



# FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

FOUNDED IN 1953

April 2026

## President's Message

Dear Friends, Partners, and All Library Supporters,

We are in count down mode for the opening of the newly renovated Public Library!

This has been a long journey with many ups and downs, but totally supported by the community and guided by **Leila Regan — our Director of Library Services**, a lady with great patience, determination, and intelligence.

Last month I was able to share a little about Leslie Ziff, a long-time board member. I plan to continue with "introducing" other board members. This month, however, space is dedicated for the upcoming Art Fair, and recognition and a thank you to all the businesses that supported the Wine and Cuisine Tasting — a very successful event enjoyed by returning supporters and attracting new as well.

The Friends of the Library is the support for programs. In these times, new programs are always emerging, so your support is extra appreciated to keep the Library filled with the best, most popular and current.

A few dates to keep in mind: the Friends of the Library had a presence at the Wistaria Festival in March. The fund raiser for the Library, the **Sierra Madre Art Fair**, will be **May 2 and 3** in Memorial Park, and **Wednesday, June 24** will be our **Annual Meeting** and election of officers for the 2026-27 year.

Please, check your busy lives and try to find a couple of hours to volunteer, support, and help!

The Friends of the Library website, [www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org), has a form for volunteering. Please, consider filling out that form and "be on call" for specific needs both small and big.

Thank you! It is a true pleasure and honor to serve on the board. I look forward to meeting you; it was such joy to welcome new supporters to the Wine and Cuisine Tasting, and to reconnect with others.

Jeanne Martin

## ART, COMMUNITY, AND A CAUSE: DON'T MISS SIERRA MADRE'S ART FAIR SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY

Ready for a weekend that checks all the boxes — art, music, fresh air, and feel-good community vibes? On **May 2–3, from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Art Fair returns to **Sierra Madre Memorial Park** for a weekend filled with creativity, connection, and local charm.

Wander beneath the trees and discover a thoughtfully curated collection of over 80 artists, showing off their original, handcrafted work. Think ceramics, paintings, textiles, jewelry, photography, prints — and plenty of "I didn't know I needed this but now I do" finds. With both seasoned Fine Artists and rising Emerging Artists and Students, there's something to catch every eye.

And it's not just about the art. With two stages of live music, a silent auction full of one-of-a-kind treasures, hands-on kids' activities, and an Art Books Sale, the atmosphere is equal parts laid-back and lively.

This year, the Art Fair means even more. While the Sierra Madre Public Library is closed for renovations (reopening June 2026), funds from the Fair will help keep its programs and services going strong into the future. Every purchase, bid, and visit helps support children's programs, community events, and the resources that make the Library such a beloved hub.

Can't make it in person? You can still be part of the impact. The silent auction will also be available online, giving you the opportunity to browse and bid on artwork from anywhere—even your couch. It's a wonderful way to contribute — and you might just find the perfect Mother's Day gift while you're at it!

Plan to linger a while — catch some great local music, browse at your own pace, and grab a bite from a local restaurant or bring a picnic and make a day of it.

Want to be part of the magic behind the scenes? Volunteers are *very* much needed (and very appreciated!). If you've got muscles for set-up, a couple of hours for the info booth or silent auction, or just a friendly face to give artists quick breaks, there's a role for you. It's a great way to meet people, earn community service hours, and get a little insider access to the fun. To jump in, contact **Janet Emery Gillespie** at [jkemery20@gmail.com](mailto:jkemery20@gmail.com) or 562-686-3283.

Whether you're on the hunt for your next favorite artist, a unique gift, or just a really lovely way to spend a spring day, the Art Fair delivers.

 **May 2–3**

 **10 AM – 5 PM**

 **Sierra Madre Memorial Park**



While the Library is CLOSED...

Visit the  Online



[sierramadreca.gov/library](http://sierramadreca.gov/library)

...See You June, 2026

### 51ST WINE AND CUISINE TASTING WRAP UP

The 51st Wine and Cuisine Tasting on Saturday, February 7, was a perfect example of what makes Sierra Madre a wonderful and giving community. Hosted at the Baldwin Avenue Gallery (the BAG), the evening brought together library supporters for a memorable night of exceptional wine and delicious cuisine in a warm, art-filled setting. Events like this are more than just gatherings; they are a vital part of sustaining the programs, collections, and services for our reimagined Library, which will reopen **Saturday, June 6** . . . don't miss the Grand Reopening!

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made this evening possible, especially our incredible winery partners: Riboli, Regal, Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits, and Bess and to **the following businesses who donated to our Silent Auction:**

- Arnold's Hardware, Baldwin Avenue Gallery, Bess, The Buccaneer, Butterfly Effect Day Spa, Casa del Rey, Dog Wash America, E. Waldo Ward & Son, Emmi's, Fables & Fancies, Java Madre, Kerrie Lynn Hair Salon, Leonora Moss, Lord Empanada, Lucky Baldwin's, Lucky Clover Spa, Mary's Market Café, Monsieur Crepe Café, Munka Sweet (Sugarfree Chocolates), My Friends Café, Nailtique, Nano Café, Nobee's Florist, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Only Place In Town, Perry's Joint, Raffi's Catering & Banquet, Regal Winery, Riboli Winery, Santa Anita Race Track, Sierra Madre Fire Chief Brent Bartlett, Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society, Sierra Madre Librarians, Sierra Madre Massage Company, Sierra Madre Police Chief Gustavo Barrientos, Syndicate, 355 Burger, Trader Joe's - Hastings Ranch, and Zelo Pizzeria.

To our guests, volunteers, and supporters — thank you for showing up, giving back, and helping us continue a tradition that blends culture, community, and purpose in such a meaningful way!

Sincerely the Wine and Cuisine Tasting Committee,

**Leslie Ziff, Jeanne Martin, Jill Franks, Susan Gallagher, Julie Puterbaugh, and Vicky Ryan.**

**GRAND REOPENING RIBBON CUTTING & SUMMER READING KICKOFF** 

**SCHEDULE** **SATURDAY JUNE 6**

**WE'RE BACK!** **GRAND REOPENING**  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Hear from local and state dignitaries!

**RIBBON CUTTING**  
11:00 AM  
Check out the renovated Library inside & out!

**BLOCK PARTY**  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Celebrate the renovation with us and each other!

**SUMMER READING KICKOFF**  
12:00 PM  
Thor's Reptiles in the Mary Tumilty Community Room!



## BEST USED BOOK SALE

Our Best Used Book Sales will be on hiatus for several months while we concentrate on moving, organizing and equipping The Friends' Bookstore at the refurbished library building.

The Book Sales will begin again in the summer. We are excited about the opportunities ahead for supporting our Library with funds raised from the sales generated from our new store!

Donations will begin again soon. Watch this space for information on how you can donate your "gently-used" books and media.

We are looking for **volunteers** to help shelve books and materials after our move. Please let **Martha Troedson** know if you can donate a few hours to help. She can be contacted at 626-264-2811 or [troed11@gmail.com](mailto:troed11@gmail.com).

## PARTNERS PROGRAM

Partners are Friends of the Sierra Madre Library who support the Library with *annual* contributions at the **Partners** (\$100 or more); **Silver** (\$250 or more); or **Gold** (\$500 or more) **Level**.

This month we would like to thank the following Partners for renewing their membership: Christopher & Catherine Addé, Andy & Julie Bencosme, Maggie Ellis, Stephen & Gordana Perlof, Pete & Marianne Siberell, Bob & Sue Spears and Claire Sweetland. We welcome two new Partners: Linda Baum and Moira Regelson.

A special thank you to Deborah Ko who made a large donation to the Partners Fund to help create and sustain new programs.

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. Thank you to Theodore Calleton for his generous donation to Friends of the Sierra Madre Library at the end of February.

Monies in the General Fund are used to support programs such as the Preschool Story Hour, Tails and Tales, Teen Programs, Summer Reading Club, 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 **Renee Kahl**

Villette

**By Charlotte Bronte  
(rewritten for the SMPL)**

*Villette*, the first-person tale of Lucy Snowe, a young Englishwoman with a devastating past who tries to make a fresh start in the French town of Villette as an instructor in a boarding school, was first published in 1853. It takes the right mindset to enjoy 19<sup>th</sup> century writing, to patiently absorb the long paragraphs full of multi-clause sentences. Charlotte Brontë's ornate, convoluted prose in this novel makes *Jane Eyre* look terse.

But the turbid prose is never repetitious and provides one of the most intricate character studies I've ever read. It is a function of Lucy's excessive introspection, a window into her introverted, complex personality.

Prone to depression and pessimistically convinced she is one of the unlucky ones in earthly life, Lucy does expect joy in heaven. Though compliant, submissive and self-effacing, she is proud with a rock-solid sense of herself and her values that she is fierce in defending. Inexperienced as a teacher, she instinctively knows how to grab control of her unruly class at the outset through the right mix of intimidation and entertainment. Deprived of education in her youth, she constantly and hungrily absorbs learning and is sharply perceptive about those around her; her self-assessment as not very bright is perhaps the only instance where she is an unreliable narrator. In each of her relationships — and they are unique and fascinating (those characters are well-drawn through Lucy's introspection, too) — she enforces a bright line. With vain, silly Genevra she is a partially tolerant big sister, but shoos her away with a cutting reproof after enough nonsense. She doesn't care at all that her employer, Madame, mistrusts her, or snoops through her things, but only so long as those are replaced respectfully exactly as they were. She is gratified when Madame figures out that the way to keep her a happy employee is not to bribe her with gifts but to leave her alone. With each of the men with whom she falls in love, she sees his faults clearly and refuses to change herself to suit him.

The book has a few minor flaws, although the prose isn't one of them. As many have pointed out, the plot is weakened by too many coincidences. Everyone significant Lucy knows in England seems to transfer to France with her and turn up in multiple implausible ways. The character Polly, who Lucy describes as the only person who "really knows" her, is not nearly as developed as I would have liked. The portrait of this tough heroine more than makes up for these complaints.

*Villette* will be on the shelf when the Library reopens on June 6.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## APRIL CALENDAR

APRIL 1 TO MAY 30	LIBRARY CLOSED – NO PROGRAMS OR SPECIAL EVENTS	
APRIL 15	7:00 P.M	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
APRIL 27	5:00 P.M.	LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING



*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

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/)

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