



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

July/August 2022

President's Message

Dear Friends and Partners,

The Annual Dinner Meeting was a great success! It was so nice to see everyone in person and being together again. Thank you so much to the committee members **Sharon Murphy, Darlene Traxler, Margaret Quigley, Elizabeth Leahy and Leslie Ziff**. "Stitching Together Our Library Community" was a fitting theme!

I can barely contain my completely ecstatic heart as I type this!! Assembly Member Chris Holden's office successfully advocated an award to the City of Sierra Madre Public Library in the **amount of \$10,000,000!!!!** Thank you so much to Mayor Gene Goss for spear heading this amazing grant and to the City Council for all your efforts. Of course, a big "Thank You" to the Library Board Trustees, Friends, Partners and all of the people that have supported the Library all of these years!

The **Library Parking Improvement Project** to provide angled parking on Sierra Madre Blvd and additional ADA improvements such as the Staff Entrance and Handicapped parking in front of the Library will begin on **Tuesday, July 5**. The Library will remain open during the parking project with construction hours of approximately 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The driveway between Sierra Madre Blvd and the back lot is expected to be closed but the driveway from Mariposa Avenue to the parking lot will remain open for the duration of the project. There will always be a front pathway to the Main Entrance from Sierra Madre Blvd although it may move around as construction progresses.

Our **50th Wine and Cuisine Tasting Benefit**, "The Golden Jubilee of the Friends" event, will take place in the Paddock at Santa Anita Racetrack. Thank you so much to **Leslie Ziff, Pete Siberell, Susan Gallagher and Vicky Ryan** for your endless hours putting this amazing event together.

Hot off the presses, **Martha Troedson** just reported that the **Best Used Book** Internet sales were \$1,415 for the period of April 1-June 30. Great work!! The next Book Sale is tentatively scheduled for **August 5 and 6**.

Lastly, I am very honored and looking forward to serving as the President of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. A special thanks to **Margaret Quigley** for serving as our President and being that person we can always count on. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for any of our events, please reach out to me at 626-202-8502.

Julie Bencosme

50TH ANNUAL WINE AND CUISINE TASTING BENEFIT SAVE THE DATE!

We are excited to announce this year's **50th Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting Benefit** will take place on **Friday, September 23** at the Paddock at Santa Anita Racetrack.



The benefit will include the Premier Event from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. which is limited to 100 guests. The Premier will offer premium wines, specialty foods, door prizes and early access to the Main Event. The Main Event is from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and is limited to 400 guests. The Main Event will offer domestic and international wines and beers, food from fine local restaurants, door prizes, live music, and a Silent Auction. Tickets for the Premier Event are \$100 each and tickets for the Main Event are \$75. The tickets are on sale on Eventbrite and at the Library in mid-July.

Plan to come and enjoy the food from our many restaurants that participate, along with the many wineries that will be represented. Join us for our tasting, auction, music, and just plain fun!

There are opportunities to Volunteer or be an event Sponsor. If you are interested in helping with this event you may contact **Leslie Ziff** at lbziffer@gmail.com or 626-321-7735.



PROGRAMMING NAP FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

The Library will be having a **programming nap for the month of August**. This means there will be very few programs happening. We will return with your regularly scheduled programs in September.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

We're excited to share our **Summer Reading Program** with you for 2022! Starting June 11 to July 30 you can read books to earn prizes. Our display case will feature information about Summer Reading and all the prizes you can win by participating! Prizes can be collected through the end of August.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PERFECTLY PUZZLED: COMMUNITY PUZZLE

Take a break and work on a community puzzle at the Library on **Saturday, July 2 to Saturday, July 30**. Do a little, do a lot! Let's work together to make all the pieces fit.

4TH OF JULY TOTE BAG CRAFT

Ready for Independence Day? Color your own 4th of July themed tote bag at the Library on **Saturday, July 2**, while supplies last.

KIDS CHESS CLUB

Ready to make a move on chess? Learn how to play or challenge our instructor every Saturday in July at 3:00 p.m. Checkmate! No registration required.

READING BUDDIES

Every Monday and Thursday in July from 2:00-4:00 p.m. kids can read with a friendly teen volunteer and work on their literacy skills all summer long!

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*. **Tuesday, July 5** is *The Star Festival* by Moni Ritchie Hadley and **Monday, July 18** is *The Couch Potato* by Jory John. This month is sponsored by the Sierra Madre Community Foundation.

ANIME AFTERNOON

Every Tuesday in July at 5:00 p.m. let's pick an anime series to watch all summer long! You'll even get the first volume of the manga and of course there will be snacks!

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

Immerse yourself in a fantasy world of your own making with the role-playing game of Dungeons & Dragons every Wednesday in July from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 for more information.

3D PRINTING BASICS

On **Saturday, July 9** 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.

TANZAKU MAKING WITH AUTHOR MONI RITCHIE HADLEY

On **Saturday, July 9** at 12:00 p.m. celebrate the Japanese Tanabata Matsuri (The Star Festival) with Moni Ritchie Hadley, author of *The Star Festival*. She will be teaching us the custom of writing wishes down on colorful pieces of paper called tanzaku. No registration required.

MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS: KOTO PLAYER KOZUE MATSUMOTO

Take a relaxing break and stop in for some calming music to soothe the soul with traditional koto player Kozue Matsumoto on **Saturday, July 9** from 1:00-3:00 p.m. No registration required.

NOTEWORTHY PUPPETS: THREE LITTLE PIGS

We've got a special Storytime in July thanks to Noteworthy Puppets! If you're ready to see *Three Little Pigs: The Puppet Musical*, stop by the Library on **Monday, July 11** at 10:00 a.m. and enjoy. Please note: This special performance will replace Monday's Preschool Storytime at Memorial Park.

SEWING MACHINE BASICS

Learn sewing basics with the Library's sewing machine on **Tuesday, July 12** at 11:00 a.m. OR **Wednesday, July 13** at 12:00 p.m. In-person, at the Library. Limited spaces available. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

TEEN UNOFFICIAL BOOK CLUB

On **Tuesday July 12 AND Tuesday, July 26** at 4:00 p.m. read all summer long with us and finish the entire *Folk of the Air* series by Holly Black. Teens can join at any time to read and discuss the series. Snacks will be provided.

BAILEY CANYON NATURE WALK

Meet us at Bailey Canyon for an evening guided nature walk with the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council on **Wednesday, July 13** at 6:00 p.m. Space is limited. Registration required. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

SUMMER SCIENCE WORKSHOP: HYDRO POWER

On **Saturday, July 16** at 11:00 a.m. local teacher Ms. Richey wants to teach you all about science! She will run four science workshops centered on different energy sources in-person at the Library. This workshop is all about water! For school age children. Limited space available. Call 626-355-7186 to be added to the waitlist.

BEGINNING STITCHES

Stitch away the afternoon with Chelsea on **Saturday, July 16 AND Saturday, July 23** at 2:00 p.m. She'll be teaching adults how to cross stitch succulent designs. Space is limited. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

SUMMER SCIENCE WORKSHOP: WIND POWER

On **Saturday, July 23** at 11:00 a.m. local teacher Ms. Richey wants to teach you all about science! She will run four science workshops centered on different energy sources in-person at the Library. The final workshop is all about wind! For school age children. Limited space available. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

DIGITAL SERVICES MEET AND GREET

On **Wednesday, July 27** at 11:00 a.m. OR at 2:00 p.m. learn all about our digital services available with your library card. Not only do we have Libby for e-books and audiobooks, but you can take online courses, help build your resume, and engage in LinkedIn career training all for free with your library card. Stop by anytime to learn how to navigate these services and more!

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

Drop off your stuffed animal on **Thursday, July 28** so they can have a sleepover! Then on **Saturday, July 30** at 10:00 a.m. enjoy breakfast with your cuddly best friend while seeing a slideshow of all their slumber party adventures (and shenanigans).

CRAFT IT!: TEDDY BEAR TOWEL

On **Saturday, July 30** at 11:00 a.m. learn to roll, fold, and twist a tiny towel to make a Teddy Bear!

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT MEMORIAL PARK

Preschool Storytime is at Memorial Park on Mondays in July 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 in July 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

TAILS AND TALES

On **Thursday, July 14** from 3:30-4:30 p.m. school age children will get the chance to improve their reading skills by reading a book to a therapy dog in the Library. Special thanks to Love on a Leash and Pet Partners for sharing their animals with us.

PAJAMA STORYTIME

Tune in on Zoom for a live Bedtime Storytime on **Wednesday, July 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, July 21** at 11:00 a.m. we're discussing *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys on Zoom. On **Thursday, August 18** at 11:00 a.m. we're discussing *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

The June Best Used Book Sale was so successful that we set a New World's Record! It was the highest total EVER for our regular two-day sale...**\$2,550.45!** For the first time in two years, we were able to open the basement to shoppers... and they shopped! Our higher priced books from the basement nearly flew out the door and the parking lot Bargain Books went just as fast. Thank you to all the Friends for donating gently used books in such wonderful condition!

It looks like our net earnings for the fiscal year will top \$22,500. What a testament to the hard work of the committee who work year-round to sort, price, shelve and tote boxes of books. Many thanks to our Basement crews who come often: Jeff Brown, Anne Vaughan, Wendy McHenry, Janet Gillespie, Joan Spears, Connie Luder, and Tania Makshanoff. And of course, to the fabulous set-up and clean-up crews who spend many hot hours out on the parking lot making sure all is ready: Jeff Brown, Pete Siberell, Alan Himmelfarb, Jackson Goudikian, Dennis Murphy, Joe Crowley, Janet Gillespie, Jeff & Vincent Shaw, and David Jones. And last but not least, thanks to the list of wonderful and skilled cashiers who are eager to talk about books and help out each time, we couldn't do it without all of you!

The **August 5 and 6** sale is still in the planning stages, depending on the construction at the Library. More information will be available later.

PARTNERS PROGRAM

As our fiscal year comes to a close, and a new cycle begins, we would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you all for participating in the Partners Program. The generosity you have shown goes above and beyond – and our Library, the Library staff and our community as a whole all benefit from that incredible generosity. Simply put, and it's been mentioned before in this monthly paragraph of appreciation - that it takes a village, and what an incredible village we have! Sincere thanks to Rod & Joan Spears for your renewal, and to all of you that have renewed this year! This year we have also seen tremendous growth in the program, as we welcomed 14 new Partners! And we extend a warm welcome to Richard & Darlene Crook and Debbie Schweiner, our latest new additions!

So, as we head in to the warm, lazy days of Summer, remember to stop by the Library, participate in a program or two (or three or four) and enjoy all that the Library has to offer - and that's only possible because of you! Thank you all once again for renewing your commitment, for becoming a Partner and tell a friend to join! If you need any information, please feel free to email me at hawksmom87@yahoo.com.

MARY TUMILTY FUND

The Mary Tumilty Fund, which was established by the Friends and named after long-time City Librarian Mary Tumilty, continues to provide needed support for the Library, since its inception 38 years ago! Over the years the Mary Tumilty Fund has contributed to such projects as the renovation of the Children's Library, the Building Fund, as well as funding the purchase of and updates to computer equipment and audio-visual materials. We thank all who have and continue to contribute to the Mary Tumilty Fund, especially Barbara Bellano for your recent donation!

APPRECIATION – SOMMER LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION

Monies in the Sommer Library Scholarship Fund are used to help provide professional training and staff development for library and information professionals. The Sommer Scholarship Fund was founded by John Sommer and Cynthia Hicks on December 31, 1991 through a deed of trust. The two former residents of Sierra Madre valued our Library and established the fund for the purpose of furthering the education of our library staff.

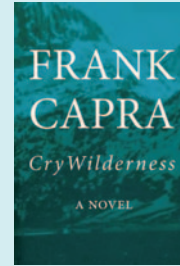
We thank Barbara Bellano, who recently made a donation to the Sommer Library Scholarship Fund. If you would like to donate to this fund, make out a check to The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, write "Sommer Library Scholarship Fund" in the memo line, and mail your check to The Friends of the Sierra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

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

This month we received four generous donations to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's General Fund. One donation was to acknowledge the Friends outstanding Best Used Book Sales. Two donations were in memory of Jerry Carlton, a long-time member of the Friends, whose contributions as a member of the Friends Board were many. What a wonderful way to recognize the work of those who donate so much time and talent to support our Library.

We'd like to thank The Buccaneer Lounge, Janet Haley, Darragh Huggins, and Sharon Marsh for their donations to the General Fund. 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.

READER'S REVIEW



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

Cry Wilderness

By Frank Capra

If the name Frank Capra is new to you or you can't recall in what context you know the name, I recommend that you don't read this book; instead go to the Capra film

file and check out any two of his 1930s films. *Cry* rains with purple prose, clichéd Hollywood characters of good and evil, a wondering organization, highlighted by an uncertain beginning; in short: *Cry* needed a savvy editor's surgical blue pencil. Frank Capra writing fiction as revealed in *Cry* was not his forte. Making movies: that was the Capra touch during the 1930s and 1940s.

But, if you are familiar with his films and can abide the writing, take a stab at *Cry Wilderness* because it makes a study in continuity from his films to this novel. *Cry* does recall themes that Capra broached and pursued during the two decades of cinematic triumphs noted above. The natural intelligence and decency of the common man who, pitted against sophisticated opposition mounted by wealthy, corrupt political people - persons in power - will prevail. In *Cry Wilderness*, readers find the narrator, Frank Capra [sic!], a successful Hollywood studio figure, trades the dollar-driven, politically corrupt world of corporate film studios of southern California for the restorative peace found on the east side of the Sierra Nevada mountains. In real life, Capra owned a cabin in the June Lake Bridgeport region of Mono County where *Cry* is set. Narrator Capra imagines a life of fly fishing, hiking, and reading and simply revering the Sierra wilderness; indeed, the title becomes a short-hand lament for the very issue that Capra is beginning to morn: his threatened Wilderness. (I like to think that the wished-for savvy editor might have proposed an alternate title, something like: *Cry for the Beloved Threatened Wilderness*). But, quickly in the novel Capra, the character, becomes involved with a kind-hearted sheriff who ignores the direction of his chief by caring for a couple of eccentric hermits whose loopy but harmless ways are thought to compromise the prospective financial interests of a group of real estate entrepreneurs seeking to build hotels, ski lifts and the like. Local politicians take sides reflecting the interests of developers. Nothing new here as Capra, the real-life film script writer, producer and director has shown in such 1930s films as *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *Meet John Doe* among others. The novel ends in what is for Capra an uncharacteristic way.

Capra is thought to have drafted *Cry Wilderness* around 1966 remaining unknown until published in 2018. Born in rural Sicily in 1897, Capra immigrated with his illiterate family to Los Angeles around 1903. After high school, he studied engineering and mathematics at what is now Caltech. During college, the Capra family moved to Sierra Madre where father Capra oversaw the management of a citrus orchard. The house in which the family is thought to have lived is still standing at 735 Canyon Crest.

CALL # STATUS: NEW BOOKS FICTION CAPRA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JULY AND AUGUST CALENDAR

EVERY MONDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	JULY 16	11:00 A.M.	SUMMER SCIENCE WORKSHOP: HYDRO POWER
EVERY MONDAY	10:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON STORYTIME MEMORIAL PARK	JULY 16	2:00 P.M.	BEGINNING STITCHES
EVERY MONDAY	2:00-4:00 P.M.	READING BUDDIES	JULY 16	3:00 P.M.	KIDS CHESS CLUB
EVERY THURSDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON BABY RHYME TIME MEMORIAL PARK	JULY 18	ALL WEEK	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE
EVERY THURSDAY	2:00-4:00 P.M.	READING BUDDIES	JULY 19	5:00 P.M.	ANIME AFTERNOON
JULY 2-30		PERFECTLY PUZZLED: COMMUNITY PUZZLE	JULY 20	3:00 P.M.	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
JULY 2	ALL DAY	4 TH OF JULY TOTE BAG CRAFT	JULY 20	7:00 P.M.	PAJAMA STORYTIME
JULY 2	3:00 P.M.	KIDS CHESS CLUB	JULY 21	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 RD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
JULY 4	4 TH OF JULY	LIBRARY CLOSED	JULY 23	11:00 A.M.	SUMMER SCIENCE WORKSHOP: WIND POWER
JULY 5	ALL WEEK	WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE	JULY 23	2:00 P.M.	BEGINNING STITCHES
JULY 5	5:00 P.M.	ANIME AFTERNOON	JULY 23	3:00 P.M.	KIDS CHESS CLUB
JULY 6	3:00 P.M.	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	JULY 25	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
JULY 9	11:00 A.M.	3D PRINTING BASICS	JULY 26	4:00 P.M.	TEEN UNOFFICIAL BOOK CLUB
JULY 9	12:00 P.M.	TANZAKU MAKING WITH AUTHOR MONI RITCHIE HADLEY	JULY 26	5:00 P.M.	ANIME AFTERNOON
JULY 9	1:00-3:00 P.M.	MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS	JULY 27	11:00 A.M.	DIGITAL SERVICES MEET & GREET
JULY 9	3:00 P.M.	KIDS CHESS CLUB	JULY 27	2:00 P.M.	DIGITAL SERVICES MEET & GREET
JULY 11	10:00 A.M.	NOTEWORTHY PUPPETS: THREE LITTLE PIGS	JULY 27	3:00 P.M.	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
JULY 12	11:00 A.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	JULY 28	ALL DAY	STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER DROP OFF
JULY 12	4:00 P.M.	TEEN UNOFFICIAL BOOK CLUB	JULY 30		SIERRA MADRE SUPER SUMMER READING PROGRAM ENDS
JULY 12	5:00 P.M.	ANIME AFTERNOON	JULY 30	10:00 A.M.	STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER BREAKFAST
JULY 13	12:00 NOON	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	JULY 30	11:00 A.M.	CRAFT IT!: TEDDY BEAR TOWEL
JULY 13	3:00 P.M.	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	JULY 30	3:00 P.M.	KIDS CHESS CLUB
JULY 13	6:00 P.M.	BAILEY CANYON NATURE WALK	AUGUST 5	3:00-7:00 P.M.	BEST USED BOOK SALE (TENTATIVE)
JULY 14	3:30 P.M.	TAILS & TALES	AUGUST 6	10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.	BEST USED BOOK SALE (TENTATIVE)
			AUGUST 17	7:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
			AUGUST 18	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 RD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
			AUGUST 22	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

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/

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