

FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

March 2022

President's Message

Dear Members and
Partners,

Some days it seems like we are in the doldrums, or maybe it's just me. The absence of the **Art Fair** and **Wine & Cuisine Tasting** changes the tenor of our Board meetings, and can cause a bit of worry about finances. This doesn't imply financial problems. Far from it, but we don't want to use savings, unless absolutely necessary, for our budgetary obligations. Fortunately, **Donations** and **Best Used Book Sales** should keep us in the black, and the assets that we want to use for Library renovation/expansion will remain intact.

Please read the article about serving on the Board and consider asking about Board service. There is no obligation (just like a free trial), and you will learn a little bit more about the Friends and the Board. Also, please consider attending a Board Meeting held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month *except* August and December.

It is wonderful that the Sierra Madre Public Library facility is once again open to patrons, and I know we all sincerely hope that the Covid infection rate stays low.

Margaret Quigley

SOMMER LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS FOUR DESERVING EMPLOYEES THE GIFT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Monies in the Sommer Library Scholarship Fund are used to help provide professional training and staff development for library and information professionals. Recipients have sent gratitude to the Friends and supporters who honored their exemplary work during the 2021-22 fiscal year. This year's recipients of awards from the Sommer Library Scholarship Fund are four members of the Sierra Madre Public Library staff: **Doreen Thomas, Shannon McDermott, Julie Imahara, and Chelsea Lee.**

They are now able to continue their various pursuits in advanced education in Library Sciences and wanted to send thank you notes expressing their gratitude for the support they have received:

"I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the Sommer Scholarship committee for the financial award and support toward earning my Master of Library and Information Science degree at San Jose State University. There's simply no way I could have undertaken this educational opportunity without the generosity and confidence of the Sommer Scholarship committee. Earning the MLIS degree will position me to continue to grow in this profession while I serve the patrons of our beloved Sierra Madre Public Library."

Doreen Thomas

"Thank you so much to the Sommer Scholarship Committee for their wonderful support of education in Library Science. Access to this scholarship has helped me to improve in my day-to-day responsibilities here at the library. My classes this year in Collection Management and Reference have been especially applicable to my duties at the library. This made my classes even more valuable and enjoyable. It is so very rewarding to see my education applied in ways that benefit my community. Sierra Madre Public Library is an amazing place to work and I am so lucky to be part of this organization that works so hard to support its patrons. I so appreciate the generous funds that help make it feasible for me to get my Masters in Library and Information Science."

"With all the challenges our communities have faced during the pandemic, it has been wonderful to work in an environment that is finding innovative ways to assist the community in spite of the difficulties we all have faced. The Friends of the Library is such an important part of our library. The many efforts your organization makes to support the library is such a great contribution to our community. This scholarship is just a part of that contribution but one that is very much appreciated by those of us working to further our education. Thank you again for your continued support."

Shannon McDermott

"My heartfelt thanks to the Sommer Scholarship for supporting me in my pursuit of education and knowledge. I am delighted to announce that because of the opportunity given to me by the Sommer Scholarship Committee, I will be graduating this June 2022 from Cal Poly Pomona. I would not have been able to accomplish this significant milestone in my life without this financial award."

Julie Imahara

"Thank you so much to the Sommer Scholarship Committee for helping me earn a Masters in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. This scholarship means a great deal to me and I whole-heartedly appreciate the support to continue my education. Working at the Sierra Madre Public Library has really solidified my passion for library work. I feel so grateful to be able to serve this wonderful community. My continuing education provides me with opportunities to learn and grow as a library professional. Thank you for believing in me!"

Chelsea Lee

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.



*Sommer Library Scholarship Recipients:
Doreen Thomas, Chelsea Lee, Shannon
McDermott, and Julie Imahara*

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, February 28 is *Starry Safari* by Linda Ashman; **Monday, March 14** is *How to Catch a Leprechaun* by Adam Wallace; and **Monday, March 28** is *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen.

FOUR LEAF CLOVER HUNT

Four leaf clovers are very rare! Can you help us find the four leaf clover in the Library? Each day, from **Tuesday, March 1 to Thursday, March 31**, it's in a different location. Tell the front desk where the four leaf clover sprouted today and you get to pick something special from our prize basket.



MINECRAFT: SURVIVAL

Let's adventure together in Minecraft on a private server at the Library or on Zoom this month on **Monday, March 7** and **Monday, March 21** 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.

SEWING MACHINE BASICS

Learn sewing basics with the Library's sewing machine on **Tuesday, March 8** at 4:00 p.m. and **Saturday, March 12** at 11:00 a.m. In-person, at the Library. Limited spaces available. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

MINECRAFT: CREATIVE

Let's build together in Minecraft on a private server at the Library or on Zoom this month on **Monday, March 14** and **Monday, March 28** 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.

THEATER 360: ALICE IN WONDERLAND

"Curiouser and curiouser!" cried Alice. Want to see Theater 360's all kid cast of *Alice in Wonderland*? Then enjoy a few scenes and a Q&A at the Library on **Saturday, March 19** at 11:00 a.m. No registration required. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 for more information.

3D PRINTING BASICS

Learn how we do our in-Library 3D prints in this beginner workshop on **Saturday, March 19** at 3:00 p.m. 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, March 23** from 4:00-6:00 p.m. No registration required.

SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMARK CONTEST ENDS MARCH 24

The Sierra Madre Public Library invites you to create a wild bookmark design. The theme for this year's Bookmark Contest is — WHERE THE WILD SIERRA MADRE IS.

Draw and write about nature and the wilds of Sierra Madre, for Kids, in Grades K-8th. Entries may be turned in until **Thursday, March 24**

to the Library. Winning entries will showcase people, places, or things that depict the wild nature of Sierra Madre and will be printed and distributed during the Sierra Madre Super Summer.

CRAFT IT: YARN ART

Create your own masterpiece with yarn and a canvas on **Saturday, March 26** at 11:00 a.m.

This program will take place in-person in the front Library courtyard. 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, March 2** at 4:00 p.m. and volunteer for service hours.

TEEN SNACKCHAT

Teens can join this book club—which focuses on snacks—anytime throughout the school year. On **Wednesday, March 9** at 4:00 p.m., we'll be discussing *Moxie* by Jennifer Mathieu (get a free copy to keep from the Library today) and you can grab next month's book *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart.

TAILS AND TALES

On **Thursday, March 10** at 3:00 p.m. Tails and Tales is back 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.

TEEN STEAM: COMIC CREATIONS

On **Wednesday, March 16** at 4:00 p.m. give your craft creation some new flair using upcycled comic books for this month's Teen STEAM program.

PAJAMA STORYTIME

Tune in on Zoom for a live Bedtime Storytime on **Wednesday, March 16** 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, March 17** at 11:00 a.m. the Third Thursday Book Club is staying on Zoom for the month of March but you can join in on discussing this month's selection, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

The Nominating Committee for the Friends Board of Directors will be meeting in early March to fill positions for 2022-23. If you have been thinking about serving your community or volunteering to make a difference, here is your opportunity!

We have several positions on the Board with minimal time commitments. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, *except* for August and December. Please reach out to **Julie Bencosme** at 626-202-8502 to share your areas of strength or if you have questions on how it all works.

Thank You,
Julie Bencosme
1st VP Governance

60TH ANNUAL SIERRA MADRE ART FAIR UPDATE

The Friends Board of Directors and the Art Fair Committee have decided, after much consideration and discussion, that the 60th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair, scheduled for **Saturday, May 7** and **Sunday May 8**, has been, unfortunately, CANCELLED.

We were hoping that this year would be different than the last two years but with still uncertainties about the Covid virus and its variants, and various and different County and City mandates, and also our need for volunteers for the Art Fair Committee and during the weekend, that it would be best to cancel the annual May fund-raising event.

We are truly heart-broken that we once again have to cancel the Art Fair and will miss our wonderful, talented and amazing artists and the many patrons that have attended and supported us in the past. We will certainly see you next year!

Dates for the **61st Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair** are **May 6-7, 2023** and we will let you know of those details as soon as they become available.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

A big thank you to everyone who supported our February Book Sale. We earned \$1,815.55 at the two-day sale, with added income of \$3,745.82 from presales (including the Internet, Library Cart, and other sources). That totals **\$5,564.37** for the 8 weeks since our December sale! This is a huge amount considering our low prices, especially when we are not currently selling from the basement shelves.

Please keep those “gently-used” donations coming! We are always working in the basement on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. or you can leave donations in the stairwell behind the Library at any time.

We don't yet know when our new Friends building will be starting construction but we have been working to reduce our inventory in anticipation of the move. Thank you for not bringing magazines, old encyclopedias, or books in languages other than English.

The next sale is tentatively scheduled for **April 1 and 2**. More information will be available in the April Friends newsletter.

PARTNERS PROGRAM

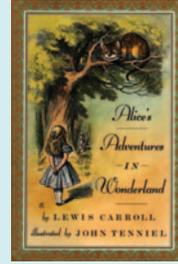
As we head into March, it is so nice to have the Library open to the public again! In true form, our Library staff continued to provide assistance to the community during the latest shut-down. They never skipped a beat - from taking orders from patrons, assisting with the new check-out system, pivoting to still provide programs to young students and adults alike, they are truly amazing in all they do! And as always, it's the support you provide, month after month, through openings and more difficult closures that really allows the Library to thrive!

A huge thanks to Gurdon Miller & Catriona Shafer and Albert Metzger for your Partner's renewals!! And we also extend a warm welcome to our newest Partners – Dana & Eileen Roth! Thank you all for you do to keep our Library strong!!!

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

We're very excited to be bringing back our Bookmark Contest after a one-year hiatus. Kids in Kindergarten through 8th Grade can submit a bookmark for this year's theme “Where the Wild Sierra Madre Is” until **Thursday, March 24**. We can't wait to see the amazing bookmarks the community comes up with!

READER'S REVIEW



This month's review is by **Richard Bellikoff**

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

By **Lewis Carroll**

“All in the golden afternoon,” the poem that opens this book, describes the row-boat trip with three young

girls that inspired Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known by his pen name Lewis Carroll, to create this story. It all starts when Alice, sitting on a riverbank with her sister, follows a passing white rabbit down a rabbit hole into Wonderland (“Down the Rabbit-Hole,” the title of the first chapter, has become current political slang for a belief in outlandish conspiracy theories).

During her adventures, Alice often changes size unexpectedly (“One pill makes you larger and one pill makes you small,” as the 1960s rock group Jefferson Airplane described it in their song, “White Rabbit”). The strange creatures that she encounters include a hookah-smoking caterpillar and a grinning Cheshire cat who disappears, leaving his grin behind, prompting Alice to remark that she has often seen a cat without a grin but never a grin without a cat. She attends a tea party with the Mad Hatter, the March Hare and the Dormouse. The party is endless because Time has punished the Hatter by eternally standing still at 6:00 p.m., tea time. Finally, Alice is called as a witness in the trial of the Knave of Hearts, who is accused of having stolen the Queen's tarts, while the Queen demands that nearly everyone present be beheaded (“Off with his head!”).

This is not just a children's book. It's actually full of adult wordplay. For example, the Mock Turtle tells Alice about a course of study he took: “Reeling and Writhing, of course, to begin with, and then the different branches of Arithmetic — Ambition, Distraction, Uglification and Derision . . . Mystery, ancient and modern, with Seaography.” He also describes a “drawling-master,” who taught “Drawling, Stretching, and Fainting in Coils.” When Alice asks how long the lessons lasted, the Mock Turtle replies, “Ten hours the first day, nine the next, and so on. That's the reason they're called lessons, because they lessen from day to day.” The book has a lot of this sort of nonsense, or as Jefferson Airplane put it in “White Rabbit,” “Logic and proportion have fallen sloppy dead.”

Since the characters are so familiar after decades of adaptations in plays, movies, TV, radio, art, ballet, theme parks, board games and video games, you may feel as if you've read the book even if you haven't. There's no substitute for the original. And while you're at it, listen to my cover recording of “White Rabbit” at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kaZthClcLI

CALL # STATUS: FIC CARROLL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH CALENDAR

EVERY MONDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	MARCH 16	4:00 P.M.	TEEN STEAM: COMIC CREATIONS
EVERY MONDAY	10:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	MARCH 16	7:00 P.M.	PAJAMA STORYTIME
EVERY THURSDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON BABY RHYME TIME MEMORIAL PARK	MARCH 16	7:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
EVERY THURSDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON BABY RHYME TIME MEMORIAL PARK	MARCH 17	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 RD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
FEBRUARY 28	ALL WEEK	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE	MARCH 19	11:00 A.M.	THEATER 360: ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MARCH 1-31		FOUR LEAF CLOVER HUNT	MARCH 19	3:00 P.M.	3D PRINTING BASICS
MARCH 2	4:00 P.M.	BOARD LIBRARY TEENS	MARCH 21	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: SURVIVAL
MARCH 7	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: SURVIVAL	MARCH 23	4:00-6:00 P.M.	MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS
MARCH 8	4:00 P.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	MARCH 24		BOOKMARK CONTEST ENDS
MARCH 9	4:00 P.M.	TEEN SNACKCHAT			CRAFT IT: YARN ART
MARCH 10	3:00 P.M.	TAILS & TALES	MARCH 26	11:00 A.M.	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE
MARCH 12	11:00 A.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	MARCH 28	ALL WEEK	MINECRAFT: CREATIVE LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
MARCH 14	ALL WEEK	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE	MARCH 28	4:00 P.M.	
MARCH 14	4:00 P.M.	MINECRAFT: CREATIVE	MARCH 28	5:00 P.M.	

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Read, Discover, Connect @ Sierra Madre Public Library

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

LIBRARY HOURS

www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/

Sierra Madre Public Library
440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre (626) 355-7186
TEXT (626) 662-1254

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