



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

January 2022

President's Message

Dear Members and Partners,

Whatever the New Year has in store for the Friends, we'll be in it together!!

It would be nice if there was something exciting to report, but things are moving slowly. I spoke with **Lori Garza**, Interim Library Director, about progress on the Library, and the only thing to report is that the cosmetic repairs are about done, and that the City is planning to reconfigure some of the parking places. Engineering studies for safety improvements will be taking place. And the City will be applying for a state grant to help with the cost of ADL and seismic improvements. We don't usually qualify for state grants, this time may be different because of the safety issues. We can but hope.

The Friends have not committed to an **Art Fair** this year, but meetings will be held in January to consider the feasibility. Thank you to **Darlene Traxler** and **Sharon Murphy** for taking this on.

Martha Troedson reported that over \$12,000 has been raised from Book Sales since July 1, the start of the fiscal year. This is amazing, especially because we have been restricted to parking lot sales. These sales have done well, and have been augmented by Internet sales, book sales from the Cart in the Library, and the Silent Auction of Collectible Books.

Finance: The Finance Committee met in October and proposed a policy to the Board at the November meeting. It was agreed that the principal of the Mary Tumilty Fund would stay intact, and that we would keep enough funds to meet operating expenses for 3 years. This last, in response to COVID. All other funds and savings will be available to the Library as needed. Wishing Everyone a Happy New Year!

Margaret Quigley

ONE BOOK ONE CITY COMING IN FEBRUARY

In February, join the Sierra Madre Public Library in reading the 2022 One Book One City selection, *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

The novel is about the Midnight Library, infinitely filled with books, existing beyond the edges of reality. Each book tells the story of another life that could have been lived had a different choice been made. Follow Nora Seed as she travels through the Midnight Library and explores the possibility of changing her life for a new one all the while attempting to figure out what makes life worth living.

Matt Haig is an English author of both children's and adult literature. He began publishing novels, non-fiction, and children's books in 2002 and in 2015 he published a best-selling memoir, *Reasons to Stay Alive*, that stayed on the UK Top Ten list for 46 weeks. He received a Gold Award at the 2020 Nielsen Bestseller Awards for *Reasons to Stay Alive* and a Silver Award for his novels *How to Stop Time*, *The Humans* and *The Midnight Library*. His children's book, *A Boy Named Christmas*, was adapted into a 2021 holiday movie.

Throughout the month of February, the Library will feature a variety of programs for participants of all ages to enjoy. Programs include presentations from interactive storytellers, a wishing well display, an interactive "make a choice" adventure, a staged reading at the Sierra Madre Playhouse, and an inspirational presentation on the Healing Power of Stories by our very own, Library Trustee Rich Procter.

Please contact the Library at 626-355-7186 for more information.

Special thanks to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library and the Sierra Madre Playhouse for supporting One Book One City and to the Committee Members:

Catherine Addé, Marta Capoccia, Lori Garza, Rich Procter, Doreen Thomas, Jane Zamanzadeh and Leslie & Barry Ziff.



THE GINGERBREAD JAMBOREE TO GO

The Gingerbread Jamboree To Go was a resounding success on Thursday, December 16. All of our gingerbread kits (over 130) were passed out by Youth Services Librarian **Leila Regan**



and Library Tech **Doreen Thomas** outside the Library. Families joined a Zoom session to build their craft from home and show it off.



Special thanks to our teen volunteers who worked hard to help create the many kits, sorting candy and wrangling frosting, and a big thank you to Poppy Cake Baking Company for donating the frosting.

LIBRARY CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

The Library will be closed on **Monday, January 17** for the Martin Luther King Holiday. Services will resume Tuesday, January 18 at 11:00 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE

Stretch your legs at Memorial Park while engaging in some early literacy, with a new picture book featured *every other week*. **Monday, January 3** is *You Are a Beautiful Beginning* by Nina Laden and **Tuesday, January 18** is *The All-Together Quilt* by Lizzy Rockwell.

SNOWFLAKE HUNT

Every snowflake is unique but we've got one that keeps moving around the Library from **Monday, January 3 to Monday, January 31**. Can you help us find the snowflake? Each day it's in a different location. Tell the front desk where the snowflake drifted to today and you get to pick something special from our prize basket.



DROP IN WINTER ART

On **Monday, January 3** from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. stop by the Library to get your craft on! We will have a plethora of art supplies available to craft a winter wonderland all day long.

MINECRAFT MONDAYS: CREATIVE

Let's build together in Minecraft on a private server at the Library or on Zoom on **Monday, January 3** and **Monday, January 24** at 4:00 p.m. *Every other Monday* for Kids, ages 8 and under, we'll play Creative. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register or for more information.

MINECRAFT MONDAYS: SURVIVAL

Let's adventure together in Minecraft on a private server at the Library or on Zoom on **Monday, January 10** and **Monday, January 31** 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.

CRAFT IT: SALT LUMINARIES

Our monthly Craft It program is back at the Library. On **Saturday, January 15** at 11:00 a.m. make salt luminaries to add some warm color and light to your home this winter. No registration required.



SEWING MACHINE BASICS

Learn sewing basics with the Library's sewing machine on **Tuesday, January 11** at 11:00 a.m. and **Saturday, January 15** at 3:00 p.m. In-person, at the Library. Limited spaces available. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

3D PRINTING BASICS

On **Saturday, January 22** at 11:00 a.m. learn how we do our in-Library 3D prints in this beginner workshop. In-person, at the Library. No registration required.

MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS: GUITARIST ALMER IMAMOVIC

Take a relaxing break at the Library by stopping in for some soothing guitar music from Almer Imamovic. He will be playing music on **Wednesday, January 26** from 5:00-7:00 p.m. No registration required.

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.

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, January 5** at 4:00 p.m. and volunteer for service hours.

TEEN SNACKCHAT

Snackchat is back and in-person on **Wednesday, January 12** 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. We'll be discussing *For Every One* by Jason Reynolds (get a free copy from the Library today) and you can grab a free copy of next month's book *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera.

TAILS AND TALES

On **Thursday, January 13**, Tails and Tales is changing it up for the New Year by returning to in-person! From 3:00-4:00 p.m. school age children will get the chance to improve their reading skills by reading a book to a therapy dog. Special thanks to Love on a Leash and Pet Partners for sharing their animals with us. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 for more information.

TEEN STEAM: SCIENCE LAB

On **Wednesday, January 19** at 4:00 p.m. we're making our own fake snow with science! Plus, we'll try out some other fun science experiments.

PAJAMA STORYTIME

Tune in on Zoom for a live Bedtime Storytime on **Wednesday, January 19** 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, January 20** at 11:00 a.m. the Third Thursday Book Club is staying on Zoom for the month of January but you can join in on discussing *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

READING PROGRAM

Sign up at any time to nurture reading and foster early language development with the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Stop by or give us a call, to hear about fabulous prizes that you'll earn through reading.

LIBBY BY OVERDRIVE

Physical copies at the Library are all checked out? Not to worry, get new titles fast with Libby by Overdrive. Hundreds of e-books and audiobooks are at your fingertips when you use your Library card. Start enjoying more books, today!

MEMBERSHIP

Happy New Year To All!!! The Friends of the Library are truly thankful to all of its current members. It is because of your valuable contributions that we are able to offer so many awesome programs at the Sierra Madre Public Library! We can't do it without you!

Our members have generously agreed to help us provide as much money as is possible to our Library. Your annual dues vitally support many Library programs such as: adult and teen programs, archival preservation, large print books, summer reading programs, and computer and technology improvements. Your dues have also historically supported the practical and administrative costs of the Friends, including the production and mailing of your monthly Newsletter, which serves to advertise and promote Friends and Library events. This practical assistance means that more income from our fund-raising events can be forwarded directly to the Library.

Growth occurs when we encourage our existing members to renew and when we find new Friends to help these efforts. We would love to increase our current membership numbers this coming year. Please consider passing along to family, friends, colleagues and businesses the great benefits that the Library brings to you and the community and encourage them to become a valued Friend of the Sierra Madre Library. They would receive our award-winning Newsletter and be kept up-to-date on all the upcoming exciting events at the Sierra Madre Public Library and with the Friends.

Thank you to all who have already forwarded your membership dues!

BEST USED BOOK SALE

Sales from the Internet, the Library Cart and other miscellaneous sales during the Fall totaled \$1,469.82. The December Book Sale earned \$1,612.95, the Silent Auction earned another \$995.00, and the total income from all sales since the October sale is **\$4,077.77**. Many thanks to Barbara Bellano, Wendy Senour and Donna Howard who organized the Silent Auction this year, and to all our volunteers who work so tirelessly.

The free bench that has been behind the Library along the wall near the stairs to the basement has been removed for now due to recent outside work on the building, updates about its return will follow in future Newsletters. We are hoping that the **Best Used Book Sale for February 4 and 5** will be held as usual on the parking lot but it all depends on the construction planned to start in the new year. In the meantime, we are still accepting donations of your wonderful gently used books.

Thank you, Friends!

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Happy 2022!!! With a new year comes the promise of wonderful new adventures, new opportunities, new friendships and a renewal of the spirit!

The Partner's Program continues to thrive, and we are especially grateful to Nina & Clem Bartolai, Robert & Toni Buckner, Christine Gladish, David Gordon, Helen Gronquist, Joyce & John Hegeman, Pamela & Thomas Reichardt, Wendy & Doug Senour, Barbara Skousen, Wendy & Rob Stockly and Meegan Tosh for your renewals! Your continued support renews that spirit within the Library and makes it that much better. And within the spirit of new friendships, please join us in welcoming our two *new Partners*, Arthur Steingart and Patricia Barron!

It is with your help that the Library can continue to consistently bring those new adventures, new opportunities, new friendships and in turn renew the spirit of our community! Thank you all!

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

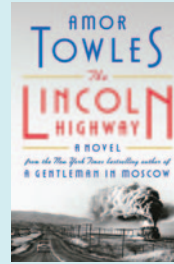
We'd like to thank Carolyn Coats and The Richter Family Foundation for their donations to the General Fund this month. Donations to the General Fund are used to purchase books, technology, and other resource items and to fund outreach programs.

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.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

The Library Display case for January spotlights a local history collection of greeting cards sent from Sierra Madre over the years. The cards provide insight into Sierra Madre life and well wishes bestowed during the holiday season. Many of the cards were designed by local artists. Swing by and tell us which is your favorite.

READER'S REVIEW



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

The Lincoln Highway

By Amor Towles

Road trips of all sorts are staples of the American literary canon. For more than 150 years, American authors have set their protagonists in motion

on oceans, rivers, and roads – think Ishmael in Melville's *Moby Dick*, Huck Finn in Twain's novel of the nearly same name, and Jack Kerouac's 1957 perfectly named novel: *On the Road*. And now Amor Towles, following his tour de force *A Gentleman from Moscow*, joins the itchy feet genre with the recent publication of *The Lincoln Highway*.

Here's the set up: Emmett Watson, eighteen, is returning to his farm in Nebraska after serving 15 months in a juvenile work camp atoning for an accidental man slaughter conviction to pick up his eight-year-old brother to commence a road trip that aims for San Francisco on the Lincoln Highway. The brothers hope to start life anew as there is nothing to hold them on the modest Nebraska farm: their mother abandoned the family nearly eight years earlier writing post cards along her way to San Francisco. Their farmer father, who ran the farm into bankruptcy, has recently died and the local lender has repossessed the operation. Now orphans, the two pitch meagerly filled backpacks into the trunk of their sole possession, an old Studebaker. It is June 12, 1954 and the boys imagine a five-day trip to California in search of a new life which might include reconnecting with their mother. But, like most trips, plans are always in the thrall of the unanticipated. In the Watsons' case, two of Emmett's fellow juvenile offenders appear on the farm ready to hijack the trip east to New York in search of their families and monies owed them. Not all goes well as Duchess and Woolly steal the Studebaker leaving the brothers to make their way east in search of their automobile. The path east includes riding boxcars, meeting characters who are unsavory and some worthy in turn. Towles does bring the foursome together in New York for the novel's resolution, one which I found confusing and hasty, at odds with the author's deliberate writing style and attention to detail.

While I remain a bit flummoxed by *Highway*, I remain a shameless yet chest thumpy fan of Towles the writer. His *Gentleman in Moscow* is a marvelous study of a man restricted in a hotel under house arrest during the Soviet era. But alas: for me, *Lincoln Highway* is no Gentleman in Moscow.

Given that critics praised this work, perhaps it was me: Was I an inattentive reader? Am I losing my critical touch? Did I ever possess such a touch? I invite you to set me straight on these questions. Toward that end, I am donating my copy of *Highway* to the Library. It's too much for me to reread.

CALL #: NEW SHELF FIC TOWLES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JANUARY CALENDAR

EVERY MONDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	JANUARY 15	11:00 A.M.	CRAFT IT: SALT LUMINARIES
EVERY MONDAY	10:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	JANUARY 15	3:00 P.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS
EVERY THURSDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON BABY RHYME TIME MEMORIAL PARK	JANUARY 17	LIBRARY CLOSED	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY
JANUARY 3 TO 31	ALL DAY	SNOWFLAKE HUNT	JANUARY 18	ALL WEEK	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE
JANUARY 3	ALL WEEK	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE	JANUARY 19	4:00 P.M.	TEEN STEAM: SCIENCE LAB
JANUARY 3	11:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.	DROP IN WINTER ART	JANUARY 19	7:00 P.M.	PAJAMA STORYTIME
JANUARY 3	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: CREATIVE	JANUARY 19	7:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 5	4:00 P.M.	BOARD LIBRARY TEENS	JANUARY 20	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 RD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
JANUARY 10	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: SURVIVAL	JANUARY 22	11:00 A.M.	3D PRINTING BASICS
JANUARY 11	11:00 A.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	JANUARY 24	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: CREATIVE
JANUARY 12	4:00 P.M.	TEEN SNACKCHAT	JANUARY 24	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
JANUARY 13	3:00 P.M.	TAILS AND TALES	JANUARY 26	5:00-7:00 P.M.	MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS
			JANUARY 31	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: SURVIVAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

Sierra Madre Public Library
 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
 Sierra Madre (626) 355-7186
 TEXT (626) 662-1254
www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/

THE FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY
 P.O. BOX 334, SIERRA MADRE, CA 91025
www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org