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Niagara Branch Library celebrates El día de los niños/El día de los libros *Día! Many Children, Many Cultures, Many Books*

The Niagara Branch Library will join hundreds of libraries across the nation in celebration of El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day). The library will showcase a variety of multicultural programs and services for children and families on Saturday, April 30 from 2 - 4 p.m.

El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), known as Día, is a celebration that emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

"Libraries are part of the American Dream, places that support family, education, self-help and lifelong learning," said Kathryn Galvin, manager of the Niagara Branch. "Through literacy events and programs like Día, libraries are working with parents and caregivers to raise avid readers."

The Niagara Branch is presenting an afternoon of fun and enriching events including Latin and Afro-Cuban jazz by Unit III, and a demonstration of Hispanic and African American hairstyles, including their cultural significance, by Althea Little from A Little of Hair to Go Natural. Celebrity readers Erie County Legislator Maria Whyte and Brian Hoth (Mr. Brian) will share some of their favorite stories. Contestants in the Miss Borinquen of WNY Leadership Pageant will help children with crafts and face painting. Community groups and agencies will be on hand with information tables. Project Flight will offer a free book to all children under the age of 10 who attend. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

Día is an enhancement of Children's Day, which began in 1925. Children's Day was designated as a day to bring attention to the importance and well-being of children. In 1996, nationally acclaimed children's book author Pat Mora proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy to found El día de los niños/El día de los libros.

For more information on Día events please call the Niagara Library at 882-1537, or visit www.buffalolib.org.

Built in 1957, the Niagara Branch Library is one of the 37 libraries in the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. Located at 280 Porter Avenue on the corner of Niagara Street in Buffalo's Lower West Side, the Niagara Library has book and multimedia selections in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, and Somali. In 2010, the Niagara library circulated more than 83,000 items.

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