



Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society Winter/Spring 2024 Newsletter

What ABOUT the Water in Sierra Madre? Chris Cimino Tells All!

Join us on Wednesday, March 27, at the Hart Park House for an engaging and informative presentation on the history of water in Sierra Madre. Our newly retired Director of Public Works, Chris Cimino, will share the details with us about everything you wanted to know, and more, concerning the history of where our water comes from – past and present – and the sometimes little known battles over our liquid gold.

Details will be sent as the date gets closer, but please plan ahead to join us for an entertaining evening.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- What About the Water?
- Partnership with Rotary
- President's Message
- SMHPS Booth Events
- Holiday Open House
- Up at the Museums
- Cemetery Tour
- John Muir A Success
- Historical Society Leaders Win Local Honors
- Jam History at E. Waldo Ward's
- SMHPS Business



Bird's Eye View of Sierra Madre poster (18"x24")
Now on sale for only \$15! **It makes a great gift!**

Partnership with Rotary

On October 24, the SMHPS was pleased to host, up at Lizzie's Trail Inn, the very early (7am!) Rotary Club of Sierra Madre monthly meeting. SMHPS has entered into an informal partnership with Rotary to work together on historical events, and also provide monetary support for our historical Archives at the Library. A large number of Rotarians turned out, as well as some early bird Historical Society folks, and the Rotarians enjoyed the docent tours of both Lizzie's Trail Inn and Richardson House.

This is truly a match made in heaven (historically speaking!), and between the two events we worked together on (Cemetery and Ward's) we raised a total of over \$3,700 for the historical Archives! Stay tuned for more wonderful collaborations between Rotary and SMHPS in the months to come.



Photos by Shannon King

Upcoming in the Fall...

Josh Perlman, educator, former SMHPS Board member, and local resident will present a wonderful presentation on the history of Sierra Madre's Japanese Community. We will keep you posted on the details so you can mark your calendars!

President's Message

Happy New Year! I welcome all our new members to the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society and our continuing membership with a grateful thank you for all your support! I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that have helped us throughout the past year; we could not do all that we do without you! 2023 was a busy year for our little historical society – as you will see in reading the recap of our events. This 2024 year is looking like an even busier one!

We are continuing our collaboration with the Sierra Madre Rotary on several walking tours to occur this year. The Rotary is working on a wonderful new booklet that will help to show off our little town. It will include a walking tour that SMHPS hopes to bring to life this spring and throughout the year. So, we will keep you posted on when this and other historical tours of our town will occur.

Our Board is working on putting together several speakers during the year on topics such as: our water's history, specific history of our mountain communities, and historic people that have made outstanding contributions along our Foothills. We are always open for new ideas that you may have or people that you know who would be available to present an evening talk. We are also exploring different times for our presentations.

We are continuing our Teen Docent Program and will be working with students from 7th – 12th grade. We offer them volunteer credit hours. If you know of a student that would be interested, please get in touch with us through our website: smhps.org.

Our work with the city to improve the buildings of our two museums: Lizzie's Trail Inn and the Richardson House is ongoing. We hope to get the roof finally fixed

at Lizzie's and have the back room of the Richardson House renovated so that we can re-create a kitchen that would be appropriate to the time that Lizzie and the Ormes were there. This seems to be one of those "lifelong" projects for our historical society and we would like to see this finally completed. Because the city owns our 2 museums, we are dependent upon them to get this work done – and we are hoping that it will be very soon. (I have been working on the renovations at the Richardson House for the past 10 years! – So, it is time!) I am asking for your support in these two projects. I believe that our city manager; Jose Reynoso and our



City Council may benefit from hearing from you. They need to understand that our museums benefit a lot of school children and hundreds of visitors each month. We need to take pride in our museums and fix them so that they will be comparable to other small museums in the San Gabriel Valley; Monrovia, Arcadia, Temple City just to name a few. I look forward to your input and an exciting 2024! See you at our next event.

Respectfully,

Leslie Ziff

SMHPS Booth Events

May 2023 – Trail Race



Trail Race History, now maintained by Jeff Lapidés, following in Dr. Bill White's footsteps



Diane along with Jeff Lapidés and Christel Chang



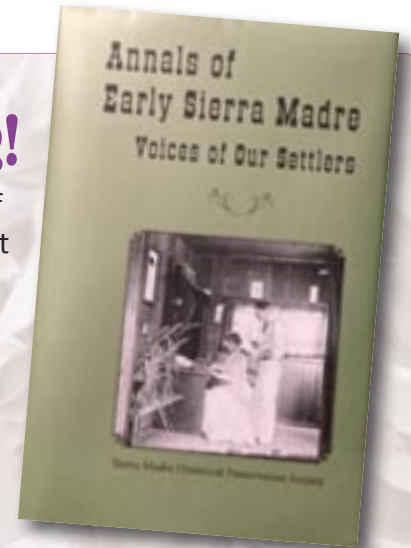
VP Diane Sands and Teen Docent Eva Anderburg at our booth

Thanks to Our Photographers
Shannon King and Elizabeth Booth

The Annals Is Coming, The Annals Is Coming!

We know that many of you have been waiting for the new printing of the Annals of Early Sierra Madre! Gussied up a bit, it has been printed, bound, and is on the boat to us as we speak! *How exciting!*

Copies should be available at our Wistaria Festival booth on March 17th, and at the museums after that. **Only \$20**



November 2023 – Winter Festival

Thanks to Our Photographers
Shannon King, Elizabeth Booth, and Jan Wiles



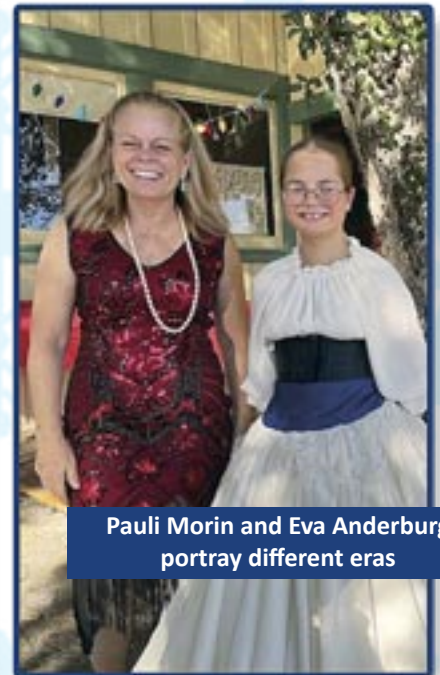
Teen Docent Eva Anderburg, Board Member John Capoccia, Treasurer Richard Mays, Teen Docent Franco Castillo, President Leslie Ziff, and VP Diane Sands at our Winter Festival Booth – in the second picture, Board Member Emmett McGuire joins in the fun! Third picture is SMHPS Facebook Administrator Jan Wiles with Diane.

Holiday Open House

As the end of the year 2023 approached, SMHPS held their now annual Open House at the Museums on Saturday, December 16. Besides having docents in each museum to provide tours and historical information to the public, we shared some sweet and savory finger foods, as well as hot cider and hot chocolate to warm hearts, hands, and tummies! We had a steady stream of visitors – new as well as repeat customers – and even Sierra Madre City Hall and City Council dignitaries! Our Society looks forward to this event every year, and if you missed it this past year, put it on your calendars for the end of this year.



Visitors enjoy the sights and fun at Lizzie's!



Pauli Morin and Eva Anderburg portray different eras



Teresa Chaure, Board member, answers questions.



Richard Mays and Teresa Chaure engage the public!

Up at the Museums

by Diane Sands

Winter is a slow time for the museums. The cooler weather and the rain stops some people from visiting, but we are always happy to greet whoever is brave enough to come out in less than ideal weather. The cold temps even stop some of the die-hard runners on Saturday!



As we head into spring and the rest of this new year, please remember that when we have a booth downtown for an event on a Saturday, the museums will remain closed. Due to our small number of docent volunteers, we are all pulled away to the booth on those days.

We purchased a wonderful glass and wood cabinet (very inexpensive) to display our Petalware collection in at Richardson House, and are busy securing it to the wall to make it earthquake safe. The space we free up will serve as new space for other wonderful objects that are packed away. Kris Majich is helping as we also continue to catalog items.

As Leslie mentioned in her President's letter, we are still in a hold mode with the city for the repairs to our museums, and are looking ahead to the day we can rejoice in their repair!

Docent volunteers are always welcome to spend time at either museum on Saturday from 10am to Noon. There are usually baked goods floating around, and lively conversation on both of the porches, so I urge you to come and learn some history and engage others in the same.

You are all welcome at Lizzie's and Richardson any Saturday morning. We would love to have you stop by, grab a cookie, and (as the song goes) have a heapin' helpin' of our hospitality!

RECRUITS NEEDED – Please help your Historical Society!

- **We are looking for new board members!**

We specifically need a Membership Chair and would like to add in a Publicity Chair, as well as add additional Directors-at-Large. The work is not hard and won't require too much of your time. If you are interested in any of these positions, or are just interested in joining the board, please contact Leslie Ziff, or Diane Sands, or our Recruitment Liaison, Susan Gallagher, at SUSANGALLAGHER@HOTMAIL.COM.

- **Our Treasurer, Richard Mays, is looking for members to be on a small Finance Committee.**

It doesn't require a degree in finance or even a background in finance, just a willingness to be part of a team keeping our numbers in line. Interested? Let Leslie or Diane know if so, or contact Richard at RMAYS44@VERIZON.NET.

- **John Capoccia, the chair for our Oral History project, needs a few volunteers for his group.**

Our senior members and those residents with long histories in town are aging, and we need to capture their stories as oral interviews. Many have been recorded, but now John needs some help in catching up with the recordings we have done, perhaps some transcription work, and also helping to interview many on our list. You don't need special talents! John has equipment and suggestions; you just need a friendly attitude and a desire to save the words of these town treasures for posterity. Contact Leslie or Diane, or John directly at JOHN.CAPOCCIA@GMAIL.COM.

Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery Historical Tour

On the beautiful afternoon of October 28, 2023, the people of Sierra Madre had the opportunity to meet and hear the histories of many of our departed citizens who are buried in our local Pioneer Cemetery. Members of the Historical Society and other volunteers from town portrayed some of the Sierra Madre pioneers, both from the early days and from more recent times, who helped contribute to what makes our town so special. Visitors heard from early residents such as John Richardson and Nathaniel Carter, to more recent residents such as Mary Tumulty and Jim Heasley, Jr.

Many volunteers worked on this event, including SMHPS members, Rotary Club members as well as their Interact youth group, and other interested volunteers from other businesses and groups in town. We thank them all, as well as everyone who attended the event! We must also do a shout out to the Pioneer Cemetery Association, especially Robert Gjerde, for the pristine condition of the cemetery at this event.

It was a very successful event, with the total proceeds of \$2,240 earmarked for the Archives in the refurbished Library. We hope everyone who attended had a wonderful day learning about our past and our history.



Sierra Madre: What John Muir Saw in 1877

On June 15 of 2023 we were treated to a program from Ed Anderson, President of the Arcadia Historical Society, on naturalist John Muir and photographer Carleton E. Watkins. His presentation explained how Muir came to our valley, and why Carleton was here taking photos.

Mr. Anderson shared with us that these two men were friends, but they could not have been more different from one another. John Muir came to visit friends in Pasadena and explore the San Gabriel Mountains. Carleton Watkins was in the area as the principal photographer for Collis Huntington's Central Pacific Railroad.

We thank Ed Anderson for his talk and for sharing with the Society not only information on John Muir's travels, but many of the wonderful photos of Carleton Watkins.

Photos courtesy Shannon King



Historical Society Leaders Win Local Honors

The annual City of Sierra Madre Honors dinner took place on January 24, and SMHPS was pleased to have two board members and a spouse toasted at the fete.

SMHPS President Leslie Ziff and her husband Dr. Barry Ziff were named Sierra Madre Citizens of the Year for 2023! This award is given annually to residents who have benefited the city during the past year as a volunteer. Leslie and Barry have gone far above and beyond this measurement for many, many years, and have been involved in most of the non-profit organizations in our town. It was certainly time to acknowledge this wonderful couple for all they do for SMHPS and the other entities in town. *Congratulations to you both!*

SMHPS Vice President Diane Sands was honored with the George Maurer Lifetime Service Award for 2023, which is presented to a person that represents a commitment to serving their community and embodies the spirit of volunteerism. *Congratulations!*



Photos courtesy Shannon King

Photos courtesy Elizabeth Booth and SMHPS friends

Jam History at E. Waldo Ward's



Saturday, November 11, 2023, brought those clamoring to get an inside view to E. Waldo Ward's for factory and museum tours of the family farm and facility. Fourth generation owner, Jeff Ward, along with Ward's employee Chris Rondeau, gave tours of the bottling factory, showing the ins and outs of jam and syrup production, as well as the art of bottling olives. And attendees got to experi-

ence the history of Waldo Ward's in their wonderful museum of artifacts, located in the historical barn.

SMHPS volunteers and teen docents participated in this event, as well as Rotary members and their Interact club. We must give a big thanks to Ward's and all of their employees for a warm welcome and beautiful smiles, and thanks to Jeff Ward for

jam gifts to those attending the tour and those working on the tours. How fortunate we are to still have an original working farm and business dating back to the early 1900s in our town!

Total proceeds from this event of \$1,465 have been earmarked for the Library Archives. Thank you to everyone who participated!

SMHPS Business

2024 Calendar

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| February 15 | Board Meeting – Ziff house |
| March 17 | Wistaria Festival Booth at Kersting Court |
| March 21 | Board Meeting – Hart Park House |
| March 27 | Water Presentation: Hart Park House |
| April 18 | Board Meeting – Hart Park House |
| May 4-5 | Art Fair Booth at Memorial Park |
| May 16 | Board Meeting – Hart Park House |
| May 25 | Trail Race Booth at Kersting Court |
| June TBD | Chicken and Ravioli Dinner at Mt. Wilson Trail Park. |

Become a Member

Interested in learning more about the history of our beloved foothill community? The SMHPS actively collects and preserves local history materials and makes that history available to the public through our museums, informational events and publications.

Become a member and join us for fun social gatherings such as local history tours, author talks, museum events and more!

Membership form below, or download a copy at: smhps.org

Your Membership Makes a Difference

Thank you to our members who have renewed their support, including **Supporting Members Carolyn and John Claus, Jr.** We are grateful for your continued dedication and support of SMHPS.

WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

- Sherry and Jeron Carr, *Life Members*
- Carlos Berdejo
- Michelle Castillo
- Haley Milsark & Charles Ekhaus
- Connor Jackson
- Michelle Jensen
- Gary Kinsley
- Martha Muller
- Helen & Steve Stapenhorst
- Ralph West

Shannon King,
Temporary Membership Chair



Membership / Donation Form

SIERRA MADRE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. Box 202, Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0202

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$15 Student | Includes: Free admission to all Speaker events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$30 Individual | Includes: Free admission to all Speaker events, a free walking map of Sierra Madre, 10% discount to Special events such as Tours and Dinners, and a 10% discount on purchases made at the Museums or booths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 Family | Includes: All the benefits of an Individual membership, as well as five (5) free postcards and (on NEW memberships) a free copy of SMHPS' Centennial publication, Southern California Story — Free admissions apply to all members of the immediate family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 Business/Society | Includes: Free admission for two (2) to all Speaker events, recognition in SMHPS newsletters, on our website, and at events, and one (1) free business card sized ad in a newsletter annually |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$150 Supporting | Includes: All the benefits of a Family membership, with a 20% discount on purchases made, as well as recognition in SMHPS newsletters, on our website: and at event — Benefits apply to members of a single household |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$600 Life | Includes: All the benefits of a Supporting member, with no annual renewal required—Benefits apply to members of a single household |

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 _____

Name _____

Address _____

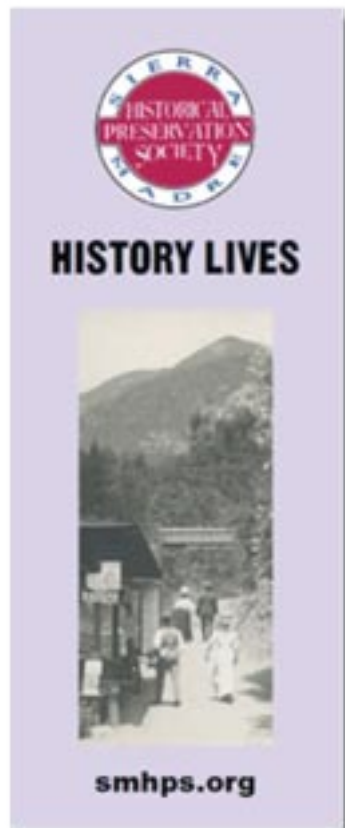
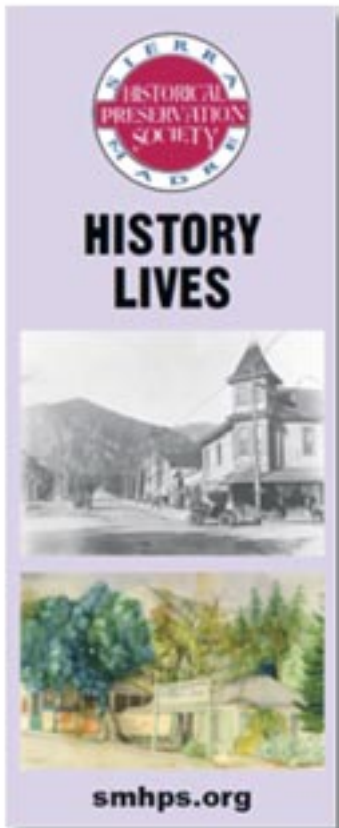
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____



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



A large vertical banner with a yellow background and a brown border. At the top, a circular graphic contains the text "Winner Winner Chicken Dinner" in a stylized font, with a cartoon chicken illustration to the right. Below the graphic, the text "Chicken and Ravioli Dinner at Mt. Wilson Trail Park." is written in white. At the bottom, a black bar contains the text "Coming in June" in yellow.

It's A Banner Year!

WATCH FOR OUR NEW EVENT BANNERS