



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

April 2020

President's Message

These are definitely "trying times" for all of us with the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the issuing of "Stay at Home" by the state and county officials, the Friends Board of Directors has decided to CANCEL both the **Best Used Book Sale** on April 3rd and 4th and the **Sierra Madre Art Fair** on May 2nd and 3rd. The Foundation is also delayed in getting signatures for the new Library to get it on the **November 2020 ballot**. They cannot make the May signature deadline, but they will actively seek signatures as soon as there is the ability to meet face to face with Sierra Madre's voting citizens to get it on the next ballot.

I am disappointed to cancel these Friends events; but for the sake of being good conscientious members of society, I have hope that together we can get this virus under control to resume normal life. There are many others who are inconvenienced with cancelled wedding ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, travel abroad programs, and fun social gatherings. On a more serious note, there are people who are worried about their jobs and paying their bills as well as those who put their lives on the line in the health care profession. My heart goes out to the families who have lost a loved one due to the coronavirus.

On a lighter note, Facebook has been both comical and comforting. The jokes on this crisis have made me laugh. "What are the top two names of babies conceived during this crisis? — Charmin and Scott." "Homeschooling is not going well. One child got expelled. The other didn't show up. The teacher was caught drinking on the job." I attended a live-streamed Mass from St. Rita's on Facebook on Sunday. My musician friends, Cheryl Barnes and Phil Cabasso, performed a live-streamed jazz concert. Our own City Librarian, Christine Smart, enthusiastically read a children's book.

My hope is for resilience in the near future. Please plan on attending the **Friends Annual Meeting and Dinner** on Wednesday, June 17 at the Sierra Madre United Methodist Church, the **Best Used Book Sale** on Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, and a lucrative "Rocking 50's" **Wine & Cuisine Tasting Benefit** on Friday, October 2 at Alverno's Villa del Sol d'Oro.

In the meantime, stay healthy,

Julia Brady

A LETTER FROM THE CITY LIBRARIAN

Dear Library Friends and Supporters,

As we work together staying "Safer at Home," the Library has made critical adaptations to our services. On Thursday, March 12, the Library and all City Services closed to the public while we devised a plan for offering services to the community. The following week, extremely limited services were made available.

In an effort to continue supporting our patrons during this difficult time, the Sierra Madre Public Library will offer a single, over the phone check-out per patron. To the extent to which we can, a Library Staff Member will take patron requests for materials over the phone, and materials will be checked out to the member's card and prepared for pick up. Upon arriving at the Library, patrons will call from a designated waiting area outside of the building, and a staff member will check their identification and transfer materials to them, in keeping with social distancing standards.

We at the Sierra Madre Public Library believe that everyone has the right to access materials and information; however, this opportunity will be revoked out of a greater concern for the Sierra Madre Community and City Staff, should the need arise.



Thank you for your patience as we continue to work together in service of our community, and please follow us on our social media platforms for the most up-to-date information. If you are interested in checking out materials, please take a look at our catalog sierramadre.biblionix.com/catalog and then call us at 626-355-7186.

As always, we are more than happy to help.

Christine Smart,
City Librarian

BEST USED BOOK SALE

The Best Used Book Sale scheduled for **Friday, April 3** and **Saturday, April 4** has been CANCELLED.

Hopefully, we'll be back at the June sale on **Friday, June 5** and **Saturday, June 6**. We are not currently working in the Basement due to the closure of the Library and suggest that you wait until it reopens to bring donations. We are continuing to sell books online until then.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past. We'll be back!

58TH ANNUAL SIERRA MADRE ART FAIR

The 58th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair, scheduled for **Saturday, May 2** and **Sunday May 3**, has been CANCELLED due to the current situation and future predictions about the COVID-19 virus and its impact on all of California.

We were hoping for a postponement but the City of Sierra Madre does not know when local events can start to happen again even for the summer. The health of us all is certainly our first priority in getting us all back to our regular routines, economic stability and a positive state of mind.

Dates for the 59th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair are **May 1-2, 2021** and we will let you know of those details as soon as they become available.

We thank you all for your support! We will see you next year!

FRIENDS ANNUAL JUNE MEETING AND DINNER

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's Annual Meeting with the election of Officers and Board of Directors for 2020-2021 and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, is always held on the third Wednesday in June at Sierra Madre's United Methodist Church.

We don't know if things will return to normal by then, but hope to be able to hold the meeting and dinner as usual. We will have updates as the time approaches.

PARTNERS PROGRAM

It is a pleasure to recognize the faithful donors who have continued to support the **Partners** in these very concerning days as we deal with the serious Coronavirus in which our country is immersed. Thank you to Joan Crow, Maggie & Michael Ellis, Sharon Marsh, Albert Metzger and Jill & Tim Schofield. It is indeed at times like this that we, the **Partners**, can make a difference – however large or small – if we share and care for one another. Thank you all.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

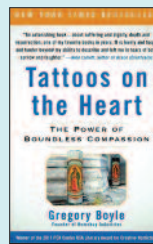
There are still a few positions available for Directors at Large for the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Board of Directors, and we also will need a chair for next year's Art Fair.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except December and August.

If you think you could help the Friends in this way or want information, please contact me at 626-355-5546.

Thank You,

Margaret Quigley
1st VP, Governance



READER'S REVIEW

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

Tattoos On The Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion

by **Gregory Boyle**

Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship, this year's selection for Sierra Madre's One Book One City program, whetted my appetite for Gregory Boyle's previous book, *Tattoos On The Heart*, which turned out to be the better of the two. Since 1988, Boyle has run Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the world's largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation program. With its bakery, café, counseling operations, job placement agency and gang tattoo removal service, Homeboy helps gang members find a better life.

In these pages, Boyle, a Jesuit priest, tells the story of how and why he founded Homeboy and recounts some of his many interactions with the "homies" from the East L.A. housing projects, who call him G or G-Dog. To Boyle, a homie's life has as much value as any celebrity's. He challenges readers to "stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than standing in judgment at how they carry it." They're society's outcasts, from dysfunctional families, with abusive, addicted or absent parents. You'll be introduced to people you would never otherwise encounter. From moving vignettes in which even the most hardened homies burst into tears upon discovering that they're worthy of compassion, to moments of light banter between Boyle and the homies, sometimes in the distinctive Spanish dialect of East L.A., Boyle makes a convincing case for the sacredness of every life. He gives voice to those he calls "the powerless and the voiceless." His anecdotes about the homies are interspersed with his spiritual reflections, along with quotations from a variety of theologians, poets and literary figures.

Boyle's stories are both heartwarming and heart-breaking, full of both triumph and tragedy. At Homeboy Industries, former enemies from rival gangs learn to work together and even become friends. But Boyle has also officiated at many funerals of homies who were in the process of turning their lives around when they got caught in the literal crossfire and became victims of gang violence.

At times, you may find yourself overcome with emotion while reading, just as Boyle was while telling some of his stories during a recent speaking engagement in Sierra Madre. The audience reacted accordingly. As the old show business saying goes, there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

With the Library temporarily closed during the coronavirus pandemic, you'll have to buy this book to read it. But since all the proceeds from its sales go to support Homeboy Industries, you'll be contributing to a worthy cause. While you're at it, pick up some extra copies for family and friends. Social distancing gives everyone more time to read.

CALL #: 364.4 BOYLE