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## NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Free book distribution Oct. 3*

#### **Wilton Library launches Wilton Reads 2017 in October**

Wilton, CT – The story of a little boy growing up in an idyllic Cuba only to then be thrust into fleeing Castro’s revolution reads like fiction in the memoir, *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy* by Carlos Eire. This real-life story will be explored on many levels when Wilton Library brings it to the forefront in its one book, one community reading event, *Wilton Reads* beginning in October. From book discussions, a documentary film screening, a pre-revolutionary history lesson and even programs for children, Wilton Reads examines the country of Cuba and the changing times experienced by Eire, now a professor of history and religion at Yale University.

This is the twelfth Wilton Reads event that is designed to bring the community together to view differing perspectives and create engaging dialogues. The full programming slate begins Oct. 24 through Nov. 8, which is the culminating author event when Carlos Eire visits the library for a personal talk about his life’s journey. He also will be honored with the Grodin Family Fine Writers Award for outstanding writing.

One of the 14,000 unaccompanied children air-lifted out of Cuba – exiled from his family, his country and his own life – Eire came to Miami where he was tossed about living in a series of foster homes. Eventually reuniting with his mother in Chicago in 1965, he went on to earn his Ph.D. at Yale University in 1979 and is now the T. Lawrason Riggs Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale. His teachings specialize in the social, intellectual, religious, and cultural history of late medieval and early modern Europe, with a strong focus on both the Protestant and Catholic Reformations; the history of popular piety; and the history of the supernatural, and the history of death. He is the author of several scholarly books, including the recently published, *Reformations: The Early Modern World 1450-1650*. The book won the

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R.R.Hawkins Prize for Best Book of the Year from the American Publishers Association, as well as the award for Best Book in the Humanities. Of his two memoirs, *Waiting for Snow in Havana* received the National Book Award; *Learning to Die in Miami* explores the exile experience.

Elaine Tai-Lauria remarked about the Wilton Reads program, “We are delighted to welcome Carlos Eire back to the library to discuss his engaging memoir as a part of Wilton Reads. He captivated us with his talk about his *Reformations* book when he addressed the annual meeting audience and now we are able to learn his very personal story. With Cuba making headlines both politically and environmentally, it has weathered storms on many fronts and this community event will enable us to look at this island in diverse ways.”

To encourage readership and to kick off the Wilton Reads 2017 program, two hundred paperback copies of *Waiting for Snow in Havana* will be distributed to members of the community free of charge courtesy of Fairfield County Bank on a first-come, first-served basis, one per person, beginning on Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. while supplies last. The library also has copies of the book in eBook, eAudiobook, CDs and Spanish versions for borrowing.

Another way to involve the community is to invite people to bring in photos of Cuba before it was closed to American tourists – their photos, their parents’ photos, their grandparents’ photos – beginning Monday, Oct. 30 through Friday, Nov. 3. The owners of the photographs will digitally scan them so that they can be projected in a slide show in the gallery during the Wilton Reads events. Participants will be trained how to digitally transform their pictures using the equipment in the Innovation Station. They also will receive a thumb drive of their newly-digitalized photos. For information, email [innovation@wiltonlibrary.org](mailto:innovation@wiltonlibrary.org).

After the free book giveaway, the full complement of programs over the two-week time frame is as follows:

**Tuesday, Oct. 24** *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy, Book Discussion with Susan Boyar*, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Professional book discussion leader Susan Boyar discusses the Wilton Reads selection. Registration is recommended.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25** *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy, Book Discussion with Susan Boyar*, 12 – 1:30 p.m. This is a daytime discussion by professional book group leader Susan Boyar. Registration is recommended.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25** *Children’s Book Discussion - 90 Miles to Havana*, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. This book discussion is for kids in grades 5 – 7. The book selected is *90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique

Flores-Galbis. Registrants will receive a free copy of the novel to read before the program. This is a coming-of-age story inspired by real events from the author's life. Cuban sandwiches will be served courtesy of Craft 14. Books have been donated by Fairfield County Bank. Registration is required. Visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call 203-762-6336.

**Thursday, Oct. 26** *Back into the Heart of Cuba with Daryl Hawk*, 7 – 8:30 p.m. This is a look back at explorer and professional documentary photographer Daryl Hawk's two recent travels to Cuba in which he captured images depicting a people and place both lost in time and on the cusp of change. Registration is recommended.

**Monday, Oct. 30** *Cuban History with Professor Ariel Mae Lambe*, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Dr. Lambe will provide context for readings on the Cuban Revolution by presenting a summary survey of Cuban history from the 1860s through the 1950s, covering Cuba's three wars of independence, U.S. intervention in the island country following the Spanish American War, the republican or neocolonial period of the first half of the twentieth century, and ending with the revolution during the 1950s. The talk will be moderated by Michael Kaelin. Registration is recommended.

**Thursday, November 2** *Experience Cuba*, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Travel consultant Margaret Sanko of Wilton Center Travel and Meghan O'Shea, Sales Development Manager and Joyce Williams, Group Sales Specialist both from Tauck in Wilton, will share their vast knowledge of Cuba. They also will share details of a trip being planned for October 11 – 17, 2018 to benefit Wilton Library. Supported by Wilton Center Travel and Tauck. Registration is recommended. (registration button)

**Saturday, November 4** *Kids Create Cuban Art*, 1 – 2 p.m. Joanne Hunter from Danbury's Art Spot will provide guidance for children in grades 3 to 5 in creating an acrylic painting on canvas of a still life motivated by Cuban artist Julio Larraz. Registration is required by visiting the library's website or calling 203-762-6336.

**Saturday, November 4** *Film Screening: Cubamerican*, 7 – 9 p.m. *Cubamerican* tells the story of a variety of eminent exiles from Cuba who overcame personal loss and struggle to assimilate, triumph and thrive in the United States as Cuban-Americans. The cast covers a wide range of professional, business, and cultural fields and includes such notables as baseball great Tony Perez, actor Andy Garcia, and the featured Wilton Reads author and Yale historian Carlos Eire. A Q&A session and discussion will follow the film moderated by documentary filmmaker Megan Smith-Harris. Registration is recommended.

**Wednesday, November 8** *Author Visit—Carlos Eire*, 7 – 8:30 p.m. This is the culminating program of the Wilton Reads event. Author Carlos Eire will address the audience and have a Q&A session. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of Elm Street Books of New Canaan.

Lauren McLaughlin, assistant director at the library and coordinator of the Wilton Reads 2017 event, added, "In addition to all the programming directly related to the book, we also offer a poetry seminar by Judson Scruton focusing on island poetry including Cuba, a Connecticut's Own concert by The Madera Winds with one of the compositions by Cuban-American composer

Paquito Rivera, and we have put together a list of Cuban music and films on Hoopla, our downloadable music and video service, and a list of more readings about the subject.”

Registration is recommended for most programs except the children’s programs in which registration is required. For more information or to register, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call 203-762-6334 for adult programming or 203-762-6336 for children’s activities. Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center.

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**Caption:** Wilton Library kicks off its twelfth community-wide reading event, Wilton Reads 2017, with a free paperback book giveaway of 200 copies of *Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy* by Carlos Eire on Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. while supplies last. Fairfield County Bank is the sponsor of the book giveaway. Author Carlos Eire will visit the library on Nov. 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. after two weeks of programming. Pictured with the books are Wilton Library executive director Elaine Tai-Lauria, Fairfield County Bank vice president and Wilton Library trustee Carol Johnson, and Wilton Library assistant director Lauren McLaughlin. For information, registration and directions, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call 203-762-6334. Wilton Library, 137 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT.