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Headline

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For Immediate Release

Zorro in Film and Literature

A "One Book One City" Panel Discussion at Sierra Madre Library on February 16

"Zorro Unmasked" will be the topic of a panel discussion on the various portrayals of the legend of Zorro in film and fiction on Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m. at the Sierra Madre Public Library. The program, which is free and open to the public, is part of Sierra Madre's "One Book One City" community read of Isabel Allende's 2005 novel, "Zorro." The panelists will be Michael Miklos from Los Angeles City College and James Kincaid, from USC. Film clips will be shown.

Michael Miklos, who recently received his Ph.D. from USC, is a tenured faculty member at Los Angeles City College, where he also serves as Associate Chair of the English Department. He teaches courses in literature, cultural studies, and constructions of ethnicity. Sierra Madre resident James Kincaid is the Aerol Arnold Chair in English and Professor of English at USC, teaching classes in literary, political, and cultural studies.

The mythical character of Zorro was first introduced by Johnston McCulley in 1919 in "The Curse of Capistrano," a serialized story that was later incorporated into McCulley's novel "The Mark of Zorro." Since then Zorro -- and his descendents -- have appeared on stage, screen, and page; Isabel Allende's "Zorro" tells her version of the youthful Diego de la Vega and the political and personal conflicts, world travels, and affairs of the heart that lead him to become the swashbuckling champion of the oppressed in 19th century California.

One Book One City hopes to inspire members of our community to share in reading the same good book at the same time and to participate in events honoring the book. A docent-guided tour of the San Gabriel Mission, a prominent location in "Zorro," is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, at 1:00 p.m. Limited free transportation will be available; reservations will need to be made by February 22. Contact the Library at 626-255-7186. Cost for the tour is \$5 per person.

Thank-you to the Sierra Madre Civic Club, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, the Rotary Club of Sierra Madre, and Santa Anita Race Track for supporting "One Book One City" this year.

Copies of "Zorro" in English and Spanish and on CD, as well as Allende's other works, are available for checkout at the Sierra Madre Public Library and for purchase at Sierra Madre Books in Sierra Madre. The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre 91024. For more information, please call Catriona Shafer at 626-355-7186 or visit the Library's web site at www.cityofsierramadre.com.

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