



'Twas the Night of Thanksgiving

'Twas the night of Thanksgiving,
but I just couldn't sleep.
I tried counting backwards,
I tried counting sheep.

I gobbled up turkey
and buttered potatoes,
pickles and carrots,
beans and tomatoes.

The leftovers beckoned--
the dark meat and white,
but I fought the temptation
with all of my might.



I felt myself swelling
so plump and so round,
till all of a sudden,
I rose off the ground.

Tossing and turning
with anticipation,
the thought of a snack
became infatuation.

I crashed through the ceiling,
floating into the sky
With a mouthful of pudding
and a handful of pie.

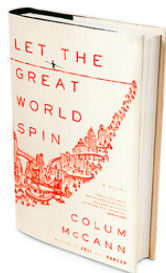
So, I raced to the kitchen,
flung open the door
and gazed at the fridge,
full of goodies galore.

But, I managed to yell
as I soared past the trees.....
happy eating to all---
pass the cranberries, please!

Oprah's Book Club Pick:

Let the Great World Spin, by Colum McCann

From Publishers Weekly & Oprah's Book Club:



Colum McCann's sweeping new novel hinges on Philippe Petit's illicit 1974 high-wire walk

between the twin towers of the World Trade Center. It is the aftermath, in which Petit appears in the courtroom of Judge Solomon Soderberg, that sets events into motion.

Judge Solomon, anxious to get to Petit, quickly dis-

penses with a petty larceny involving mother/daughter hookers Tillie and Jazzlyn Henderson. Jazzlyn is let go, but is killed on the way home in a traffic accident.

Also killed is John Corrigan, a priest who was giving her a ride. The other driver, an artist named Blaine, drives away, and the next day his wife, Lara, feeling guilty, tries to check on the victims, leading her to meet John's brother, with whom she'll form an enduring bond.

Meanwhile, the judge's wife, Claire, meets with a group of mothers who have lost sons

in Vietnam. One of them, Gloria, lives in the same building where John lived, which is how Claire, taking Gloria home, witnesses a small salvation.

This novel, with its web of disparate but connected characters is an act of pure bravado, dizzying proof that to keep your balance you need to know how to fall.



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Angelo Iacoboni Library

4990 Clark Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712-2676
(562) 866-1777

Hours:

Mon - Thurs 10 - 8
Friday 10 - 6
Saturday 10 - 5
Sunday 1 - 5

George Nye, Jr. Library

6600 Del Amo Boulevard
Lakewood, CA 90713-2206
(562) 421-8497

Hours:

Sun - Mon CLOSED
Tues - Wed 12 - 8
Thurs - Fri 12 - 6
Saturday 10 - 5

Holiday Greetings to All...

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Margene Stevens
(562) 867-6541

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Winnie Heiss

TREASURER:
Ricky Campbell

PAST PRESIDENT:
Michaelene Wagner

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MEMBERSHIP:
Tess Croft

NEWSLETTER:
JoAnn Angeli

BOOK STORE:
Pat Hardy
Ruth Dolim

BOOK SALE:
Sharon Roder

HOSPITALITY:
Gwen Travis

COMMUNICATIONS:
Fatima Castaneda

FUNDRAISING:
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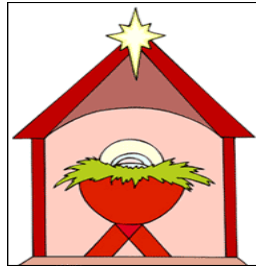
HISTORIAN:
Irene Bialecki

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Cyndee Allen
Jack Allen
Mary Lou Broyles
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Clementine Lunt
Marta Maciel-Gonzalez

December marks one of the busiest, most important holiday seasons of the year around the world. With such major holidays as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Ramadan, December is full of revelry, celebration, and solemn religious occasions.

Christmas



Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth, but most Christians observe Christmas on December 25. On this day, many go to church, where they take part in special religious services.

During the Christmas season, people also exchange gifts and decorate their homes with lights, holly, mistletoe, and Christmas trees.

Hanukkah



Hanukkah is the Jewish Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication. The Hanukkah holiday begins on the eve of the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev (December) and lasts eight days. During

Hanukkah, gifts are exchanged and contributions are made to the poor.

On the first evening, one candle is lighted in a special eight-branched candelabrum called a *menorah*. Beginning on the second night, one candle is added every night until the total reaches eight on the last night.

According to the Talmud, written many centuries after the event, when the Jews cleaned the Temple of Syrian idols, they found only one small *cruse* (jug) of oil with which to light their holy lamps. But miraculously, the cruse provided them with oil for eight days.

Kwanzaa



Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday that begins on December 26 and lasts for seven days. The holiday was developed in 1966 in the United States by Maulana Karenga, a professor of Pan-African studies and a black cultural leader.

The holiday centers on the *Nguzo Saba*, seven principles of black culture developed by Karenga. These principles are *unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith*.

During this holiday, families exchange gifts, which are

often homemade.

Each evening, families light one of the seven candles in the kinara (candleholder) and discuss the day's principle.

Near the end of the holiday, the community gathers for a feast called *karamu*. It features traditional foods, ceremonies honoring the ancestors, assessments of the old year and commitments for the new, plus musical performances and dancing.

Ramadan



Ramadan is an Islamic holy month when Muslims may not eat or drink from morning until night. Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan falls at different times of the year.

Muslims celebrate Ramadan as the month during which the prophet Muhammad received the first of the revelations that make up the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam.

Ramadan is also a time for other religious activities. The nights are often devoted to special prayers and to recitations from the Qur'an. The end of Ramadan is celebrated by a great festival called *Id al-Fitr*.

The Friends of the Lakewood Libraries would like to wish everyone a very Healthy and Happy Holiday Season!

Iacoboni Update

By Sarah Comfort, Community Library Manager



Hello, I'm Sarah Comfort the new Community Library Manager at the Angelo M. Iacoboni Library. While I am new to the City of Lakewood, I've been with the County of Los Angeles Public Library since 1994, when I started as a volunteer.

While working on my Bachelor's Degree and then My Master's in Library & Information Science I was lucky enough to be hired as a part time employee for the County Library, first as a page and then as an aide.

In 2001, after earning my MLIS, I was again fortunate to be hired by the

County Library this time as a full time employee. Within the County Library I have been a Children's Librarian, an AV / Adult Reference Librarian and have managed two libraries previous to coming on board at Lakewood.

Now that you know a little bit about me, let me tell you about some things that are going on at our Library.

From the Children's Department

Come. Sit. Stay. Read! Join therapy dogs from Beach Animals Reading with Kids (BARK) and Therapy Dogs International (TDI) between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon Saturday, November 14 at the Angelo M. Iacoboni Library. You come, bring or select a book and pick a dog to sit with, stay in the meeting room and read! Reservations are required. Please call (562) 866-1777 and ask for Children's Services.

A Visit with Mrs. Claus - Mrs. Santa Claus will be visiting the Angelo M. Iacoboni Library on December 17th at

4:00 p.m. She will take our younger patrons on a journey to Storybook Land using dazzling props and everyone's imagination. Join us for a fun-filled hour of storybook adventure in the meeting room. For information, call (562) 866-1777 and ask for Children's Services. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Lakewood Libraries.

Adult Programming

Liz Mohler, Career Coach

Learn effective networking and interview skills Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Attendees can call the Angelo M. Iacoboni Library to reserve their spot for this **FREE** adult program. Pre-registration is required.

I am so excited to work with the people of this City and with the people at this library.

Please stop by and introduce yourself to me when you're in the library – I look forward to meeting you!

News from Nye

By Carol Burke, Community Library Manager

The Fall is in full swing here at the Nye Library! We've been holding our Family Place Playdates every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. They've been really popular this year. Sometimes we have over 20 attendees. We put out the educational toys in stations and the children, Dads, Moms, Grandparents and Librarian get down on the floor and play. After about a half an hour we conduct Circle Time by reading a "big book" and leading the children in songs and finger plays. A snack is served and then it's time to clean up. All enjoy the interactive play and the networking with other families in the neighborhood. It's a perfect time for the toddlers to get to know and love the library!

Our annual bookmark contest is now underway. This year's theme is "Books and Beyond". We always have a lot of entries at this library and it's fun to see the creativity of our school kids. We

will be awarding the winners at an upcoming "Lakewood Celebrates".

Our annual Halloween Program is on Friday, Oct 30th at 4:00 p.m. Famous children's magician Tony Daniels is coming to give his Halloween show. We have asked the kids to wear their costumes and treats will be passed out. This is always a very popular event and we are all looking forward to it. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Lakewood Libraries (FoLL) we are able to continue to provide these popular programs.

Also using "Friends" funds, we have been able to order the magazines that we had to cut from our collection because of budget cuts. This is also a very popular service with our community.

Finally, our fish tank has gone bye-bye so we're in the market for a new one.



The kids miss it but we're planning on getting a new, bigger one. It's always been a popular attraction in our children's area so we're all excited to get a newer, better one and the staff will be helping to take care of it.

Please drop by anytime to see us, we're always happy to see our "Friends".

Thanks again for your tireless efforts on our behalf!

SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN!



Dear Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles:

Don't forget to stop by and have your children/grandchildren/nieces and nephews take a holiday photo with Santa for just \$5.00. **Santa will be visiting the Jacoboni Library on Sunday, November 22nd from 1:00PM to 4:00PM...** just in time for your child's annual holiday photo! ("Letter from Santa" orders may also be placed during this time.)

And... make this Christmas **EXTRA-SPECIAL** by sending that special child in your life a personalized letter from Santa (with a small gift), postmarked from the North Pole. For only \$10.00, it's a great way to bring some *North Pole magic* into your child's life!

Just follow the instructions below and your child will receive his/her personalized letter from Santa about a week before Christmas!

ORDER FORM

To order a "Letter from Santa" for that special child in your life, please make a copy of this form, fill it out and mail it to the address below. Please make separate copies of this form for multiple orders. (For multiple orders within the same household, each child will receive a different letter.)

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your Phone #: _____ Your Email: _____

CHILD'S FULL NAME: _____

CHILD'S NICKNAME (if preferred): _____

CHILD'S FULL ADDRESS: _____

GENDER: _____ AGE: _____ FAVORITE FOOD: _____

DESIRED GIFT (especially if they will be receiving it for Christmas): _____

PET(S) NAMES & GENDERS & TYPES OF ANIMAL(S): _____

SIBLINGS NAMES & AGES: _____

FRIEND(S) NAME: _____

COST PER LETTER: \$10.00

NUMBER OF LETTERS ORDERED: _____ AMOUNT OF CHECK: _____

To order, please make check payable to: ***Friends of the Lakewood Libraries***, and mail to:

Santa Claus
c/o Friends of the Lakewood Libraries
4990 Clark Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712-2676

Children's Corner: Shel Silverstein (1932-1999)

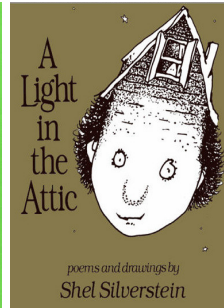
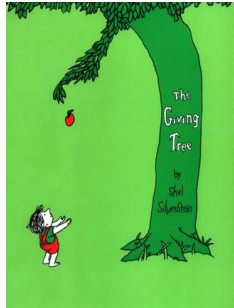


A truly unique and multi-faceted artist, Shel Silverstein is best known for his immensely popular children's books including *The Giving Tree*, *Falling Up*, and *A Light in the Attic*.

Silverstein has delighted tens of millions of readers around the world, becoming one of the most popular and best-loved children's authors of all time.

Shel Silverstein never planned on writing for children – surprising for an artist whose children's works would soon become available in more than 30 languages. One of his early children's books, published in 1964 was *The Giving Tree*.

The book sold modestly at first, but soon the gentle parable about a boy and the tree that loved him was admired by readers of all ages, recommended by counselors and teachers, and being read aloud from pulpits.



Decades after its initial publication, with more than five and a half million copies sold, *The Giving Tree* holds a permanent spot atop lists of perennial bestsellers.

Where the Sidewalk Ends, Silverstein's first collection of poems, was published in 1974 and was hailed as an instant classic. Its poems and drawings were applauded for their zany wit, irreverent wisdom, and tender heart. His poetry books are widely used in schools as a child's first introduction to poetry.



Where the Sidewalk Ends

the poems and drawings of
Shel Silverstein

Silverstein's flair for fun, tinged with a bit of naughtiness, makes his books enormously popular with kids. Altogether his titles have sold more than 18 million copies around the world.

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT... Dan Brown

From Wikipedia and Amazon.com



Dan Brown is an American author of thriller fiction, best known for his 2003 bestselling novel, *The Da Vinci Code*.

Brown's novels, which are treasure hunts set in a 24-hour time period, include the recurring themes of cryptography, keys, symbols, codes, and conspiracy theories and feature the lead character, Robert Langdon. His books also include historical themes and Christianity recurring motifs, and as a result, have generated controversy.

Let's start with the question every Dan Brown fan wants answered: Is *The Lost Symbol* as good as *The Da Vinci Code*? Simply put, yes. Brown has mastered the art of blending nail-biting suspense with

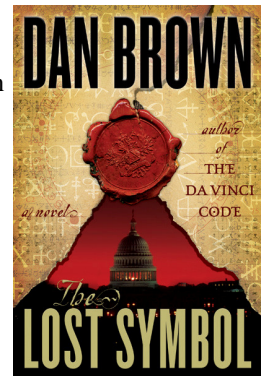
random arcana (from pop science to religion), and *The Lost Symbol* is an enthralling mix. And what a dazzling accomplishment that is, considering that rabid fans and skeptics alike are scrutinizing every word.

The Lost Symbol begins with an ancient ritual, a shadowy enclave, and of course, a secret. Readers know they are in Dan Brown territory when, by the end of the first chapter, a secret within a secret is revealed. To tell too much would ruin the fun of reading this delicious thriller, so you will find no spoilers here. Suffice it to say that as with many series featuring a recurring character, there is a bit of a formula at work (one that fans will love).

Again, brilliant Harvard professor Robert Langdon finds himself in a predicament that requires his vast knowledge of symbology and superior problem-solving skills to save the day. The setting, unlike other Robert Langdon novels, is stateside, and in Brown's hands Washington D.C. is as fascinating as Paris or Vatican City (note to the D.C. tourism board: get your "Lost Symbol" tour in order). And, as

with other Dan Brown books, the pace is relentless, the revelations many, and there is an endless parade of intriguing factoids that will make you feel like you are spending the afternoon with Robert Langdon and the guys from *Mythbusters*.

Nothing is as it seems in a Robert Langdon novel, and *The Lost Symbol* itself is no exception--a page-turner to be sure, but Brown also challenges his fans to open their minds to new information. Skeptical? Imagine how many other thrillers would spawn millions of Google searches for "noetic science", "superstring theory", and "Apotheosis of Washington". *The Lost Symbol* is brain candy of the best sort--just make sure to set aside time to enjoy your meal.



The Library...



The library, I believe, is the last of our public institutions to which you can go to without credentials.

You don't even need the sticker on your windshield that you need to get into the public beach...

All you need is the willingness to read.

~ Harry Golden ~

Upcoming Library Events:

11/14 & 12/14: Come. Sit. Stay. Read!
(Iacoboni Library -10:30 a.m. - Noon)

Come read to certified therapy dogs.
Register with the Children's Dept.

11/14: Liz Mohler - Career Coach
(Iacoboni Library - 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.)

Learn effective networking and interview skills. Register with Adult Services Librarians.

11/22: Photos with Santa
(Iacoboni Library at 2:00 p.m.)

Stop by and have your child's photo taken with **Santa** for only \$5.00. And order a "Letter from Santa" for that special child in your life for just \$10.00. Order Forms for a "Letter from Santa" are also available in each of our libraries.

12/17: A Visit with Mrs. Claus
(Iacoboni Library at 4:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Claus will take the children on a journey to Storybook Land using dazzling props and everyone's imagination. For information, call (562) 866-1777 and ask for Children's Services.

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