



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

March 2020

President's Message

Happy March! May the Luck of the Irish be with you throughout the month!

Before we talk about March activities, I'd like to congratulate the **One Book One City Committee**: Catherine Addé, Leslie & Barry Ziff, Jane Zamanzadeh, Marta Capoccia, Rich Procter, Christine Smart, and Doreen Thomas. You coordinated an exciting, outstanding, and memorable month celebrating *Barking to the Choir* by Father Greg Boyle, SJ and the Homeboy Industries. So many people were able to participate in all of the events. I know that the evening talk with Father Greg and the Homeboy Industries Tour tickets went like hotcakes. Café Vida also packed the Sierra Madre Playhouse. The Third Thursday Book Club extended the circle to take over the Library's main meeting area. Discussion at the book club was very enthusiastic and most admired Father Greg's message and work regardless of their religious beliefs. Who can argue with trying to help others? Some attendees at the Father Greg talk wanted salsa tasting and were disappointed to hear that we had a wonderful tasting event the Thursday before it. (Hint – keep your eyes open for the Library's "Taste and See" events AND read everything in the newsletter! This is an advantage of Friends membership). Many times during the events people mentioned that we needed more room to meet in our community. (Hint – a New Library is required to fill the need).

As many of you know, the **Wistaria Festival** is **Sunday, March 22** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Friends will host a booth. Come by and visit with us. We would love to see you.

Also during March, we should have our **Library Parcel Tax Signature** gathering sheets ready to go for the placement on the November 2020 ballot. Please be sure to help get your neighbors' signatures and sign them yourself. The Friends spent some of our hard-earned money to get the ball rolling by getting an architectural design started for our new Library. Patricia Hall is coordinating people to assist gathering signatures.

Save the date for upcoming Friends Events: **Saturday, May 2** and **Sunday, May 3, Sierra Madre Art Fair**; **Wednesday, June 17, Friends Annual Meeting and Dinner**; and **Sunday, August 9, Concert in the Park** featuring "The Skinny Ties." Hope to see you all at these events.

Julia Brady

58TH 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 58th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair is **Suzanne Kustner**.



Suzanne Kustner

Suzanne holds a BA degree in Education with a minor in Art from California State University, Los Angeles, and has taught enameling at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre since 1979. She also was an art consultant for the Duarte School District for 10 years.

She began her enameling career in 1970 and has taken classes and studied with many internationally known enamelists. Suzanne is a member of the National Enamelist Society and several regional guilds. She has won numerous awards for her work, including exhibiting in the prestigious National Silver Competition sponsored by the major silver companies in the United States. She participated in the celebrated 1993 'Year of the American Craftsman.' Her enamels were displayed in the Fine Arts Building of the L.A. County Fair and she was chosen to be one of the demonstrating artists in the main hall.

Her enamels have been chosen to be included 5 times in the National Enameling Society's biannual Juried Exhibitions.

More recently, 2 of her enamels were included in the 2009 Lark Book '500 Enameled Objects' and her gold beads were also included in the 2014 Lark Book '1000 Beads.'

Suzanne participates in several Art Festivals during the year – The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair and Creative Arts Group Annual Art Festival.

Her work can presently be seen on display and for sale at: The Freehand Gallery in Los Angeles; The National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis, TN; ACCI Gallery in Berkeley, CA., and The Jamison Gallery at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre, CA.

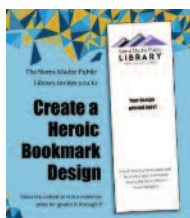
Suzanne continues to teach enameling at Creative Arts Group.

This year's Art Fair is being held in Memorial Park on **Saturday, May 2**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and **Sunday, May 3**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by Suzanne's booth (#9) to admire and purchase her inspiring creations.

BOOKMARK CONTEST BEGINS MARCH 2

The Sierra Madre Public Library invites you to create a heroic bookmark design! Winning entries will showcase people, places, or things that depict heroism in Sierra Madre.

Applicants must be in Kindergarten through 8th Grade (including Transitional Kindergarten). Entries may be turned in between **Monday, March 2** and **Thursday, April 9** to the Library. Winning entries will be displayed and winners will receive a certificate and monetary prize at a ceremony in their honor on **Tuesday, April 21** at 6:00 p.m.



INTERGENERATIONAL STORYTIME

Seniors and Preschoolers! 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, even months at The Kensington. On **Wednesday March 11**, at 10:00 a.m., we'll be at the Library!

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, March 12** 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 March, we'll try a variety of unusual and hard-to-find fruits.

FREE HOMEWORK HELP

Come to the Library every Thursday from 3:30 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.

STEAM OPEN HOUSE

During our STEAM Open House on **Tuesday, March 31** 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. Two Virtual Reality systems – Oculus and VIVE – are available for patrons age 13 and older. Volunteers will be on hand to help you move into a realistic computer-generated virtual environment using a headset – no previous experience required!

CRAFT IT! ZELF-PORTRAIT MOSAIC COLLAGE

Celebrate Women's History Month and create your very own Zelf-Portrait Mosaic Collage that represents your individuality. Arrive early on **Saturday, March 14** at 10:00 a.m. and bring only your creativity as all materials to create your collage will be provided, while supplies last. Kids welcome with a participating adult.



50TH ANNUAL WINE AND CUISINE TASTING BENEFIT

Dear Friends and Partners of the Sierra Madre Library,

It is the time of year where we need to start planning for our annual **Wine and Cuisine Tasting Benefit** at Alverno's Villa del Sol d'Oro. This year's event will be on **Friday, October 2**. Because it is our 50th Anniversary for this great fundraiser – our theme is – “The 1950s.” So, think Bobby Socks, Rock & Roll, Poodle Skirts, Levi's, Saddle Shoes, Elvis, Fonzie, Doris Day and Annette Funicello!

This event involves a lot of work, which means we need a lot of volunteers. Some of the areas we need help with are:

- Silent Auction – gathering items and then setting up the displays for that night.
- Sponsors – finding individuals and businesses that will help to sponsor the event.
- Writing up publicity for the papers, radio and TV stations.
- Decorations – gathering decorations, set up and tear down.
- Wine pourers – helping in 1-hour shifts to pour wine at the tables.
- Hosting in various areas throughout the event – to assist patrons.

If you are interested in any of these “jobs” please contact the Chair of the benefit, **Leslie Ziff**, at 626-321-7735 (text or leave a message). Thank you!

GUARDIAN NAMING WORKSHOP

On **Saturday, March 7** at 10:30 a.m. register for our Guardian Naming Workshop with Attorney & Counselor at Law Marc G. Garlett from Cali Law Estate & Legacy Planning. Leave this workshop with fully executed documents naming legal guardians for your children. Pre-registration is required and all current guardians of a child must be in attendance. Please call or visit the Library to sign-up.

FAMILY FORT BUILDING DAY

Come one, come all and take advantage of an empty Library on **Friday, March 27** from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bring your friends or the whole family and build your own blanket fort, perfect for cozy reading or adventurous pretending. Some blankets and pillows will be provided, but this event is BYOB – Bring Your Own Blanket!

DUNGEON CRAWL

Want to learn about Dungeons & Dragons without having to commit to a long-term campaign? Come to the Library on **Saturday, March 7** from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and be led through a one-shot Dungeons & Dragons game by an experienced Dungeon Master (DM). No experience required!

TEEN ACTIVITY DAY – 8-BIT CRAFT

Make your own 8-bit art of pop icons or other fun items using perler beads! Bring a design, imagine up your own, or pick from some of our favorites. Bring your creativity, humor, and fan art to life! Please note only staff will be allowed to operate the iron. For Middle School and Teenagers. On **Wednesday, March 18** at 4:00 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CRAFTY BOOK CLUB

On **Wednesday, March 11** at 4:00 p.m. we'll be discussing *New Kid* by Jerry Craft, then doing Paint over Art. What is Paint over Art? It's when you take a completed painting and add your own artwork to it!

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 with a GRAND PRIZE winner picked at the end of the month to be featured on the Library's Facebook and Instagram page. For children in Grade School.

THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

Enjoy a lively book discussion for adults on **March 19** at 11:00 a.m. and on the third Thursday of every month. In **March**, we'll be reading *Beloved* by Toni Morrison.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

The February Book Sale earned \$2,050.70. Added to our presales of \$1,538.08 from the Library cart and the Internet, we have earned a total of **\$3,575.78** since the December sale. The next Book Sale will be **Friday, April 3** and **Saturday, April 4** and will feature Half Price on Gardening, Cooking and Decorating books.

Many people have asked how we dispose of leftover books from our sales. Due to the volume of material we receive, we can only keep what's left in the Basement and the small paperbacks from the parking lot. That means we have about 500-700 books we need to dispose of after each sale. We donate left-over children's books to Hope Gardens (a shelter run by the Union Rescue Mission) and to a ministry which services agencies in South-Central L.A. In addition, The Last Bookstore in Los Angeles comes after the sale to pick up what's left and they distribute books to various charities, schools, and agencies. We also have made smaller donations to various local groups such as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and PTAs. Look for a "Little Free Library" to open soon in Goldberg Park, organized by local Girl Scouts and stocked with our books!

Thank you for the wonderful gently-used donations. We couldn't sustain these earnings without them! See you at the sale in April.

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Many thanks go to the following Partners for your loyal support of the *Partners Program* – Andy & Julie Bencosme, Jill Wagner and Barbara Watson – Your donations are very much appreciated especially as we look to the future of our Library.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is time to put together a slate for the 2020-2021 Board of Directors. If anyone would like to know about the Board and how it operates, I will be happy to answer questions. We have a number of positions available: Recording Secretary and 2nd VP, Development in charge of managing the Partners Program and Mary Tumilty Fund are two of those.

We meet the third Wednesday of each month (excepting December and August) at 7:00 p.m. at the Hart Park House.

You can email me at mommyquigs@gmail.com, or phone 626-355-5546.

Thank You,
Margaret Quigley

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

Until **Thursday, March 13**, the Library display case will contain a special LEGO collection celebrating the Chinese New Year. This collection belongs to Dr. Michael Giang and comes to us from Australia; the pieces within are not available here in the U.S. The **second half of March** will feature entries from the Sierra Madre Woman's Club Art Contest.



READER'S REVIEW

This month's review is
by **Catherine Addé**

Becoming

by **Michelle Obama**

While on a small expedition ship plying the waters of the Pacific Northwest, I noticed a fellow traveler deeply engrossed reading this 2018 memoir. I don't usually ask strangers to share their opinions about the book they are currently reading, but I figured we were 'kin' of sorts, traveling on the same ship. I felt compelled to ask this Man what he thought. He looked up, smiled wanly, and stated that he was a staunch Republican. I waited for him to berate all things not Republican, or at least have a go at the Obama administration, when he surprised me. "This is by far one of the most finely written autobiographies I've ever read. And I've read a lot. She's a fantastic wordsmith."

I promptly added the book to my Goodreads list (if you've not joined Goodreads, I highly recommend it). Since 2006, I've been contributing book reviews for the Friends of the Library's newsletter. I bring this up to share with you my well-read friend Nancie's thoughts on book reviews.

She said: "Please do not tell me most of the story in your book review." (Lately I've read them myself – and I think *Why bother reading the book now? The reviewer just told me all about it!* It's similar to the feeling I get when watching movie trailers and they are so long and detailed that I no longer want to see the movie. Right?) She states: "I want to know, from the Reviewer's standpoint, what the story or memoir is going to DO for me. How is it going to make me feel? What life lessons can I learn from it, if any. Will it make me laugh, cry, or evoke any other emotion? Dear Reviewer, please do not give me a blow by blow recap of the book. I know how to read."

That said, I present to you my review:

Michelle Obama's life story satisfied my curiosity, revealing a glimpse into what its really like to live in the White House, raise children there, balance a marriage with politics, develop a thick skin against the critics. She reminds us there is no job description for First Lady; and recounts the joy of developing successful programs that promote education and the fight against obesity among our nation's youth. She made me feel proud of our American heritage with the knowledge that even with her modest background, her story could become anyone's story. Hence the title: *Becoming*. She became, with the support from loving parents who, against the odds, helped her rise through the academic world. She became a corporate Lawyer entering a world which is not traditionally dominated by women and especially not men or women of color. In part two titled: **Becoming Us**, she shared stories about courtship and how she met the man she'd marry. *Becoming* parents, they were overjoyed at the prospect of raising two daughters, accepting the challenge of balancing their careers with family life. **Becoming More**, in part three, is her Husband's political role which ultimately led her to become a Campaigner for him, then First Lady of the United States. There are countless stories here of all stages in her incredible life, some funny, some heartbreaking, many relatable. This is so richly written that within these pages, she takes us along with her - revealing heartfelt candor, grace, intelligence, wit. Add to that a humble spirit and a down to earth, no nonsense personality. This is precisely why my previously mentioned fellow traveler liked her style of writing. I agree! I wanted to imagine that Michelle Obama could have been sitting across the room with me, in a comfy overstuffed armchair, cup of tea in hand, just talking. Two people: **Becoming** Friends.

CALL #: 921 OBAMA NONFICTION NEW SHELF

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



3/2	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
3/2	BOOKMARK CONTEST	BEGINS
3/3	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
3/3	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
3/3	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
3/4	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
3/4	4:00 p.m.	Teen Advisory Board
3/5	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
3/7	10:30 a.m.	Guardian Naming Workshop
3/7	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Dungeon Crawl
3/9	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
3/10	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
3/10	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
3/10	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
3/11	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
3/11	10:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Storytelling
3/11	4:00 p.m.	Middle School Crafty Book Club – <i>New Kid</i>
3/12	11:00 a.m.	Taste & See
3/12	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
3/12	3:30 p.m.	Barks & Books
3/14	10:00 a.m.-12 Noon	Craft It! Zelf-Portrait Mosaic Collage
3/16	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
3/17	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
3/17	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
3/17	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
3/18	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
3/18	4:00 p.m.	Teen Activity Day – <i>8-Bit Craft</i>
3/18	7:00 p.m.	Friends Board Meeting
3/19	11:00 a.m.	3 rd Thursday Book Club
3/19	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
3/22	9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Wistaria Festival Friends Booth
3/23	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
3/24	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
3/24	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
3/24	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Reality
3/25	10:00 a.m.	Parent Café: Growing Together
3/25	7:00 p.m.	Library Trustees Board Meeting
3/26	3:30-5:00 p.m.	Homework Help
3/27	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Family Fort Building Day
3/30	10:00 a.m.	Storytime
3/31	10:00 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time
3/31	3:00-5:00 p.m.	LEGO Challenge
3/31	5:00-7:00 p.m.	STEAM Open House

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Join us at the Library every Monday at 10:00 a.m. for a fun interactive storytime 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 & 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, March 12** 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/

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