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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Woody Guthrie and the Great American Folksong at the Berkeley Public Library**

In this one-hour program held at **Berkeley Public Library's North Branch on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm**, Tim Holt presents a brief history of the American folksong, from the old-time ballads of Appalachia to the rambling, Depression-era songs of Woody Guthrie. He will also discuss the origins of our folk music in the British Isles and West Africa. Along the way, Holt will sing a variety of American folksongs, representing various aspects of our history and culture, including songs of westward settlement ("Cumberland Gap" and "Sweet Betsy From Pike"), old-time gospel ("Lonesome Valley"), Guthrie's original contributions ("Ramblin' Round") and several Lead Belly classics ("Goodnight Irene" and "Rock Island Line"). As Holt comments, "The history of the American folksong is really a people's history of this country." Tim Holt is a frequent contributor to the Sunday San Francisco Chronicle and the author of *Songs Of The Simple Life*, a collection of essays, and *On Higher Ground*, a futuristic novel. This program is **free** and is for teens and adults.

**North Branch is located on 1170 The Alameda** and is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10-6pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12-8pm. For questions and accessibility information, call **510-981-6107**, TTY **510-548-1240**,

<http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

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