Americans number approximately 240,000 in the Garden State and have contributed to its economy by establishing businesses in New Jersey's urban areas, he added.

A large number of Peruvians settled in Paterson in the early 60's, according to Jara. They were attracted by the many textile industries. owned by Italian Americans. " Each factory had a soccer team and they (the new immigrants) knew if they found work in one they would be on a team," he said. ,

Curated by Betancourt in collaboration with members of the Peruvian Exhibit Organizing Committee, *A Journey from Ancient Times: Peruvians in New Jersey*, focuses on the experiences of America's Peruvian community, including the first Peruvian-born, U.S. astronaut, Carlos Noriega, who participated in the 1997 and 2000 space shuttle missions. Also on view are photographs and information on Peru's 11 UNESCO World Heritage sites, pictures and memorabilia of New Jersey's first Peruvian Parade in 1986 and a salute to Dr. Elmer Huerta, a Peruvian and the first Latino president in the history of the American Cancer Society. A large section of the Library exhibit will be devoted to Peruvians now living in New Jersey, why they chose the Garden State and the journey that brought them from Peru to their new homes. Peruvian arts and crafts, literature and artifacts are also on display.

A full and exciting schedule of special programs showcasing the Peruvian community will complement the exhibit. These include artistic presentations and musical programs as well as films, literary events and special activities for the younger generation.

On Saturday, September 19 at 2 p.m. the Library will present an exciting, colorful and fun-filled program for children and their families in Centennial Hall. *Dances from the Land of the Inca* will feature the award winning young dancers from the Peruvian Arts & Folklore School in Kearny. They will perform traditional music and dance from the different regions of Peru, showcasing each area's authentic attire while also explaining the history and symbolism of songs and dances.

One of the most beloved Peruvian dance groups, *Ballet Folklorico Peru*, will perform at Centennial Hall on Saturday, October 3 at 2 p.m. This extraordinary group presents a rich repertoire of authentic dances from the Amazon, the Andes, the Coast and Afro-Peruvian communities. In 1999 this group established a folkloric dance school in Paterson, home of one of the largest Peruvian communities in the United States.

An acclaimed documentary that captures the passion of Peruvian folkloric dance will be screened in the Library Auditorium on Saturday, October 10 at 2 p.m. *Soy Andina* tells the story of two New Yorkers – a modern hip-hop dancer raised in Queens and a folkloric dancer from the Andes--whose lives intersect in a journey through Peru in search of their roots and the wonders of folk dance. Cynthia Paniagua, one of the two women featured in the film, and Mitch Teplitsky, the director/producer, will be present to give commentary on the film and answer questions from the audience. The documentary is subtitled in English and Spanish.

On Thursday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m. enjoy *An Evening of Peruvian Prose, Poetry and Music* featuring poetry readings by three contemporary Peruvian poets in the Library Auditorium. Tony Escudero will also present his new memoir, “Las Luces del Retorno.” The work will be introduced by journalist/writer Liliana Bringas with the melodious tones of Pablo Canela’s guitar setting the mood for this relaxing afternoon.

The annual procession of El Señor de los Milagros (the Lord of Miracles) will be showcased in the documentary *Waiting for Miracles* when it is screened on Saturday, October 24 in the Auditorium at 2 p.m. Every year in October thousands of Peruvian flood the streets in Peru and many other cities around the world in honor of the Lord of Miracles. This documentary by Ulla Dalum Berg follows a Peruvian Catholic brotherhood as it prepares for the yearly procession in Manhattan.

Tahuantinsuyo, a pioneer folk music group from the Andes, will use a spectacular slide show to takes visitors on a visual and musical tour of the Incan World on Saturday, November 7 in Centennial Hall at 2 p.m. *Tahuantinsuyo* means “the four regions of the world.” It is the Quechua term for the Inca Empire. This musical group uses regional instruments to create haunting sounds that transcend place and time.

The Newark Library has celebrated Hispanic Heritage throughout the last three decades, often stretching the federally designated month, September 15 – October 15 to three or four months of Latino-themed activities and programs. The Library’s New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center (NJHRIC) collects information on the Latino diaspora and settlements in New Jersey while also exploring ethnic food, dance, cinematography and, of course, literature. It is the largest resource of its kind in the state.

The Newark Public Library is located at 5 Washington Street, Newark. All programs are free and open to the public. The Library'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. For more information, please call Ingrid Betancourt at the Library's Sala Hispanoamericana at 973-733-7772 or log on to www.npl.org.