

President's Message

BUSINESS

At our February Board meeting we discussed alternatives for adding online payments of dues, donations, tickets, etc., to our web site. As of now we are looking at Pay Pal and donorsnap.com. If any of our members has experience with these, or with another company, we would like to hear from you. I can be reached at **626-355-5546**.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please consider serving on the Board. We would love to hear from anyone who is even vaguely considering the possibility, but might not know enough to make a decision. Look for the notice in this Newsletter with more information.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In her latest book *Feel Free*, Zadie Smith, a highly regarded English author and essayist, writes some lines worth quoting here. She writes about a bookstore and its owner, Helen, but we could easily substitute library and librarian. "Helen gives the people of Willesden what they didn't know they wanted. Smart books, strange books, books about the country they came from, or the one they are in. Radical books. Classical books. Weird books. Popular books. She reads a lot. She has recommendations. In 1999 I didn't know that I wanted to read David Mitchell until Helen pointed me to *Ghostwriter*. And I have a strong memory of buying a book because it was on the shelf and I saw it, and it was a wonderful book." I hope that resonates for you as it did for me, because I think that many of us have experienced something similar in a library and with a librarian, and possibly with a bookstore, too.

Regards,
Margaret Quigley

57TH ANNUAL SIERRA MADRE ART FAIR FEATURED ARTIST HAS BEEN SELECTED

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library are proud to announce that the Featured Artist for the 57th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair is **Warren Yip**.



Warren Yip

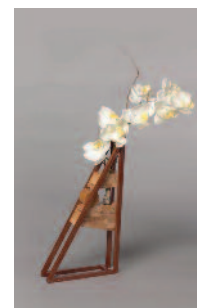
Warren S. Wing Yip studied architecture at Oklahoma State University and did his post-graduate work at Columbia University in New York. He practiced architecture in New York and Florida for 15 years before turning to designing products and importing and wholesaling his designs. His designs included display fixtures, desktop accessories such as lamps, and picture frames.

In the mid 2000's, and after doing business in Hawaii for a number of years, Warren slowly absorbed the local cultures and sensed the potential of the art of floral presentation by creating contemporary containers. He also felt the need to set up his own studio in California where he lives for its design development and quality.

The blending of cultures on the islands gave him the incentive to further develop this floral presentation concept for the mainland lifestyle. This harmonious fusion for modern day living is the foundation of his work. His medium is simple wooden pieces, and his focus is utilizing simplicity to bring out the natural beauty of flowers while allowing the containers to be both a complimenting and stand-alone art form.

He is now semi-retired and enjoys doing his wood work and art shows with the help from his wife Janet.

Warren describes his featured art piece, 'Giraffe,' as: "I chose a laminated block made from small pieces of Maple wood as the body for the vase. The block was cut to show the end grains of the wood which gave me a texture in various tones. The vase was designed for directional and single-stem floral arrangement in the Asian fashion. It was also meant to be sculptural by itself. The glass liner was purposely exposed for contrast with wood. For the frame, I used a very hard wood from Indonesia called Balau which allowed me to cut into narrow pieces for a sense of slenderness."



Giraffe

This year's Art Fair is being held in Memorial Park on **Saturday, May 4**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and **Sunday, May 5**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by Warren's booth (#53) to admire and purchase his inspiring creations

YOUTH BOOKMARK CONTEST

Local students are invited to enter the popular annual Bookmark Contest in March. Pick up your application at the Sierra Madre Public Library, on the Library website, and at schools in Sierra Madre starting Friday, March 1. The contest is open to children in grades K-8 who go to school in Sierra Madre, or live in Sierra Madre, or who have a Sierra Madre Public Library card. Entries are due by Saturday, March 30.

This year's theme is Historic Sierra Madre. Artwork may be designed with any tools but must be completely original work. Entries should depict and describe specific places, events or people in Sierra Madre and express a love of the history of the City.

Winning entries will be displayed in the Library and winners will receive a certificate and cash prize at a ceremony in their honor.

ONE BOOK ONE CITY WRAP UP

The 2019 One Book One City featured the classic book Catch-22. During the month of February, attendees braved the rain to attend events including, *A Look at Joseph Heller and His Work* by Trustee Rich Procter; a reading of the stage adaption at the Sierra Madre Playhouse directed by Christian Lebrano, Third Thursday Book Club, and the HBO Documentary World Premier of *The Cold Blue* followed by a screening of the 1944 documentary *Memphis Belle*. Producer Peter Hankoff attended and answered questions.

EXPLORE SENIOR COHOUSING

Learn about the Danish model of housing that develops sustainable, energy efficient, vibrant, progressive neighborhoods where active adults can thrive on **Saturday, March 16** from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Alexandria Levitt, gerontologist (USC) and housing advocate, will discuss cohousing for adults 50 and older. Cohousing neighborhoods are composed of privately-owned homes/condos clustered around shared open space and extensive common facilities to create an urban village feel. Environmental sustainability is a core value in cohousing projects.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MOVIE EVENT

Please join us for a special viewing of *A League of Their Own* on **Saturday, March 2** at 3:00 p.m. We'll dim the lights, pop some popcorn and enjoy a great movie together.



STUART LITTLE AT PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Actors from Sierra Madre Playhouse's production of *Stuart Little* bring excerpts from the play to Preschool Storytime on **Monday, March 18** at 10:00 a.m.

SIERRA MADRE ART FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

An easy and fun way to get involved with the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library is to volunteer for a shift at the annual Art Fair. Not only do you help the Friends, but you will be able to see and chat with your Sierra Madre neighbors who visit the Fair. This year's Art Fair is being held in Memorial Park on **Saturday, May 4**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and **Sunday, May 5**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to act as area Hosts and Hostesses, serve at the Friends Booth and the Friends Food Booth, and to help with the Silent Auction. Volunteer shifts are short and since there are so many people coming through, the time passes quickly. Hosts and Hostesses are assigned an area and are responsible for visiting the artists in that area to ask if they need anything and to sit in their booth if they need to take a break. At the Friends Booth people can get information about our organization and the Library and buy Friends memorabilia. Our popular sweet breads and baked goods are sold at the Friends Food Booth. You'll be very busy there! We're having a Silent Auction again this year, and volunteers are needed to make sure things run smoothly.

Does volunteering at the Art Fair sound like something that you would like to do? Contact **Darlene Traxler** at 626-355-6220 or dtraxler2000@gmail.com.

DECLUTTERING: OVERCOMING THE OVERWHELM

Ready to pare down and declutter, but you're not sure where to start? Whether you want to declutter your entire home in preparation for downsizing, or just want to organize your linen closet, learn techniques for breaking down the process into manageable steps on **Saturday, March 9** at 3:00 p.m.

Topics will include finding your motivation, identifying your organizing style, an overview of the organizing process, and what to do with all that stuff. **Sarah Holden** is a Sierra Madre-based professional organizer and owner of Room Service Home Organizing. She helps her clients free up time and space in their lives for what matters most. This presentation will help you learn techniques for breaking down the process into manageable steps.

TEEN POETRY CONTEST

Starting on **Monday, March 18**, Middle School and High School students can begin to submit original poems to the Sierra Madre Public Library. Any kind of poetry is accepted and encouraged. Entries will be limited to five poems per person. Deadline for submissions is **Saturday, March 30**.

There will be a First, Second, and Third prize for every individual grade. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be announced on **Wednesday, April 10** at 4:00 p.m. in the Library, right before our Blackout Poetry craft begins, during National Poetry Month and National Library week!

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed, by Jared Diamond, is the book to be discussed on **March 21** at 11:00 a.m.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

The February Book Sale earned \$1,672.50 on Friday and \$595.05 on Saturday for a total of \$2,267.55. Added to the pre-sales of \$2,063.48 since the December sale, the Grand Total for the two months was **\$4,331.03**. The number of people who came Saturday to shop in the rain was impressive!

We are always working in the Basement behind the Library on Mondays from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and look forward to receiving your gently-used donations. Donations may also be left in the basement stairwell at any time. Magazines and old encyclopedias may be left on the Free Bench right outside.

The next sale is scheduled for **Friday, April 5** from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, April 6** from 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Featured will be a variety of crafting books and a cookbook sale. Hope to see you there!

PARTNERS PROGRAM

It was indeed a pleasure to welcome 30 of our *Partners* to an appreciation reception held at our Library on Thursday, February 7. The *Partners* group was formed 10 years ago at the suggestion of our then President of the Friends – Patricia Hall. Patricia warmly welcomed the *Partners* and updated them on the current status of our Library. Julia Brady, 1st Vice President — Development, on the Board of Directors, chaired the evening and encouraged discussion regarding the future of our Library. Christine Smart, City Librarian, also shared hopeful plans for the future of our Library. It was indeed a pleasant evening – and once again – we thank ALL our *Partners* – near and far away – for your generosity and caring of our very special Library. Your thoughts and/or questions are most welcome.

Also – we thank Shannon King & Frank Moore, Jill & Tim Schofield, and Barbara Watson for renewing your annual *Partner* membership. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in March to propose nominees to fill positions for Officers, Members at Large and Committee Members on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library for 2019-2020.

Anyone having an interest in joining the Board or having any questions, please contact me for information about positions to be filled.

Thank you,
Teresa Chaure
2nd Vice President, Governance
hawksmom87@yahoo.com or 626-627-5957

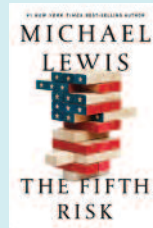
ADULT CRAFT

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by making a festive candle holder on **Saturday, March 9** at 10:00 a.m.



LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

The display case at the Library for March will feature the San Gabriel Woman's Club Student Art Contest winners.



READER'S REVIEW

This month's review is by **Richard Bellikoff**

The Fifth Risk
by Michael Lewis

This book explores the consequences of those in charge of our government being indifferent to the very concept of government. Lest there be any doubt whom Michael Lewis is referring to, the flyleaf has a screen shot of a Trump tweet from the early days of his administration: "Very organized process taking place as I decide on Cabinet and many other positions . . ."

That process, as Lewis and his interviewees describe it, was anything but organized. The few Trump appointees who even showed up for briefings by their predecessors took little interest in their responsibilities and the functions of their agency. Some even threw away the briefing books that had been prepared for them. To this day, many key government positions have not been filled, and some have no nominee at all.

Lewis explores the risks of such neglect by interviewing employees in a handful of federal agencies and asking them what they fear might happen if Trump continues his haphazard approach to staffing and running the federal government. Their answers include a disease epidemic or a nuclear catastrophe.

"The basic role of government is to keep us safe," says one interviewee. That's not limited to the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security. It also includes such organizations as the National Weather Service, which supplies the data on which all weather forecasts are based. Forecasting severe weather such as blizzards, hurricanes and tornadoes, is an important way of keeping Americans safe.

Safety, according to other interviewees, is also a key function of the Department of Energy, which maintains the USA's nuclear arsenal and protects Americans from nuclear threats. With the department understaffed and its budget severely cut by the Trump administration, there may not be enough inspectors to track and locate black market uranium before terrorists do.

Among other things, this book is a primer on all the unappreciated ways our government serves us. It's the civics lesson that some of us never had in school — especially those who think we don't need the government at all, and are blissfully ignorant about Food and Drug Administration inspections that were temporarily halted by the recent government shutdown, thereby exposing them to infection by food-borne pathogens. Under normal circumstances, they're protected by the FDA and the rest of the government, whether they believe in it or not.

CALL # STATUS: 320.973 LEWIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SIERRA MADRE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

3/1	BOOKMARK CONTEST BEGINS
3/2	12 Noon-5:00 p.m. Virtual Reality
3/2	3:00 p.m. Women's History Month Movie – <i>A League of Their Own</i>
3/4	9:00 a.m. Baby Rhyme Time
3/4	10:00 a.m. Storytime
3/5	2:00-5:00 p.m. Lego Play Day
3/6	4:00 p.m. Teen Advisory Board
3/6	7:00 p.m. Pajama Storytime
3/9	10:00 a.m. Adult Craft – Leprechaun Light
3/9	3:00 p.m. Decluttering: Overcoming the Overwhelm
3/11	9:00 a.m. Baby Rhyme Time
3/11	10:00 a.m. Storytime
3/12	2:00-5:00 p.m. Lego Play Day
3/13	2:30 p.m. Cricut Basic Intro Workshop
3/13	4:00 p.m. Middle School Crafty Book Club – <i>Ella Enchanted</i> – make unique, untraditional crowns
3/14	3:30 p.m. Barks & Books
3/16	1:00 p.m. Explore Senior Cohousing
3/18	TEEN POETRY CONTEST BEGINS
3/18	9:00 a.m. Baby Rhyme Time
3/18	10:00 a.m. Storytime-Sierra Madre Playhouse presents <i>Stuart Little</i>
3/19	2:00-5:00 p.m. Lego Play Day
3/20	4:00 p.m. Teen Activity Day – Spring Break Movie – <i>Ella Enchanted</i>
3/20	7:00 p.m. Friends Board Meeting
3/21	11:00 a.m. 3 rd Thursday Book Club
3/23	12 Noon-5:00 p.m. Tabletop Board Games, and Coloring
3/25	9:00 a.m. Baby Rhyme Time
3/25	10:00 a.m. Storytime
3/26	2:00-5:00 p.m. Lego Play Day
3/27	7:00 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting
3/28	12 Noon-5:00 p.m. Virtual Reality
3/30	DEADLINE FOR BOOKMARK CONTEST
3/30	DEADLINE FOR TEEN POETRY CONTEST
3/30	10:00 a.m. 3D Printing Workshop

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, March 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

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/

Sierra Madre Public Library
440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre (626) 355-7186
TEXT (626) 662-1254

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