



# FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

October 2021

## President's Message

### Farewell To Our City Librarian We will miss Christine Smart!!!

As City Librarian, Christine has patiently worked with us these past few years, and she has been helpful, available and supportive of our efforts. Beyond her work with the Friends, she has gone above and beyond for the Library, especially during Covid. Thanks to her dedication, our Library was one of the first to open for contactless check out and programming, and one of the first to open to patrons last spring. It took rapid planning and a fair bit of work to keep staff in the Library serving patrons, all the while maintaining safe working conditions for staff.

Best wishes to Christine and her family as they begin their life in Washington.

### Book Store

Martha Troedson, Jeanne Martin and I visited the Friends of the San Marino Library Book Store to speak with their chairman, Kathy Miller, and learn about operations, staffing, and volunteer management policies, all of which have different challenges than bi-monthly sales. It was informative and helpful, but beyond that, it was lovely that we had such a gracious response to our request. We came away with information, copies of policies, and with warm feelings. Jeanne Martin also spoke with her contacts at the South Pasadena Friends Book Store and they shared their policies.

### More Book Store

Plans are slowly coming together for our facility, and have reached the point that plans for the interior space have been drawn up. This is one of the necessary steps before the building goes out to bid. At one point, a modular building was considered, but traditional construction will be cost effective. I hope to have more to share soon.

**Margaret Quigley**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY LIBRARIAN

Dear Friends,

Effective **Friday, October 8**, I am resigning my position as City Librarian.

It has been my absolute pleasure to work alongside the professional staff throughout the City of Sierra Madre for nearly eight years, and leaving is both necessary, and impossible. Sierra Madre has been my home, living on Esperanza with my daughter attending school in town, finding friends and community at every corner, and of course ... a wonderful place to work. This chaotic season of COVID has further proven to me the power of community, the value of Library work, and the intense work ethic and commitment of the library staff. Each phone call answered, books provided, and craft kit proved irrevocably that libraries are essential.



In the interim, **Management Analyst Lori Garza** has agreed to a short posting as City Librarian, until a permanent replacement can be found ... so I know we're in good hands. Work on the Library is also well under way, with parking improvements, paint, the Friends of the Library Book Store and more, being completed during the 2021-22 Fiscal Year in the design phase. I look forward to this new adventure, but will leave a piece of my heart here in Sierra Madre.

Thank you for many wonderful years and memories.

Yours sincerely,  
**Christine Smart**

## FAREWELL CITY LIBRARIAN CHRISTINE SMART

As you may well know by now, our fearless City Librarian Christine Smart will soon be leaving us to begin a new life with her family in Seattle, Washington.

Among her many accomplishments, her 8-year tenure with the Sierra Madre Public Library will be remembered for steering the Library with a sure and steady hand through the pandemic, allowing us to safely continue bringing uninterrupted services to the community and even introducing new ones while the building was closed. Additionally, her vision and commitment to planning for Library services has left us with a comprehensive and thoughtful roadmap to meet the challenges of the future.

For this, and so much more, we want to wish Christine a fond adieu and celebrate her time here with a special event. Please join us on **Wednesday, October 6** from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for an outdoor sendoff. Attendees can enjoy light refreshments in front of the Library, while being mindful of COVID best practices. The community will have an opportunity to share with Christine their words of encouragement, thanks, and reminiscences.

We hope to see you there!

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### IN-N-OUT BURGER'S COVER TO COVER READING PROGRAM

Who loves In-N-Out Burgers? Do you also love books? In-N-Out's Cover to Cover Club program is back for Kids, ages 4-12 years old, from **Saturday, October 2 to Saturday, November 13**. Stop by the Library to pick up your reading log. Earn one free burger, cheeseburger, or grilled cheese for every five books you read. Earn up to 3 sandwiches.

### CRISIS PREPERATION TRAINING

On **Saturday, October 2** at 11:00 a.m. Sierra Madre's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and our local Fire Department wants you to be prepared for emergencies. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register or for more information.

### 3D PRINTING BASICS

On **Saturday, October 2** at 3:00 p.m. learn how we do our in-Library 3D prints in this beginner workshop. In-person, at the Library. No registration required.

### NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Sierra Madre Fire Department will be taking over the Sierra Madre Public Library during this year's National Fire Prevention Week from **October 3 to October 9**. Check out the great events that are planned – Preschool Storytime; Minecraft Monday; Virtual Tour of the Fire Station; Board Library Teens; Baby Rhyme Time and The Big Pumpkin Smash. Contact the Library at 626-355-3977 to register.

### MINECRAFT MONDAYS: SURVIVAL

Let's adventure together in Minecraft on a private server at the Library or on Zoom on **Monday, October 4** and **Monday, October 25** at 4:00 p.m. Every other Monday, for Kids, ages 9 and up, we'll play Survival. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register or for more information.

### VIRTUAL FIRE STATION TOUR

Hop on the Library's Facebook page or the Fire Department's Instagram page for a virtual live tour of the Fire Department on **Tuesday, October 5** at 4:00 p.m.

### THE BIG PUMPKIN SMASH

On **Thursday, October 7** at 4:00 p.m. come over to the Fire Station and decorate pumpkins. Then watch as a fire fighter drops the pumpkin from their training tower! No registration required. Pumpkins available while supplies last.

### MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS: PIANIST ALAN GEIER

Take a relaxing break at the Library on **Saturday, October 16** from **2:00-4:00 p.m.** by stopping in for some calming piano music to soothe the soul. Pianist Alan Geier will be performing. No registration required.

### MINECRAFT MONDAYS: CREATIVE

Let's build together in Minecraft on a private server at the Library or on Zoom on **Monday, October 18** at 4:00 p.m. Every other Monday for Kids, ages 8 and under, we'll play Creative. Call 626-355-7186 to register or for more information.

### SEWING MACHINE BASICS

Learn sewing basics with the Library's sewing machine on **Tuesday, October 19** at 5:00 p.m. and **Saturday, October 23** at 3:00 p.m. In-person, at the Library. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

### TEEN STEAM: SPOOKY TERRARIUM

Welcome goblins and ghouls, it's time to make your own spooky terrarium on **Wednesday, October 20** at 4:00 p.m. We'll use small canning jars, moss, and decorations to make a small haunted forest, cemetery, or whatever fall scene you'd like. No registration required.

### CRAFT IT: FALL WREATH

Our monthly Craft It program is back at the Library. On **Saturday, October 23** at 11:00 a.m. we're making our own fall wreath with various decorations. No registration required.

## MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS: GUITARIST ALMER IMAMOVIC

Take a relaxing break at the Library by stopping in for some classical guitar music to soothe the soul. Guitarist Almer Imamovic, from Sierra Madre Music, will be performing on **Tuesday, October 26** from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. No registration required.

### ONE-SHOT ROLE-PLAYING GAME

On **Saturday, October 30** at 11:00 a.m. test your RPG skills in this one-shot led by Game Master TL. For Ages 12 and up. Call 626-355-7186 to register or for more information.

### COMMUNITY OFRENDA

The Library is excited to organize our second Community Ofrenda, or altar, to celebrate Día de los Muertos. What is an ofrenda, you ask? Think of it as a vibrant and creative memorial to all our loved ones who have passed away. Contribute to our ofrenda with images, artwork, or reminders of loved ones no longer with us. The ofrenda will be available in front of the Library from **Saturday, October 30 to Saturday, November 13**.

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS

### PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT MEMORIAL PARK

Preschool Storytime is at Memorial Park on **Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** Kids, ages 3-5, can engage with stories, songs, and more – all outdoors. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register and for more information.

### WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE

Stretch your legs at Memorial Park while engaging in some early literacy, with a new picture book featured every week. Books are changed out every Monday.

### BABY RHYME TIME AT MEMORIAL PARK

Join us at Memorial Park on **Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.** Baby Rhyme Time is for families with little ones from Birth to Age 2. Children will engage with songs, stories, and more – all outdoors. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register and for more information.

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

### BOARD LIBRARY TEENS

Do you want to have a say in what the Library does this year? Do you want to serve your community in a fun and inspirational way? Then join the Board Library Teens on **Wednesday, October 6** at 4:00 p.m. and volunteer for service hours. This month we're having a special visit from the Fire Department to teach CPR basics.

### TEEN SNACKCHAT

Snackchat is back and in-person on **Wednesday, October 13** at 4:00 p.m. and on the second Wednesday of the month at the Library! Teens can join this book club-which focuses on snacks-anytime throughout the school year.

### TAILS AND TALES

On **Thursday, October 14** at 1:00 p.m. and on the second Thursday of every month, we read to animals. Hop on our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube) to hear a story and see which animal we're reading to this month.

### PAJAMA STORYTIME

Tune in on Zoom for a live Bedtime Storytime on **Wednesday, October 20** at 7:00 p.m. We'll have a scavenger hunt, show and tell, sing songs, and of course listen to some stories. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

### ZOOM THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

On **Thursday, October 21** at 11:00 a.m. the Third Thursday Book Club is staying on Zoom for the month of October but you can join in on discussing *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* by John le Carré. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

## BEST USED BOOK SALE

The October Book Sale that was held on **Friday, October 1** from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, October 2** from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. was another great successful Book Sale, more details will be in the November newsletter.

There may be some interruptions in October to our Donation collection due to the upcoming construction and refurbishment of the back of the Library. The "Free Bench" will also be temporarily removed. It might be a good idea to call ahead to see if we are accepting donated books. Fingers are crossed for the **December Sale** and we are all looking forward to our new space next spring.

We are planning our annual **SILENT AUCTION** in November so look for upcoming information soon. Thanks for your continued support!

## PARTNERS PROGRAM

The Partners Program has had another wonderful month of renewals and new additions! Heartfelt thanks go out to Mary & James Carter, Marlene Enmark, Janet & Keith Gillespie, Trinidad & Ralph Komai, Shirley & Alan Leahy, Margaret Quigley, Marianne & Pete Siberell and Mary Talwar for renewing your commitment to the Partners!

Also, let's all welcome Kris Chase & Andy Van Horn - our two new Partners! It's been said before, and always worth repeating - it takes a village, and we are all so thankful for the village that we have, the village that adds so much to our Library and in turn our community.

## MARY TUMILTY FUND

Many, many thanks to the following donors who have remembered Mary and donated most generously to Mary's Fund – Mary's daughter, Cynthia Villani; and Connie Ludor. Please know how very much your donations to Mary's Fund are appreciated – not only by her family but by the Friends. She was an outstanding head Librarian for many years and through her Fund, she is still making a positive difference in the life of our Library. On behalf of Mary's family and the Friends – thank you.

## GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

The Friends are most grateful and appreciate the following Friends and supporters for making donations to the General Fund: Beth Kerns; Janet & Keith Gillespie; Jeff & Mindy Glickman; Kendra Hampton; Dianne Keller; Catherine Kirby; Matthew Loscalzo & Joanne Mortimer; Shinji & Irene Nakagawa; Stephen & Gordana Perlof; Kevin Ramsey; The Buccaneer Lounge and Robert & Ann Wolf.

Monies in the general fund are used to purchase items on our "Friends Wish List" provided by the Library staff.

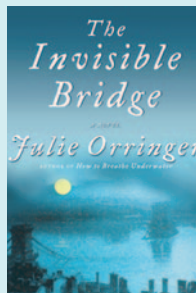
If you would like to donate to this fund, make out a check to The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, write "General Fund" in the memo line, and mail your check to The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, PO Box 334, Sierra Madre, CA 91025. Your donation is tax-exempt and our gratitude is genuine.

## SOMMER LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Monies in the Sommer Library Scholarship Fund are used to help provide professional training and staff development for library and information professionals. We are grateful to the Friends and supporters who honored our exemplary staff by making donations: Jane Zamanzadeh and Martha Troedson.

If you would like to donate to this fund, make out a check to The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, write "Sommer Library Scholarship Fund" in the memo line, and mail your check to The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, PO Box 334, Sierra Madre, CA 91025. Your donation is tax-exempt and our gratitude is heartfelt.

## READER'S REVIEW



This month's review is by **Tom Tomlinson**

### The Invisible Bridge

by **Julie Orringer**

As an addendum to Julie Orringer's wonderful, lengthy novel – it spans more than 750 pages, but reads like a speeding 1930s Art Deco locomotive coursing its way to and from Budapest and Paris, is a

poem by the late Polish Nobel Prize winner Wislawa Szymborska. Entitled "Any Case," its five stanzas provide an existentialist summary to Orringer's story. Several of Szymborska's lines run:

You survived because you were first.  
You survived because you were last.  
Because alone. Because the others.  
Because on the left ... on the right.  
... it was raining ... it was sunny.  
... a shadow fell.

Of course, Orringer's novel is about the uncertainty of life in general and in particular, those who miraculously survived the Holocaust and World War II; and those who perish. Orringer attaches her story to the lives of two Hungarian Jewish families, one poor, one wealthy as they played out between 1937 and 1945. Andras Levi, the oldest of three ambitious Hungarian brothers, has just learned he has won a fellowship to study architecture in Paris. The evening before his departure to France, he meets an older Jewish woman Mrs. Hasz, the wife of a wealthy Hungarian banker, who asks young Levi to deliver a package and letter to her two adult children living in Paris; Levi agrees to act as a courier, a role that has him meeting a Hungarian woman with whom he falls in love. Thus are the lives of the Levis and Haszs comingled and tracked over the following 700 plus pages. Given the catastrophic events of these eight years in Europe: the virulent anti-Semitism that Hitler and his Nazi legions visited upon Europe, the September 1939 German invasion of Poland, and by early 1940, German invasions and occupations of most European countries; not surprisingly, Andras's student visa is cancelled forcing his return to Hungary where life as a Hungarian Jew becomes virtually impossible to endure for him, his family, and the Haszs. Orringer's literary gifts put the reader into the lives of her characters and we, like her subjects, wonder how much longer we can continue living *in extremis*.

*Invisible Bridge* won enthusiastic praise from a legion of American and European critics. Her novel reminded this reader of the monumental works of at least three late nineteenth century writers: Tolstoy, Zola, and Dickens. Orringer's entrance into the novel form followed an equally well received collection of short stories, *How to Breathe Underwater*. The American author studied at the distinguished Iowa Writers Workshop and won a Stegner Fellowship from Stanford. Her academic pedigrees show in her remarkable research skill. *Invisible Bridge* is rich — responsible so — in historical content. But to my way of thinking, Orringer's splendid writing skills are never arrested by the historian in her; if the speeding locomotive is her ability to spin a captivating story; her story-train still runs on her historian's tracks.

**CALL #: FIC ORRINGER**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## OCTOBER CALENDAR

EVERY MONDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	OCTOBER 7	4:00 P.M.	THE BIG PUMPKIN SMASH
EVERY MONDAY	10:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	OCTOBER 13	4:00 P.M.	TEEN SNACKCHAT
EVERY MONDAY	ALL WEEK	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE	OCTOBER 14	1:00 P.M.	TAILS & TALES
EVERY THURSDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON BABY RHYME TIME MEMORIAL PARK	OCTOBER 16	2:00-4:00 P.M.	MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS
OCTOBER 1	3:00-7:00 P.M.	BEST USED BOOK SALE	OCTOBER 18	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: CREATIVE
OCTOBER 2 TO NOVEMBER 13		IN-N-OUT BURGER READING PROGRAM	OCTOBER 19	5:00 P.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS
OCTOBER 2	10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.	BEST USED BOOK SALE	OCTOBER 20	4:00 P.M.	TEEN STEAM: SPOOKY TERRARIUM
OCTOBER 2	11:00 A.M.	CRISIS PREPERATION TRAINING	OCTOBER 20	7:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 2	3:00 P.M.	3D PRINTING BASICS	OCTOBER 20	7:00 P.M.	PAJAMA STORYTIME
OCTOBER 3 TO 9		NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK	OCTOBER 21	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 <sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
OCTOBER 4	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: SURVIVAL	OCTOBER 23	11:00 A.M.	CRAFT IT: FALL WREATH
OCTOBER 5	4:00 P.M.	VIRTUAL FIRE STATION TOUR	OCTOBER 23	3:00 P.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS
OCTOBER 6	4:00 P.M.	BOARD LIBRARY TEENS	OCTOBER 25	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: SURVIVAL
OCTOBER 6	5:00 P.M.	FAREWELL PARTY CHRISTINE SMART	OCTOBER 26	11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.	MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS
			OCTOBER 27	4:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
			OCTOBER 30 TO NOV. 13		COMMUNITY OFRENDA
			OCTOBER 30	11:00 A.M.	ONE-SHOT ROLE-PLAYING GAME

*Read, Discover, Connect @ Sierra Madre Public Library*

**LIBRARY HOURS**  
 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

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 TEXT (626) 662-1254  
[www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/)

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