

Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea

January 1-31, 2021

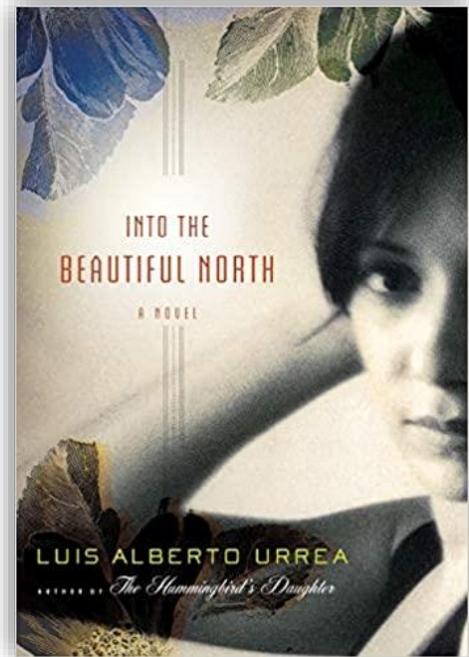
More information about all of our virtual events, including registration, are at

www.lclibrary.org/306/The-Big-Read

Pick up a copy of the book at any Lewis & Clark Library location, or check out the [eBook](#) or audiobook through our online service Axis 360. Please adhere to Social Distancing protocols and remember that masks are required when visiting any Branch of the Lewis & Clark Library.

Our Little Read for kids this year is *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Appropriate for grade levels 6-8, this book will be available along with a craft kit based on the book at any Library branch while supplies last. Kits will be made available after January 1, 2021.

The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



Events:

Kickoff Book Discussion with Jesus Salazar

Saturday, January 2 at 4 PM

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYsdumupj4oH9w9rWuc0K6wxrTDE9nIYtSD> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We will kick off the NEA Big Read with a book discussion hosted by Jesus Salazar, who will lead an exploration of the theme of immigration, discussing both his own experiences and those in *Into the Beautiful North*.

Jesus Salazar was born in Mexico City and studied Graphic Design. He moved to Chicago, then to Helena 17 years ago. Jesus enjoys the outdoors riding his bike, and is seeking a second career as a Software Engineer at Helena College.

**Documentary Screening of *The Other Side of Immigration* and live Q&A with Filmmaker Roy Germano
Wednesday, January 6 at 4 PM**

Watch Roy Germano's documentary, *The Other Side of Immigration*, online at 4 PM. The link will be available a few days before January 6. A live Q&A with the filmmaker will follow.

The Other Side of Immigration is a 2009 documentary film directed by Roy Germano. The film explores why so many people leave the Mexican countryside to work in the United States and what happens to the families and communities they leave behind. It is based on Germano's interviews with over 700 households in Mexico, which he carried out while doing Ph.D. research on remittances at the University of Texas at Austin. On September 6, 2019, Roy Germano and Team Love released *The Other Side of Immigration* in full on Germano's YouTube channel. Roy Germano teaches International Relations at New York University and is the author of a book about remittances called *Outsourcing Welfare*. Germano is also a Senior Research Scholar at the New York University School of Law.

**Discuss *Into the Beautiful North* with a Library Book Group
Thursday, January 7 at 7 PM**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqdeChpzwpE9AVmeIQtcUYGxBnELRpitJB> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Join the Lewis & Clark Library's Premier Book Group to discuss the book. Free and open to the public.

**Finding & Defining Home: A Writing Workshop with Virginia Reeves
Tuesday, January 12 at 6 PM**

Go to <https://bit.ly/37quLs5> to register. Class is limited to 20 people.

Using this year's Big Read (*Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea) and the Library's virtual art exhibit (What Does "Home" Mean to You?), this workshop explores the process of finding, defining, and ultimately maintaining a home within literature. Through a variety of prompts, participants will write their way into multiple homes, both real and imagined, and leave with a handful of ideas and techniques to apply to their own writing.

Virginia Reeves is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers at UT-Austin. She is the author of *The Behavior of Love* (Scribner, 2019) and *Work Like Any Other* (Scribner, 2016). *Work Like Any Other* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, and Booklist named it to their Top 10 First Novels of 2016. She teaches writing, communication, and literature at Helena College and lives with her husband, two daughters, and three-legged Pit Bull in a house that has survived a major earthquake and a fire.

Gather Round the Hearth: Exploring Migration and *Into the Beautiful North*

Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 PM

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kfu-vqjkiH91XrroM6-Fr9oO_oDF1kzO After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The anthology *Hearth* is a collection of essays exploring community, identity, place, and more. You can read “pairings” of essays to discuss at our gatherings. In January, we will discuss the overlapping and divergent themes between *Hearth*'s migration essays, which explore the migration of laborers, and those in the NEA Big Read book, *Into the Beautiful North*. You can find the *Hearth* essays here:

<https://www.humanitiesmontana.org/gather-round-fire-edition-2019/hearth-pairings-2/>

Latino History in Montana with Dr. Bridget Kevane

Wednesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eEyO4FdOScayNsQaFh_1yA After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Learn about the vibrant history & future of the Latino community in Montana. Latinos have a more than two-centuries-old history in Montana, yet few know about Latino history, culture, or their economic contributions to the state. From the fur trade to the sugar beet, from our Flathead cherries to construction, Latinos have had a long and vibrant culture in Montana that continues to this day. Dr. Bridget Kevane discusses the critical role that current border policies are having on the community and immigration.

Dr. Bridget Kevane is a professor of Latin American and Latino Studies Program as well as the director of Liberal Studies at Montana State University. Her research focuses on Latino/a studies, specifically the literature, culture and history of Latino/a communities in the United States. In addition to numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, she has written four books, including her most recent, *The Dynamics of Jewish Latino Relationships: Hope and Caution*.

Community Book Discussion hosted by Helena College faculty

Thursday, January 21 at 7 PM

Register in advance for this meeting: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkf-6tqToiEtVlj-5IzbAPuWXW_NpLyhjo After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Helena College Sociology Instructor Kim Feig and Writing Instructor Virginia Reeves lead a discussion based on questions related to the NEA Big Read book, *Into the Beautiful North*. You can find these questions ahead of time on the <https://www.lclibrary.org/306/The-Big-Read>

Flavors of Mexico with Jesus Salazar

Sunday, January 24 at 4 PM

Register in advance for this webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AxoBhDwcR8qe4e2JxJLtiw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Learn about the spices, flavors and colors that make up cuisine in Mexico. Jesus Salazar will explain the traditional Mexican roots of some of our favorite foods and their migration into our kitchens today.

An Evening with the Author: Luis Alberto Urrea

Thursday, January 28 at 7 PM

We are delighted to present this year's NEA Big Read author Luis Alberto Urrea! Free and open to the public. Registration details to be announced.

Hailed by NPR as a "literary badass" and a "master storyteller with a rock and roll heart," Luis Alberto Urrea is a prolific and acclaimed writer who uses his dual-culture life experiences to explore greater themes of love, loss and triumph. A 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction and member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame, Urrea is the critically acclaimed and best-selling author of 17 books, winning numerous awards for his poetry, fiction and essays. Born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and American mother, Urrea is most recognized as a border writer, though he says, "I am more interested in bridges, not borders."

Urrea attended the University of California at San Diego, earning an undergraduate degree in writing, and did his graduate studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. After serving as a relief worker in Tijuana and a film extra and columnist-editor-cartoonist for several publications, Urrea moved to Boston where he taught expository writing and fiction workshops at Harvard. He also taught at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Urrea lives with his family in Naperville, IL, where he is a distinguished professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

NEA Big Read Wrap-Up Book Discussion

Sunday, January 31 at 2 PM

As we conclude our NEA Big Read for January 2021, we invite you to share your impressions about the programs, conversations and the book at our final program. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrf-iqpzlqGtBNQxW9JZLRB4imMdATAJk-> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Virtual Art Exhibit: What does "Home" mean to you?

For January-February 2021 as part of our NEA Big Read, the Lewis & Clark Library invites the public to create a picture, take a photograph, or write something that describes what "Home" means to you.

Send a picture of your creation, or a pdf of your writing to suzanne@lclibrary.org and we'll post it on our website in our virtual exhibit here <https://www.lclibrary.org/256/Exhibits>

