



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS

Peter V. Persic, Public Information Director 213 228-7555
630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles CA 90071 • Fax: 213 228-7569

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Brenda J. Breaux
(213) 228-7555

Los Angeles Public Library to Host Free Book Discussion & Signing by Maya Soetoro-Ng, Author of the New Children's Picture Book "Ladder to the Moon" and Sister of President Barack Obama

***Educator to Discuss New Picture Book on Tuesday, April 19,
from 6:30 – 8 p.m., at the Central Library, Downtown Los Angeles***



Maya Soetoro-Ng

First-time children's author Maya Soetoro-Ng, half sister of President Barack Obama, will read from her children's picture book "Ladder to the Moon" on Tuesday, April 19, from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 W. Fifth St. A book signing will follow the discussion.

Soetoro-Ng said "Ladder to the Moon" was inspired by her young daughter, Suhaila, asking questions about her grandmother Ann Dunham, who is the mother of the author and President Obama. The lyrical story told in beautiful illustrations relays the loving wisdom of Dunham to the young

granddaughter she never met. Award-winning artist Yuyi Morales illustrates the book.

"My mother was a storyteller, and many of her stories were told beneath the moon," Soetoro-Ng said. "She would wake me very early in the morning, not long after her 4:30 a.m. rising, so that we could look at the moon together. I remember several dozen such hours spent in a wide array of landscapes. Whether on a rooftop in Jakarta, by

(more)

Book Signing: Page 2

the Indus River in Pakistan, on our lanai in Honolulu, or on our fire escape in Manhattan, those hours now constitute some of the happiest of my childhood memories.”

Soetoro-Ng is an education specialist for the East-West Center in Honolulu, where she facilitates educational exchange and cross-cultural understanding between Asia and the United States. She is also a lecturer at the University of Hawaii’s College of Education, where she teaches multicultural education and the history of education. She lives with her husband and two daughters in Honolulu.

“Ladder to the Moon” illustrator, Yuyi Morales, is the first author-illustrator to be recognized three times by the Pura Belpré Committee for her work. Her artwork also earned her a Christopher Award and a Jane Addams Award. She has drawn strongly from her Mexican heritage to create some of the most celebrated books for children, including Kathleen Krull’s best-selling “Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chávez.”

As a Spanish-speaking immigrant and new mother, Morales took solace in public libraries. She practiced English with her son by reading children’s books, which renewed her interest in stories. The library visits inspired her to enroll in evening writing classes to learn how to tell stories in English. She also bought her first set of paints and brushes and began learning how to paint.

“Ladder to the Moon” will be available for purchase and signing at the event. For more information, contact Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian of Children’s Literature, at (213) 228-7251.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest population of any library in the country through its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, over six million books and other items, state-of-the-art technology, and its Web site, www.lapl.org. These resources and more than 18,000 public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

The Central Library is located in the Ninth Council District represented by Councilmember Jan Perry.

####