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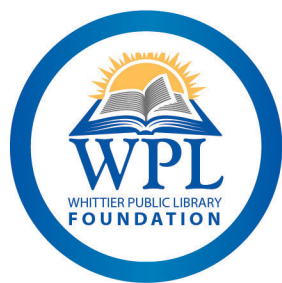
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WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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News

WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

Spring 2024

whittierplf.org



President's Message

Greetings, Whittier Public Library Foundation Members,
I hope your 2024 is off to an excellent start!

I am delighted to share the extraordinary efforts of WPLF friends, members, and board members who worked with our outstanding library staff in the closing months of 2023 to bring a variety of exceptional programming to library patrons at the Whittier Public Library—and who are set to do even greater things in 2024.

The end of last year was replete with activities at the library including classes in sewing, 3D design and printing, zine making, ukulele, and *pyrography*—that's making art with fire!—plus events that included jazz, classical, and rock concerts from the likes of artists like the Ron Kobayashi Trio featuring vocalist

Debbi Ebert, and Jacob Roman, a.k.a. Young Elvis. Programs like these at Whittier Public Library are fun-filled, enriching, and enlightening! However, they also serve to remind us that as much as we value our library for its amazing information resources—the hundreds of thousands of print, electronic, and audio books available to us; the historic photos and documents we can access online via its local history portal; the databases and streaming video platforms that put authoritative articles and classic and contemporary films at our fingertips—the library is also a cultural hub where community members learn and explore with friends and neighbors—a shared, public space where we gather to share, be inspired, and engage in meaningful conversations with others. As you know, WPL's mission statement is "Connecting people to knowledge, to ideas, and to one another," and this powerful notion shapes not only the resources and services, but also the regular programming offered at Central and Branch libraries each and every week.

Whittier's longstanding "one city, one book" community reading program, *Whittier Reads*, is no exception, and it's coming up soon! Throughout April, friends and patrons of WPL have the chance to participate in various events at the library—lectures, film screenings, and presentations—all tied to the themes of the Whittier Reads book, and all free of charge. This month of outstanding programming will lead up to a free-to-the-public, in-person talk at WPL featuring Eric Nusbaum, the author of the 2024 Whittier Reads book certain to excite history enthusiasts and sports fans alike: *Stealing Home: Los Angeles, the Dodgers, and the Lives Caught in Between!* On behalf of the Whittier Public Library Foundation, I want to convey our deep honor in hosting Mr. Nusbaum, who will also be part of a ticketed author dinner after the public talk. For more details on the 2024 Whittier Reads program and how to obtain your own copy of *Stealing Home*, please refer to page 2.

I am so proud to host Mr. Nusbaum at the newly renovated Whittier's Central Library, which proved to be absolutely perfect last year as a venue for author Javier Zamora to discuss his novel—the 2023 Whittier Reads selection *Solito*—as well as yours truly and hundreds of Whittierites who participated in the first post-pandemic Whittier Reads in the first major event at our beautiful, renovated Central Library! I am certain the 2024 Whittier Reads author talk and dinner on April 25 will unfold in a similar manner, and take its place among the myriad events at Central Library that foster community connections in enriching and fulfilling ways. Your annual membership in the Whittier Public Library Foundation and your generous donations throughout the year play a crucial role in directly and immediately supporting these initiatives. If your membership has lapsed or you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation, please visit us online at whittierplf.org, where you can conveniently handle either or both things.

As always, thank you for your attention and ongoing support! I look forward to seeing you at Whittier Reads programs next month, and to working with you to make this Foundation, and the library we love, as excellent as they can be!

Sincerely,
Mike Garabedian
President, Whittier Public Library Foundation

Whittier Reads returns **April 2024** with a new exciting book featuring

Stealing Home

Los Angeles, The Dodgers, and the Lives Caught in Between

by Eric Nusbaum

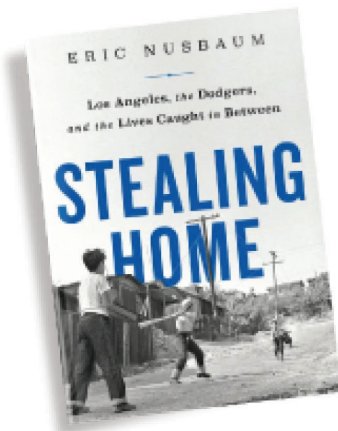
The Whittier Reads 2024 book selection is "***Stealing Home: Los Angeles, the Dodgers, and the Lives Caught in Between***" by Eric Nusbaum.

The book features stories about baseball, family, the American Dream, and the fight to turn Los Angeles into a big league city.

Dodger Stadium is an American icon. But the story of how it came to be goes far beyond baseball. The hills that cradle the stadium were once home to three vibrant Mexican American communities. In the early 1950s, those communities were condemned to make way for a "utopian" public housing project. Then, in a remarkable turn, public housing in the city was defeated amidst a Red Scare conspiracy.

Instead of getting their homes back, the remaining residents saw the City sell their land to Walter O'Malley, the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Now Los Angeles would be getting a different sort of utopian fantasy - a glittering, ultra-modern stadium.

But before Dodger Stadium could be built, the City would have to face down the neighborhood's families -- including one, the Aréchigas, who refused to yield their home. The ensuing confrontation captivated the nation - and the divisive outcome still echoes through Los Angeles today.



Nusbaum is a former sports editor at VICE. His work on sports, history, and culture has appeared in ESPN the Magazine, Sports Illustrated, Outside, The Daily Beast, Deadspin, and the Best American Sports Writing anthology.

He was born and raised in Los Angeles and has attended many games at Dodger Stadium.

Copies of ***Stealing Home*** are available for check-out and for purchase at the Central and Whittwood Branch libraries.

Read ***Stealing Home*** and come join us in April for a series of programs featuring the book!

Whittier Reads 2024 Programs

Tuesday, April 2

Reading Baseball: Stories, Not Statistics

Presentation by Joe Price

Central • 6:00PM • Free • Ticket Required*

Wednesday, April 10

Wednesday Night Book Group Discussion on ***Stealing Home***

Central • 6:00PM • Free • (Author will not be present)

Thursday, April 11

Baseball Battle Bookworm Trivia Night

Registration Required, Space is limited!

Central • 6:00PM • Free • Ticket Required*

Monday, April 15

The Reel Club: Chavez Ravine, A Los Angeles Story

Central • 6:00PM • Free • Ticket Required*

Wednesday, April 17

Authors Natalia Molina & Gustavo Arellano in Conversation

Central • 6:00PM • Free • Ticket Required*

Friday, April 19

Family Film Afternoon: The Sandlot

Branch • 3:00PM • Free • Ticket Required*

Thursday, April 25

Author Talk: Author Eric Nusbaum discussing his book ***Stealing Home***

Central Library • 5:00PM • Free • Ticket Required*

Thursday, April 25

Author Reception & Dinner

Central Library • 7:00PM • **Ticket Required**

Author Reception & Dinner tickets will be available for purchase online at whittierplf.org and in person at Central and Branch libraries starting March 4.

Programs are subject to change.

*Program tickets will be available at Central and Branch libraries starting March 4.




Thank You Eileen and Brien Bigelow



On behalf of the Whittier Public Library and the Library Foundation, we are so thankful to the generous support of the Bigelow family trust. It is through their thoughtful and kind gestures that have been a crucial part of the library's ability to accomplish current and long-term goals. Thanks to their many contributions, we have been able to enhance the library's resources as well as provide opportunities to the community for learning and enrichment. The Bigelow family has always known the importance of investing in knowledge and the community to sustain the future of our institution. In memory of Eileen and Brien Bigelow, we are truly fortunate to have your family as a part of our library for so many wonderful years. Our heartfelt thanks once again!

Upcoming Whittier Public Library Programming




YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

Whittier Public Library's


Annual Spring Tea

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 AT 6PM
Whittier Central Library

SEATING IS LIMITED
Purchase your tickets today at both libraries
or online at WHITTIERPLF.ORG



MEGA-MAKERS
LEARN 3D DESIGN FOR 3D PRINTING



**MONDAY
MAR. 4TH**

**5TH-8TH GRADE
4:30PM**

**TEENS & ADULTS
6:00PM**

 **MakerSpace**
Whittier Public Library

**SIGN-UP AT THE
CENTRAL LIBRARY**



**THE
REEL
CLUB**

a documentary film club
presents



**Monday,
March 18**

6PM-CENTRAL LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM

About the film:
Explore the untold tales of artist Pete Hampton's eccentric genius and his mission to save the Puente Hills. The Lost Era is a breathtaking journey into California's past, filled with art, nature, and the captivating spirit of Pete Hampton.

 **Veterans
Resource Center**

**VETERANS
RESOURCE
FAIR** ★★★★★

Saturday, March 23
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Central Library - Community Room
7344 Washington Ave

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