



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

March 2023

President's Message

Dear Friends and Partners,

I don't remember the weather ever being this cold and getting this much rain! I guess this is the perfect time to be curled up on the couch under a blanket with a great book! I am really enjoying our "One Book One City" book *Flying Free* by Cecilia Aragon. Such an inspirational story! I want to extend a special thanks to Committee Members Catherine Addé, Marta Capoccia, Julie Imahara, Rich Procter, Leila Regan, Jane Zamanzadeh, and Barry and Leslie Ziff. It was an awesome month of activities organized by this great group.

We are so excited to announce that the "Partner Recognition Display" will be ready and up at the Library next month. It is our small way of recognizing and saying "Thank you" to all of our amazing Partners. Stop by and see your name while you are visiting the Library. If you know someone who would like to be a Partner, reach out to me, or visit our website www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org.

The Friends **Sierra Madre Art Fair** will be held at the Memorial Park on **May 6 and 7**. I have absolutely missed this Sierra Madre tradition and I am so excited that it is back! The featured artist for this year's event will be **Suzanne Kustner**. When Suzanne is not busy creating beautiful designs, she is teaching classes at Sierra Madre Creative Arts Group. The Friends thank you for your patience and we are anxiously waiting to see your work on display. There will be other art from very talented artists, kid's activities, music, a silent auction and a variety of food trucks!!

It gives me so much joy to be a part of this very awesome group! If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for Friends or any of our events, please reach out to me at 626-202-8502.

Julie Bencosme

58TH ANNUAL SIERRA MADRE ART FAIR FEATURED ARTIST HAS BEEN SELECTED



The Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library are proud to announce that the Featured Artist for the 58th Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair is **Suzanne Kustner**.

Suzanne holds a BA degree in Education with a minor in Art from California State University, Los Angeles, and has taught enameling at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre since 1979. She also was an art consultant for the Duarte School District for 10 years.

She began her enameling career in 1970 and has taken classes and studied with many internationally known enamelists. Suzanne is a member of the National Enamelist Society and several regional guilds. She has won numerous awards for her work, including exhibiting in the prestigious National Silver Competition sponsored by the major silver companies in the United States. She participated in the celebrated 1993 'Year of the American Craftsman.' Her enamels were displayed in the Fine Arts Building of the L.A. County Fair and she was chosen to be one of the demonstrating artists in the main hall. Her enamels have been chosen to be included 5 times in the National Enameling Society's biannual Juried Exhibitions.

Two of her enamels were included in the 2009 Lark Book '500 Enamelled Objects' and her gold beads were also included in the 2014 Lark Book '1000 Beads.'

Suzanne participates in several Art Festivals during the year – The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair and Creative Arts Group Annual Art Festival.

Her work can presently be seen on display and for sale at: The Freehand Gallery in Los Angeles; the ACCI Gallery in Berkeley, CA., and The Jamison Gallery at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre, CA and she now has pieces in the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts and the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

Suzanne continues to teach enameling at Creative Arts Group.

This year's Art Fair is being held in Memorial Park on **Saturday, May 6**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and **Sunday, May 7**, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by Suzanne's booth (#9) to admire and purchase her inspiring creations.

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 each month. Beginning on **Monday, February 27** you can read *She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History* by Chelsea Clinton. This title is sponsored by The Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

From **Wednesday, March 1 to Thursday, March 31** strengthen connections during Women's History Month when you stop into the Library and add a link to our growing paper chain comprised of the names and/or images of women you admire. Write or draw about a woman who inspired you and connect it to the many other women in history who have paved the way.

ASTRONOMY IN THE PARK

On **Wednesday, March 1** from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. join us at Memorial Park for an up close view of the Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus! Old Town Sidewalk Astronomers will set up shop in Memorial Park along Hermosa Ave between the covered picnic area and the playground. Learn about what populates our skies around this time of year. No registration required. Fun for all ages! ****Please Note:** If it is raining or cloudy, this program will be move to **Monday, March 6** at Memorial Park from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

3D PRINTING BASICS

Learn how we do our in-Library 3D prints in this beginner workshop on **Saturday, March 4** at 12:00 p.m. In-person, at the Library. No registration required.

SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMARK CONTEST

Kids, in Grades K-8, can flex their creative muscles with this year's Bookmark Contest. Draw and write about the Wonders of Reading! Original entries may be turned in to the Library from **Monday, March 6 until Thursday, April 13**. No late entries accepted.

Winning entries will showcase people, places, or things that depict the discovery and enjoyment of reading.

Winners will be announced at an award ceremony on **Wednesday, April 26** at 6:00 p.m. during National Library Week, April 23-29. Select winning bookmarks will be distributed during the Sierra Madre Super Summer.

CRICUT WORKSHOP

Learn to use the Cricut with a Library staff member on **Tuesday, March 7** at 4:00 p.m. No registration required.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PUBLIC LIBRARY JOINT TOWN HALL MEETING

Fellow Sierra Madre residents and business owners are encouraged to register and attend this Town Hall Meeting on **Thursday, March 9** at 5:30 p.m. at the Sierra Madre Public Library to learn about current community services and public library offerings, programs, and services and to discuss how these departments can meet the future needs of Sierra Madre. Thank you to Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Kriebs for presiding over this Joint Town Hall Meeting.

The City of Sierra Madre wants to hear your voice on matters that affect you!

- Masks are not required, but are strongly recommended.
- Please check in with a staff member upon arrival for the Town Hall Meeting.
- Plan for a brief presentation from each department followed by breakout sessions for in-depth discussions.
- Light refreshments will be available.

Register on Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/joint-sierra-madre-community-services-public-library-town-hall-meeting-tickets-532338848827>

SEWING MACHINE BASICS

Learn sewing basics with the Library's sewing machine on **Wednesday, March 15** at 2:00 p.m. OR **Thursday, March 16** at 3:00 p.m. In-person, at the Library. Limited spaces available. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

PSYCHIC BUSTER

On **Saturday, March 18** at 11:00 a.m. join Psychic Buster on a wild journey through magic, illusion, and the mysteries of the mind. No registration required.

DIGITAL SERVICES MEET AND GREET

On **Saturday, March 18** from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. learn all about our free digital services available with your library card. Not only do we have Libby for eBooks and audiobooks, and Kanopy for streaming movies, TV Shows, and documentaries, but also you can take online courses, help build your

resume, and engage in LinkedIn career training all free with your library card. Drop in and learn how to navigate these services and more!

1-2-3D PRINTING WORKSHOP

Learn the skills needed to *independently* use the Library's 3D printer on **Tuesday, March 23** at 3:00 p.m. Limited spaces available. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

CRAFT IT!: ORIGAMI BUTTERFLIES

On **Saturday, March 25** at 11:00 a.m. learn to fold paper into beautiful origami butterflies. All material provided, while supplies last.

MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS: PIANIST ALAN GEIER

Take a relaxing break and stop in for some calming music to soothe the soul with pianist Alan Geier on **Saturday, March 25** from 1:00-3:00 p.m. No registration required.

PIXELATED ART

On **Monday, March 27** at 3:30 p.m. school-age kids can get creative with perler/fuse beads and create their own pixelated art. No registration required.

TEEN AWFUL MOVIE NIGHT

What could be better than watching a great movie? Well, watching an awful movie with friends of course! Pizza, popcorn and BOBA help too! Teens are invited to this exclusive event on **Thursday, March 30** from 6:00-8:00 p.m. where they can watch and discuss the merits of good vs. awful movies while connecting with other teens and enjoying tasty snacks.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

BABY RHYME TIME AT THE SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join us at the Sierra Madre Public Library for Baby Rhyme Time on Mondays 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. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 for more information. No registration required. **** Please note the day and location change.**

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT THE SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Preschool Storytime happens in the Children's Room at the Sierra Madre Public Library on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. Kids, Ages 3-5, can engage with stories, songs, and more. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 for more information. No registration required. ****Please note the location change.**

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

BOARD LIBRARY TEENS

Calling all teens! Help the Library plan appropriate teen events while serving your community. Join the Board Library Teens and volunteer for service hours on **Wednesday, March 1** at 4:00 p.m. and on the first Wednesday of every month during the school year.

TEEN SNACKCHAT

Are you a teen who loves to chat about books and eat snacks? Then come to the Library for Snackchat on **Wednesday, March 8** at 4:00 p.m. In March, we'll be discussing *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel* by Firoozeh Dumas and handing out copies of our next book.

TAILS AND TALES

On **Thursday, March 9** 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 for sharing their animals with us.

ANIME AFTERNOON

Teens and tweens, watch an anime series together on **Wednesday, March 15** at 4:00 p.m. You'll even get a free first volume of the manga and of course there will be snacks. For Ages 12 years old and up. No registration required.

PAJAMA STORYTIME

Tune in on Zoom for a live Bedtime Storytime on **Wednesday, March 15** 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 16** at 11:00 a.m. we are discussing, on Zoom, *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

SOMMER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the Sierra Madre Public Library's own, **Chelsea Lee** and **Shannon McDermott**, recipients of this year's Sommer Scholarship!

Chelsea Lee is a full-time Library Technician I, working toward her Master in Library and Information Science degree at San Jose State University, with an expected graduation date of May, 2025.

"I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the Sierra Madre Public Library Sommer Scholarship Committee for their continued support in my goal to obtain a Masters in Library and Information Science. This scholarship helps relieve some financial burden so I can concentrate on my studies. My education enables me to take what I have learned and apply it to better serving the wonderful Sierra Madre community."

Shannon McDermott is a part-time Associate Librarian and graduated December 2022 from San Jose State University with a Master in Library and Information Science degree.

"This opportunity to further my education and improve my skills as a librarian has helped me to better serve the needs of patrons of the Sierra Madre Public Library. It has also personally been a very fulfilling chance to learn and grow. I look forward to many more years of engaging with patrons and growing in my profession, due in a large part to your efforts."

Thank you to the Sommer Scholarship committee, which consists of Library Board of Trustee Susan Gallagher, Library Board of Trustee Leigh Gluck, Friends of the Library Treasurer Darlene Traxler, and City Librarian Leila Regan, for supporting the staff of the Sierra Madre Public Library's educational goals.

BEST USED BOOK SALE

Sales from the February Best Used Book Sale earned our highest total ever, **\$2,973.50!** Added to presales of \$1,440.97, we have sold **\$4,414.47** since the December sale. Congratulations and many thanks to the Friends who donate books in such good condition. We are always working in the basement on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00-11:00 a.m. to receive your books.

We are still in need of large brown grocery bags for the **April 7 and 8** sale and they may be left in the stairwell behind the Library at any time.

You may have noticed that the city has restored the Free Bench behind the Library. Please help us keep that area neat and orderly; it adds to our duties to have to clean up out there. Also, if your books are in good condition, consider leaving them in the stairwell as a donation. Even if they don't get into our sale, we are also selling to a wholesaler which is even more money for our Library! Thank You!

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Partners donations provide funds for youth and adult programs and for special projects the Library staff undertakes. These funds go a long way in helping to enhance our ability to make our Library be the best it can be in providing resources and programs that positively impact its many patrons.

We are grateful to the following Partners who have renewed their annual commitment during the months of January and February: Andy & Julie Bencosme, Prudence Levine, Sharon & Dennis Murphy, Sharon & Bill Ramsey, Marianne & Pete Siberell, and Darlene Traxler. And we are excited to welcome two new Partners who are connecting with us in this very important way: Neha Vaghasia and Deborah Rohm Young.

Membership in the Partners is at three levels depending upon your annual donation. The **Partners Level** is for those contributing \$100 each year; at the **Silver Level** for those contributing \$250 each year; and at the **Gold Level** for those who contribute \$500 or more annually. If you would like to become a Partner, please mail you donation to Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, Partners Program, P.O. Box 334, Sierra Madre, CA 91025. Kindly write "Partners" in the memo line and indicate your level of commitment. Thank you.

LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE

The Library's display case will feature the Sierra Madre Public Library 2023 Bookmark Contest.

READER'S REVIEW



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

Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America

By Steven J. Ross

Hitler and his propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, were film buffs; their appetites ran to popular movies with happy endings set in natural settings; simple plots; girls with braids wearing dirndls; obedient children; and men sporting leder hosen. Beyond the schmaltz, however, they also believed that movies had the potential to abet the Nazi message of a new Germany based in part—a virulent part—on anti-Semitism. Although Germany had a robust film industry when Hitler took power in 1933, it was Hollywood that was the gold standard for film production, worldwide film distribution, and potential to persuade fellow travelers to join and serve the Nazi cause; that is *Deutschland ueber alles*. To Goebbels, Hollywood was largely shaped and driven by Jews whose anti-Nazi postures would become manifest in the American films. Eradicating Jewish influence from Hollywood films while taking over the industry made greater Los Angeles, then, the most important American city in the eyes of both men.

Within months after taking power in Germany in late January 1933, Hitler began sending spies, propaganda, money as well as secret orders through Los Angeles, from there to be distributed throughout America. Think of L.A. as the Reich's Fifth column. Out of this came a wide range of plans for the killing of prominent Jewish actors and others in the film industry, bombing of American munitions factories, and a host of other terrorist acts. With a German born population of more than 150,000 and Polish and Austrians with a combined population of 40,000, greater Los Angeles presented an attractive recruiting opportunity for Nazi agents.

But, Nazi spies and recruiters both in Germany and in America had not considered a home grown response to their vulgar, violent, and racist rhetoric and actions. This came in the person of Wisconsin-born Leon Lewis who arrived in Los Angeles from Chicago in 1931. Lewis brought with him a law degree, military service during World War I and a keen interest in and concern for Jewish life and culture; in Chicago he worked for the Anti-Defamation League where he tracked the growth of Hitler and his Nazi followers abroad and in the U.S. If Los Angeles was an attractive arena for expanding the Nazi message; it was also proved fertile ground for ADL veterans to establish spy networks of their own; and this was precisely what Lewis successfully accomplished.

Maps of L.A. locate important Nazi meeting houses, addresses of prominent Nazi leaders and a dozen sympathetic fascist organizations. A register of names of who was who on each side of the divide: Nazi hunters and Nazi persons alike, and fascists, help sort out the tangled web of spies both good and evil.

Author Steven J. Ross is a well decorated historian at the University of Southern California who has shown his wide scholarly light on various aspects of the American film industry including *Working Class Hollywood*, *Movies and American Society* and *Hollywood Left and Right: How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics*. *Hitler in Los Angeles* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

CALL # STATUS: 979.494 ROSS NONFICTION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH CALENDAR

EVERY MONDAY	9:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON AT THE LIBRARY BABY RHYME TIME	MARCH 15	4:00 P.M.	ANIME AFTERNOON
EVERY MONDAY	10:00 A.M.	IN-PERSON AT THE LIBRARY STORYTIME	MARCH 15	7:00 P.M.	PAJAMA STORYTIME
FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 31		WALK THIS WAY STORY ADVENTURE	MARCH 15	7:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
MARCH 1-31		WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PAPER CHAIN	MARCH 16	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 RD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
MARCH 1	4:00 P.M.	BOARD LIBRARY TEENS	MARCH 16	3:00 P.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS
MARCH 1	6:00 P.M.	ASTRONOMY IN THE PARK	MARCH 18	11:00 A.M.	PSYCHIC BUSTER
MARCH 4	12:00 P.M.	3D PRINTING BASICS	MARCH 18	12 NOON	DIGITAL SERVICES MEET & GREET
MARCH 6-APRIL 13		LIBRARY'S BOOKMARK CONTEST	MARCH 19	9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOOTH AT WISTARIA FESTIVAL
MARCH 7	4:00 P.M.	CRICUT WORKSHOP	MARCH 23	3:00 P.M.	1-2-3D PRINTING WORKSHOP
MARCH 8	4:00 P.M.	TEEN SNACKCHAT	MARCH 25	11:00 A.M.	CRAFT IT!: ORIGAMI BUTTERFLIES
MARCH 9	3:30 P.M.	TAILS & TALES	MARCH 25	1:00-3:00 P.M.	MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS
MARCH 9	5:30 P.M.	COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC LIBRARY JOINT TOWN HALL MEETING	MARCH 27	3:30 P.M.	PIXELATED ART
			MARCH 27	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
MARCH 15	2:00 P.M.	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	MARCH 30	6:00 P.M.	TEEN AWFUL MOVIE NIGHT

Read, Discover, Connect @ Sierra Madre Public Library

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