

## President's Message

### Dear Partners and Friends,

What an exciting time this is! Many attended the successful Wine and Cuisine Tasting held at the Bag. We were fortunate to once again have the Baldwin Avenue Gallery as our venue; a very special place owned by Michael and Mary Serr.

Thank you for your support. We had "returnees" from last year, and first-time guests. Silent Auction items were bid on and sold. Food and wine were plentiful, varied and delicious. Ambiance was relaxed and friendly. **Leslie Ziff** chaired this committee and was supported by Susan Gallagher, Jill Franks, Julie Puterbaugh, Vicky Ryan, and Jeanne Martin. As always, we are so grateful to be supported by the many businesses in Sierra Madre that donated food and auction items.

The next big event is the **Wistaria Festival on Saturday, March 28**. Please stop by our "pop up!" Best Used Books will be available for purchase. There will also be a chance to hear about the progress made on the library renovations. Learn about all the activities planned for the **Grand Re-opening, Saturday, June 6**. Remember it is through your support that all of this is made possible! It is your Library; be proud of supporting this journey. If not a Friend or Partner, consider joining and supporting the ongoing programs made available by our awesome Library Staff.

Hope to see you on March 28 and June 6.

Each month I would like to feature a Board member. This month **Leslie Ziff** is featured and details are on Page 2.

**Jeanne Martin**

## FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY ART FAIR

Mark your calendars for a vibrant weekend of art, music, and community at the **Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Art Fair**, happening **May 2–3** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Sierra Madre Memorial Park (**222 West Sierra Madre Blvd**).

This beloved outdoor event features more than 80 artist booths, live entertainment throughout the weekend, children's activities, and a lively silent auction— all in support of the Sierra Madre Public Library.

This year's **Featured Artist** is **Lilia Venier** whose ceramic piece "Abby and Her Bunny" will be on display in booth #24 along with many other of her very unique creations.

With the Library currently closed for major renovations and scheduled to reopen in early June this year's Art Fair is especially meaningful. Proceeds from vendor fees and silent auction donations directly fund children's programs, community events, library services, and essential supplies — helping rebuild a creative hub for the entire community.

Make a day of it: pick up food from a local restaurant or bring a picnic and enjoy live music under the trees from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Alongside returning Fine Artists, we're also excited to spotlight Emerging Artists and Students. Expect a wonderful mix of illustrated goods, ceramics, paintings, handmade jewelry, photography, zines, prints, textiles, and other original handcrafted work.

Artists interested in participating — or those who know someone who might be — can contact **Sharon Murphy** at [sierramadreartfair@gmail.com](mailto:sierramadreartfair@gmail.com) (Fine Artists) and/or **Jill Franks** at [jillfranksdesign@gmail.com](mailto:jillfranksdesign@gmail.com) (Emerging Artists and Students) for booth information.

Volunteers are needed for set-up help, for two-hour shifts at the information booth and silent auction area, and as roaming artist hosts to give the artists much needed breaks. For details, contact **Janet Emery Gillespie** at [jkemery20@gmail.com](mailto:jkemery20@gmail.com) or 562-686-3283.

Bring a friend, bring a picnic, and be part of a weekend that celebrates art while investing in our community's future.



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER LESLIE ZIFF



Leslie Ziff, our featured Board Member, has lived in a historic home in Sierra Madre for 26 years with her husband, Barry. Together they have raised 3 daughters and now have 6 grandchildren.

Leslie, a native of Michigan, moved to San Diego at the age of 6 and by age 9 she lived in La Jolla where she found a love for the ocean (surfing) and music (singing).

Buying the historic home has enabled Leslie to explore her love of history. She has served many terms as president of the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society. In addition, her love of reading brought her to the Friends Board where she has been very active in the One Book One City. She also chaired the Annual Wine and Cuisine Tasting for 6 years. Her volunteering for the last 2 years includes being a member of the Chamber of Commerce where she coordinates vendors for the Wistaria and Winter Festivals.

Earning Masters in Special Education and Music, Leslie has taught grades 3-12. She now is a Supervisor of Student Teachers at CSULA. Her love of music continues with directing a group called Remember When, a group of 6 women who perform songs from the Big Band, to musical to nostalgic music of the 50's and 60's.

Leslie's motto is perfect: "Always keep a song in your heart!"

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## THE SUN IS SETTING ON THE TEMPORARY LIBRARY

It's almost time to say goodbye to our "home away from home!" After two years of serving the community from our temporary space, the Sierra Madre Public Library is thrilled to be heading back to where it all began — this time with some big improvements in store.

### A short closure . . . for a big comeback!

As the Library moves and gets settled, both the temporary and permanent locations will be closed to the public through **May 31**. During this time, staff will be hard at work merging the temporary collection with the larger Library collection that has been in long-term off-site storage.

This major project has been made possible thanks to \$10,669,210 in state and federal grant funding and \$1,800,000 from City Reserves, which will help bring the original 1955 Library building up to modern standards and expand services for years to come.

Improvements include:

Seismic and ADA upgrades

Asbestos abatement

New HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems

Improved green space

A 5,000 square foot expansion

### Your Library card still works . . . online!

Even while our doors are closed, the Library is still open 24/7 online. Be sure to renew or sign up for a Library card before February 1 so you can keep enjoying our free digital resources, including:

Libby for eBooks and eAudiobooks

PressReader for magazines and newspapers

Kanopy for streaming movies

Freegal for streaming music

ComicsPlus for graphic novels for all ages

Mango Languages to learn a new language

Brainfuse for homework help, test prep, college readiness, and resume support

And there's even more available — visit our online catalog anytime to explore all the options.

### Save the date . . . Grand Reopening!

We can't wait to welcome the community back to our refreshed and expanded Library home. Mark your calendars and join us on **Saturday, June 6** for our Grand Reopening, Ribbon Cutting, and Summer Reading Kickoff!

We're so grateful for the community's support and patience during this exciting transition and we can't wait to see you at the Library again soon!



## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Partners support the Library with *annual* contributions at the **Partners** (\$100 or more) **Level, Silver** (\$250 or more) **Level,** or **Gold** (\$500 or more) **Level.**

At the January Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Board Meeting, the Board voted to add Partners to the upper levels of membership in the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. This change means that all Partners are now Friends without having to pay a separate membership fee as was necessary in years past and that they will only get one reminder when their annual contribution is due.

The Board hopes that not only will the change help to avoid confusion but also will make Friends membership at the Partners levels available to more of our supporters.

We are grateful to all of you who are members of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. Our Library is able to provide its wide variety of exciting programs and special services because of you!

## BEST USED BOOK SALE

The Book Sale committee is working hard to collect, price and store wonderful books for the shelves in the new Friends Bookstore! Donations close on Saturday, February 28 and we're getting ready to move into the new store and workroom for our book sales. Shelves will be going up, books will be sorted and placed in the correct spots, and we are looking for volunteers to help.

Please contact **Martha Troedson** at 626-264-2811 or [troed11@gmail.com](mailto:troed11@gmail.com) if you would like to help. We have opportunities for working in the store itself, talking about books with neighbors, shelving and selling, or in the workroom, sorting and pricing. Come and join the excitement as we get ready to open our new store!

## PARTNERS PROGRAM

Last year the Partners made a significant donation to the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Fund for our newly renovated Library. Looking ahead, Leila Regan would like to use Partners contributions to help create and sustain long term programs that build community, promote literacy, and are fun. We are very grateful to those Partners who renewed their membership this month: De & Pat Alcorn, John & Marta Capoccia, Shannon King & Frank Moore, Laura Palmer, Darlene Traxler, and Barry & Leslie Ziff. And we welcome Julie Rosenthal as our newest Partner.

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!

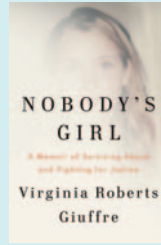
## GENERAL FUND DONATIONS

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to supporting our community Library. Monies in the General Fund are used to support programs such as the Preschool Story Hour, Tales and Tails, Green Teens, Summer Reading Program, One Book One City, Third Thursday Book Club, Parenting Workshops, as well as various service and equipment needs. It is through your support of the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library that we are able to continue these 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 6. We are grateful for your support!

## READER'S REVIEW

*This month's review is  
by Richard Bellikoff*



***Nobody's Girl***  
***A Memoir of Surviving Abuse and Fighting for Justice***

**By Virginia Roberts Giuffre**

After the arrest of the Andrew formerly known as Prince, the brother of King Charles, on charges related to his ties to Jeffrey Epstein, the late Virginia Giuffre's family issued a statement: "Today our broken hearts have lifted at the news that no one is above the law, not even royalty." Andrew is one of many unsavory characters in this posthumously published memoir. Known to her family and friends as Jenna, the author committed suicide in April 2025 at the age of 41.

Her idyllic childhood in South Florida ended at the age of seven, when her father, who she calls "the original betrayer," began sexually molesting her. His friend continued the abuse. Later, as a young teenager, she was raped by a man making false promises of modeling work. When she was 16, her father, who was doing maintenance work at Mar-a-Lago, got her a job at the spa there. Observing the masseuses, she thought this might be a career path. She was at the front desk reading an anatomy book when a woman with a British accent asked, "Are you interested in massage?" A club member needed one, Ghislaine Maxwell said, and if he liked her, he'd pay for her training. The club member turned out to be Epstein, and after similar sessions, he began trafficking her to other men, including the late Marvin Minsky of MIT, the French modeling agent Jean-Luc Brunel — who, like Epstein, died by suicide in prison — a former prime minister, who she refused to name because "I fear that this man will seek to hurt me if I say his name here," and Prince Andrew, who told her, "My daughters are just a little younger than you." Amid all the graphic sexual descriptions, she wrote, "Please don't stop reading," acknowledging the cumulative effect of her "trauma reel."

In 2002, after two years of sexual slavery at the hands of Epstein and Maxwell, they fulfilled their promise to pay for her training as a massage therapist, enrolling her at a massage school in Thailand. But she never returned to the USA. She married an Australian, Robbie Giuffre, who she had met at the school, and the couple moved to Sydney. Her escape was short-lived. She had PTSD flashbacks during sex with her husband, who had known nothing about her lurid past. One day, the phone rang and a familiar voice said "Jeffrey's being investigated. Have you been contacted?" It was Maxwell. Then Epstein called, followed by the FBI. I couldn't help thinking of the scene in The Godfather where Michael Corleone says "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in."

In 2017, Jenna learned that investigative journalist Julie K. Brown of the Miami Herald had uncovered 80 Epstein victims and written a multipart series about them. Jenna found support in her growing group of "survivor sisters" to whom she dedicated this memoir. She wrote, "I realized that I had spent the second half of my life recovering from the first, and I was still fighting for justice. I'd come a long way, but I had yet to feel anywhere near whole. I wondered if that feeling would ever come."

In her final chapter, Jenna yearns for a world in which "predators are punished, not protected; victims are treated with compassion, not shamed; and powerful people face the same consequences as anyone else. If this book moves us even an inch closer to a reality like that — if it helps just one person — I will have achieved my goal." Today, Maxwell continues to serve a 20-year sentence for sex trafficking. The passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act has resulted in the release of at least some of the Epstein files, implicating other men in the widening scandal. Some of Jenna's survivor sisters were in the audience at Trump's State of the Union speech.

While the Sierra Madre Library is temporarily closed, you can find this extraordinary memoir in other public libraries, including those in Pasadena, Los Angeles, Arcadia and Monrovia.

**CALL # STATUS: 362.76 GIUFFRE**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## MARCH CALENDAR

MARCH 1 TO MAY 30		LIBRARY CLOSED – NO PROGRAMS OR EVENTS
MARCH 18	7:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
MARCH 23	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING
MARCH 28	9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	FRIENDS BOOTH AT WISTARIA FESTIVAL



*Read, Discover, Connect @ Sierra Madre Public Library*

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

### LIBRARY HOURS

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

Sierra Madre Public Library  
350 W. Sierra Madre Blvd  
Sierra Madre (626) 355-7186  
TEXT (626) 662-1254

THE FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 334, SIERRA MADRE, CA 91025  
[www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org)