

Stallings named new Malibu librarian

CHRIS BASHAW, Assistant Editor

In the coming weeks, Malibu will have a new librarian.

Although her first day is technically on Wednesday, July 2, Melissa Stallings won't start managing the County of Los Angeles Public Library's Malibu branch for a few more weeks, but said she's looking forward to her new position.

"I'm really excited to start because it's really great to work at a branch where you have families coming in and all kinds of people using the library

every day; you're really a part of the community," she said. "I know the library is really valued in Malibu and every librarian wants to work in a community that places a lot of value in its library, so it'll be great to work in a community that really loves the library."

Currently a reference and teen librarian at the County of Los Angeles Public Library's branch in Glendale, Stallings, an Agoura Hills resident, said she began working in libraries eight years ago after a 10-year stint in journalism.

"I worked in editing, journalism and other things

for about 10 years, then decided to go to graduate school and got my master's in library science," she said. "[Working in libraries] was not something I always wanted to do, but after college I did toy with the idea of going to library school, but I started working right away – but now, I feel like this is where I was meant to be."

For Stallings, a library is a place where people want to be, whether they find themselves doing work, checking out reference materials, indulging in the latest best-sellers or enjoying the camaraderie of oth-

er readers.

"I really like the people part of libraries," she said. "I know most librarians enjoy the book part of libraries, but we really are a people-place. You never know what to expect in a library when there's different faces coming in every day and all different kinds of people."

Another aspect of library life Stallings finds herself drawn to is a library's potential to be a great equalizer.

"I really appreciate the role a library has in a community, but also the larger part of democracy as far as providing information to all

people, no matter who you are or what your income level is," she said. "We're there to just give you whatever you need knowledge-wise, and as I got older, that bigger picture part appealed to me. It's really one of the only places that represents complete equality. Any information you want or need, no matter who you are, is available to you in the library. That's the great appeal of being a librarian, is being apart of that."

Stallings will tour and train at other libraries in the County of Los Angeles Public Library's system before she begins managing

the branch in Malibu.

Stallings said she sees Malibu's branch running a smooth and engaging operation with its speaker series and other community events; at the moment, she said she had no plans in mind to change or add any programs.

"Off the top of my head, I can't think of any big changes," she said. "I would just need to get in there, get to know how things work and get to know people. Maybe down the road I'll think of something, but it's just a great library right now and I just can't see anything big changing."

Schweitzer to showcase artwork at Tara

STAFF REPORT

Malibu resident of 17 years Daniela Schweitzer will celebrated a reception for her 10 pieces of artwork at the Tara Gallery in Santa Monica on Saturday, June 28.

The exhibition will continue for one month, until July 28.

A practicing physician and artist, Schweitzer has always supported the arts in Malibu.

She is currently a member Malibu High School's Art Angels as well as a member and featured artist of Malibu Artists Unite.

"As an artist born in Argentina, a Malibu resident, and an avid traveler, I am drawn to diverse scenes and people of many different cultures—this inspires me to paint," said Schweitzer. "As a classically trained artist, whose cur-



Daniela Schweitzer stands beside one of her artworks.

rent work involves mostly figurative abstract pieces, I am inspired by people, human gestures and the simple beauty of everyday events. My classical art foundation in combination with my medical studies

made it possible for me to evolve as an artist with the human figure playing a prominent role in my paintings."

"People, human gestures, and the simple beauty of everyday events inspire me



Pictured is Daniela Schweitzer's painting, "Fast Milonga in the Street." PHOTOS SUBMITTED

to paint. Slight movements of an otherwise ordinary person or people's daily interactions and experienc-

es that may go unnoticed to others, catch my eye," she said.

Tara Gallery is located

at 1202 Montana Ave. in Santa Monica.

For more information, call (310) 451-2417.