



Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society  
 P.O. Box 202, Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0202  
 (626) 836-6709  
 www.smhps.org



# Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society

## Fall 2022 Newsletter

### Emma Burton Tufts

All photos are courtesy Dane Lenton

[Ed note: Historical Society members and their guests are invited to tour the Tufts House on October 29. The following is a brief biography of the original owner, as recounted in *The Annals of Early Sierra Madre*, published in 1950. It is believed that the Tufts family descendants occupied the home until 1948. The present owner purchased the home in 1972.]



Tufts house about 1900

Among the many settlers whose first acquaintance with Sierra Madre was incidental to a trip up the old Mt. Wilson Trail was Mrs. Emma Burton Tufts, who bought a lot and built a home in the late eighties. She came from Compton where she and her family had settled on arrival from Wilton, Iowa, some years earlier and where her husband had passed away.

his Los Angeles business properties. She was a member of the Sierra Madre Congregational Church and a liberal supporter of every worthy community cause.

Mrs. Tufts occupied the home at 159 West Montecito until her death in 1911, sharing it with her daughter, Miss Alice Tufts, who passed away early in 1949. The latter was for many years secretary in the office of the late J.B. Lankershim and assisted in the management of

Another daughter, Philena (Mrs. William S. Bovard) spent her last years with Miss Tufts and passed away in 1948, being then the oldest woman to graduate from U.S.C

Dr. W. S. Bovard, her husband, was the youngest of seven brothers, all Methodist ministers. Two of them were presidents of U.S.C. Dr. Bovard was for many years executive secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church. Their oldest son, Burton Bovard, is an attorney in the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. Their daughter, Miss Alice May Bovard is dean of admissions of Sarah Lawrence College, New York.



Garden today

**SIERRA MADRE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
 P.O. Box 202, Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0202  
**Membership / Donation Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level	Specific Donations
___ \$20 Individual	\$_____ Sierra Madre Historical Archives
___ \$25 Family	\$_____ Oral History Program
___ \$5 Student	\$_____ Museums
___ \$30 Contributing	\$_____ Richardson House
___ \$60 Patron	\$_____ Lizzie's Trail Inn
___ \$100 Supporting	
___ \$500 Lifetime	

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please make check payable to SMHPS

The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3).  
 Your contributions are deductible within the limits of the law.  
 Thank You.

Yes, I would like to be a volunteer for the SMHPS \_\_\_\_\_

**SIERRA MADRE HISTORY!**



**Southern California Story;  
 Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre**

A Great Holiday Gift this Season

On sale at Arnold's Hardware  
 and the library \$25



Photo courtesy Dane Lenton



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Photo: Jean Coleman

The Pack Station Mules



Photo: Jean Coleman

Here we are in the 2021



Photo: Jean Coleman



Open House



Photos by Jean Coleman

Holiday 2021

# President's Message

Welcome Fall to Sierra Madre! It has been a very hot summer – and I for one am looking forward to a cooler fall with all the fun activities that are ahead. The SMHPS Board has worked through July to plan out this next year's events and projects.

We have continued to work on both museums and have started to truly organize our collection in both Lizzie's Trail Inn and the Richardson House. We welcome Kris Majick as one of our volunteers who has started to record the artifacts in the Richardson House on a program called Past Perfect. This program records not only the item, but also lets you record who donated the item, its history, and a picture with the entry. It is a big task, but we are hoping to eventually have each item in the museums catalogued. Shannon King helped to inventory every book that we have for sale and reorganize all the cupboard storage areas in Lizzie's. We have added to our collection a rocking chair that Diane Sands has reupholstered to fit the period of the Richardson House.

The SMHPS' Board members have been coming into the museums throughout this past year to familiarize themselves with the contents of both museums and help to docent on Saturdays. Even through our lock down during Covid we have been able to get these things started along with our ongoing Rock Garden in the front of the Richardson House. Thank you to those of you that have continued to bring some beautiful painted rocks to our garden.

Our donkey has a new sign to announce our hours: Saturdays from 10:00 – 12:00 and during the month of October he has a

new "open" banners at the museums.

We were able to hold a Holiday Open House last December, and are planning another Open House for this December 17th. There will be tour guides, rock painting, stories to share, refreshments and a time to visit with all our members and new friends!

We were able to create a new home tour that we premiered at the Wistaria Festival this year. We are looking forward to expanding that tour for next year's festival and hopefully have several tours available during the coming year.

We had a booth at the Wistaria Festival, and the Trail Race this year. We thank Joan Fredrick for being our guest speaker for our Membership gathering. Joan shared some wonderful history and stories about our Sierra Madre Priscillas. Joan has a new cookbook out and is working on several other projects that we look forward to reading! Her books are being sold at Lizzie's.

Our Tufts Home Tour is coming up on October 29th and we are looking forward to sharing the history of this unique home with our membership and their friends. The owner has worked hard to continually improve upon this lovely home on Montecito and I know you will enjoy all the stained glass windows, turn-of-the-century furniture and the beautiful garden area. You can talk with the owner over refreshments in the garden area at the end of the tour. Admission is \$5.

We have planned workdays on November 11 & 12 from 9-noon. We will be weeding the front garden, organizing the storage shed, organizing the kitchen in Lizzies. We are looking for helpers to work alongside the Board members to get these jobs accomplished. We also need some stronger individuals to help us move some furniture in the Richardson House. If you would be willing to help, please let me know: Leslie – C: 626-321-7735

We are hoping to take members to tour the Search and Rescue soon and hear their stories. Tour to be announced.

We have been selected to be a part of a new book on small museums of Los Angeles County. We will be interviewed this coming month by the author and photographer. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the history of our two historic museums here in Sierra Madre.

I invite you to participate in all our activities as the year progresses. If you are interested in becoming a docent at either the Richardson House or Lizzie's Trail Inn please come by on a Saturday from 10:00 - 12:00 to learn more.

Respectfully,  
Leslie Ziff,  
Co-President



rider. Our participation in the scarecrow contest has Jan Wiles and Diane Sands creating another great "Person". Yes, that is Wilbur Sturtevant riding the donkey! He was an important part of our Sierra Madre History. You can meet him at our December Open House! We have been able to also get some





Photo: Diane Sands

# Up at the Museums

by Diane Sands

I am sure many of you are wondering what the museums have been up to since our last newsletter!

Because both Lizzie's and Richardson House are owned by the City of Sierra Madre, we were made to close our buildings when the city buildings were closed during the Covid lockdown. It seemed that we had finally emerged from that shut down cocoon in 2020 and parts of 2021, when we had to close once again in January of this year! In spite of this, the museums have stayed busy!

Diane Sands in costume

### Here are a few highlights:

We finally held our Rock Garden event on October 9 last year in front of Richardson House. It was well attended, and the stream bed in front of Richardson House was weeded and cleaned up. Rocks had been left for us at the museum by many members and they were distributed around. Barry Ziff even added some sparkly blue glass like rocks which made the stream look like it really had water! Adults and children alike came to paint beautiful rocks which were set into and around the stream. Organizer Christel Chang was happy! Since then, the painted rocks come and go. Some leave to go live elsewhere, and others show up to stay with us for a while. It is fun to watch the changes.



Photo: Jean Coleman



Photo: Jeff Lapides



Photo: Jeff Lapides

We acquired new pieces of furniture in Richardson House, donated by members and non-members. We have also gotten additional board members to docent at both museums on Saturdays, which really helps!

Keep up the good work!

Cataloging of the items in our museums started this past summer. Kris Majich has begun to record the items into a computer, and Jeff Lapides did photography for us. So far we have only started on the Petal Ware collection, but the project will be on-going for some time. We have a lot of things!

In February of this year, Leslie Ziff and John Capocia presented to the City Council, detailing the work we need done at the museums, with the hopes of inspiring the city to help us with these repairs and improvements.

Have you seen our donkey at the museums lately? He now has a saddle bag on him announcing that the museums are open on Saturdays, from 10am to Noon, and that admission is FREE! Since he announced this for us, we have had many, many local people (many even from just down the street) who have stopped by the museums to get tours! We've been busy!

Diane Sands reupholstered this chair!

Over at the Trail Inn, board members inventoried the books for sale and made sure that copies were on display to tempt our visitors to buy and enjoy!

December 11 and 18 last year, rather than hold our holiday meeting in the Park Hart House (those Covid problems again!) we held two Open Houses at our museums. We served a variety of cookies, chocolate covered pretzel sticks,

spiced hot cider, and water, and were pleased that so many of you came to pay us a visit! And, because it was so successful, we are planning another Holiday Open House at the museums again this year, probably on December 17. Details will be sent on that event as we get closer.

Last, but not least, here is our one big wish for the rest of this year. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE.

We need some strong people to help us move some furniture around in both museums. There is some re-arranging to do at Richardson House, and we want to put some items high up on the walls at Lizzie's (lifting and climbing required) and move a book rack. We would like to do a work party on November 11 and 12 (a Friday and Saturday) from 9am to Noon, so when the call comes out looking for volunteers, please find the strongest member of your family, and let us know that you are sending them to help us! They will have a great time, and we usually always have goodies!

For those of you who might consider joining the museums fun as a docent, please come visit us at the museums and take a look. We would LOVE to have you there!



Photo: Jean Coleman

Photo: Diane Sands

Photo: Diane Sands

Bud Switzer 2020

Wilbur Sturtevant 2022

Ziggy Stardust 2021

## Priscillas Talk and Ice Cream Social

All photos by Jean Coleman

Our first program since the pandemic! Joan Frederick told us about her extensive research into the history of the Priscillas club, and presented her book.



UNsung HEROINES  
The Modern Priscillas,  
200 Extraordinary Women  
in Sierra Madre, California  
Joan Frederick



## Sierra Madre Oral History Project Update

By Louise Neiby

The ultimate objective of our community-based oral history project is to provide the public access to the histories. Several steps are necessary to bring the project to fruition.

The current oral histories were captured on CD's and cassettes. Recently, these have been digitized by David Whitcraft, an audio engineer. Now the digitized oral histories are ready to be uploaded onto the California Revealed website. California Revealed is part of the California State Library in Sacramento. Our collection had to be accepted for addition to the site. Debbie Henderson, our city

archivist, did all the application hard work and luckily our oral history collection has been accepted by California Revealed. Currently, we are reviewing and summarizing each oral history. The summaries will accompany an index of the histories. Reading a summary of an individual oral history will simplify the public's choice and decision to listen to a particular history.

We will keep you updated on our progress and let you know when the completed project is available on California Revealed.



## Home Tour

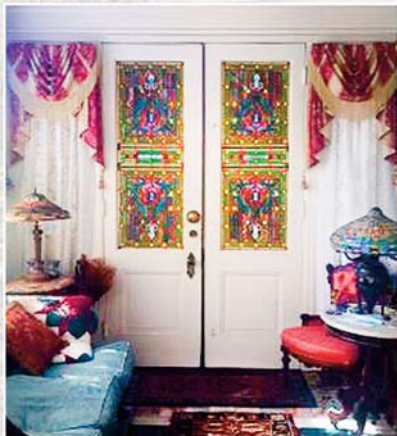
**The Tufts House**  
159 West Montecito

Saturday, October 29  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

The last tour begins at 12:45  
Children must be age 12 or over

**\$5** • Members and their guests  
• Light refreshments  
• Masks strongly encouraged

RSVPs to Leslie  
(626) 321-7735  
Encouraged but not required



Emma Burton Tufts, originally from Iowa, had been living in Compton, but when she came to visit the Mt. Wilson Trail she of course decided she had to live in Sierra Madre.

She built this beautiful home in 1890 and lived there until her death in 1911.

The present owners have turned it into a jewelbox. Pass through the stained-glass doors to the interior, and you'll feel like you're inside a Fabergé egg.

And there are delightful gardens!

## Our 2022-2023 Board



Photo: Jean Coleman

We've added several dynamic new members!

Left to right: Shannon King, Secretary;  
Christel Chang, Ways & Means;  
Emmett McGuire, Director-at-Large;  
Leslie Ziff, President and Museums Co-Curator;  
Diane Sands, Vice President;  
Richard Mays, Treasurer;  
Jean Coleman, Director-at-Large;  
and Jay Whitcraft, Museums Co-Curator  
Not pictured: Teresa Chauré, Co-President;  
Maggie Ellis, Membership;  
John Cappocia, Member-at-Large

## 2022-2023 Calendar

**October 20** Board meeting Hart Park House  
**October 29** Historical Home Tuft House  
**Nov 11 & 12** Work Days Both Museums  
**Nov 17** Board meeting Hart Park House  
**TBA:** Talk & Tour Search and Rescue  
**Nov 26** Winter Village Booth / Memorial Park  
**Dec 15** Board meeting Hart Park House  
**Dec 17** Open House Lizzies's Trail Inn & Richardson House

## Membership

The pandemic limited our opportunities to put on tours and programs, and to have our booth at village festivals, so we were thrilled and grateful that so many showed us their support by joining.

The following even became Lifetime members:

**Kurt Richter**  
**Mary Lou Caldwell**  
**Ron & Jean Coleman**  
**David Gordon**

And here are all the wonderful new members: Joe Feeney, April Foster, Linda Wochnik, Tracy Hammond, Emmet McGuire (who joined the board), Michael Coppess, Megan Barr, Gayle Licher, Eileen Walker, Nick & Ali Everett, Pauli Morin, Laura Monninger, Brendan Geraghty, Joe & Jill Forney, Mary Forney, Justin Young, Melissa Oakley, Kaitlyn Holm, Ben & Kristin Mathis, Darrin Spang, Wendy Chau, Jeff & Sarah DeFlorio, Linda Bentz, Eric Miller, Samantha Chavez, Adolfo & Dana Marie Castañeda, Monique Corwin, Bill Freeland, Doug & Cheryl Elffers, David & Jana Meisenholder, Jon & Beverlyn Mendez, Kris Majich, Elizabeth Pomeroy, Mark Harmon, Madeline Adamo, and Gabrielle Gliniak.

Maggie Ellis  
Membership Chair

## Our great booth volunteers at the Wistaria Festival!



Photo: Jean Coleman

Photo: Jean Coleman