

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Please Contact: Ingrid Betancourt at 973-733-7772 or ibetancourt@npl.org

**The Newark Public Library Celebrates Hispanic Heritage
with *Mesoamerican Mosaic: New Jersey's Guatemalan,
Salvadoran and Honduran Communities***

The Newark Public Library will commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month with “Mesoamerican Mosaic: New Jersey’s Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Honduran Communities” an exhibit and series of programs highlighting these groups.

The celebration, which begins with an opening reception on Thursday, September 12, at 6:00 pm in the Main Library’s Centennial Hall at 5 Washington Street, will feature a dance performance by Grupo Folklórico Salvadoreño Cuzcatlán, a preview of the PBS series *Latino Americans* set to air nationally later in the month, and remarks by representatives of some of New Jersey’s Central American communities.

The exhibit; curated by Ingrid Betancourt, director of the Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Library; examines the history and growth of New Jersey’s Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Honduran people highlighting their cultural traditions, contributions, contemporary self-expression, and the challenges they face. The exhibit also shows how these evolving communities are a part of the rapidly changing demographic and economic profile of the state. The exhibit is open during regular library hours, Monday, Friday, Saturday: 9:00 to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. through December 31, 2013.

Library Director Wilma J. Grey expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to offer these events stating, “We are extremely thankful to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and to the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs for supporting these entertaining and enlightening programs which will surely interest the greater Newark community.”

Other programs include:

Latino Americans – The Peril and the Promise will be screened on Saturday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m., in the Main Library Auditorium. The final episode of the upcoming PBS television series *Latino Americans*, will be followed by with commentary and discussion by a panel of scholars and community leaders.

Marimba Maya Quetzal will present a lively and engaging performance of Guatemala's traditional marimba music and other popular songs from the rest of Latin America on Saturday, September 28 at 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Centennial Hall.

Garifuna in Peril, a film about the Garifuna people in Honduras and the struggle to preserve their traditional culture and ancestral lands from exploitative commercial interests will be shown on Saturday, October 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium.

TAINO: The Rain Forest, a presentation for children and families, features music and stories inspired by the sounds and flavors of the major rain forest areas of the world will be performed at three branch libraries:

Wednesday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m. at the Springfield Branch, 50 Hayes Street

Thursday, October 17 at 10:30 a.m. at the Van Buren Branch, 140 Van Buren Street

Thursday, October 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the North End Branch, 722 Summer Avenue

Grupo Folklórico Salvadoreño Cuzcatlán will perform on Saturday, November 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Main Library, Centennial Hall. This exciting show captures the essence of El Salvador and presents a vibrant demonstration of traditional dances from various parts of the country, each with its unique costumes and music.

Niños de la Memoria (Children of Memory) will be screened on Saturday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. This documentary film tells the story of the search for hundreds of children, now adults, who disappeared during the Salvadoran civil war. Margarita Zamora, one of three protagonists in the film, is an investigator for a Salvadoran human rights organization who searches for disappeared children—including her own four siblings. There will be a post-screening discussion with filmmaker Kathryn Smith Pyle.

All programs are free and open to the general public. Group visits and more details are readily available by contacting the Sala Hispanoamericana at the Library at 973-733-7772, ibetancourt@npl.org, or visit www.npl.org.

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.