

# ONECITY ONEBOOK

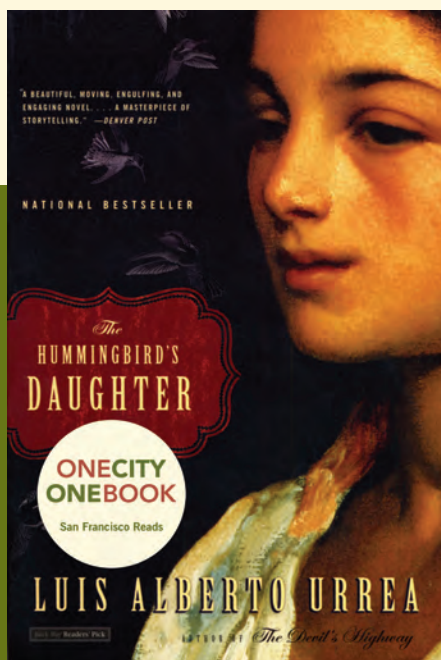
## San Francisco Reads



Fall 2006

A Citywide Book Club

[www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org)



## A message from Mayor Gavin Newsom

Welcome back to **One City One Book: San Francisco Reads**, presented by the San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco has an important literary history and, through programs like One City One Book, is creating a strong literary present and future.



Set in Mexico in the decades before the 1910 revolution, *The Hummingbird's Daughter* tells the story of Teresita, a young girl coming to terms with her destiny as a healer, who will grow into a revolution-inspiring Mexican "Joan of Arc." Urrea's engaging novel will give you much to talk about at upcoming events.

You can find a copy of *The Hummingbird's Daughter* at your library or local bookstores. Whether you discuss it with family and friends, or attend one of the special programs, I hope you will have a good time reading and talking about *The Hummingbird's Daughter*.

## A message from City Librarian Luis Herrera



As City Librarian, I invite you to join in **One City One Book: San Francisco Reads**, our popular citywide book club. One City One Book is intended to engage San Franciscans in dialogue, and builds on the rich literary tradition of our city.

This year's selection, *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, is an extraordinary novel that tells an important story about bravery and strength in a revolutionary period of Mexico's history; I know the book will interest and inspire many San Franciscans.

We are honored to have the author, Luis Alberto Urrea, participating in numerous special library events and discussions throughout the fall, as well as visiting schools, bookstores and other venues.

Thank you for participating in **One City One Book: San Francisco Reads**. I hope you enjoy the experience.

For updated event information, please visit

# THE AUTHOR

Luis Alberto Urrea was born in Tijuana, Mexico to an American mother and Mexican father. He is the recipient of the Kiriya Prize for Fiction, the Lannan Literary Award, an American Book Award, a Western States Book Award and a Colorado Book Award, and has been inducted into the Latino Literary Hall of Fame. He is also the author of several volumes of poetry, as well as nonfiction works including *The Devil's Highway*, which



was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction, and *Across the Wire*, winner of the Christopher Award. He teaches creative writing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. For more information on Luis Urrea, please visit [www.luisurrea.com](http://www.luisurrea.com).

"Urrea has created a classic, a tribute and love song to the colorful and vibrant heart of all things Mexican."

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

## LUIS ALBERTO URREA

"Wonders never cease in this novel, an extraordinary example of what can transpire when a remarkable story is granted to a truly gifted writer."

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

Miracles and passion abound in *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, a mesmerizing novel about a remarkable young woman's sudden sainthood in the revolutionary-era Mexico of the 19th century. Author and Pulitzer Prize finalist Luis Alberto Urrea based the novel on more than 20 years of research into the life of Teresita, who's based on the life of his great aunt. The book was selected as one of 2005's best books by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

<http://www.sfpl.org/news/ocob/onecity.htm> or call (415) 557-4277

# ONE CITY

Wednesday, September 6  
7 p.m.

## Book Discussion about *The Hummingbird's Daughter*

Bird & Beckett Books  
& Records  
2788 Diamond Street  
(at Chenery), S.F.  
(415) 586-3733

Saturday, September 23  
3–5 p.m.

## Discussion with the Author!

Discuss *The Hummingbird's Daughter* and meet author  
Luis Alberto Urrea.  
Bernal Heights Branch Library  
500 Cortland Avenue (near Moultrie), S.F.  
(415) 355-2810

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND

Sunday, September 24  
2 p.m.

## Author Event

Join us as we welcome Luis  
Alberto Urrea for a discussion  
and book signing.  
Book Passage at Ferry  
Building  
1 Ferry Building, #42, S.F.  
(415) 835-1020

Wednesday, September 27  
7–8:30 p.m.

## Excelsior Arts and Culture Salon Celebrates *The Hummingbird's Daughter*

The Salon will be discussing  
the book, viewing *The Bronze  
Screen: 100 Years of the Latino  
Image in Hollywood* and discuss-  
ing Hispanic culture through  
the medium of film.

Excelsior Branch Library  
4400 Mission Street  
(at Cotter), S.F.  
(415) 355-2868

Thursday, September 28  
6 p.m.

## The Hero in Modern Literature Book Club Discusses

*The Hummingbird's  
Daughter*  
Borders  
233 Winston Drive (in the  
Stonestown Galleria), S.F.  
(415) 731-0665

Tuesday, October 3  
7 p.m.

## First Fiction Bookclub Discusses *The Hummingbird's Daughter*

Books Inc. Laurel Village  
3515 California Street, S.F.  
(415) 221-3666  
Book club is free; please  
register at Books Inc. Laurel  
Village or [www.booksinc.net](http://www.booksinc.net).

# ONE BOOK

Tuesday, October 3  
7 p.m.

## Book Discussion about *The Hummingbird's Daughter*

Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk  
Memorial Branch Library  
1 Jose Sarria Court (16th  
Street near Market), S.F.  
(415) 355-5616



## SPECIAL EVENT

Wednesday, October 11  
6:30 p.m.

## Luis Alberto Urrea in Conversation with Oscar Villalon

Join us for a special evening featuring an in-depth conversation  
between Urrea and *San Francisco Chronicle* book editor Oscar  
Villalon about *The Hummingbird's Daughter* and his other books.  
Booksigning to follow.

Koret Auditorium, Main Library, Lower Level  
100 Larkin St. (at Grove), S.F.  
(415) 557-4277



## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Saturday, October 14  
Evening

## Litquake Lit Crawl

Luis Alberto Urrea reads,  
alongside other Latino writers,  
at San Francisco's Literary  
Festival Mission District  
"Lit Crawl."  
See [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org) for  
complete details.

Sunday, October 15  
4 p.m.

## Discussion with the Author

Luis Alberto Urrea joins  
Cody's for a fabulous afternoon  
discussion of his compelling  
and marvelous novel. Includes  
refreshments.

Cody's Books  
2 Stockton Street (at  
Market), S.F.  
(415) 773-0444

For updated event information, please visit

<http://www.sfpl.org/news/ocob/onecity.htm> or call (415) 557-4277

# ONE CITY

Monday, October 16  
6:30–8:30 p.m.

## Author Reading and Discussion en Español

In celebration of One City One Book: San Francisco Reads, the Excelsior Branch will have a very special program with Luis Alberto Urrea to honor the Spanish speaking population in our neighborhood.

Excelsior Branch Library  
4400 Mission Street (at Cotter), S.F.  
(415) 355-2868

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, November 1  
7:30 p.m.

### Celebrate Day of the Dead with Luis Alberto Urrea!

Meet the author, sample some tasty Mexican treats and join in a lively Q&A discussion when he reads from *The Hummingbird's Daughter*.

\*Books Inc. in Opera Plaza  
601 Van Ness Ave., S.F.  
(415) 776-1111

\*A portion of all copies of *The Hummingbird's Daughter* purchased at S.F. Books Inc. stores in Sept., Oct. and at this event will benefit the One City One Book program.

Wednesday, October 25  
7:30 p.m.

### Book Discussion about *The Hummingbird's Daughter*

Modern Times Bookstore  
888 Valencia Street, S.F.  
(415) 282-9246



Saturday, November 4  
3–5 p.m.

### Author Reading and Discussion en Español

Luis Alberto Urrea will deliver a Spanish language program at the Mission Branch Library, reading from his acclaimed novel and taking audience questions. Booksigning to follow. Library is wheelchair accessible.  
Mission Branch Library  
300 Bartlett Street (at 24th and Mission Sts), S.F.  
(415) 355-2800

# ONE BOOK



### City Guides Mission District Walking Tours

The ancient art form of murals, with roots in Aztec and Mayan civilizations, was revived after the Mexican Revolution (1910-1917), in which the society was wrestling with great divisions of property, wealth and power. Murals were created to unite and educate the people, and dealt with such issues as the celebration of indigenous Mexican cultures, and

political and social issues of the new Mexico. Here in the United States, the ethnic pride and civil rights movements of the 1960s and 1970s revived the mural art form to promote their ideals and aspirations. In San Francisco's Mission District, the revival grew out of strong Latino roots, and has since flourished and branched into many styles and subjects, leaving the neighborhood with a rich and ever-changing array of murals.

## WALKING TOURS

### Murals and the Multi-Ethnic Mission

See a four-story mural at the Women's Building and an eight-story mural at Bethany Center. Visit a multicultural neighborhood of 1880s Victorian homes.

Offered each Sunday at noon.

Meet at the Women's Building 3543 - 8th Street (between Guerrero and Valencia), S.F.

### Mission Murals

See the colorful people's art of the Mission District, one of San Francisco's largest ethnic communities.

Offered first and third Saturdays of the month at 11 a.m.

Meet at Precita and Harrison Streets, behind Flynn Elementary School, S.F.

For updated event information, please visit

<http://www.sfpl.org/news/ocob/onecity.htm> or call (415) 557-4277

## How to Read a Book for a Book Discussion

The best books are those that insinuate themselves into your experience: they reveal an important truth or provide a profound sense of kinship between reader and writer. Searching for, identifying, and discussing these truths deepen the reader's appreciation of the book.

# READING FOR DISCUSSION

Reading for a book discussion—whether you are the leader or simply a participant—differs from reading purely for pleasure.

Asking questions, reading carefully, imagining yourself in the story, analyzing style and structure, and searching for personal meaning in a work of literature all enhance the work's value and the discussion potential for your group.

- 1** Make notes and mark pages as you go. Ask questions of yourself and mark down pages you might want to refer back to later. Making notes as you go along slows down your reading but saves you the effort of searching out important passages later.
- 2** Ask tough questions of yourself and the book. Asking questions of yourself as you read means you don't yet know the answers, and sometimes you never will discover the answers. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions because often the author is presenting difficult issues for that very purpose. Look for questions that may lead to in-depth conversations with your group and make the book more meaningful.

- 3** Analyze the themes of the book. Try to analyze the important themes of a book and try to consider the author's starting premise. Imagine an author mulling over the beginnings of the story, asking himself "what if ..." questions.

- 4** Get to know the characters. When you meet the characters in the book, place yourself at the scene. Think of them as you do the people around you. Think about their faults and their motives. What would it be like to interact with them? Are the tones and styles of their dialogues authentic? Read portions aloud to get to know the voices of the characters.

- 5** Notice the structure of the book. Sometimes an author uses the structure of the book to illustrate an important concept or to create a mood. Notice how the author structured the book. Are chapters prefaced by quotes? If so, how do they apply to the content of the chapters? How many narrators tell the story? Who are they? How does the sequence of events unfold to create the mood of the story? Is it written in flashbacks? Does the order the author chose make sense to you?
- 6** Make comparisons to other books and authors. Compare the book to others by the same author, or to books by other authors who have similar themes or styles. Often, themes run through an author's works that are more fully realized by comparison. Comparing authors' works can help you solidify your opinions, as well as define for you qualities you may otherwise miss.

Tips are courtesy of the  
Washington Center for the Book



**1** Many readers and reviewers have compared *The Hummingbird's Daughter* to the works of Gabriel García Márquez. How apt do you consider this comparison? Is *The Hummingbird's Daughter* a work of magical realism? Why or why not?

## THE HUMMINGBIRD'S DAUGHTER

**2** One reviewer noted that *The Hummingbird's Daughter* employs the techniques of “Catholic hagiography, Western fairy tale, Indian legend and everyday family folklore.” Do you agree? Are elements of each of these literary traditions present in this book? Give examples to support your answer.

**3** *The Hummingbird's Daughter* is a wildly romantic work of fiction, but is, in fact, grounded in historical truth. Luis Alberto Urrea conducted two decades of research, and to this day La Santa de Cabora is revered in some parts of Northern Mexico. How does the author balance grim history with sweeping fiction?

**4** Tomás Urrea likes to think of himself as a man of reason in a world filled with superstition. Indeed, he feels scorn for those who “saw the faces of Jesus Christ and Virgin of Guadalupe in burned tortillas.” Yet he had no trouble explaining Teresita's resurrection. Have you ever had trouble finding a logical explanation for a strange occurrence?

**5** In contrast to Tomás, Teresita believes that the “world of reason must be a lonely place.” What does she mean? Do you agree with her?

**6** Despite his position as a powerful patrón and his comfortable life on his ranch, Tomás can't help feeling that his existence is a bit monotonous. Urrea writes, “Perhaps, deep in his heart, Tomás wanted no one to be wild if he himself could not run free.” How does the dichotomy between his routine and Teresita's wildness affect their relationship?



**7** Teresita's healing powers are obviously a tremendous gift. But, at the same time, they bring a lot of chaos into her life: pilgrims hound her and Porforio Díaz dubs her the “most dangerous girl in Mexico.” In what sense might Teresita be considered the Joan of Arc of Mexico?

**8** Huila seems to think that all men are silly and that women will someday rule the world. And many of the novel's strongest and most interesting characters are females. How are women presented in *The Hummingbird's Daughter*? Does the novel have feminist undercurrents?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions are courtesy of Hachette Filipacchi Media US, Inc.

**9** There are many journeys depicted in this novel? In what ways do these journeys mirror the modern immigrant experience?

**10** Luis Alberto Urrea first heard the stories of his great-aunt Teresita at family gatherings. Do you have any family members or relatives who have lived remarkable lives? What are their stories?

## Learn More About Latino Culture & History

### Fiction

*Spirits of the Ordinary: A Tale of Casas Grandes*,  
by Kathleen Alcalá

*Zorro*, by Isabel Allende

*Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo A. Anaya

*Brownsville*, by Oscar Casares

*So Far From, God* by Ana Castillo

*Loving Pedro Infante*, by Denise Chávez



## BOOKS

*Caramelo*, by Sandra Cisneros

*Esperanza's Box of Saints*, by Maria Amparo Escandon

*Malinche*, by Laura Esquivel

*The Death of Artemio Cruz*, by Carlos Fuentes

*Woodcuts of Women*, by Dagoberto Gilb

*Migrant Souls*, by Arturo Isla

*The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*,  
by Francisco Jiménez

*Our Lives are the Rivers*, by Jaime Manrique

*This War Called Love*, by Alejandro Murguía

*Here's to You, Jesusa!*, by Elena Poniatowska

*Isle of Passion*, by Laura Restrepo

*Pedro Paramo*, by Juan Rulfo

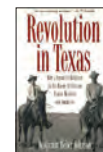
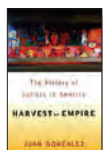
*Chicano*, by Richard Vasquez



### Nonfiction

*Las Tejanas: 300 Years of History*, by Teresa Palomo  
Acosta and Ruthe Winegarten

*Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*,  
by Juan Gonzalez



*Revolutionary Mexico: The Coming and Process of the  
Mexican Revolution*, by John Mason Hart

*Revolution in Texas: How a Forgotten Rebellion and its  
Bloody Suppression Turned Mexicans into Americans*,  
by Benjamin Heber Johnson

*North from Mexico: The Spanish-Speaking People of the  
United States*, by Carey McWilliams

*Enrique's Journey*, by Sonia Nazario

*Everything You Need to Know About Latino History*,  
by Himilce Novas

*Writing Pancho Villa's Revolution: Rebels in the Literary  
Imagination of Mexico*, by Max Parra

*Dying to Cross: The Worst Immigrant Tragedy in American  
History*, by Jorge Ramos

*Brown: The Last Discovery of America*,  
by Richard Rodriguez

*Places Left Unfinished at the Time of Creation*,  
by John Phillip Santos

*The Hispanic Condition: The Power of a People*,  
by Ilan Stavans

*Translation Nation: Defining a New American Identity  
in the Spanish-Speaking United States*, by Héctor Tobar



## FILMS

*The Last Zapatistas: Forgotten Heroes* (VHS)

Interviews with the soldiers who fought alongside Gen. Emiliano  
Zapata in the 1910 Mexican Revolution.

*Reed: Mexico Insurgente* (VHS)

A dramatization of the Mexican Revolution  
as reported by John Reed.

*The Bronze Screen: 100 Years of the Latino Image  
in Hollywood* (DVD)

Examines the work of Hispanic actors and filmmakers, as well as  
big-screen images of Latinos, from the silent era to the present.  
Features profiles of personalities, such as Anthony Quinn, Desi  
Arnaz, Carmen Miranda, Rita Hayworth and Benicio Del Toro.

International Latino Film Festival  
in San Francisco

November 3–19, 2006

<http://www.latinofilmfestival.org/>



For updated event information, please visit

<http://www.sfpl.org/news/ocob/onecity.htm> or call (415) 557-4277

Mexico: From Empire to Revolution

[http://getty.edu/research/conducting\\_research/digitized\\_collections/mexico/](http://getty.edu/research/conducting_research/digitized_collections/mexico/)

Meet Mexico

[http://www.embamex.co.uk/Meet\\_Mex/mm\\_index.htm](http://www.embamex.co.uk/Meet_Mex/mm_index.htm)

Library of Congress - Portals to the World: History - Mexico

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/mexico/resources/mexico-history.html>

## WEB SITES

Lines of Sight—Views of the U.S./Mexican Border

<http://sweeney.ucr.edu/exhibitions/border/>

Luis Urreas' page about Teresita

<http://www.luisurrea.com/teres/teresita.htm>

Handbook of Texas Online: Biography of Teresa Urrea

[http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/UU/fur4\\_print.html](http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/UU/fur4_print.html)

History of the U.S./Mexican Border

<http://www.pbs.org/kpbs/theborder/history/index.html>

## LOCAL PLACES

Local Places to Learn More  
about Mexican Culture

Mexican Museum, San Francisco, CA

<http://www.mexicanmuseum.org>

Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts

<http://www.missionculturalcenter.org/>

San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.sfhcc.com/>

Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center

<http://www.precitaeyes.org/>

For updated event information, please visit

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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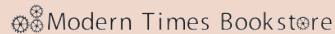


### Bookstore Sponsors

\*A portion of purchase price for all *The Hummingbird's Daughter* copies purchased at these stores between August and October 2006 will be donated back to the One City One Book program



Bird & Beckett Books & Records



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