

## President's Message

### SOCIAL MEDIA

There was a notice posted on Facebook by the City with the information that Library users have saved over \$1,500,000 by using physical books, DVDs, magazines, etc. despite the decreased hours the Library is open. That really shows the impact that the Library has for our users. This figure doesn't include the value of programs and other services offered at the Library, but it does give us a good idea of how our taxes work for us. And, it is nice to see a social media presence.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our election for a new Friends Board won't be for some months, but the Committee is forming and will begin work within the month. If you would like information about the Board and what we do, please let me know. Members serve as officers and directors at large and some are committee chairs. You can reach me at [margaretquigley@msn.com](mailto:margaretquigley@msn.com) for more information.

Margaret Quigley

## A MEET AND GREET INVITATION FOR OUR PARTNERS

The Friends Board, Trustees and our Library Staff look forward to meeting and greeting our Partners at a Reception on **Thursday, February 7**, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sierra Madre Public Library. It will be a special time to share thoughts and ideas and to make connections with both established and new Partners regarding the plans and progress for the future of our Library.

Sharing time as a group is very beneficial – please come with questions, ideas and possible solutions. Light refreshments and drinks will be served. RSVP to **Beth Smith-Kellock** at 626-355-8637 or [bethgerrysmith@aol.com](mailto:bethgerrysmith@aol.com) by **Friday, February 1**.

Our Library staff is most appreciative of the support the Partners have given in the past and – we the Friends and the Partners – are also appreciative of the time, effort and work our Librarians put forth to enrich the lives of our patrons – children and adults.

Thank you all for your participation and continued support. You are greatly appreciated.

## 49TH ANNUAL WINE AND CUISINE TASTING BENEFIT

This year's 49th Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting benefit will be a "Harvest Festival." It will take place on **Friday, September 27**, at the Villa del Oro at Alverno High School. Please save the date into your calendar as it promises to be another very special evening.

We have moved this great event to the fall to avoid the rain and colder weather. We will now be able to take advantage of the daylight savings time to give us extra daylight for the arrival of guests and warmer weather so that we can expand our outside activities. The benefit will include the **Premier Event** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and is limited to 100 guests. It will offer premium wines, specialty foods, door prizes and early access to the Main Event. The **Main Event** is from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. and is limited to 400 guests. It will offer domestic and international wines and beers, food from fine local restaurants, door prizes, live music, Magic Castle magicians and a Silent Auction.

Plan to come and enjoy the food from our many restaurants that participate, along with the many wineries that will be represented. Last year we added a "touch" of beer to our tasting which proved to be well accepted.

One of our highlights of this event is our amazing Silent Auction. This part of the evening is coordinated by Sharon Murphy and her team that work all year to bring together so many wonderful items that can be bid on throughout the evening.

Join us for our tasting, auction, music, magicians and just plain fun! If you are interested in helping with this event you may contact **Leslie Ziff** at [lbziff@roadrunner.com](mailto:lbziff@roadrunner.com) or 626-321-7735.



## SOMMER SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS THREE LIBRARY STAFFERS

Thanks to the Sommer Scholarship Fund, three deserving Sierra Madre Public Library Staff Members will continue their educational pursuits with their tuition paid 100% through the Friends of the Library funding. They are Doreen Thomas, April Gonzalez and Julie Imahara.

One applicant explained that working at the Sierra Madre Public Library was a “natural fit” and believes that “there is simply no facet of working at the library that [she] does not absolutely love.”

We look forward to seeing how this growth opportunity benefits them, and the Library as they learn how to better serve the community that we all know and love.

## LEARN TO BUILD AND PROGRAM ROBOTICS

Learn to build and program robots in the comfort of your own home with the Library’s Robotics Kits. Two different kits are available for check out.

The Dash Kit allows users to program and interact with a motorized robot named Dash as you explore block coding. Ideal for adults and kids ages six and up to learn the basics of coding and programing. No experience necessary. Kits include a Dash robot, an iPad mini, and a getting started guide.

The Cubelets Kit allows users to learn to build a basic robot using magnetic cubes that interact with each other and their environment. Easy to use and a fun way to learn. Ideal for adults and kids ages six and up. Engaging and intuitive, Cubelets are an easy way to design robots. Kits include 16 Cubelets that sense, think, and act, a handbook, and a getting started guide.

## EXPLORE NEW WORLDS WITH VIRTUAL REALITY

Step in to a different place and time with Virtual Reality systems at the Library. Visitors, ages 13 and older, can move into a computer-generated environment on **Saturday, February 9** from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m. [Note: this will now be offered only once a month.]

## TABLETOP GAMES AND COLORING BOOKS

Play board games, do word puzzles, or color on Saturday afternoons from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m. Use the Library’s huge collection of games, word puzzles, and coloring books.

## 3D PRINTING

A workshop to learn how to use the 3D Printer at the Library will be held on **Saturday, February 5** at 7:00 p.m. You can download open source free templates or create your own design.

## CRICUT

The Cricut Explore Air 2 is an electronic cutting machine for DIY crafts and projects. The machine is available during open Library hours and no appointment is necessary. Learn how to use the Cricut on **Tuesday, February 12** at 3:00 p.m.

## ADULT CRAFT

Make your very own Valentine using the Library’s Cricut craft machine on **Saturday, February 9** at 10:00 a.m.

## LEGO PLAY DAY

Kids! Join us as we build, create, and explore on LEGO Play Day, every Tuesday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

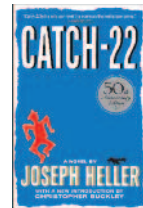
## A MONTH OF PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT CATCH-22 IN SIERRA MADRE

Catch-22, by Joseph Heller, is the 2019 selection for Sierra Madre Public Library’s annual One Book One City program in February. One of the most significant novels of the twentieth century, the satire on war and bureaucracy is set during World War II and follows John Yossarian, a U.S. Army Air Force B-25 bombardier and his experiences as he tries to maintain his sanity while fulfilling his service requirements so he can go home.

Joseph Heller was an American author of novels, short stories, plays and screen-plays. His best-known work is the novel Catch-22.

One Book, One City is a nation-wide community reading program that invites everyone in a city to read and discuss the same book.

Special thanks to: Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library, Kiwanis Club, Sierra Madre Playhouse and the One Book One City Committee Members: Rob Stockly, Bob Spears, Rich Procter, Leslie & Barry Ziff, Catherine Adde, Jane Zamanzadeh and Meegan Tosh.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Saturday, February 2 at 1:00 p.m.** — “A Look

at Joseph Heller and His Work” — By Rich Procter, at the Library. Rich Procter is Senior Writer for BRC Imagination Arts. He started as a comedy radio disc jockey and resident member of the Groundlings Improv troupe, and was a contributing writer to A Prairie Home Companion. “There are many writers who can

juggle comedy and drama,” says Rich. “Heller is one of the very few who can juggle farce and tragedy. That’s why this astonishing novel is still in print and seems as fresh as the day it was released in 1961.” *Remember When* singing group will entertain before the program with songs from World War II. Light refreshments will be served.

**Monday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m.** — “Off the Page” — Full reading of the stage adaption of *Catch-22*, directed by new Sierra Madre Playhouse Associate Artistic Director C. Julian White. At the Sierra Madre Playhouse.

**Saturday, February 16 at 1:00 p.m.** — World Premiere of “*The Cold Blue*” HBO Documentary — Join us for the world premiere of “The Cold Blue,” a new HBO documentary featuring the last B-17 pilots interviewed about what it was like to fly bomber missions in WWII.

The film uses the recently re-discovered raw footage that William Wyler shot for the 1944 “Memphis Belle” to support and complement their words. Special guest Peter Hankoff, producer of “*The Cold Blue*,” will introduce the documentary and will answer questions after the presentation. At City Hall Council Chambers.

**Saturday, February 16 at 3:00 p.m.** — “*The Memphis Belle*” Screening — Enjoy a double-feature as we watch “Memphis Belle: A Story of a Flying Fortress,” William Wyler’s compelling 1944 documentary film about the 25th mission of a bomber crew over Germany. This is a restored (color) version of the very famous WWII documentary. At City Hall Council Chambers.

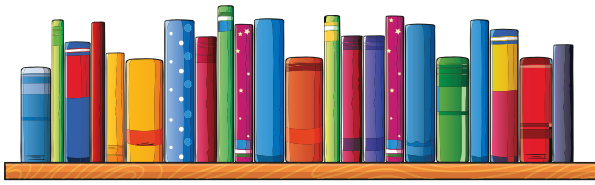
**Wednesday, February 20 at 4:00 p.m.** — Teen “War” Card Game Tournament at the Library. Play a favorite childhood card game for a chance to win some cool prizes.

**Thursday, February 21 at 11:00 a.m.** — Third Thursday Book Club at the Library. Enjoy a discussion with your friends and neighbors about this year’s OBOC book — Catch-22.

**Saturday, February 23 at 11:00 a.m.** — Tour of the American Military Museum — 1918 Rosemead Blvd., South El Monte, CA 91733. Admission prices: Adults — \$5.00; Veterans/Seniors (65+) — \$4.00; Juniors (10-16) — \$3.00; Children (5-9) — \$1.00; Children (Under 5) — Free. Call 626-442-1776 for more information.



Joseph Heller



## BEST USED BOOK SALE

The upcoming Friends Best Used Book Sale will be held on **Friday, February 1** from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, February 2** from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Featured this time will be our "VINTAGE" collection. We will have a large amount of attractive and valuable books for sale on the Basement table and on our shelves. In addition, there will be some fascinating historical sets such as the 1918 set of *True Stories of the Great War* and *Jefferson and His Time*, a study of all things Jeffersonian, as well as *Carl Sandburg's Biography of Abraham Lincoln*. A beautiful collection of *The Bibliophile Library of Literature, Art and Rare Manuscripts (Deluxe Limited Edition)* will also be available. For fiction, we have a set of *Charles Dickens books*, *The Works of Edgar Allan Poe*, *Sir Walter Scott*, and *Lloyd Douglas* sets. Look for classics with vintage drawings and illustrations and some charming children's titles with beautiful artwork as well as our usual collection of Nearly-New books of every subject on the Basement shelves.

The Parking Lot will also feature a number of Vintage books in our Bargain Book boxes where you may find old favorites for only \$1.00. Small paperbacks are 25 cents each or 5/\$1.00 and Children's and Teen books are priced from 25 cents - \$1.00 in the parking lot.

DVDs, CDs and Audio Books will be HALF-PRICE at this sale.

**AND DON'T FORGET OUR SATURDAY BAG SALE IN THE PARKING LOT.** Fill a large grocery bag all day for only \$5.00!!

See you at the February sale.

## PARTNERS PROGRAM

It is with appreciation that we thank our faithful Partners *Ann Bittner, Sharon & Dennis Murphy*, and *Catriona Shafer & Gurden Miller* — your continued support is important to the well-being of our Library. We also look forward to meeting and greeting the Partners who plan to attend our Partners Reception on **Thursday, February 7**. Thank you in advance for your support and participation.

## MARY TUMILTY ENDOWMENT FUND

Thank you to *Barbara Cole* and *Cynthia Nunes & Barbara Nye* for your generous donations to Mary's Fund. Nine years have gone by since Mary passed away on July 28, 2010 and it is indeed heartwarming to her family and friends that she is remembered in such a meaningful way. Your thoughtful-ness is appreciated!

## ADULT READING CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself by reading a genre outside your comfort zone. You pick the book and read on your own; no meetings to attend. The February genre is war or satire.

## THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

Adults are invited to read the selected book and join a lively book discussion on **February 21** at 11:00 a.m. The selection for February is *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller.

## LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

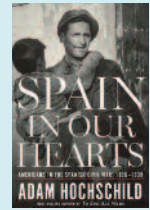
The display case for February will feature the One Book One City selection, *Catch-22*, and will also highlight World War II.

## READER'S REVIEW

This month's review is by Tom Tomlinson

*Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939*

By Adam Hochschild



Albert Camus gave Hochschild his title when he wrote "... men of my generation have Spain in our hearts. It was in Spain that men learned that we can be right and yet be beaten, that force can vanquish spirit, that there are times when courage is not its own reward. It is this doubtless which explains why so many men regarded the Spanish drama as a personal tragedy."

What was Spain doing in some American hearts between 1936 and 1939? In this brilliantly written work, Hochschild offers an American take on what was the bloodiest rehearsal for the Second World War. While official American policy was that of strict neutrality, roughly 3,000 American men and women volunteered for the International Brigade, Abraham Lincoln division; 900 volunteers died in Spain. Americans were not alone on the Spanish slaughter bench of history: more than 35,000 volunteers from 50 nations comprised the International Brigades suffering roughly 15,000 deaths. In short, Spain was a bloody mess.

You remember learning from your high school teachers that the democratically elected Second Spanish Republic (1931-1939) proved incapable of governing itself. In July 1936, General Francisco Franco and his Spanish Moroccan troops invaded Spain on German planes to bring order to the state. Abetted by German and Italian fascist troops and material, Franco and his Nationalist sympathizers engaged the Spanish Republic and its Loyalists, in a war that would leave more than 450,000 dead. The USSR was the only state which supported the Spanish Republicans with arms and soldiers but its assistance paled with that of the fascist powers.

So, what inspired nearly 3,000 heartfelt Americans to the Spanish cause? A sense of democratic idealism, argues Hochschild, especially in opposition to German and Italian intervention. Hochschild's account of Americans in Spain differs from other historical accounts of the Spanish trauma is his focus on the lives of specific individuals, some unknown, some well-known, who carry his narrative. The words of Ernest Hemmingway, Martha Gellhorn, and other, lesser known journalists such as Lois Orr, Louis Fischer, and Virginia Cowles bore witness to American volunteers in their articles.

But Hochschild's case for American hearts and idealism in Spain comes in his exploration of barely known persons. Illustrative of these lives are the Merrimans, Robert and Marion. A graduate student in economics at the University of California, Berkeley, Robert won a fellowship to the USSR in 1934 to study Soviet agriculture. By late 1936, the Merrimans were in Spain where Robert became a major in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade; no stranger to military thought and training, Merriman was a ROTC graduate and a commissioned officer. In Spain, Merriman fought bravely, leading a brigade skillfully; for his efforts, he was seriously wounded and hospitalized in February 1937; he died in action in April 1938. Some scholars posit that Robert Merriman may have been the model for Robert Jordan, university professor turned soldier in Hemmingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

Hochschild has published eight works of non-fiction and countless articles. In *Spain in Our Hearts*, he has written a moving, unforgettable history.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2/1	3:00-7:00 p.m.	Best Used Book Sale
2/2	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Best Used Book Sale
2/2	<b>ONE BOOK ONE CITY (OBOC) STARTS</b>	
2/2	1:00 p.m.	OBOC – <i>A Look at Joseph Heller and His Work</i>
2/4	9:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
2/4	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
2/4	7:00 p.m.	OBOC – “ <i>Off the Page</i> ” at the Sierra Madre Playhouse
2/5	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day
2/5	7:00 p.m.	3D Printing Workshop
2/6	4:00 p.m.	Teen Advisory Board
2/6	7:00 p.m.	Pajama Storytime
2/7	6:30 p.m.	Partners Reception
2/9	10:00 a.m.	Adult Valentine Craft
2/9	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
2/9	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Tabletop Board Games & Coloring
2/11	9:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
2/11	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
2/12	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day
2/12	3:00 p.m.	Cricut Basic Intro Workshop
2/13	4:00 p.m.	Middle School Crafty Book Club
2/14	3:30 p.m.	Barks & Books
2/16	1:00 p.m.	OBOC – World Premiere of “ <i>The Cold Blue</i> ” HBO Documentary at City Hall Council Chambers
2/16	3:00 p.m.	OBOC – “ <i>Memphis Belle</i> ” at City Hall Council Chambers
2/18	<b>LIBRARY CLOSED PRESIDENTS’ HOLIDAY</b>	
2/19	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day
2/20	4:00 p.m.	OBOC – Teen Activity Day War Card Game Tournament
2/20	7:00 p.m.	Friends Board Meeting
2/21	11:00 a.m.	OBOC – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday Book Club
2/23	11:00 a.m.	OBOC – Tour of American Military Museum
2/23	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Tabletop Board Games & Coloring
2/25	9:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
2/25	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
2/26	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day
2/27	7:00 p.m.	Library Trustees Board Meeting

## PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Enjoy an hour of reading, songs, music and crafts. Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and the first Wednesday (Pajama Storytime) of every month at 7:00 p.m. For ages 1 and up.

## BABY RHYME TIME

Families with babies from birth to age 2 will love this program, full of bonding and rhyming with a parent network on Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

## BARKS AND BOOKS

Children in grades K-3 are invited to read to a gentle and specially trained dog on Thursday, February 14 and on the second Thursday of every month, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

## TEEN SCENE

Weekly activities, snacks and volunteer opportunities for Middle School and High School students at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Teen Advisory Board — First Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. — Plan programs, earn service credit.

Middle School Crafty Book Club — Second Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. — Chat and create a craft with a monthly book selection.

Do Something FUN Activity Day — Third Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. — Play to win bragging rights and de-stress.

## SIERRA MADRE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Explore local history in the Library archives, jointly owned and maintained by the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society and the Library. For research assistance, please call 626-355-7186.

*Read, Discover, Connect @ Sierra Madre Public Library*

**LIBRARY HOURS**  
 Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.  
 Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
 Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
 Closed Fridays, Sundays and Holidays  
 Sierra Madre Public Library  
 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
 Sierra Madre (626) 355-7186  
 TEXT (626) 662-1254  
[www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/)