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WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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President's Message

Summer 2023

WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY

whittierplf.org

Dear Friends and Members of the Whittier Public Library Foundation,

Greetings from the steps of the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.! I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we transition into the summer months! I am happy to lead off this latest newsletter, which includes exciting news and updates from the Whittier Public Library Foundation, including the tremendous success of our recent Whittier Reads program and news of the Library's beloved Summer Reading program. The month of April was a literary feast for mbarked on a continuating journey through the pages of Javier

our community as we embarked on a captivating journey through the pages of Javier Zamora's remarkable *Solito*—the 2023 Whittier Reads selection, and the first iteration

of the program since the pandemic. As promised, this year's Whittier Reads offered singular insights into Javier's creative process, his inspirations, and his incredible story. We were privileged to learn about the literature of migration, recent literature from the Salvadoran diaspora, and contemporary issues and stories around immigration during a month of excellent programming which culminated in a free-to-the-public interview with Javier that I was honored to facilitate, and which was followed by a lovely Whittier Reads dinner held outside at Central Library. Javier's eloquence and passion for storytelling ignited a vibrant dialogue, engaging attendees in thought-provoking conversations that deepened our appreciation for the power of literature to inspire and connect. The evening was a testament to the vibrant literary community that thrives within our city, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended and made the event truly memorable.

As I reflect upon the success of Whittier Reads and the enriching experiences it provided, I am reminded of the invaluable role that the Whittier Public Library Foundation plays in our community. This important work represents a dedication to fostering a love for reading, promoting literacy, and supporting the library's programs and initiatives, and it is only possible thanks to our membership's



generous contributions and unwavering support. For those whose membership renewals may be approaching, or who may have let their membership lapse (it happens!), I want to gently remind you that by renewing your membership to the Whittier Public Library Foundation, you ensure that we can continue to organize engaging literary programs like Whittier Reads and the amazing Summer Reading program and also help the Whittier Public Library provide resources that empower individuals of all ages to discover, learn,

Continued on page 2



Calling all Whittier Public Library Foundation members - please join us for a member appreciation dinner on:

Thursday, August 17, 2023 • 6:00 pm Whittier Central Library

If you haven't seen the newly renovated Central Library, this would be a great time to join us for a reception, dinner, and a quick tour of the library.

If your library foundation membership isn't current for 2023, this is a great time to renew your membership, and then join us and fellow foundation members for this fun and 'spirited' evening.

Please rsvp by August 1st to Library Administration at library-admin@whittierlibrary.org

Whittier Public Library Foundation's Ninth Annual



Booktoberfest An Exploration of Books, Biers and Bites

For the past 8 years, Booktoberfest has taken over the Library for one night, serving up a tasty variety of beers from local brewers; and paired with delectable bites prepared by eateries we all know and love, enhanced by the opportunity to mingle with our friends and raise funds for the Library. It has truly become one of Whittier's most celebrated events. This year Booktoberfest will take us on an exploration of the many places around the world that celebrate Books, Biers and Bites together.

The Whittier Public Library Foundation is excited to announce this year's Booktoberfest to be held on Thursday October 5, 2023. For more information, please visit whittierplf.org.



Celebrating the Life of **Ruth B. Shannon** Sunday, October 1, 2023 @ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Whittier Uptown Public Library Outside Patio

Reservation required: email: read@whittierplf.org or make a reservation in person at Whittier Chamber of Commerce, East Whittier Public Library or Uptown Whittier Public Library.

An opportunity to share a special memory/story of Ruth will be available when you make your reservation in person or through email.

President's Message - continued from front page

and grow. In short, your membership renewal is more than just a financial contribution; it is a commitment to the love of literature and the transformative power of knowledge.

Together, we can cultivate a community that embraces the joys of reading, promotes lifelong learning, and empowers individuals to reach their full potential. Renewing your membership is quick and easy. Simply visit the Foundation website at whittierplf.org and click on the "Become a Member" tab to complete the renewal process, or use the included envelope to send a check. Again, your continued support will help us sustain and expand the impactful programs and initiatives that make our library an important and cherished resource for everyone in Whittier, and ensure that this library remains a vibrant hub of knowledge and inspiration for years to come.

As ever, thank you for your attention, and your continued support!

Sincerely, Mike Garabedian, President, Whittier Public Library Foundation



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