

### President's Message

**Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters of the Sierra Madre Public Library,**

Exiting times as we draw closer to the reopening of the renovated Library. Before that big event on **Saturday, June 6**, there is the **Sierra Madre Friends of the Library Art Fair** — the major fund raiser for the Friends of the Library. The **Art Fair** is **Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3** in Memorial Park from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PLEASE reach out to support this very important event. Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts. An email was sent to all Friends and Partners to use the link to sign up on Sign Up Genius. Thank you to all who have signed up already, the culture of Sierra Madre embraces volunteerism and collaboration.

With your generous donations and our fund raisers we are able to provide the Library with much needed programs and materials to maintain the high quality of opportunities our Library offers. This benefits everyone in Sierra Madre. And, all of the programs and activities need your support. Friends and Partners are the best sources to spread the word about the importance and benefits of supporting the Library. Encourage friends, neighbors to join in this support — and even volunteer for the Art Fair.

In addition to the Art Fair and Grand Reopening, **Sunday, June 14** is the **Concert in the Park** supported by the Friends of the Library and Sierra Madre Civic Club and **Wednesday, June 24** is the **Annual Dinner Meeting for Friends, Partners and Volunteers.**

I look forward as always to seeing you at events and actually meeting you!

**Jeanne Martin**

### THE SIERRA MADRE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ART FAIR RETURNS MAY AND 3

The forecast is looking beautiful — perfect weather to spend a day (or two!) at the Sierra Madre Friends of the Library Art Fair. Join us **May 2 and 3**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in Sierra Madre Memorial Park for a wonderful weekend supporting our beloved Library.

Stroll beneath the trees and explore more than 80 artists featuring ceramics, paintings, textiles, jewelry, photography, prints, and more. One of the best parts? You'll have the chance to meet the artists themselves and learn about their work up close.

We're delighted to welcome a talented and diverse group of artists this year, including: Ivan Adaniya, Jorge Algraves, Deb Barbour, Dominique Blanchard, Carson Brown, Cheryl Buhler, Abigail Clark, Tania Chang, Lesley Clumeck, Robin M. Cohen, Elizabeth Converse, Alexis Daniels, Shigeko DaSilva, Richard Dickson, Maureen Dieter, Tim Earling, James Ellison, Rick Ellison, Kris Erickson, Gilda Fathi, Vanessa Fierstadt, Eva Franco, Hana Golden, Alice Gonzalez-Trejo, Marc Gordon, Patrick Haemmerlein, Dhamee Hahn, Garfield Han, Jivita Harris-Casey, Teri Hendrich C., Chelsea Hewitt, Mark Ho, Natalie Hoy, Christine Huffman, Rick Hunter, Justin Iversen, Aleta Jacobson, Gwen Katz, Aron Kearney, Rajiv Khilnani, Miki Kinoshita, Nora Koerber, Chloe Kono, Randy Kono, Suzanne Kustner, Julie Larmi, Sandra Lopez, Leonardo Lupori, Rosina Maize, Nate McMullen, Colleen McPhillips, Mark McPhillips, Alejandro Mendoza, Juna Meri, Ira Meyer, Carole Michele, James Miller, Randy Momii, Ed Morse, Olga T. Mosqueda, Charlotte Mullich, Li Mei Norton, David Ortega, Ramona Paloma Tile, Lucia Pasquinelli, Eva Pei, Jolana Pineda, Karen Pokraka, Sue Priest, Flor Quinto, Jennifer Robins, Kathleen M. Robison, Rene Rodriguez, Jiten Sadhwani, Bobby Sassone, Frances Schenck, Kruti Shah, Marc Shapiro, Carol Shimokochi, Lynne Sims, W. Jason Situ, Jeff Skelly, Pasadena Society of Artists, Tony & Kathy Stewart, Frieda Strachan, Todd Swart, Kathleen Swaydan, Kara Taub, Georgia Timm, Lili Todd, Alfred Tse, Vanya Vellore, Ellen Vener, Lilia Venier (**FEATURED ARTIST**), Dominique Vialar, Julia Vickrey, Laura Wambsgans, Shaney Watters, Lesley Weinberger, Sally Weiss, Karen Winters, Anthe Wosczyzna, Yalya Xiaou, Chuchu Yin, Kendyl Young and Nancy Yuan.

**Live music** will fill the park all weekend, with local musicians generously donating their time and talent to support the Library. Performances include The Ukulele Orchestra of the Western Hemisphere, Richard Bellikoff, Generic Clapton, Sonny Kennedy, The Band with No Name (led by Khemet McConville), Rich Dembowski, Evan Marshall, Wild Mountain Mystics, Dusty MacGroovy, and Maggie Moran.

This year's **Silent Auction** will be held online, making it easier than ever for everyone to participate — and helping us raise even more for the Library. You can view auction items in person at the park, then place your bids from anywhere throughout the weekend: <https://FriendsOfTheLibraryArtFair.auctria.events>.

Be sure to stop by the **Best Used Books Art Book Sale** to find great reads and say hello to fellow Friends of the Library volunteers. You'll also find "Eat-Out" flyers for local restaurants generously donating a portion of their weekend sales back to the Library.

We're also grateful for the support of our local business community. The Baldwin Avenue Gallery — host of our Wine Tasting Fundraiser — will showcase artists and promote its current exhibition. LMF Gallery and the Sierra Madre Art Walk will also be joining in the festivities.

With the Sierra Madre Public Library set to reopen on Saturday, June 6, your support at the Art Fair helps ensure its programs and services continue to thrive.



## A MESSAGE FROM LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR LEILA ARCIERO

Significant progress continues at the renovated Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, as staff prepare for the highly anticipated reopening on **Saturday, June 6** starting at 10:00 a.m.

Furniture installation is now approximately 90% complete, and staff have begun returning books to the shelves. All materials previously housed in offsite storage have been successfully returned to the building, marking an important milestone in the transition back to the permanent location.

The Library's current efforts include organizing collections and conducting targeted weeding to ensure materials remain current, relevant, and accessible for the community.

As part of ADA accessibility improvements as well as weight factors for the existing portion of the building, some collections have experienced a reduction in shelving capacity. In response, staff are thoughtfully evaluating and refining the collection to balance accessibility requirements with future growth and usability.

The final move from the temporary Library location is scheduled to begin soon. Staff are excited to welcome the community back and showcase the newly renovated Library, which will offer improved access, updated systems, and enhanced spaces for reading, discovering and connecting.

To stay updated with the Library, follow us on social media!



## BEST USED BOOK SALE

### The Friends' Bookstore

We are so excited to be moving into our own brand-new bookstore in the refurbished library building. We hope to be open to shoppers 5 days a week and will need cashiers to make this possible. If you can spare 2 ½ hours per week to join our merry band of readers and book-lovers, please contact **Martha Troedson** at 626-264-2811 or [troed11@gmail.com](mailto:troed11@gmail.com).

It's always fun to talk about books and stories with our dedicated volunteers and shoppers and you'll meet the nicest people!

## PARTNERS PROGRAM

As we get close to the Library's grand reopening, we are excited that the new Children's Room has been named after the Friends and the Partners in gratitude for their large contribution to the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Fund. Going forward the Library plans to use Partners funds to create and maintain new programs.

This month we would like to thank the following Partners for renewing their membership: Sharon Marsh, Barbara Nye & Cynthia Nunes, and Leila Regan. We welcome two new Partners: Peggy Dallas and Heather Roberts-Parker.

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 everyone who has donated to our Sierra Madre Library.

The renovation will be completed with the Grand Reopening on **Saturday, June 6**.

Monies in the General Fund are used to support programs such as the Preschool Story Hour, Tales and Tails, Teen Programs, Super 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.

We are grateful for your support!

## READER'S REVIEW



This month's review is  
by **Catherine Addé**

### Broken Country

By **Clare Leslie Hall**

*"The farmer is dead. He is dead, and all anyone wants to know is who killed him."*

*"You can live a whole lifetime in a final moment."*

Do you love a fast paced read that hooks you from the start? Well, here you go:

This is a tale of a love triangle; it stirs the soul and is wrapped up in mystery until the very last. The story centers around a happily married couple, Beth and Frank, who live on a farm in Devon, England. In spite of tragic events that have occurred during their life together, they carry on, keeping the past a secret and buried. What happens next? Frank's brother shoots the neighbor's dog, thinking it was going after their sheep on the family farm. That brings about a chain of events so dramatic that all their lives will never be the same. For the poor pooch happened to belong to Beth's boyfriend, Gabriel, from her early days in high school. He has recently arrived back in their small hometown with his young son. We follow Beth who is rapidly absorbed into Gabriel's life, as she develops a loving, maternal relationship with his son Leo – who can blame her – for the boy reminds Beth of her own son that she lost. We all know the vagrancies of small-town life, right? Poor Beth becomes hot gossip and chat about town, this results in jealousy between Frank and Gabriel, as well as mounting fears and tension, for the last thing she wants is to have is her past unearthed.

I hope you enjoy this powerful story with its exciting plot and well-crafted characters. I feel that anyone reading it can relate. Because it showcases how matters of the heart can make us do things we know we shouldn't, after all strong emotions can throw logic out the window!

Critics wrote:

"A sweeping love story with the pace and twists of a thriller, *Broken Country* is a novel of simmering passion, impossible choices, and explosive consequences that toggles between the past and present to explore the far-reaching legacy of first love."

"*Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall is an unforgettable story of love, loss, and the choices that shape our lives ... but it's also a masterfully crafted mystery that will keep you guessing until the very last page. Seriously, that ending?! I did not see it coming." — Reese Witherspoon

This book's recommendation arrived on my device by the actress Reese Witherspoon in an Instagram video as she interviewed the author: Clare Leslie Hall. I was charmed by Ms. Hall, an English lady from Devon, and though I do not usually follow celebrities' book clubs, her story intrigued me. I checked our Sierra Madre Library's website, they did not have it – so, being a supporter of our town's newly opened bookstore: "Fables and Fancies, it was ordered for me and I simply devoured it. That donated copy is available in our Library's collection. However, you'll just have to wait until our newly renovated Library reopens on **Saturday, June 6** to borrow this masterfully crafted mystery!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## MAY CALENDAR

MAY 1 TO MAY 30	LIBRARY CLOSED – NO PROGRAMS OR SPECIAL EVENTS	
MAY 2-3	10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.	SIERRA MADRE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ART FAIR
MAY 20	7:00 P.M	FRIENDS BOARD MEETING
MAY 23	7:00 A.M.-12 NOON	FRIENDS TABLE AT MT. WILSON TRAIL RACE
MAY 25	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

[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)