



FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

June 2025

President's Message

Dear Members and Partners,

In spite of the rain, the Friends of the Library was able to have a very successful **Art Fair** on May 3-4 – lots of energy and determination went into the planning and staffing.

June is now here and we, the Friends of the Library Board, will be hosting the yearly gathering celebrating and thanking all of you – Members, Partners, and Volunteers. There would be no Board, Friends, or support for the Library without each and every one of you. You all are an integral part of the Library's new renovations and refurbishing.

'Bear With Us' is being held **Wednesday, June 18** at Hertzell Memorial Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. See the Invitation on Page 3 for more details. Invitations have been sent both by email and snail mail. In spite of heroic efforts to be sure everyone receives the invitation, sometimes someone is missed. Please **RSVP** to **Vicky Ryan** by **Friday, June 13**.

In addition to thanking our volunteers, there will be an update on what is happening with and at the Library and approval of the 2025-2026 proposed Board of Directors will also take place.

This is such an exciting time and an experience most of us never have – the planning of the "new" Library. Each time you walk into the Library or hear about it, remember this all is possible with your support and of course, the hard work of our library staff led by the amazing **City Librarian Leila Regan**.

I am so happy to be "back" and involved with the Board and honored to be your President. I want to thank everyone on the Board, especially Vicky Ryan, for "taking care of business" while I was recovering. Do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions and concerns.

Jeanne Martin
jmartin234@aol.com
or 626-893-4540

BOOKMARK CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of the annual Library Bookmark Contest were announced during an award ceremony held on Wednesday, April 30 in the Sierra Madre City Council Chambers. A total of 207 students who live in Sierra Madre, go to school in town, or have a Sierra Madre Library card entered this year's contest themed, "Love My Sierra Madre."



Four of the winning bookmarks were selected for printing and announced by special guests: Mayor Robert Parkhurst, Library Board of Trustee Chair Diane Sands, Friends 1st VP Governance Vicky Ryan, and City Manager Jose Reynoso.

Thank you to our sponsoring organizations who made this contest possible: Sierra Madre Community Foundation, Mountain Views News, Sierra Madre Woman's Club, Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club, Sierra Madre Civic Club and the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

Winning artwork is on display in the Library's Children's Room at 350 W. Sierra Madre Blvd and selected bookmarks are available at the Library.

Contest winners are:

Kindergarten –1st place: Caleb Shafferman (Printed); 2nd place: Mila Chang-Quezada

First Grade –1st place: Everett Holyfield; 2nd place: Delilah Miranda

Second Grade –1st place: Audrey Griffin; 2nd place: Sarah Menke

Third Grade –1st place: Sophia Spears (Printed); 2nd place: Winslow Coppersmith

Fourth Grade –1st place: Clara Christiansen; 2nd place: Gerald Garza

Fifth Grade –1st place: Amanda Spears; 2nd place: Cassidy Scott

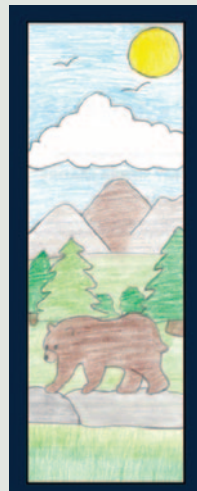
Sixth Grade –1st place: Alina Kwo (Printed); 2nd place: Leon Ban

Seventh Grade –1st place: PJ Altruz (Printed); 2nd place: Alicia Dixon

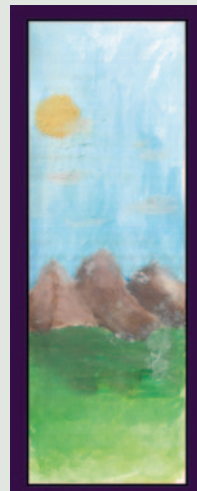
Eighth Grade –1st place: Scarlett De Santiago



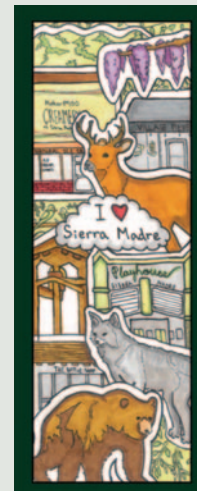
Caleb Shafferman



Sophia Spears



Alina Kwo



PJ Altruz

SPECIAL EVENTS

WALK THIS WAY: A STORY ADVENTURE

Stretch your legs at Memorial Park while engaging in some early literacy, with a new picture book featured each month. Our June title is sponsored by the Sierra Madre Civic Club.

COMMUNITY MOSAIC ART

From **Monday, June 2 to Monday, June 30** celebrate all month long with a sticker art project the whole family will enjoy. Work on it as much or as little as you would like during your Library visits in June. No registration required.

SUMMER READING KICKOFF! THOR'S REPTILES

On **Saturday, June 7** at 10:00 a.m. at Sierra Vista Park – 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd – celebrate with us as we kick off our Sierra Madre Super Summer



in the best way possible, with reptiles! Fun for all ages! Enjoy a family-friendly, hands-on, entertaining, and educational program featuring arthropods, amphibians and reptiles of all sizes, while learning about the animals presented. No registration required

SIERRA MADRE SUPER SUMMER READING PROGRAM! FUN FOR EVERYONE!

From **Saturday, June 7 to Saturday, July 26** make your 2025 Summer dog-gone special! Grab a Sierra Madre Super Summer Reading postcard and read all summer long. Redeem your postcard at the Library for prizes! Kids, feel like challenging yourself? Then keep reading for an extra surprise.

Operation Support Local Sierra Madre – fill in 20 activities on your Sierra Madre Super Summer postcard and grab a free prize at the Library. Supporting local includes attending a free community event, visiting a park, exploring a local museum, or supporting a local business.

READING BUDDIES

Every Monday and Thursday starting **June 9** from 3:30-5:30 p.m. school age kids can read with a friendly teen volunteer and work on their literacy skills all summer long! No registration required.

TEEN: KNIT TOGETHER

On **Tuesday, June 10** and **Tuesday, June 24** at 4:30 p.m. learn how to cast on, and other basic knitting stitches while snacking on some delicious treats! Expert knitter Genevieve Miller will share her knowledge with you. Sessions take place at the Hart Park House. All materials provided. Registration required.

SENSORY PLAY

On **Thursday, June 12** and **Thursday, June 26** from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. join us for sensory-

friendly play designated for neurodivergent children from Birth to Age 11. Children with sensory processing challenges, autism spectrum disorder, and/or ADHD among others can enjoy the library in a less stimulating environment. Sensory toys will be set up for exploratory play and are acquired thanks to generous donations from our community.

Registration is required to help maintain attendance levels. Walk-ins will be welcomed day-of until maximum attendance number is reached. Call 626-355-7186 to register or register on Eventbrite.

SHELF STORIES BOOK CLUB

On **Thursday, June 12** from 6:30-7:30 p.m. we are taking a book off a different shelf each month for a new book club this summer. Shelf Stories will feature a book from a different genre each month. In June its romance book *Funny Story* by Emily Henry.

The book club takes place at the Sierra Madre Public Library after hours at 6:30 p.m. and is for adults 18 and over. Snacks and refreshments provided. Registration requested.

SUMMER SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

On **Saturday, June 14** at 10:00 a.m. local teacher, Ms. Richey wants to teach you all about science and robots! She will run three science workshops centered on different types of robots.

In the first workshop kids will learn to build a scribble bot. For school age children. Limited space available. Workshop will be held in the Memorial Park Pavilion. Registration required.

On **Saturday June 28** at 10:00 a.m. in the second workshop, kids will learn to build a reptile bot. For school age children. Limited space available. Workshop will be held in the Memorial Park Pavilion. Registration required.

SIP N' SHUSH: SILENT BOOK CLUB

Read together in this quiet book club on **Saturday, June 14** from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at RT Rogers Brewing Co. – 38 E. Montecito Ave. Bring something to read, grab a drink (water counts) and settle in for an hour of dedicated reading. For those who like a little beverage with their book. Registration requested but not required.

BUBBLEMANIA

On **Monday, June 16** at 10:00 a.m. join us at the Memorial Park Bandshell for a family-friendly bubble event presented by Bubblemania. This will be in place of our regular Monday morning programs. We also will have bookworm face painting by Library Board Trustee Diane Sands. No registration required.

CHRISTOPHER T. MAGICIAN

On **Saturday, June 21** at 10:00 a.m. join us at the Memorial Park Bandshell for a family-friendly magic show presented by Christopher T. Magician. Audiences can expect to interact, shout, help, and participate in this engaging magic show. No registration required.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

BABY RHYME TIME AT 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

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT 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.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS 3D PRINTING BASICS

On **Saturday, June 14** at 12:00 p.m. learn how we do our in-Library 3D prints in this beginner workshop. In-person, at the Library. No registration required.

TAILS AND TALES

On **Wednesday, June 18** 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.

ZOOM PAJAMA STORYTIME

Tune in on Zoom for a live Bedtime Storytime on **Wednesday, June 18** at 7:00 p.m. We'll have a scavenger hunt, show and tell, and of course listen to some stories. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

ZOOM THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

On **Thursday, June 19** at 11:00 a.m. participants will discuss, *The Psychology of Money* by Morgan Housel. Live on Zoom. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

DIGITAL SERVICES MEET AND GREET

On **Saturday, June 28** from 1:00-2:00 p.m. learn how to sign up for important local alerts through NIXLE, Smart911, Genasys, and Watch Duty. No registration required.

SEWING MACHINE BASICS

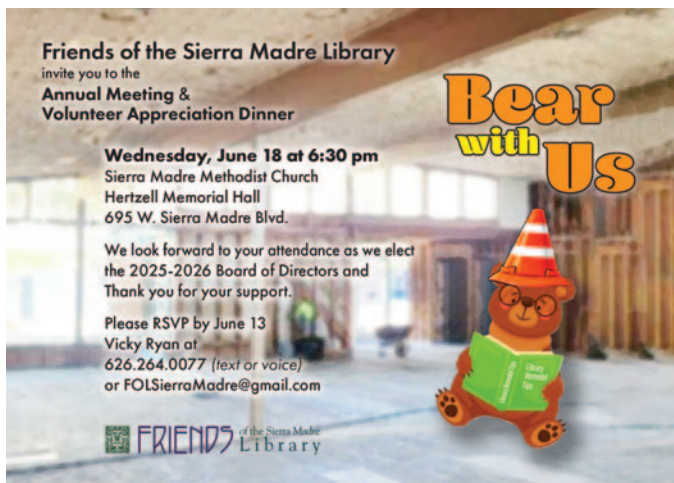
Learn sewing basics with the Library's sewing machine. In-person, at the Library. Limited spaces available. Call 626-355-7186 to register.

1-2-3D PRINTING WORKSHOP

Learn the skills needed to independently use the Library's 3D printer. Call 626-355-7186 to schedule a day and time to learn.

CRICUT WORKSHOP

Learn how to use Cricut with a Library staff member. Call 626-355-7186 to schedule a day and time to learn.



BEST USED BOOK SALE

We're looking forward to the next Best Used Book Sale, scheduled for **Friday, June 6** (3:00 – 7:00 p.m.) and **Saturday, June 7** (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) We'll have the parking lot at the Temporary Library set up with our "Table" books which are in pristine condition and cover a wide selection of genres. Look for beautiful Art books, Cookbooks and Contemporary Fiction as well as a great selection of Children's and Teen books.

In addition, the "Bargain" section of the parking lot features hundreds of books for only \$1.00. These include Fiction and Non-fiction volumes, newer and vintage. Small paperbacks are 25 cents or 5/\$1.00; Children's and Teens are priced from 50 cents – \$1.00. We're also featuring media choices of DVDs and CDs for \$1.00 and audio books for \$3.00: such great bargains on newer releases. Look for the jigsaw puzzles too, from 100 to 2,000 pieces!

Remember our famous **\$5.00 BAG SALE SATURDAY ONLY**. All the Bargain books and media you can stuff into a large grocery bag for only \$5.00! Join our knowledgeable volunteers and your savvy shopping neighbors at the June sale.

PARTNERS PROGRAM

Partners support the Library with an annual contribution at the **Partners** (\$100 or more), **Silver** (\$250 or more), or **Gold** (\$500 or more) **Level**. Money from the Partners Fund is part of the \$695,000 the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library have contributed to the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Fund that will be used to buy furnishings and equipment for our renovated building.

We would like to thank the following Partners for renewing their membership this month: Beverly Clifton, Kristine Lowe, the Martinetti family, Shannon Murphy, Diane Sands & Jeff Lapidés, and Martha Troedson. And we welcome the following new Partners: David & Patricia Fortmeier, Stacy Miller, Vicky Ryan, and Mark Ryne.

If you would like to become a Partner or renew your partnership, you may do so online at the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library website at <https://sierramadrelibraryfriends.org>. Or you can mail your 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 of your check.

Thank you for supporting our Library!

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library would like to thank the Pasadena Bookies Bookclub for their generous donation in memory of Debra "Debbie" Weisberg, their friend and member. She loved books and also donated her time and money to our Library.

Monies in the General Fund are used to purchase and replenish books, software, and other resource items and to fund the Library's many outreach programs. If you would like to make a tax-exempt donation to this fund, go online or write "General Fund" on the memo line and mail your check to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, P.O. Box 334, Sierra Madre, CA 91025.

Our Sierra Madre Library is now being renovated and is under construction. It will be completed by early 2026.

We are grateful for your support!

READER'S REVIEW



This month's review is
by Renee Kahl

The Mighty Red

By Louise Erdrich

Louise Erdrich, author of twenty-nine novels and countless short stories, has been a major indigenous literary voice since 1984. She is known for her strong Ojibwa consciousness, weaving magical realism from tribal sacred stories throughout her fiction, and for strong symbolism rooted in nature reflecting a primal connection to the land. The latter two are found in abundance here, but only a bit of Ojibwa lore is thrown in toward the end of this sprawling story and the real theme is the primal connection we *all* have to the land. *The Mighty Red*, whose namesake is the Red River in North Dakota, is only minimally about Native American issues, instead revolving principally around the environmental degradation caused by industrial sugar beet farming in the Red River Valley.

Set in 2008, this is an episodic, meandering tale, circling like a river through the lives of a huge cast of characters. The central ones, teenage Kismet Poe and her mother Crystal Frechette, are Ojibwa residents of a small farming community divided between descendants of the historic natives, the "workers," and "those who own the land." Crystal is beginning to show physical wear from her job trucking sugar beets for the Geist farm; the Geists' son Gary is feverishly trying to get Kismet to marry him. Kismet's Ojibwa father, Martin, a dilettante actor and sometime investment advisor, floats in and out of the story with madcap adventures, apparently having absconded with a large community church fund, to the disgrace of Kismet and Crystal. The popular and handsome Gary has a dark secret, hinted at during much of the story. Trapped by the humiliation of her father's actions, Kismet marries Gary, devastating both Crystal and Hugo, the boy she really loves, then immediately regrets it.

The current absence of birds is the subject of constant comment in the community. Kismet learns from her father-in-law, beet farmer Diz, that the sugar beet co-ops receive glyphosate (Roundup) and specially engineered beet seeds resistant to it under contracts with the chemical companies. Diz applies industrial-size drums of it to clear the fields of all competing vegetation and achieve perfect, sterile rows of beet seeds in their "chemical dust." In some of the most glorious prose of the book, Kismet observes the contrast between this impoverished soil and the original lush valley ecosystem. At a neighboring farm laboring to bring back the old ways, she is transfixed for hours before "a shaggy field" teeming with native trees, flowers, insects and tons of birds.

"barn swallows, tree swallows, swifts were plucking insects off the tops of the flowers and grasses ... as the heat rose off the earth the insects rose, too, and the black arcs of birds began to feed with such swiftness and intensity that Kismet's eyes could scarcely follow. They outflew their shadows, veered so close and at such a rate of speed that it seemed at every second they would collide, but only their shadows merged and came apart. Their intricate blur of flight rose to a frenzied joy so dark and dazzling that Kismet was lost in emotion. She sat under a spell ...[p]ractically everything she and the Geists did, and even her mother's job, was destroying what she had just witnessed, the joinery of creation."

There is a lot of prose like this; sadly, its force is diminished by the fact that Erdrich simply tries to include too much. Development of characters and their relationships is diluted. The teenage romances and Martin's distracting antics take up too large a chunk of the book, and several scenes supposedly slapstick hilarious just aren't. This is clearly the work of a major writer, but I suspect it is not her strongest.

The obvious does not go unmentioned; namely, that all this is occurring on land stolen from the original Native Americans, but despite the comments of some, this is not a commentary on "settler colonialism." It is a lyrical and very effective warning about modern industrialized farming practices.

CALL # STATUS: NEW SHELF FIC ERDRICH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JUNE CALENDAR

JUNE	CALL TO SCHEDULE DAY/TIME	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	JUNE 12	6:30 P.M.	SHELF STORIES BOOK CLUB
JUNE	CALL TO SCHEDULE DAY/TIME	1-2-3D PRINTING WORKSHOP	JUNE 14	10:00 A.M.	SCIENCE WORKSHOP: SCRIBBLE BOTS
JUNE	CALL TO SCHEDULE DAY/TIME	CRICUT WORKSHOP	JUNE 14	12:00 P.M.	3D PRINTING BASICS
JUNE	EVERY MONDAY 9:00 A.M.	BABY RHYME TIME AT TEMPORARY LIBRARY	JUNE 14	6:30 P.M.	SIP N' SHUSH SILENT BOOK CLUB
JUNE	EVERY MONDAY 10:00 A.M.	STORYTIME AT TEMPORARY LIBRARY	JUNE 16	10:00 A.M.	BUBBLEMANIA
JUNE 1-30		WALK THIS WAY: A STORY ADVENTURE	JUNE 16	3:30 P.M.	READING BUDDIES
JUNE 2-30		COMMUNITY MOSAIC ART	JUNE 18	3:30 P.M.	TAILS & TALES
JUNE 6	3:00-7:00 P.M.	BEST USED BOOK SALE	JUNE 18	6:30 P.M.	FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER
JUNE 7-JULY 26		SIERRA MADRE SUPER SUMMER READING PROGRAM	JUNE 18	7:00 P.M.	ZOOM PAJAMA STORYTIME
JUNE 7	10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.	BEST USED BOOK SALE	JUNE 19	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 RD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
JUNE 7	10:00 A.M.	SUMMER READING KICKOFF! THOR'S REPTILES	JUNE 19	3:30 P.M.	READING BUDDIES
JUNE 9	3:30 P.M.	READING BUDDIES	JUNE 21	10:00 A.M.	CHRISTOPHER T. MAGICIAN
JUNE 10	4:30 P.M.	TEEN: KNIT TOGETHER	JUNE 23	3:30 P.M.	READING BUDDIES
JUNE 12	9:00 A.M.	SENSORY PLAY	JUNE 23	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
JUNE 12	3:30 P.M.	READING BUDDIES	JUNE 24	4:30 P.M.	TEEN: KNIT TOGETHER
			JUNE 26	9:00 A.M.	SENSORY PLAY
			JUNE 26	3:30 P.M.	READING BUDDIES
			JUNE 28	10:00 A.M.	SCIENCE WORKSHOP: REPTILE BOTS
			JUNE 28	1:00 P.M.	DIGITAL SERVICES MEET & GREET
			JUNE 30	3:30 P.M.	READING BUDDIES

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

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