



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

July/August 2020

President's Message

Friends and Partners,

We made it to Summer 2020! I hope you are doing well and surviving the Pandemic. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming Friends events in our September newsletter. We are working on a no physical attendance online fundraiser as we will need to generate funds for our plan to give the usual \$55,000 to support library programs this fiscal year July 2020 to June 2021. We also plan on continuing our **Best Used Book Sale** (probably drive thru until later dates).

I wanted to give you a recap of our annual meeting in case you were not able to join our Zoom meeting on June 17th. This meeting actually worked out fine to conduct the necessary business. I appreciate all of the Board members (and their families who assisted) who were able to join us and give reports.

Margaret Quigley, 1st VP, Governance, thanked Doug Kerns for his time on the Board as he will be exiting. She also asked for a vote to elect this coming year's new Board. We welcome new Board Member **Kris Chase** who will be our new Recording Secretary and returning members after some years of absence, **Vicky Ryan** and **Barry Ziff**. The remaining Board members were voted in to resume their place on the Board. Please see the Friends of the Library Board of Directors 2020-2021 article for a complete list.

At the Zoom meeting, we also had great reports from **Barry Ziff**, Chairman of Library Trustees, and **Patricia Hall**, Chair of the Sierra Madre Library Foundation. Together, we will work toward our goal of getting a new Library in the future.

As you know, our past year started with a sprint beginning with the Request for Proposal (RFP) and following with the designing of our new Library. We held several community events to introduce this plan. Unfortunately, it came to a screeching halt in March with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, preventing the ability to get signatures to get on the November ballot to move forward for a new Library. The pandemic also prevented us from hosting our **Sierra Madre Art Fair** and the future **Wine and Cuisine Tasting** in early October. It also prevented us from having our **April Best Used Book Sale**.

Although this was somewhat disappointing, I just view this as a setback and not a devastation. Things could be worse. I think that we will rise to the occasion and everything will get back on track sooner or later. "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger!"

Julia Brady

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

At their annual meeting, held via ZOOM conference on June 17, the Friends of the Library were pleased to announce the candidates who have been approved for positions on the Board of Directors for 2020-2021. They are:

President: Julia Brady
1st VP, Governance: Margaret Quigley
2nd VP, Development: Beth Smith-Kellock
Treasurer: Darlene Traxler
Recording Secretary: Kris Chase
Corresponding Secretary: Jane Zamanzadeh

Archives: OPEN
Art Fair: OPEN
Membership: Beth Kerns
Newsletter/Web Site: Sharon Murphy
Publicity: OPEN
Trustee Liaison: Emmett McGuire
Volunteer Development: Marcielle Brandler
Wine and Cuisine Tasting: Leslie Ziff

Directors at Large

Julie Bencosme
Stephen Henson
Julie Puterbaugh
Vicky Ryan
Barry Ziff

Non-Directors

Best Used Book Sale: Martha Troedson
Social Media: Kari Janzen

**** We still need a chair or co-chairs for the Archives, Art Fair and Publicity.** Please let us know if you or someone you know is interested or would like more information. Contact **Margaret Quigley** at 626-355-5546 or mommyquigs@gmail.com.

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING TAKING A BREAK IN AUGUST

Library Programming will take a break after the July programs have come to a close. Although other services will be available, we will not have organized activities from **August 10 through August 31**. Please look for our September 2020 calendar to see upcoming fall events.

CONGRATULATIONS KIM AND DONNA

Two long-standing members of the Library Family, **Kim Steffens** and **Donna Howard**, are retiring and their last day with the Library will be on **Wednesday, July 8**.

In her retirement message to Library Staff, **Donna** said, "After twenty-one years, the day has finally arrived. I didn't think it would be so soon, but I will be retiring on July 8th. It was not an easy decision, but one that seems necessary in these uncertain times. I feel a deep sadness at leaving a position that has brought me so much fulfillment and joy. I have been blessed by your support and will always be thankful for your friendship. It has been an honor to work alongside of all of you. I admire your unique talents and your dedication in serving our Library patrons with kindness, compassion and grace. The Library is a better place because of each of you."



Kim Steffens



Donna Howard

Kim wrote, "It is with sadness that I announce that after 20 years at the Sierra Madre Public Library I have decided to accept the City's retirement severance offer. My last day will be July 8th. I have enjoyed working with all of you extraordinary people. It's always been said that we are not only co-workers but family. I truly feel this way. I admire all of you and I am in awe of your talents. You are an amazing lot! From the very youngest babies to the very oldest our patrons are served with patience, expertise and kindness. I know I am leaving my adored babies, toddlers, children and all patrons in capable awesome hands. I thank you for all your help, patience, friendship, support and laughs through the years. I look forward to see you all again from the "other side of the desk." I will miss you all.

Please send notes of love and appreciation for their combined 41 years of service within the Sierra Madre Community. Their contributions to our community are irreplaceable.

CONTACT FREE CHECKOUT AND HOME DELIVERY

Call us at the Library to reserve materials and pick up your items outside of the Library using our contact-free checkout. If you are a high-risk individual who is not leaving home, please let us know and we will work to schedule home delivery of materials (Delivery available in Sierra Madre only). We love curating book bundles just for you! Call us at 626-355-7186.

LIBRARY BOOK DROP IS OPEN!

Return books, DVDs, CDS and more to the outdoor book drop anytime. Over-sized items like Robotics Kits must be returned during regular business hours. More instructions are posted at the Library.

PARKING LOT WIFI

The Library's fabulous fiber Internet access has been expanded to include the Library Parking Lot, thanks to the Friends of the Library. Stop by to do homework from the comfort of your own vehicle. Social distancing rules will apply.

TRY IT TUESDAYS ADULT CRAFT WITH DOREEN

Feeling crafty but need some inspiration? Pick up a craft kit at the Library starting at 9:00 am. Each kit will have the supplies you need to create a unique craft, with a link inside to get step-by-step instructions. Fifty kits will be available to pick up at the Library every Monday morning on a first come, first served basis.

ALOHA FRIDAY

Learn a new hula move every Friday on Social Media with our resident Hawaiian, Librarian Leila. Videos will be posted on Social Media and every week features a new dance move.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM JUNE TO AUGUST 8

Color in and decorate a book for each activity listed below. Complete all of the bookshelves to win a free book, prize, or even a special, socially distant Storytime! Activities include reading, attending virtual events, shopping at local businesses, and exploring your community. Stop by the Library for an activity log, or go to the Library Web Site at www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library.

STORYTIME TO GO

Mondays, starting at 9:00 a.m., grab a bag of take-home craft supplies with instructions and a link inside to a virtual Storytime with Librarian Leila and Ms. Kim. Fifty themed bags of craft supplies will be made and available to pick up at the Library every Monday morning on a first come, first served basis.

TAILS AND TALES

Thursdays, on Social Media, hear a new story every week with a local animal friend. You can even submit a video with your household pet, and it might get posted online and shared with your community.

COMMUNITY SCAVENGER HUNTS!

Support socially-distant physical activity and decorate your home for a community scavenger hunt. Email your address to lregan@cityofsierramadre.com if you would like to be included on a published map. On **July 17th** – TEDDY BEARS – Wrap up the summer with a reprise of our original hunt.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS ONLINE CAMPAIGN

Join Daniel Spellman every Wednesday for an online Dungeons and Dragons campaign. Registration is required – email for more information at lregan@cityofsierramadre.com.

SUMMER SCRATCH CAMP

Learn the basics of Scratch with our weekly coding videos! We will go over the basics of Scratch for first-time Scratch users that can connect to larger principles in coding. Then we will cover more in-depth uses of Scratch that use programming logic applicable to more complicated code! Learn how to create short skits and games in Scratch as we build onto concepts from previous videos! New videos are posted every Thursday.

WALK THIS WAY: A STORY ADVENTURE

This summer, in coordination with local Girl Scout **Maheilia Thomas**, please enjoy an outdoor reading adventure, for children of all ages. Each week features a new story to journey through. This is a fun way to foster literacy and get some exercise while respecting social distancing guidelines. The story begins on the NW corner of Wilson and Grandview. Pages continue down to W Highland and will remain up all week long. A new book will appear every week.



RIDDLE ME THIS

Check Facebook and Instagram for a new riddle every Saturday. Text the Library at 626-662-1254 to make a guess and check your answer.

RESOURCES FOR JOB SEEKERS

We're here to help with a new Library resource to aid you with job applications! Writing your resume and cover letter can be daunting, but Tutor.Com is here to help! This resource will provide constructive comments and revisions for resumes and cover letters for anyone who is interested. Log into your Library account at sierramadre.bibliionix.com, then click the tutor.com link to get started. Call the Library if you need any assistance at 626-355-7186.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

Thanks to everyone who supported the **FRIENDS BOOK SALE** on Saturday, June 6.

We were so pleased by how many people attended! It was gratifying to see carloads of families excited by new reading material and many shoppers bought 2 or 3 bags. The final total was **\$1069.00!**

Due to the pandemic, our usual Book Sales are on hold until further notice. We are sorting and bagging newer gently-used selections for another **DRIVE-THRU SALE** to be held on **Saturday, August 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

This next time, we hope to feature \$5.00 bags of Kids, Young Adults, History, Home and Garden, Mysteries/Thrillers, Biographies, Contemporary Fiction, and Non-Fiction. Please drive down the driveway from the Sierra Madre Blvd. side; it will be Exit Only from Mariposa Ave.

We welcome your donations of books of all kinds and large brown grocery bags with handles to the basement at the back of the Library. We are working there Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. or they may be left in the stairwell anytime. See you in the Parking Lot on **Saturday, August 8.**

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Greetings Dear Partners and Friends – from **Beth Smith-Kellock** – currently the coordinator of the Partners Program which was initiated 11 years ago in 2009 by Patricia Hall who founded the Partners and who is currently the Chair of the Sierra Madre Library Foundation.

It has been my pleasure to manage the Partner's Program and assist in enlarging on suggestions and ideas that have grown over the past 11 years – including the major renovation of the Children's Room at our Library. Please know that The Board of Trustees of the Sierra Madre Library is also appreciative of the consistent growing membership and donations to our very special Library.

We now number 84 Members who are participating annually at one of 3 levels: **Partner Level** – \$100.00-\$250.00; **Silver Level** – \$250.00-\$500.00; and **Gold Level** – \$500.00 and beyond. Current Assets for this past year in the Partners Program are \$92,654.02 and our Treasurer reports that – according to Quick Books – the transaction report from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 – shows deposits for the year to amount to \$15,100.00.

In the past, we have enjoyed several Partners Gatherings at our Library – where it has been a pleasure to “meet and greet” you and thank you personally for your loyal and generous giving from the heart to our special Library which has resulted in a wonderful and generous record. It is with great appreciation, on behalf of the Friends, The Partners and our Patrons who have supported our Library in such a generous way, that we say THANK YOU – for your continued care and concern for our very special Library and to Patricia & Frank Hall and Donna & Victor Howard who have just renewed their memberships.

Most sincerely and with deep appreciation,

Beth Smith-Kellock

MARY TUMILTY FUND

Many thanks to Michael and Debbie Bamberger for donating a generous gift to Mary's Fund and rest assured that Mary will appreciate this gift of remembrance.

There is a new name for Mary's Fund – Endowment has been deleted and it is now the **Mary Tumilty Fund**. Thank you to our donors, on behalf of the Friends and Mary's family, for your generous gifts during the past ten years since Mary passed away. Her family and the Friends are most appreciative that she is being remembered in such a positive way. It is our hope that donations in her memory will continue – many thanks again for your past support.

Beth Smith-Kellock

READER'S REVIEW



This month's review is by
Richard Bellikoff

And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades In The Middle East

by Richard Engel

Regular NBC and MSNBC viewers have seen Richard Engel, Chief Foreign Correspondent for NBC News, covering the fight against COVID-19 in Europe, venturing into ICUs while wearing Personal Protective Equipment to avoid infection. Before that, he spent twenty years reporting on a different kind of struggle: war, terrorism and social upheaval in the Middle East, as described in this book.

After graduating from Stanford in 1996, Engel moved to the Middle East to become a reporter. He was freelancing for Arab news sources when a busload of Italian tourists were massacred at a Cairo museum. This was his first view of the carnage in the region, some of which he later experienced himself, in a series of close calls. While embedded with the US military in Iraq, he survived a series of IED explosions. His Baghdad hotel was shaken by a truck bomb exploding across the street, and he was kidnapped in Syria. “My ambition was to ride the train of history,” he writes, “and the train came rumbling right at me.”

His eyewitness descriptions of the bloodshed are graphic and gruesome: bodies of young boys killed in Lebanon during an Israeli air raid; “a stray dog carrying a severed human head between its teeth;” an interview with a 14-year-old boy who had a hand and a foot chopped off by ISIS because he had refused to cooperate with them.

Unable to get a visa to travel to Iraq in 2003 but determined to cover the coming war, Engel entered the country by volunteering as a “human shield” for a peace organization and then made a deal to work for ABC News. He became the last American television reporter left in Baghdad. He describes the daily rhythms of life in Baghdad as the war turned increasingly violent and unpredictable: “Mortars at dawn, car bombs by 11 a.m., drive-by shootings before tea and mortars again at dusk.”

Engel also gives his personal impressions of leaders. Saddam Hussein had “a terrifying gaze.” Qaddafi seemed like “a washed-up, strung-out rock star.” Mubarak had become “an old fool” surrounded by “generals in tight uniforms and civilian advisers in bad suits.” Throughout the book, he supplies extensive historical context, to help readers understand the longstanding tribal and sectarian rivalries that have made the Middle East such a troubled region.

It remains to be seen whether Engel will write a book about how all hell broke loose while he reported on the war against COVID-19. Stay tuned.

CALL # STATUS: 956.054 ENGEL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SUMMER CALENDAR

June to August 8

Every Monday

Every Monday

Every Monday

Every Tuesday

Every Wednesday

Every Thursday

Every Friday

Every Saturday

July 15

7:00 p.m.

July 17

August 8

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

August 10-31

August 19

Summer Reading Program

Storytime To Go

Walk This Way: A Story Adventure

Summer Scratch Camp

Try It Tuesdays Adult Craft

Dungeons and Dragons Online Campaign

Tails and Tales

Aloha Friday

Riddle Me This

Friends Board Meeting (ZOOM)

Community Scavenger Hunt – Teddy Bears

Best Used Book Sale Drive-Thru

Library Programming Break

No Friends Board Meeting

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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