

## President's Message

Dear Members and Partners,

September arrives with everything that represents fall—cooler days eventually, schools in session, vacations are over. We are reminded of the importance to our community of our Library—and our wonderful staff. A staff that worked all summer providing activities for every age group that is now busy preparing for students returning to school, homework, and programs for the season. The Library in Sierra Madre is a true gift to the community, and that is possible with the support of Members and Partners and our **City Librarian Leila Regan** and her talented and dedicated staff.

We look ahead to next June when the “new Library” is scheduled to open. Purchases are being made! This will truly be a “showcase” for the community. In the meantime, the Friends of the Library is planning a **Wine & Cuisine Tasting Event**. This will again be held at The BAG. There will be wine, food, and silent auction opportunities. Watch for more information as we approach **Spring of 2026** and Save the Date! for the **61<sup>st</sup> Annual Sierra Madre Art Fair** that will be held **May 2-3** in Memorial Park.

Martha Troedson and her strong, loyal group of volunteers will be holding their **Best Used Book Sale** on **Friday, October 3** and **Saturday, October 4**.

Thank you for all you do; all is made possible through your support and that of other community organizations. Remember this is your Library; be proud to be involved whether it be with donations, volunteer time and/or sharing the information with others.

A reminder that all of our fund raising goes back to the Library! Your hardworking Board and committees are all volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome! Don't hesitate to reach out.

Happy fall! Enjoy the turn of seasons and look forward to cooler times.

**Jeanne Martin**

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM WRAP UP



Summer Reading Kickoff! — Thor's Reptiles



Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Library

This past summer was a delightful mix of ingenuity and creativity that drove our Library to provide fun and educational opportunities for our community. We had a total of 68 programs in June and July, with 2,387 participants. Our Summer Reading Program was a smashing success again this year with 405 people eager to read this summer. In addition to reading, we asked the community to support local businesses, nonprofits, community events, and parks with our **Operation Support Sierra Madre Local** and 129 participants did just that. Our teens were active this summer as well with 36 teen volunteers who worked a total of 524 hours to sign people up for summer reading, distribute prizes, help with programs, and be reading buddies!

Thank you to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library, Sierra Madre Community Foundation, and Sierra Madre Civic Club for continuing to support our summer programs.

Finally, the Library cannot express how much we appreciate the collaboration and engagement from our community. Thank you for a wonderful summer!



Shelf Stories Book Club – You Never Know by Tom Selleck

## 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. In September, you can read *It's a New Day* by Brad Metzger. This month is sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. Thank you Friends!

### LIBRARY CARD HUNT

September is National Library Card Sign-Up month. From **Tuesday, September 2 to Tuesday, September 30** we're celebrating with a fun activity for all ages. We have a "lost" library card hidden somewhere inside the Library. Let the front desk staff know where it was found and you can select a prize from our treasure chest!



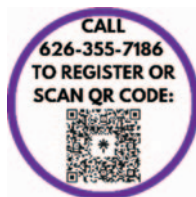
### 1, 2, 3 BABY AND ME WORKSHOP

On **Wednesday, September 10** at 10:00 a.m. spend quality time with your family, meet new people, and read, discover, and connect with community professionals during this FREE monthly workshop at the temporary Library. Light refreshments will be served. For caregivers and children from Birth to 36 Months. In September, hear about the various Pre-Kindergarten choices available in your community, presented by Options for Learning. Reserve a spot today.

### SENSORY PLAY

On **Saturday, September 13** from 9:00-9:30 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.



### STITCH AND SHARE

Join us at the Hart Park House on **Wednesday, September 24** at 5:30 p.m. to

get your craft on. Bring a project you are working on and enjoy an hour of dedicated craft time while socializing with new friends. Light refreshments provided. Registration requested, but not required.

### SHELF STORIES BOOK CLUB

On **Thursday, September 25** 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 September, it is magical realism with the book *The Sugar Queen* by Sarah Addison Allen. The book club takes place at the Sierra Madre Public Library after hours at 6:30 p.m. This book club is for adults 18 and over. Snacks and refreshments provided. Registration requested, but not required.

### SIP AND SHUSH: SILENT BOOK CLUB

On **Saturday, September 27** from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at RT Rogers – 38 E. Montecito Avenue – read together in this quiet book club. 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.

## 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 required. **PLEASE NOTE: Baby Rhyme Time will not be held on Monday, September 1.**

### 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. **PLEASE NOTE: Preschool Storytime will not be held on Monday, September 1.**

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

### DIGITAL SERVICES MEET AND GREET

On **Saturday, September 6** 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.

## GREEN TEENS

On **Wednesday, September 10** and **Wednesday, September 24** at 4:00 p.m. meet new friends, learn new things and help your community through volunteer work while earning service hours.

This year our Green Teens will participate in a variety of activities including learning about and helping care for the native and drought tolerant plants in the green spaces around the temporary Library. Green Teens will earn one service hour for each session attended. No registration required. Meeting locations will vary and weather may cause last minute location changes.

Call the Library at 626-355-7186 for details and location updates.

### TAILS AND TALES

On **Wednesday, September 17** 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

On **Wednesday, September 17** at 7:00 p.m. tune in on Zoom for a live Bedtime Storytime. 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, September 18** at 11:00 a.m. participants will discuss, *A Short History of Russia* by Mark Galeotti. Live on Zoom. Call the Library at 626-355-7186 to register.

### 3D PRINTING BASICS

On **Saturday, September 20** 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.

### 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.

## WINE AND CUISINE TASTING UPDATE

Our committee is working hard to secure the best wineries for a great wine tasting this coming Spring! There are a lot of events happening in the Fall so **we decided to move our wine tasting to the Spring of 2026**. It will be hosted at the Baldwin Ave Gallery with a wonderful silent auction, great food from our local restaurants, music, and the chance to help support the “new” Library! The Friends of the Library appreciate all your support throughout the year.

## GREAT NEWS FROM THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY FOUNDATION!

A generous Sierra Madre donor has pledged a \$20,000 matching gift to the Sierra Madre Library Foundation. From **Tuesday, September 2 through Wednesday, October 15** every dollar donated will be matched 1:1 – doubling the impact for our new Library. We’re calling on our loyal supporters and the community to help us meet this challenge to unlock a total of \$40,000 to support the furniture, fixtures and equipment needed for our new renovated Library.

Visit the Donate Page on the website [www.sierramadrelibraryfoundation.org](http://www.sierramadrelibraryfoundation.org) or mail your check to: Sierra Madre Library Foundation, Attn: Matching Gift Challenge, P.O. Box 563, Sierra Madre, CA 91025. Any questions please contact SMLF Chair Rob Stockly at [SMLibraryFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:SMLibraryFoundation@gmail.com) or 626-388-5030. We encourage you to spread the word and check with your employer for a corporate matching gift program. Thank you for being a part of this exciting next chapter for our Library!

## BEST USED BOOK SALE

Thanks for your support of our August Best Used Book Sale. We earned \$1,450 on the sale; added to previous presales, the total since the June sale was \$1,823.73. Your gently-used donations provide books and media to provide assistance for our Library’s programs, services, and acquisitions. Thank you!

The October sale is scheduled for **Friday, October 3** (3:00-7:00 p.m.) and **Saturday, October 4** (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.). Donations may be left on the bench to the left of the front door at the Library.

## PARTNERS PROGRAM

Having the summer speed by so fast reminds us that it won’t be too much longer until construction on our Library is completed. Money from the Partners Fund has been designated for the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Fund that will be used to buy furnishings and equipment for our renovated building. We are excited about being able to contribute and would like to thank the following Partners for renewing their membership: Bob & Toni Buckner, Ellen Carroll, Jessie Christiansen, Christine Gladish, Donna & Victor Howard, Irene Nakagawa, Louise Neiby, William Sargent & Nancy Wischhusen, Bob & Sue Spears, and Jane Zamanzadeh. And we welcome the following new Partners: Thomas & Jennifer Gowen and Brian Wakano.

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 Benevity Giving Program via American Online Giving Foundation, Inc., Gayle D. Gaines, and Kevin Ramsey who all made recent donations to the Sierra Madre Public 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 under construction and will be completed by June, 2026.

We are grateful for your support!

## READER’S REVIEW

*This month’s review is by Richard Bellikoff*



### The Trees

By Percival Everett

After decades of critical acclaim for his writing, Percival Everett finally hit the jackpot, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *James*. Since I never judge a book by its cover or a writer’s work by just one book, I decided to read more of Everett’s novels, starting with *The Trees*. The setting is an actual town, Money, Mississippi, which, according to Everett, was named “in that persistent Southern tradition of irony.” It’s poverty-stricken and segregated. “It was a long-running joke in Money, Mississippi,” Everett writes, “that the way to discover who belonged to the Klan was to wait at Russell’s Dry Cleaning and Laundry.” The local coroner covers up racist murders. His assistant describes one of them: “He typed suicide on the cause of death line. Who shoots himself in the back of the head in a dumpster?”

Amid this volatile stew of racial tension and violence, a particularly brutal murder occurs. A local white man is found dead in his bathroom. “A long length of rusty barbed wire was wrapped several times around his neck,” Everett writes. His arm was bent behind his back “at an impossible angle.” An eye was “gouged out or carved out and lay next to his thigh, looking up at him.” His testicles were cut off. Lying beside him was the body of a dead black man, with the victim’s testicles in his hand. When several more equally gruesome murders of white men take place, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation in Hattiesburg sends Jim Davis and Ed Morgan to Money to solve them. Jim and Ed are black men who say they became detectives “so that Whitey wouldn’t be the only one in the room with a gun.” They describe Money as “chock-full of know-nothing peckerwoods stuck in the prewar nineteenth century and living proof that inbreeding does not lead to extinction.” Money’s sheriff sneers at the big city cops: “Slicker than snot on a doorknob. Smart-asses. Think we’re just rubes.”

In a Hattiesburg night club, a singer performs a song made famous by Billie Holliday that describes lynching in Southern towns like Money.

Southern trees bear strange fruit

Blood on the leaves and blood at the root

Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze

Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

In fact, Money was the site of the notorious 1955 lynching of Emmett Till, a fourteen-year-old from Chicago visiting relatives for the summer, who was accused of flirting with a white woman. His white killers were acquitted by an all-white jury.

In counterpoint to all the homicidal violence, Everett creates some amusing character names. The coroner is named Reverend Doctor Cad Fodle. The murder victims include Junior Junior and McDonald McDonald. There’s a medical examiner called Helvetica Quip, a sheriff named Chalk Pellucid, a detective called Wesley Snipes (“no relation and white”) and a dog with no name at all (its owner explains, “I don’t like names”).

With copycat murders proliferating across the USA, the story hurtles toward a surrealistic conclusion. This novel is a literal page-turner, with very short chapters, 108 of them in just over 300 pages. One chapter contains nothing but a list of the names of lynching victims, as if to pay tribute to them. Stylistically, the book is a genre-defying blend of police procedural, dark comedy, revenge fantasy and supernatural horror. A lesser writer than Everett could never have pulled this off. I’m eager to read more of his voluminous literary output.

**CALL # STATUS: FIC EVERETT**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	CALL TO SCHEDULE DAY/TIME	SEWING MACHINE BASICS	SEPTEMBER 10	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3 BABY AND ME WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER	CALL TO SCHEDULE DAY/TIME	1-2-3D PRINTING WORKSHOP	SEPTEMBER 10	4:00 P.M.	GREEN TEENS
SEPTEMBER	CALL TO SCHEDULE DAY/TIME	CRICUT WORKSHOP	SEPTEMBER 13	9:00 A.M.	SENSORY PLAY
EVERY MONDAY	9:00 A.M.	BABY RHYME TIME AT TEMPORARY LIBRARY	SEPTEMBER 17	3:30 P.M.	TAILS & TALES
EVERY MONDAY	10:00 A.M.	STORYTIME AT TEMPORARY LIBRARY	SEPTEMBER 17	7:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1	LIBRARY CLOSED LABOR DAY HOLIDAY		SEPTEMBER 17	7:00 P.M.	ZOOM PAJAMA STORYTIME
SEPTEMBER 1-30	WALK THIS WAY: A STORY ADVENTURE		SEPTEMBER 18	11:00 A.M.	ZOOM 3 <sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2-30	LIBRARY CARD HUNT		SEPTEMBER 20	12:00 P.M.	3D PRINTING BASICS
SEPTEMBER 6	1:00 P.M.	DIGITAL SERVICES MEET & GREET	SEPTEMBER 22	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
			SEPTEMBER 24	4:00 P.M.	GREEN TEENS
			SEPTEMBER 24	5:30 P.M.	STITCH & SHARE
			SEPTEMBER 25	6:30 P.M.	SHELF STORIES BOOK CLUB
			SEPTEMBER 27	6:30 P.M.	SIP & SHUSH SILENT BOOK CLUB

*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/](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library/)

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