



Sierra Madre
Historical
Preservation Society
Newsletter
Summer 2012

2012 – 2013
Officers

President

Amy Putnam

Vice President

Jim Whitson

Treasurer

Richard Mays

Recording Secretary

Richard Johnson

Board of Directors

Archives

Debbie Henderson

Corresponding

Secretary

Elva Johnson

Historian/Publicity

Phyllis Chapman

Lizzie's Trail Inn

Jay Whitcraft

Maurice Orme

Membership

Christine Bachwansky

Oral History

Amy Putnam

Louise Neiby

Photographer

Lauren Jensen

Richardson House

Stan Hutchinson

Ways and Means

Teresa Chaure

Leslie Ziff

Directors at Large

Joe Catalano

Presidents Emeritus

Dane Lenton

Gurdon Miller



Crank It Up!

Join us for a historical program
featuring antique phonographs
and recordings circa 1900-1930

presented by **James Constantian**
Collector & Member of the
Antique Phonograph Society

Learn about the history of
sound recording, hear
famous voices of the past,
find out about Nipper the
RCA dog...



SMHPS Annual Meeting
Thursday July 19, 2012 @ 7 pm

Sierra Madre Public Library
440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Sponsored by the Sierra Madre Historical
Preservation Society
www.smhps.org

Free and open to the public.
Light refreshments will be served.

Sierra Madre Library Awarded Local History Preservation Grant

The California Preservation Program recently announced that the Sierra Madre Public Library has been awarded a \$4,000 Collection Assessment Preservation Grant for its Local History collection. The California Preservation Assessment Project (CPAP) is designed to help small and mid-sized libraries and archives plan improvements for the care of their historical collections.

A preservation consultant will visit the Library to help implement the assessment. A survey of the collection, including scope and scale of preservation needs, is an essential first step in creating a plan for enhanced collection care. Institutions that have completed collection assessments are more likely to receive additional funding for preservation work.

When asked what impact she anticipates the award will have on the Library's Archives, Debbie Henderson, Associate Librarian for the Archival Collection, said, "Our Local History collection has worked hard for us over the last ten years with the Centennial Celebration and the publication of *Southern California Story: Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre*. It is imperative that we review the collection as a whole and address its preservation and conservation needs."

The Sierra Madre Public Library is one of ten California repositories that received the award.

Outgoing President's Message

I am pleased to report that our remaining supply of books has a permanent home at the Space Bank storage facility on Foothill Boulevard. The manager of Space Bank offered a heavily discounted rental rate to the Historical Society as a non-profit community service organization. We will be moving our books from their present home in the Quigley's garage in the next week or so.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. John and Margaret Quigley for providing several years of dry, safe and accessible storage for what was initially three thousand copies of a very heavy book. And our equally sincere thanks to the management of Space Bank for so generously making space available for storing our remaining stock of slightly more than a thousand copies of *Southern California Story: Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre*.

Work continues on repair and restoration of our museum buildings, Lizzie's Trail Inn and the Richardson House. We are fortunate to have the collaboration of several board members and the cooperation and assistance of the City in this on-going project.

Board members of the Society have also been actively involved in helping to make sure the City's General Plan adequately provides a foundation and frame-work for historic preservation. This collaboration has involved attending meetings, reviewing consultants' products and working with the General Plan Steering Committee and City staff and officials. It is not as visible nor as much fun as many of the things we do, but it is a valuable contribution to the preservation of Sierra Madre's historic landscape.

We sold lots of lemonade and 15 copies of *Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre* and Michele Zack was present to sign copies at this year's Art Fair. Our new location at the northeast corner of City Hall entrances to the park gave us great exposure to people as they arrived at the Art Fair. Thank you to all who helped and to all those whose thirst for refreshment and knowledge contributed to another successful event.

Gurdon Miller
President 2011-2012



A selection of children's history books purchased with funds donated by SMHPS in honor of former Library Director Toni Buckner, June 2012.



Mayor Josh Moran leads the crowd in a shout out for the opening of the newly remodeled Children's Room, June 7, 2012.



New history books purchased for the Children's Room, 2012. These were available for browsing at the Grand Re-Opening on June 7th.

National Parks Expert to Speak at Sierra Madre Library

If you are one of the many area residents who will travel to one or more of the 397 national parks, monuments, battlefields, and historic sites in the National Park system, then you need to start your trip at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Christopher K. Jarvi, former Associate Director for Partnerships and Visitor Experience for the National Park Service (NPS), will share little known facts and unique personal stories at 10 A.M. on Saturday, July 14 at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Blending his experiences with beautiful visuals of the National Parks, Jarvi will take his audience on a behind the scenes tour of our most important natural sites, relating stories of their colorful history and their future challenges. July is National Parks and Recreation Month.

Jarvi has personal ties to Sierra Madre. His mother grew up in a house on the corner of Sierra Place and San Gabriel Court, his grandmother Ethel Davis owned the building in which the Safeway store was located, at about where Windsor Lane intersects Sierra Madre Blvd, and his uncle Loren Krabill ran the Green Frog Market, now known as Howie's Market.

During his tenure with the NPS he had nationwide responsibility for Partnerships and Philanthropy, Interpretation/Education, Media Development, Volunteerism, Tourism, Youth Programs, Technical Assistance, Long Distance Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers and, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Jarvi served as the president of the California Parks and Recreation Society and the president of the National Recreation and Park Association.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre. For more information please call (626) 355-7186, or visit our website: www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us.

**Coming in July 2012
Access to Ancestry.com**

Sierra Madre Public Library will offer access to Ancestry Library Edition July 1st. This database includes over 4 billion names and 500,000 family trees. It offers extensive coverage of the United States including census data, birth, marriage and

death records. WWI draft registration cards and immigration lists are also searchable. Ancestry also provides an extensive collection of information from the United Kingdom.

Ancestry.com will be available for in-library use only. Come to the Library this summer to cool your heels and trace your

roots. For more information, contact Debbie Henderson, Associate Librarian~Archival Collection, by phone at 626. 355.7186 or e-mail at dhenderson@cityofsierramadre.com.