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LONG BEACH READS ONE BOOK 2010

THE SOLOIST by STEVE LOPEZ

Wednesday March 3 through Sunday, March 14

BACKGROUND

The Long Beach Library Foundation presents the 9th Annual **Long Beach Reads One Book**. This 2010 selection is "*The Soloist*" –□ A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music" by Steve Lopez. A variety of events, for all ages, are scheduled throughout Long Beach from Wednesday, March 3 through Sunday, March 14.

Long Beach Reads One Book engages the city by encouraging everyone in the community to read the same book and discuss it in a variety of venues and formats. All Long Beach area residents, including high school and college students, senior citizens, book clubs, and elementary school students will have an opportunity to get involved. The Long Beach Public Library Foundation coordinates this multi-faceted program, which includes participation by dozens of Long Beach organization partners.

The 2010 **Long Beach Reads One Book** chairpersons are: Susan Redfield, Book Week Chair; Mary E. Barton, PhD, Book Week Co-Chair and Long Beach First Lady Nancy Foster, Honorary Chair and Mental Health Activist.

Susan Redfield is a Director on the Long Beach Public Library Foundation Board of Directors. "To me **Long Beach Reads One Book** is one of the annual programs that makes this city so great," says Redfield. "Here we have thousands of people from all over the world, living and working and playing and learning together...young, old, first generation and fourth or even fifth generation...all reading the same book and making the same connections about people and experiences and life. □ more...more...more

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□ "Of all the cities in America that do "Reads One Book" programs, Long Beach is one of the best, with such a diverse cross section of the city participating. I love it when the students read the book, they see things that I totally miss, kids from Cambodia, Mexico, the Philippines, as well as those whose parents and grandparents were born here," continues Redfield. "Then members of a senior group read and share their wondrous memories and their own stories. It feels so important, with this simple program reflecting the sense of community where people associate with each other toward a positive objective, reading and growing in their understanding."

Previously selected books:

2009 - *Three Cups of Tea*

2008 - *Grayson*

2007 - *The Greatest Generation*

2006 - *My California*

2005 - *Fahrenheit 451*

2004 - *Freedom Writers Diary*

2003 - *To Kill A Mocking Bird*

2002 - *Tuesdays with Morrie*

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