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Immediate Press Release

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Latino Americans: 500 Years of History!

Beginning June 1st, Yakima Valley Libraries will be implementing, “Latino Americans: 500 Years of History,” a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA).

During the month of June, Yakima Valley Libraries will hold public programming about local, and national, Latino history and culture. In addition, the Library will be inviting the public to participate in documenting their history and lives.

Krystal Corbray, YVL Managing Librarian explained, “We’re looking for photographs, keepsakes, and personal stories that highlight the Latino experience. Coordinating this effort with the public will help us explore, and preserve, the fascinating history of Latinos in the Yakima Valley. ”

Other featured *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* events will include:

Documentary & Discussions

Thursday, June 2nd

6:00 - 7:30pm

Yakima Central Library

Presenter: Maria Cuevas, Professor of Sociology and Chicano Studies @ YVCC

This event includes a screening of “Prejudice and Pride,” an episode from the award-winning *Latino Americans* documentary, produced by PBS. Following the screening, Ms. Cuevas will lead discussion about the episode, which details the history of the Chicano movement in the United States.

Thursday, June 9th

6:00-7:30pm

Yakima Central Library

Presenter: Erasmo Gamboa, UW Associate Professor of History and Latin American Studies

This event includes a screening of “War and Peace,” an episode from the award-winning *Latino Americans* documentary, produced by PBS. Following the screening, Mr. Gamboa will lead discussion about the episode, which highlights the experiences of Latino Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, while still facing discrimination and a fight for civil rights back in the United States.

“We are excited to undertake this project,” stated Library Director Kim Hixson. “With the public’s participation the community will experience an enriching and deeper understanding of this vibrant culture!”

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