



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

February 2020

President's Message

Continuing with our Roaring 2020s theme this year, our February issue celebrates the **Best Used Book Sale's** Vintage Event. **Martha Troedson** and her wonderful team have assembled a fantastic assortment of books for the sale on **February 7 and 8**. Be sure to check it out.

Also this month, we celebrate One Book One City's *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*. I hope that you got your ticket to hear Father Gregory Boyle speak at the Sierra Madre Elementary School on **Saturday, February 15** at 6:30 p.m. With 500 tickets available, it is SOLD OUT! City Librarian, **Christine Smart**, told me that there were many Sierra Madre citizens who came in and signed up for their library card when getting their tickets for this. Hopefully, we can get them to also join the Friends. My calendar is very full of OBOC events throughout the month — Scared Straight! 20 Years Later on **Monday, February 3** at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall; Taste & See on **Thursday, February 13** at 11:00 a.m., Café Vida on **Monday, February 17** at 7:00 p.m. at The Sierra Madre Playhouse; Third Thursday Book Club on **February 20** at 11:00 a.m., and the Homeboy Industries Tour on **Friday, February 28** at 11:00 a.m. (event is SOLD OUT). Many thanks to our Library staff who have planned all of the OBOC exciting activities.

As mentioned before, plans are being made to obtain proper wording for gathering signatures from the community for a parcel tax to be placed on the November 2020 ballot for our new Library. Please think about hosting a neighborhood party to get this project started!

In closing, I wanted to leave a thought with you that was recited by my friend, David, at Christmastime. He said that the world is in pretty good shape overall. WWI and WWII are over. We don't need to "change the world." We need to "help make it a better place." With this in mind, we each can do our own little part in helping improve other's lives. The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library is a group that can help our community with this.

Julia Brady

ONE BOOK ONE CITY IN FEBRUARY

Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship, by Gregory Boyle, is the 2020 selection for Sierra Madre Public Library's annual One Book One City program in February. *Barking to the Choir* takes on the most important issue facing the world, our country, and our city — how to turn hate to love, and fear to friendship. This book and the Library serve the same purpose: to heal the community through engagement, compassion, and fellowship.

Special thanks to our supporters — The Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library; The Sierra Madre Playhouse; Rob and Joanne Smith; and Committee Members: Jane Zamanzadeh, Catherine Adde, Richard Procter, Barry & Leslie Ziff and Marta Capoccia.

EVENTS INCLUDE

Monday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m. — Scared Straight! 20 Years Later

Revisit the original teenage lawbreakers from the Academy Award winning film, *Scared Straight!* and see if their lives were changed by the intervention of convicts. Screening takes place in the Sierra Madre City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Wednesday, February 12 at 4:00 p.m. — Middle School Crafty Book Club

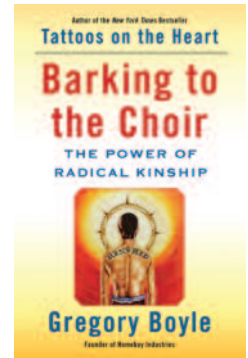
This month, we'll be reading *Becoming Beatriz* by Tami Charles. This book is part of our One Book One City theme and contains content regarding gang violence. We'll also be creating a street art mural.

Thursday, February 13 at 11:00 a.m. — Taste & See

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 February, we'll try a variety of chips and salsa, including the Homeboy Industries brand.

Saturday, February 15 at 6:30 p.m. — An Evening with Father Gregory Boyle

Join us at Sierra Madre Elementary School as Father Gregory Boyle shares his inspirational journey of kinship and unconditional love on the streets of Los Angeles. Father Boyle will discuss his book, *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, and what is next for him and his Homeboys. Please note: all available tickets have been distributed for this event.



Father Gregory Boyle

Monday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. — Café Vida Play Reading

Come to the Sierra Madre Playhouse and enjoy a cold reading of *Café Vida*—a wonderful play and important cultural project for Los Angeles—which follows the men and women who work at Homeboy Industries. This program is brought to you in part by The Sierra Madre Playhouse. Seating is limited and is a first come, first seated event.

Thursday, February 20 at 11:00 a.m. — Third Thursday Book Club

Enjoy a lively book discussion for adults at 11:00 a.m. and on the third Thursday of every month. In February read and discuss *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* with your friends and neighbors.

Friday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m. — Homeboy Industries Tour

Tour Homeboy Industries starting at 11:00 a.m. Meet up with a group at the ticket kiosk at the Sierra Madre Villa Metro station at 10:00 a.m. to travel together (be sure to wear walking shoes). Please note: all available tickets have been distributed for this event.

INTERGENERATIONAL STORYTIME

On the morning of Wednesday, January 8, the Library held its inaugural event for a new program, Intergenerational Storytime. The aim of the program is to bring together readers from different generations to become “grandbuddies” and spend time reading, crafting, and playing together.

The event began with a class from Sunnyside Preschool arriving at the Library. They were soon followed by a contingent of residents from The Kensington who had volunteered to participate in the program. After some reserved hellos and wary smiles were exchanged between the two generations, Youth Services Librarian, Leila Regan, started things off by reading an animal secret ABC book.

Next up was a scarf activity, where participants waved colorful scarves in time to the tempo of recorded music. This activity elicited laughter and smiles all around, and finally the ice between the two groups was broken. It proved that when two parties are able to laugh together, friendship is never far behind. Our staff member Julie then read a wonderful folktale titled *The Mitten* to further melt the crowd. Soon the gathering shifted over to some tables that were setup for crafts, and a warm and easy chatter developed between the two generations as they collaborated on their creations. It was wonderfully rewarding for all in attendance to witness the bonds of friendship and camaraderie form.

We look forward to those bonds further developing at our next Intergenerational Storytime, which will take place on **Wednesday, February 12** at 10:00 a.m. at The Kensington.

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 & SEE

On **Thursday, February 13** 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 February, we'll try a variety of chips and salsa, including the Homeboy Industries brand.

STEAM OPEN HOUSE

During our STEAM Open House on **Tuesday, February 25** 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 create your projects with confidence. Finally, need a break from the real world? 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, February 19** at 5:30 p.m. stop by and learn the fundamentals with a Library staff member; no appointment necessary.

CRAFT IT! INSPIRATIONAL PAINTED POTS

Join us for some creative fun as we adorn ceramic pots with inspirational puns. Arrive early on **Saturday, February 8** at 10:00 a.m. and bring only your creativity as all materials will be provided while supplies last. Kids welcome with a participating adult.

LET'S BE MINDFUL

Deep breaths everyone! On **Saturday, February 22** at 10:00 a.m. we'll be taking a day to work on our calm by making calming bottles, practicing some breathing exercises, meditating, and engaging in some stories. Sponsored by Young & Healthy, we'll learn how to be mindful of our emotions. For School Age children and Teens.



STRING CARD ART

On **Saturday, February 1** from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon make beautiful string cards for your loved ones. String, cards, and designs will be provided. Children will learn fine motor skills as they use plastic needles to make one-of-a-kind cards. Fun for all ages.

DUNGEON CRAWL

Want to learn about Dungeons & Dragons without having to commit to a long-term campaign? Come to the Library on **Saturday, February 8** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and be led through a one-shot Dungeons & Dragons game by an experienced Dungeon Master (DM). No experience required!

TEEN ACTIVITY DAY — STRING VOODOO DOLLS

Did Valentine's Day not go as planned? Join us at the Library to make your very own string voodoo dolls. The dolls can be anyone! Famous literary characters, super heroes, animals, actors, anything! It's only limited by your imagination. All supplies will be provided. On **Wednesday, February 19** at 4:00 p.m.



MIDDLE SCHOOL CRAFTY BOOK CLUB

On **Wednesday, February 12** at 4:00 p.m. we'll be reading *Becoming Beatriz* by Tami Charles. This book is part of our One Book One City theme and features content regarding gang violence. We'll also be creating a street art mural!

FREE HOMEWORK HELP

Come to the Library every Thursday from 3:00-5:00 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. For Grades K-8.

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 each week with a GRAND PRIZE winner picked at the end of the month to be featured on the Library's Facebook and Instagram page. Let's build something amazing! For Grade School aged children.

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

Enjoy a lively book discussion for adults on **February 20** at 11:00 a.m. and on the third Thursday of every month. In February, for One Book One City, read and discuss *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* with your friends and neighbors.

SOMMER LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS TWO LIBRARY STAFFERS

This year's two Sommer Library Scholarship Fund recipients are familiar and deserving. Both Julie and Doreen are continuing their education this year, and we are proud to announce that 100% of their tuition reimbursement requests were granted by the Sommer Library Scholarship Fund committee.

Julie has been working for the Sierra Madre Library for nearly two years, and provides invaluable service to the community. She consistently goes above the call of duty, helping patrons to their cars, and greeting everyone with a smile. She is working towards a BA in Sociology at Cal Poly Pomona before starting her Masters in Library and Information Science degree.

Doreen is a long-time resident of Sierra Madre who works for the Library, volunteers for the Friends of the Library, and creates programming for the Library that brings together crafters of all ages. She recently worked on a grant that will bring \$8,000 of programming and equipment to the Library over the next six months. She is completing courses at San Jose State University for her Masters in Library and Information Science degree.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

We are looking forward to seeing all our Friends at the February Book Sale. It will be held on **Friday, February 7** from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, February 8** from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

This will be our annual VINTAGE SALE and features many interesting titles from yesteryear. In the Basement, look for a collection of children's classics with illustrations by noted artists. We have a complete set of Woodrow Wilson's *History of the American People* and a complete set of *Novels and Other Writings* by Leo Tolstoy. Also included will be a first trade edition of Steinbeck's *East of Eden* and an early printing of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* as well as other treasures. Of course, we will have our usual selection of new fiction and non-fiction as well. Come early for the best selection!

The Parking Lot will have a large collection of crafting books (quilting, cross-stitch, knitting, graphic arts, jewelry) for only \$1.00 each and a selection of DC/Marvel and Wizard comics for only 50 cents each. Bargain Books are \$1.00 each, small paperbacks 25 cents or 5/\$1.00, and Children's/Teens books are priced from 25 cents to \$1.00.

Remember Saturday is a \$5.00 BAG SALE in the Parking Lot!

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Many thanks to Anne Bittner, Paul Dodwell, Enid Joffe & Joel Shapiro, Bruce & Joy Jones, Elaine & Stuart MacPherson, Sharon & Dennis Murphy, Gordano & Stephen Perlof, Catriona Shafer & Gurdon Miller, Joan & Rod Spears and the Sierra Madre Civic Club for your recent renewals as valued Partners. Please know how much your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated!

MARY TUMILTY ENDOWMENT FUND

Thank you to Tania Makshanoff and Louise & Ward Calaway for your recent donation to Mary's Fund – your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated!

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

In February the Library display case will feature information and material about the One Book One City selection for 2020.



READER'S REVIEW

This month's review is by **Tom Tomlinson**

Love and Ruin

by **Paula McLain**

A tall 27 year old blond woman walks into a bar in Key West, Florida in December 1936; accompanied by her mother and brother, the leggy woman orders three daiquiris, looks down the otherwise empty bar and spots a guy in baggy shorts, sandals, and a well-worn tee-shirt; he appears to be reading a pile of mail. She recognizes Ernest Hemingway immediately; after all, she is a published journalist and was at the time working on a novel. Hemingway spots the three Gellhorns, introduces himself, gives them a tour of Key West, and invites them to meet his second wife Pauline, to stay for dinner. The next day, he takes group Gellhorn on another tour of the region. Martha Gellhorn is smitten; so, too, is Hemingway. Game on. Within six months, against the background of the Spanish Civil War, they commence an affair, which leads to marriage in 1940; four years later, the marriage is in ruins.

Well titled, *Love and Ruin* imagines and tells Martha Gellhorn's side of the Gellhorn-Hemingway saga; hers is the narrative's voice. As such, she was both participant and journalist in tracking the love and ruination of what proved to be an unsalvageable relationship let alone their marriage. Author McLain, who reports liking both protagonists, set out to rescue the real Gellhorn from Hemingway's search light bright persona. In the process, McLain discovers what one Gellhorn friend described as her "1,500-watt bulb" presence in her work, professional aspirations and presumably, her love for Hemingway, in short, Gellhorn was an able match for the most revered American man of letters at the time. These were two ambitious literary professionals who even in the pitch of the narcotic love phase of their relationship pursued foreign assignments that separated them; the triumph of professional ambition over a kind of domesticity. What attracted each to the other — their literary drive and discipline, their willingness to put themselves in harm's way — would within four years carry the seeds of their ruin. Following their coverage of the Spanish Civil War, Hemingway would reach the summit of his literary fame with the publication of *For Whom The Bell Tolls* (1940), a fictional peak that he would never climb again. By comparison, Gellhorn's reputation was on the ascent, as she honed her creds as a war journalist whose courage was unsurpassed by her male counterparts. Courage under fire: it had been the quality that Hemingway so revered. After 1940, though, it was a quality that Hemingway seemed to have lost; in its stead came an ugly clinginess, alcoholism, and just downright meanness their marriage was not a pretty picture.

Love and Ruin is Paula McLain's second exploration of Hemingway's first three wives. *Love* follows her 2011 biographical novel, *The Paris Wife*. Both works reveal a gifted story teller who has done deep and expansive research; she knows of what she writes and she writes well in a style that both Gellhorn and Hemingway would have saluted.

CALL #: FICTION MCLAIN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2/1	10:00 a.m.-12 Noon	String Card Art
2/3	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
2/3	6:00 p.m.	Scared Straight! 20 Years Later
2/4	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
2/4	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
2/4	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
2/5	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
2/5	4:00 p.m.	Teen Advisory Board
2/6	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
2/7	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Best Used Book Sale
2/8	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Best Used Book Sale
2/8	10:00 a.m.	Craft It! Inspirational Painted Pots
2/8	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Dungeon Crawl
2/10	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
2/11	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
2/11	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
2/11	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
2/12	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
2/12	10:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Storytelling
2/12	4:00 p.m.	Middle School Crafty Book Club – <i>Becoming Beatriz</i>
2/13	11:00 a.m.	Taste & See
2/13	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
2/13	3:30 p.m.	Barks & Books
2/15	6:30 p.m.	An Evening With Father Gregory Boyle
2/17	LIBRARY CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY	
2/17	7:00 p.m.	Café Vida Play Reading at The Sierra Madre Playhouse
2/18	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
2/18	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
2/18	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
2/19	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
2/19	4:00 p.m.	Teen Activity Day — <i>String Voodoo Dolls</i>
2/19	5:30 p.m.	Cricut Workshop
2/19	7:00 p.m.	Friends Board Meeting
2/20	11:00 a.m.	3 rd Thursday Book Club
2/20	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
2/22	10:00 a.m.	Let's Be Mindful (School Age)
2/24	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
2/25	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
2/25	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
2/25	5:00-7:00 p.m.	STEAM Open House
2/26	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
2/26	7:00 p.m.	Library Trustees Board Meeting
2/27	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
2/28	11:00 a.m.	Homeboy Industries Tour

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 to 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 and 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, February 13** 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

WWeekly 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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