

President's Message

TEENS IN THE LIBRARY

A few weeks ago, I was in the Library and talked to Christine Smart about the teens who use the Library and about "their space," and I decided to write briefly about this for my next letter. For anyone who doesn't know, the former reference section is dedicated to teen use, although anyone can still use that area. It has been refreshed with bright art prints that appeal to young tastes; the shelves are stocked with books that appeal to them, and programs are planned for them. Library use isn't generally high among this age group, but there is always a core of young readers and it is wonderful that our Library staff can offer programs and support. And, yes, some of that is due to the efforts of the Friends.

Shortly after our talk, Christine gave me a little stack of thank-you cards. They had been made by the members of their advisory board, and thanked the Friends for the work we do for the Library. I'm sure there was a bit of prompting involved, but it gave those young ones a chance to think about gratitude and about the effort and work involved in helping our Library provide programs and services.

PARTNERS OF THE FRIENDS

Although December was a quiet month for the Board as no meeting was scheduled, we still managed to accomplish a few things. A thank you reception for our Partners is being planned for February. The Partners are a group who give a minimum of \$100 yearly to support special purchases or projects for the Library, and we currently have about 70 members.

On behalf the Board, I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season.

Margaret Quigley

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY LIBRARIAN

Dear Friends and Partners,

The newness of January is just like a brand-new book. Unopened, you have only the slightest idea of what is in store for you, but the fresh cover matches my outlook on this year. Full of possibilities.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is starting the year off with art classes for kids during their holiday break, and eagerly preparing for a busy schedule of events during One Book One City in February.

It is true that the Library faces challenges this year, with reduced staff and hours, but despite that, our circulation remains steady and the creative programming is still going strong. All of this, I attribute to the diligent staff, our thoughtful volunteers, and all of our friends.

If you are reading this, you are a supporter of the Sierra Madre Public Library. You might contribute baked goods to be sold at the Art Fair. You might regularly visit the Library to browse the new books. You may simply support the Friends of the Library as a member and Partner.

For all the ways that you support this wonderful institution, I join the chorus of the thousands of people who visit the Library every year, and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Happy New Year,

Christine Smart
City Librarian

SAVE THE NEW DATE! SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

The Friends of the Library's Wine and Cuisine Tasting Event for 2019 will be held on **Friday, September 27**. This "**Harvest Festival of Wine and Cuisine**" will take place again at Alverno's beautiful Villa Del Sol de Oro.

Our 49th Annual Event will include:

Premier Event: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Limited to 100 guests
Premium Wines • Specialty Foods • Door Prizes • Access to Main Event

Main Event: 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Limited to 400 guests
Domestic and International Wines & Beers • Fine Local Restaurants
Door Prizes • Magic Castle Magicians • Live Music
Silent Auction • Fine Art

We are looking forward to our September Event that will offer a milder climate and a wonderful taste of the harvest season. Add this great event to your calendar now!



DECEMBER WRAP UP

In addition to all the Library's regular programs, three special activities were highlights in December:

Teen Candy Land

The popular board game came to life at the Library on Saturday, December 1, for Middle and High School students. Nearly 40 teens walked their way through a life-sized Candy Land board game, created Candy Mosaics and made (and ate) Candy Sushi.

Children's Ukulele Workshop

Kids, and quite a few adults, exuberantly played and sang along while learning to play the easy and fun instrument on Saturday, December 8. The Library was filled with more than 25 enthusiastic participants playing and singing.

Billy Bonkers Magic for All Ages

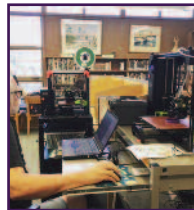
It was a packed house on Thursday, December 20, for Billy Bonkers energetic and loopy, magic and comedy show with a unique British twist and a fun levitation illusion finale.

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, January 5** from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m. [Note: this will now be offered only once a month.]

CRICUT

The Cricut 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, January 8** at 3:00 p.m.



3D PRINTING

Learn how to use the 3D Printers at the Library on **Saturday, January 19** at 10:00 a.m.

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.

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 January genre is Science Fiction.

ADULT CRAFT

Make your very own Coffee Cup Cozy, to keep your coffee cup warm, on **Saturday, January 12** at 10:00 a.m.



LEGO PLAY DAY

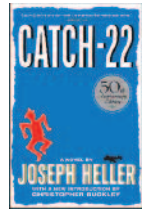
Build, create, and explore on LEGO Play Day, every Tuesday from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

Start your new year off right with the Third Thursday Book Club. Adults are invited to read the selected book and join a lively book discussion on **January 17** at 11:00 a.m. The January selection is the *Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury.

ONE BOOK ONE CITY COMING IN FEBRUARY

Catch-22, by Joseph Heller, is the Library's One Book One City selection for February. First published in 1961, *Catch-22* is one of the most significant novels of the 20th century. Joseph Heller was an American author of novels, short stories, plays and screenplays and his best-known work is a satire on war and bureaucracy.



Scheduled programs will be:

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."

Monday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. — *Sierra Madre Playhouse "Off the Page"* — full reading of the stage adaptation of *Catch-22*, directed by new 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 about the making of "*Memphis Belle*" — filmmaker Erik Nelson has produced a documentary, "*The Cold Blue*," that will be shown on HBO this spring. In 1944, William Wyler made a documentary for the US War Department called "*Memphis Belle*," the record of a B-17 bomber crew's 25th mission. Nelson interviewed the last surviving B-17 pilots about what it was like to fly bomber missions in WWII and cut Wyler's raw footage to support the moving interviews. At the City Hall Council Chambers.

Saturday, February 16 at 3:00 p.m. — "*Memphis Belle*" — a William Wyler 50-minute documentary for the US War Department. A record of a B-17 bomber crew's 25th mission. At the City Hall Council Chambers.

Wednesday, February 20 at 4:00 p.m. — Teen "War" Card Game Tournament.

Thursday, February 21 at 11:00 a.m. — Third Thursday Book Club.

Saturday, February 23 at 11:00 a.m. — Tour of the American Military Museum — meet at the museum located at 1918 Rosemead Blvd., South El Monte. Call 626-442-1776 for more information.

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 programming. 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.

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO BE CREATIVE

Kids! — Drop-in at the Library for a Winter Art Activity on **January 2, 3 and 5** from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m. For children that are Pre-K school age. The Library will provide supplies for your self-directed art creation.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

Our December Best Used Book Sale earned a total of \$2,111.75. Presales including the Internet, library cart and the Silent Auction were \$1,748.00 for a Grand Total of \$3,859.75 since the October sale. THANK YOU to all who came and bought wonderful books in great condition.

The February sale will be held on **Friday, February 1,** and **Saturday, February 2.**

Featured this time will be a "VINTAGE" collection of gently-used older books in anticipation of the larger Antiquarian Book Sale in Pasadena the same weekend.

Consider donating those antique or vintage books you have collected to our Friends Book Sale. They are tax-deductible and the money we earn goes directly to our Library. We are always in the basement on Mondays and Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to receive your donations, but we will be closed until the Library reopens on January 2.

See you at the February sale!

MARY TUMILTY ENDOWMENT FUND

As the year 2018 draws to a close the Friends, our Library Staff and Mary's family wish to thank all the generous donors who have supported Mary's Fund during the past year. Mary would be so pleased that you have remembered her in such a thoughtful and meaningful way. We end the year with generous donations from Michael A. Levine and Louise & Ward Calaway. Your gifts and those of all donors this past year are appreciated and will make a positive impact as we proceed with plans to improve our Library. Thank you – and a most Happy New Year to one and all.

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Most sincere thanks go to **all** the *Partners* who have so generously given their time, talent and financial support this past year. As the year ends, we thank Marta & John Capoccia, Cynthia (Tumilty) Villani and Lesley & Barry Ziff for their continued support. Your annual commitment is heartwarming and greatly appreciated. Dear *Partners* – please know that your participation in the life of our Library as *Partners* will continue to assist in finding the solutions regarding the future of our Library. May the New Year bring happiness to all of you.

'A MEET AND GREET' IN FEBRUARY FOR OUR PARTNERS

It is with great pleasure to share plans with you about an upcoming Reception in February to honor and thank all our *Partners* who have so generously given of their time and financial support towards the needs of our Library. Ten years ago, Patricia Hall, President of the Friends at that time, suggested the Friends consider the formation of the *Partners Program*. It became a reality and now numbers 70 active members. Please save the date of **Thursday, February 7** at 6:30 p.m. to gather at the Library. Refreshments will be served. Formal invitations will be mailed by mid-January.

We look forward to sharing this occasion with you to thank you for your generous contributions and commitment to our very special Library. Happy New Year!

READER'S REVIEW

This month's review is by Catherine Addé

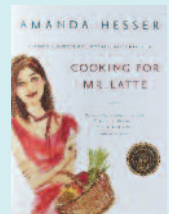
Books for Cooks -- Several Short Reviews for Your Reading and Cooking Pleasure

As the weather turns frosty with night's drawing in, baking goodies and experimenting with recipes replaces reading as a pastime. This time of year, I have great cooking memories! My late mother, Carole Enmark, was an excellent cook, in fact her degree was in "Home Economics" and she wrote cookbooks as well. Past holidays of mine and my husband were spent in Wales, where I cooked complete meals on a wood burning stove, attempting to convert recipes from US imperial measurements to UK metric. FUN. This activity (from a wannabe domestic goddess) used to seriously cut into my reading time – hence I thought it appropriate to combine the love of both cooking and books to provide you with an overview of a few fun books that are memoirs, and one novel, that have recipes included.

First up is *A Thousand Days in Venice* by Marlena di Blasi. This romantic memoir is an account of Marlena's adventure, i.e., packing up her life in the states to marry a Venetian. She and her man move from Venice to Tuscany, finally settling in Umbria. She was an editor of *Bon Appetit*, is a serious chef, and sprinkles her passionate memoirs with favorite Italian recipes. Her husband loves the fried Zucchini flowers best. YUM! Check out the companion volume *A Thousand Days in Tuscany* and hopefully the Library will buy her latest: *The Lady in the Palazzo*.



Donna in our Library recommended that I read *Cooking for Mr. Latte* by Amanda Hesser which is a food lover's courtship. Amanda is a restaurant critic in New York and food snob, however, her memoir is delightful as she converts her fiancé from regular Joe to 'Grand Gourmand.' The recipes are to die for. Follow this book up with *Eat Cake!*, a novel by Jeanne Ray, which is a story of troubles in the family, with cake as therapy. It was not the best book I've ever read, however each chapter finished with a truly delectable cake recipe.



Happy New Year and ENJOY!

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



1/2	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Drop-In Winter Art Activity for Kids
1/2	4:00 p.m.	Teen Advisory Board
1/2	7:00 p.m.	Pajama Storytime
1/3	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Drop-In Winter Art Activity for Kids
1/5	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Drop-In Winter Art Activity for Kids
1/5	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
1/5	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Tabletop Board Games & Coloring
1/7	9:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
1/7	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
1/8	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day
1/8	3:00 p.m.	Cricut Basic Intro Workshop
1/9	4:00 p.m.	Middle School Crafty Book Club – <u><i>The Graveyard Book</i></u>
1/10	3:30 p.m.	Barks & Books
1/12	10:00 a.m.	Adult Craft — Coffee Cup Cozy
1/12	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Tabletop Board Games & Coloring
1/14	9:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
1/14	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
1/15	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day
1/16	4:00 p.m.	Teen Activity Day — Book Cover Bingo
1/16	7:00 p.m.	Friends Board Meeting
1/17	11:00 a.m.	3 rd Thursday Book Club
1/19	10:00 a.m.	3D Printing Workshop
1/19	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Tabletop Board Games & Coloring
1/21	LIBRARY CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY	
1/22	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day
1/23	7:00 p.m.	Library Trustees Meeting
1/26	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Tabletop Board Games & Coloring
1/28	9:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
1/28	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
1/29	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Lego Play Day

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Enjoy an hour of reading, songs, music and crafts. Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and the first Wednesday 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, January 10 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

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

LIBRARY HOURS

www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/

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 Sierra Madre (626) 355-7186
 TEXT (626) 662-1254

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