

President's Message

Happy New Year to all of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library and welcome to the New Roaring '20s — that's 2020! I'm excited about all of the events and actions we have on the calendar for this year. But before we talk about that, I'd like to recap some of the great things that happened this past December.

Our own **Margaret Quigley** was officially recognized as Sierra Madre's Citizen of the Year on Wednesday, December 4 with many Friends in attendance to see Margaret receive her award. Of course, Margaret has been active in several community organizations over the years, but she gave a fantastic speech about the need for a 21st Century Library and all of the things that the Friends have contributed to the Library. Congratulations to Margaret, and thank you for the great publicity. I might also add that The Only Place in Town did a fantastic job in catering the meal along with Poppy Cake Baking Company's decadent cake! Yummy.

On Tuesday, December 10, the New Library Drawing was introduced to our City Council by PBWS architect Kirstyn Bonneau. This was followed by a presentation by Trustee Richard Procter on the need for the citizens of Sierra Madre to once again be generous in the efforts to vote "yes" on a parcel tax for our new Library as they did in 1953 when our present Library was built. The future generations need this. (And quite frankly, I'd like to utilize this new Library for my remaining years in Sierra Madre!). Former Mayor and Sierra Madre Library Foundation Member as well as Friend, Rob Stockly, presented the plan on gathering signatures to get this parcel tax on the ballot in 2020. We need to finalize the wording for the signatures. After that, we need to call on you for your help to gather the signatures as well as the PR for a new Library. This may include hosting a neighborhood get together in your home.

Now to get to more plans for our Roaring 2020s! It has been announced that the **One Book One City** selection is *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, by Father Gregory Boyle. You may have read his first book, *Tattoos on the Heart*. Most of the events will take place in February, but you need to sign up starting **Monday, January 6** at the Library if you want to hear Father Greg on **Saturday, February 15** at Sierra Madre Elementary School. He is an outstanding speaker. I've heard him several times and gain inspiration from his talks each time.

Please save the date for three more very important Friends Events: **Saturday, May 2** and **Sunday, May 3** for the **Sierra Madre Art Fair**; **Wednesday, June 17** for our **Annual Meeting and Dinner** at the Sierra Madre United Methodist Church; and **Friday, October 2** for the **Wine and Cuisine Tasting Benefit** at Alverno's Villa del Sol d'Oro.

Until February, stay well and stay tuned, AND recruit a new Friend of the Sierra Madre Library.

Julia Brady

2019 SIERRA MADRE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

On Wednesday, December 4, the City of Sierra Madre and the Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual **Sierra Madre Honors** dinner for recipients who were selected for their *outstanding* commitment to service to the Sierra Madre community.

We are very pleased to announce that our 1st VP, Governance, **Margaret Quigley**, was chosen to receive the 2019 Citizen of the Year Award. Congratulations Margaret! Thank you for your tireless volunteer efforts for so many years including your current work supporting the Friends of the Library and the Sierra Madre Public Library.



Susan Henderson, Chamber of Commerce; Mayor John Harabedian; Citizen of the Year Margaret Quigley

The following is a copy of her speech:

"Over the years, the Friends have contributed much to the Library and they have slowly saved money so that when the time came, they could contribute to the furnishing of the Library. Hundreds of people contributed – ordinary people.

This year I was asked to call the Board to a meeting to discuss financing a Request for Proposal for a site plan for a new Library. The Board met. We reviewed the Article of Incorporation to see if we could, and then did a risk to benefit analysis. There was discussion, and then the Board voted YES. I know that it was a unique thing that the Board did. For one, Requests for Proposals (RFP's) for municipal buildings are rarely – if ever- funded by a non-profit group, or by any group of citizens. It was done with the weight of all the people who had worked for that money, and was an act of courage and one that deserves recognition. It was done because we have a unique relationship with our Library. We work with the Sierra Madre Library Board of Trustees and send representatives to each other's meetings.

Now, it is done and the financial costs have been calculated. It should go City Council next week and I am confident that they will move ahead and put something on the Ballot. The time is NOW for Sierra Madre to vote on the future of their Library – and really – their City.

Once that happens, we will swing into a campaign to get out the vote. The new Sierra Madre Library Foundation will start raising funds to make this a public/private partnership. Ideally, a year would be best, but if we only have ten months, we will make it count."

Thank you,

Margaret Quigley



GINGERBREAD BUILD DAY WRAP UP

It was under a crisp December blue sky when a party of junior architects assembled in front of the Library to participate in our annual Gingerbread Build Day. Almost 150 patrons visited throughout the afternoon, fashioning mini-structures in a variety of styles – from Victorian to Ranch-style to Eclectic. Smaller children were provided a pre-built house of their own to decorate. The atmosphere was lively and high-spirited as builders focused on constructing their ideal home while shouting out tips and advice to one another.



Thanks to the efforts of our teen volunteers the previous day, we had an abundance of pre-built houses and were able to accommodate all children who asked for one. We also received a very large donation of icing from **Poppy Cake Baking Company**, which was perfectly suited to bonding graham cracker walls and roof. Finally, because of the overwhelming generosity of Sierra Madre residents and Library patrons in donating Halloween candy, we were able to offer our gingerbread house builders a staggering amount of decorating embellishments that spanned every possible size, shape, and color.

FREE HOMEWORK HELP

Come to the Library every Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for Homework Help! Get help in a variety of subjects including math, reading, writing, science, social studies, and more! Our Homework Helpers will provide one-on-one time with students. Homework Helpers are available on a first come, first serve basis and will help with grades K-8!

PARENT CAFÉ: GROWING TOGETHER

What is the Parent Café? It's about meeting local parents, making new friends, sharing parenting challenges, rewards and experiences, and fostering early literacy and play. It takes a village. Find your tribe, create memories, and nurture a love of learning through this parent-led program. Bring your own beverage, or enjoy a cup of coffee on us. Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

TASTE AND SEE

On **Thursday, January 9** at 11:00 a.m. stop by the Library for a blind taste test. There'll be something new every month for your taste buds to explore, and we'll vote and share our favorites. In January, we'll be sampling a variety of olives!

STEAM OPEN HOUSE

During our STEAM Open House, on **Tuesday, January 28** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., learn about 3D printing and print your very own item at a special-event discount price of FREE! Size restrictions apply. Then learn about die-cutting and its applications on the Cricut and our Virtual Reality stations will be geared up and ready to take you worlds away!

VIRTUAL REALITY

Step into other worlds – both real and imagined – every Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with the easy-to-use Virtual Reality systems at the Library. For patrons age 13 and older.

CRICUT WORKSHOP

On **Wednesday, January 15** at 6:30 p.m. stop by and learn the fundamentals with a Library staff member; no appointment necessary.

CRAFT IT! WINTER WARMER BEAR

Winter chill got you down? No need to grin and “bear” it! On **Saturday, January 11** at 10:00 a.m. make your very own Winter Warmer Bear. Heat up in the microwave and you'll chase away winter's chill. Arrive early and bring only your creativity as all materials will be provided while supplies last. Kids welcome with a participating adult.

INTERGENERATIONAL STORYTIME: HAVE A GRAND OL' TIME

Seniors and Preschoolers! On **Wednesday, January 8** at 10:00 a.m. find a “grandbuddy” in our new interactive Storytime. Sponsored by the Library and The Kensington, preschoolers and older adults will spend time reading, crafting, and playing together in order to learn about and engage with different generations. This monthly program will alternate months – odd months at the Library and even months at The Kensington!

FAMILY FORT BUILDING

On **Friday, January 3** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. come one, come all and take advantage of an empty Library, which is perfect for cardboard box fort building. Bring your friends or the whole family and build your own fort, perfect for cozy reading or adventurous pretending. Boxes will be provided, but this event is BYOB – Bring Your Own Blanket (and pillow too)!

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN LAUNCH PARTY!

It's official, we have a new program on **Saturday, January 25** at 10:00 a.m. aimed at reading 1000 books before Kindergarten! The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler (yes, you can repeat books). We're celebrating this new



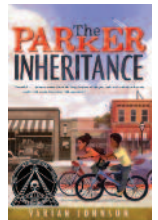
program with a special sign-up featuring gifts and a performance by Animal Magic. Join in the fun but don't forget to sign-up for the program.

TEEN ACTIVITY DAY: CREATIVE WRITING 101

Want to start writing but don't know where to begin? Whether you enjoy graphic novels, science fiction, fantasy, or romance you can learn how to get those creative writing juices flowing and start on your epic novel, memoir, short story, or fan fiction. On **Wednesday, January 22** at 4:00 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CRAFTY BOOK CLUB

On **Wednesday, January 15** at 4:00 p.m. we'll be discussing *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson and we'll be working on needle felting patches. This means participants are encouraged to bring any clothing they would like to put some simple and unique patches on.



DUNGEON CRAWL

Want to learn about Dungeons & Dragons without having to commit to a long-term campaign? Come to the Library on **Saturday, January 11** from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and be led through a one-shot Dungeons & Dragons game by an experienced Dungeon Master (DM). No experience required!

MINECRAFT BEADS

On **Monday, January 27** at 3:00 p.m. spend the afternoon making Minecraft Perler bead creations. Make your favorite 8-bit characters, tools, or any other icon from the game. Set designs will be available but feel free to bring in your own pictures of something you'd like to create. Ideal for School Age children.

DROP-IN WINTER ART FOR KIDS

On **Thursday, January 2** and **Saturday, January 4** from 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m. the Library will provide supplies for your self-directed art creations! For Pre-K to School Age children.

LEGO CHALLENGE

Are you ready to build? Challenge yourself every Tuesday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to build our LEGO creation or have fun building your own creation! The best challenge is kept on display and featured on the Library's Facebook and Instagram page. For those in Grade School.

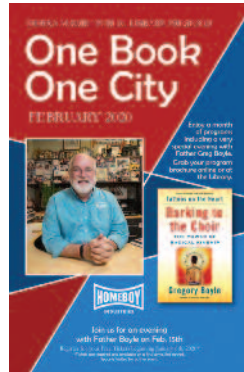
ONE BOOK ONE CITY COMING TO THE LIBRARY IN FEBRUARY

The Sierra Madre Public Library is honored to announce the 2020 One Book One City selection, *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, by Father Gregory Boyle.

One Book One City is a community reading program which invites everyone in Sierra Madre to read and discuss the same book during February 2020 and attend many exciting programs. Throughout the month of February, *Barking to the Choir* will be available for checkout at the Library, along with engaging programs related to this One Book One City selection.

Barking to the Choir reveals the success of using “radical kinship” and compassion to transform the lives of gang members in Los Angeles. Throughout the book, Boyle gives a sense of the overall operation of Homeboy Industries, and seeks to engage with the difficulties of the world with more compassion and fewer barriers.

In conjunction with this fabulous community program, Father Gregory Boyle will join us in conversation at Sierra Madre Elementary School on **Saturday, February 15** at 6:30 p.m. to discuss his book. The author event and a tour of Homeboy Industries on **February 28** at 11:00 a.m. will be free to the public; tickets are required. Please reserve your spot by picking up a ticket to one or both events at the Library on or after **Monday, January 6**.



BEST USED BOOK SALE

Many thanks go to our set-up and clean-up crews at the December Book Sale. They do so much to ensure that the books and people are protected from the elements in the parking lot and are a huge reason for our success! The sale earned \$1,949.54. Added to our presales of \$3,112.56 and the Silent Auction earnings of \$710.00, our two-month total was **\$5,772.10!!** This is a lot of money at our low prices. Congratulations to all who work so hard to contribute to our success.

With the popular \$5.00 Bag Sales on Saturday, we are in desperate need of large brown grocery bags, like the ones from Trader Joe's. You can leave them in the basement stairwell at any time or bring them on Mondays from 8:00-11:00 a.m. and Thursdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. when we are working there. Also needed are small paperbacks in good condition. We depend on your donations for our sales and thank you so much!

The next sale will be **Friday, February 7** from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, February 8**, from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. when we have our annual Vintage Sale. See you then.

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Welcome to Shirley Chan, who has joined at the Silver Level, and David Gordon and Marcia Meudell, who have joined at the Gold Level and many thanks to the following *Partners* — Nina & Clem Bartolai, Toni & Bob Buckner, Louise & Ward Calaway, Helena Czepiec, Shannon King, Alejandro Komai, Wendy & Rob Stockly, Cynthia Villani and Leslie & Barry Ziff. Please know how much your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated! We will keep you advised regarding the progress of the plans for a new Library. Happy New Year!!

MARY TUMILTY ENDOWMENT FUND

Many, many thanks to Michael A. Levine – a longtime supporter of Mary's Fund – for your most generous and thoughtful donation. We can only imagine how pleased she would be – she would be smiling!!

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

Enjoy a lively book discussion for adults on **Thursday, January 16** at 11:00 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month. In January, we'll be reading *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan.

READER'S REVIEW

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

Siege: Trump Under Fire

by **Michael Wolff**



I don't normally bother with political tell-all books, but when I spotted this on the Library's new book shelf, I couldn't resist the impulse to read it. In *Fire and Fury*, Michael Wolff gave readers an inside view of Trump's first year in office, revealing a White House consumed by chaos, paranoia and backstabbing. “Siege” is the sequel, covering the period from February 2018 to the delivery of the Mueller report. Now that Trump has been impeached, Wolff is probably at work on a third volume, packed with more behind-the-scenes gossip.

As usual, Trump is the star of the show. The large supporting cast includes Jared Kushner, Mike Pence, Michael Cohen, Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, Sean Hannity, Brett Kavanaugh, Rudy Giuliani and Don McGahn. Nobody is portrayed in flattering terms.

Just as in the first book, Steve Bannon is Wolff's only named source. Bannon is contemptuous of everyone, including the president he helped put into office. Trump, he says, is “just a crooked business guy . . . just another scumbag.” Bannon predicts that whenever Trump's time in the Oval Office ends, he “won't go out classy.”

Wolff describes Trump's presidency as anything but classy. Trump insults everyone in sight. His son-in-law Kushner is “a girl.” His Vice President is “a religious nut.” “Why does he look at me like that?” Trump asks about Pence's servile gaze. The insults are also incoming. Henry Kissinger says, “The entire foreign policy is based on a single unstable individual's reaction to perceptions of slights or flattery. If someone says something nice about him, they are our friend; if they say something unkind, if they don't kiss the ring, they are our enemy.”

In Wolff's account, Trump's White House is a theater of the absurd where the inmates run the asylum. Wolff calls it “an emotional state rather than a political one.” Trump is “unable to control his own running monologue.” He has “no solely private thoughts” and is “almost never voluntarily alone, and absolutely never alone and awake without the television on.” He's so insecure that he even resents his adolescent son's height, which is about to exceed his own. “How do I stunt his growth?” he asks.

Wolff's book is a Rorschach test. If you're horrified by Trump's time in office, it will confirm all your worst fears. If you're a Trump supporter, you'll accuse Wolff of writing “fake news,” although much of what he says has been corroborated by other books, notably Bob Woodward's *Fear: Trump in the White House*. If two people in your household on opposite sides of the political divide are reading this book, they'll have one more reason for a food fight at the dinner table.

CALL #: 973.933 WOLFF

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

In January, the Library display case will feature information and material about the One Book One City selection for 2020 – *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, by Father Gregory Boyle.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



1/2	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Drop-In Winter Art for Kids
1/3	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Family Fort Building
1/4	12 Noon-5:00 p.m.	Drop-In Winter Art for Kids
1/6	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
1/7	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
1/7	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
1/7	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
1/8	10:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Storytelling
1/8	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
1/8	4:00 p.m.	Teen Advisory Board
1/9	11:00 a.m.	Taste & See
1/9	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
1/9	3:30 p.m.	Barks & Books
1/11	10:00 a.m.	Craft It! Winter Warmer Bear
1/11	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Dungeon Crawl
1/13	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
1/14	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
1/14	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
1/14	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
1/15	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
1/15	4:00 p.m.	Middle School Crafty Book Club – <i>The Parker Inheritance</i> Cricut Workshop
1/15	6:30 p.m.	Friends Board Meeting
1/15	7:00 p.m.	3 rd Thursday Book Club
1/16	11:00 a.m.	Homework Help
1/16	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LIBRARY CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
1/20	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
1/21	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
1/21	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
1/22	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
1/22	4:00 p.m.	Teen Activity Day-Creative Writing 101
1/22	7:00 p.m.	Library Trustees Board Meeting
1/23	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
1/25	10:00 a.m.	1000 Books Before Kindergarten Launch Party
1/27	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
1/27	3:00 p.m.	Minecraft Beads
1/28	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
1/28	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
1/28	5:00-7:00 p.m.	STEAM Open House
1/29	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
1/30	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Join us at the Library every Monday at 10:00 a.m. for a fun interactive story time involving early literacy, books, songs, movement, crafts, and more! For ages 3-5 years old.

BABY RHYME TIME

Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. the Library becomes a place to sing, play, read, and enjoy with your baby & toddler. Join us as we learn to grow together! For ages Birth to 24 months.

BARKS AND BOOKS

Reading to a dog from the Companion Animal Program on **Thursday, January 9** at 3:30 p.m. allows children to build their confidence in reading aloud; teaches about respectful, humane treatment for all animals; and makes reading fun! This program is on the second Thursday every month and is intended for Grade School aged children.

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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