

Dublin Reads “**When We Were Colored, a Mother’s Story**”

By Eva Rutland

September – October 2009

In September 2009, the Dublin library will launch its third annual city-wide book discussion, Dublin Reads. The book selected for this year is ***When We Were Colored, a Mother’s Story*** by Eva Rutland. ***When We Were Colored*** chronicles the lives of an ordinary yet extraordinary “colored” family as they move from segregation to integration during the turbulent civil rights era of the 1950s and 60s. Achingly poignant at times, funny at others, always down to earth, it’s the story of a transformative age, as relevant today as it was ***When We Were Colored***.

The concept for a one city, one book, reading program originated at the Seattle Public Library in 1998. The idea is to create a shared community experience by reading and discussing the same book. Dublin Reads began in 2007 with the historical novel ***Snow Mountain Passage*** by James D. Houston followed last year with ***Epitaph for a Peach*** by David Mas Masumoto. Each series includes a visit with the author, book discussions and other events that complement and expand on the themes of the chosen book.

Events begin in October, with a showing of the film, “**Sweet Old Song**.” At 73 years old African American string band musician, Howard “Louie Blueie”, Armstrong meets the love of his life – 43 year old artist Barbara Ward. This award winning film chronicles their courtship and marriage and its impact on their life and art. Directed by Bay Area filmmaker Leah Mahon, who will be available to offer commentary, Saturday, October 3 at 2:00 pm.

The highlight of Dublin Reads will be a visit with author Eva Rutland on Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 pm. Accompanied by her daughter, Ginger Rutland and granddaughter Eva Fields, these three generations of African-American women reflect on their family story that starts with Eva Rutland’s grandfather, Isaac Westmoreland, born a slave and freed after the Civil War.

Copies of the book are available at the Dublin Library and other community locations including Shannon Community Center, the Dublin Senior Center and the Heritage Center. The Dublin Library is a branch of the Alameda County Library system and is located at 200 Civic Plaza in Dublin.