

# **Celebration & What's Next in US and Cuban Relations**

**Bozeman Public Library**

**Sunday, February 22, and Sunday, March 29, 3-5 PM**

Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba kicks off 2015 with two events reflecting on dramatic changes in relations between the United States and Cuba at the Bozeman Public Library on two Sundays, February 22 and March 29. We'll celebrate, explore and create ways to fully normalize relations between our two countries in these two events involving artists, musicians, filmmakers and writers at these programs which are free and open to the public. In late 2014, President Obama announced a historic end to the 53-year-old U.S. government embargo of Cuba and, this January, implemented sweeping regulations in a new Cuba policy that expands travel with a purpose, financial transactions for businesses and travelers, commercial exports, family remittances and establishes Embassies in both nations.

On February 22, from 3-5pm, Bozeman area artists, writers and musicians celebrate the renewal of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments, openings in travel, travel and reuniting families of both nations with **Amigas y Amigos: Celebration of Cuban Arts and Culture**. Confirmed musicians and artists include percussionist Doug Wales and friends, jazz pianist Ann Tappan, photographer Lissa Barber, plus invited poets, dancers and spirited readings of Cuban writers. Many have traveled to Cuba and will weave in their adventures.

March 29 from 3-5pm, will feature a special edition on the **Right to Travel** with ***El Cine Cubano!*** by looking at opportunities for and challenges to travel to Cuba. Award-winning filmmaker Estela Bravo's documentary Free to Fly will be screened, and experienced Montana travelers to Cuba will share upcoming opportunities to travel, information about the new regulations impacting travel to Cuba and recent introduced bi-partisan Congressional Legislation to lift all travel restrictions that still remain.

*El Cine Cubano!* film programs and Cuban cultural events are free and open to the public, a part of an on-going series sponsored by the Gallatin Valley Friends of Cuba, a group of local travelers and persons interested in Cuba and normalizing relations between these neighboring nations. Contact Jan Strout at 206/251.0880 or Lissa Barber at 406/763.4423. Other co-sponsors include the Bozeman Public Library Foundation, MSU Department of Modern Languages and the US Women and Cuba Collaboration ([www.womanandcuba.org](http://www.womanandcuba.org)).