



# FRIENDS of the Sierra Madre Library

March 2011

## President's Message:

### Campaign for Children's Room at the Library

If you've stopped by the Library's Children's Room lately, you will have noticed the wonderful changes that were made possible by the Family Place Grant which the Library was awarded. This \$15,000 grant provided funding for the early-childhood parenting workshops that are taking place this month. Child-friendly furniture, books and educational toys were purchased with grant money. It was very satisfying for Library staff to have the resources to purchase these improvements for family-centered services.

The grant does not cover the costs of implementing a room-renovation plan that has been drawn up to create more functional space in the Children's Room, nor will it provide on-going funds for adding to the collections, upgrading computers, or the purchase of other essential resources that contribute to the educational and developmental needs of children in our community.

Critical library funding from government sources is simply not available, and libraries will "do without," or will have to find new sources of funding. To address the needs of our Library and the children of our community, the professional staff is working with the Friends, Library Trustees, and members of the community to plan a campaign to raise money for Children's Room improvements. The Board of Directors of the Friends has pledged a lead gift of \$8,000 towards the fundraising goal of \$40,000. The funds will be drawn from the Partner's Program contributions, and from interest earned on the Mary Tumilty Endowment Fund.

We will be looking to other community groups and to individuals in the months ahead, and we will keep you abreast of the campaign as it unfolds.

**Margaret Quigley**

## CANDIDATES SOUGHT

Board Development is looking for candidates for the positions listed below. The selection must be complete by the middle of April for presentation to the Friends of the Library Board of Directors. At this time the Board will confirm the recommendations which will be voted upon at the general membership meeting in June. Anyone with an interest is encouraged to be aware of what the positions require. This can be done by reviewing the job descriptions located in a binder at the Library. If you are interested in being selected for any one of the positions listed here, please email Clem Bartolai, Chairman of Board Development, at [cbartolai@gmail.com](mailto:cbartolai@gmail.com).

Art Fair Chairperson, Archives/Historian, Best Used Book Sale Chairperson, Board Development Chairperson, Membership Chairperson, Website Maintenance Chairperson, Wine Tasting Chairperson.

## A GOOD BOOK CAN TRANSPORT YOU TO PLACES YOU NEVER IMAGINED

Pat would like to say a big heartfelt "Thank You" to all the dedicated Volunteers and Customers who attended the February Best Used Book Sale and made it the best book sale ever. The total sales were \$4,029.70. I cannot begin to tell you how much all of your dedication is appreciated so please accept my simple THANK YOU.

The Friends' April Best Used Book Sale will be held on Friday, April 1, 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There will be a Bargain Table in the Library the week of March 7-12. Books will be \$1.00 each.

## LIBRARY PARTNERS

Thank you to Tim and Jill Schofield for renewing their gift to the Partners' annual fund.

As you know, our Library provides many services that benefit the adults and children in our community. By participating in the Partners program with an annual gift of \$100 or more you will help to ensure that these services can continue. Government cutbacks are having a major impact on libraries, and private philanthropic support is now more critical than ever.

Many of you support our Library by participating in our events and book sales; your annual gift will help even more.

## MARCH CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

In March, the Library will be celebrating "all things Japanese," with cultural programs and displays scheduled throughout the month:

**Meet the Author:** On Thursday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m., author Naomi Hirahara will give a presentation at the Library, followed by a book signing. Ms. Hirahara is the acclaimed author of many fiction and non-fiction books on Japanese history and culture. In 2004 she began a series featuring one of the most original protagonists in mystery fiction, the "reluctant detective" Mas Arai, an Hiroshima survivor, inveterate gambler, gardener and curmudgeon who longs for the simple life, but finds, instead, murder on his doorstep and wrongs that only he can right. Ms. Hirahara's mysteries contain powerful stories that are rich with historical detail and realistic characters who struggle to come to terms with their past, present, and uncertain futures. You can find all four novels in the series in the Library's New Mystery Books section.



**The Art of the Japanese Garden:** Saturday, March 19, at 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Sierra Madre School, Arts Discovery Room, 141 W. Highland Ave. The Japanese Garden at Sierra Madre School is a great source of pride for the students, staff, parents and community. Please join us for a program that will explore the creation, restoration and expansion of the garden as well as current plans for maintaining this eighty-year-old treasure of Sierra Madre. Landscape artist Lew Watanabe, teacher Helen Pontarelli, parents and students will share their experiences in restoring and tending the garden. This program is free and open to the public. For more info, contact Debbie Henderson at the Library or by e-mail at [dhenderson@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:dhenderson@cityofsierramadre.com).

**A Celebration in Memorial Park:** Drop by the park on Friday, March 25, from 5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. and enjoy reasonably priced ramen noodles, fried rice, dumplings and sushi, prepared by **Happy Cup Ramen Truck**, the only truck serving authentic Asian snack foods in the Los Angeles area.



At 5:30 p.m. the evening's activities will kick off with a Sumo wrestling demonstration by the **Centurion Sumo Club**. Sports fans will enjoy meeting and chatting with Troy Collins, former U.S. National Sumo Wrestling Champion, who will be attending the event.

Following the wrestling demo, **Soma Nomaoui** (Samurai Warriors) in historic garb will then take center stage, recreating an authentic battle scene.

Mayor Joe Mosca will formally welcome the event's special guest, The Honorable **Junichi Ihara**, the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles. A performance of classical Japanese Taiko drumming by the acclaimed Hiroyuki Hayashida Taiko Trio will round out the evening's activities. *Our thanks to the sponsors of this event: Yoshio Sodeyama of U.S. Equine, Inc., Pete Siberell of Santa Anita Park, Tokyo City Keiba (TCK), and Yakult USA.*

## THIRD THURSDAY BOOK CLUB



Our March 17 selection is the uniquely reflective and philosophical, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by French author Muriel Barbery.

Renée, the cultured, self-educated concierge of an upscale apartment building in Paris, pretends to be crude and dull-witted rather than challenge the negative stereotype its class-conscious inhabitants have of a superintendent. Living in the building is Paloma, a precocious twelve-year-old, who decides that her privileged life is shallow and worthless, and that suicide is the only reasonable solution. When a "mysterious" Japanese gentleman moves into the building, their lives intersect, with unexpected results.

Our April 21 selection is *Howl*, Allen Ginsberg's controversial, anti-conformist diatribe that challenged literary taboos and changed the way poetry was defined thereafter. Though *Howl* was originally created as a performance piece, Ginsberg's friend, the poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, was the publisher of a literary magazine and decided to print it. He was promptly arrested for obscenity. *Howl* was subsequently ruled "not obscene," and went on to become the most celebrated poem of the Beat Generation.



April is National Poetry Month, a time to discover a wonderful new poet or reacquaint yourself with an old favorite. The Library will be celebrating with special programs (TBA) throughout the month.

Reading lists are available at the Library Service Desk. The group is moderated by Catriona Shafer and meets in the Library Reference Room on the third Thursday of the month from 11:00 a.m. - Noon. *Funded by the Friends.*



## SIERRA MADRE ART FAIR - FEATURED ARTIST IVY SHUMAN

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Sierra Madre Art Fair will be held on Saturday, May 7, 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 8, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Memorial Park.

One hundred artists will display and sell their fine art during the weekend and some

will also demonstrate their techniques. Live music will be featured at the band shell and in the southeast section of the park. A Food Court will offer a variety of food and drinks. Creative Arts Group will once again offer a fun and imaginative craft activity for children.



This year's featured artist is woodturner Ivy Shuman, who has been participating in our Art Fair for almost ten years. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, raised in Chicago, and has lived in Southern California for more than 40

years. His studio is located in Chatsworth. Ivy began woodworking in 1977 making furniture, fly-tying boxes, bookcases and children's toys. He purchased his first lathe in 1984 and so began his love affair with woodturning. His first works were shared with family and friends, with other outlets developed as he perfected his technique. Today he sells his work through galleries, specialty boutiques and select businesses, as well as at Fine Art Fairs. Ivy handpicks every piece of wood from the finest domestic and exotic woods available and makes purchases from sources that are environmentally responsible. His award-winning works encompass both functional and classic art forms as well as his own personal style, and include bowls, vases, flower bowls and home accessories.

When asked about woodturning, Ivy stated, "It has been said that woodturning is the most spontaneous of the woodworking arts. Each piece of wood is distinctive in its shape, figure, grain, coloring and flaws so it demands that we appreciate and 'listen' to those unique properties to bring out the best it has to offer."

Three of Ivy's woodturnings in Buckeye Burl will appear on this year's poster, post cards, flyers, t-shirts and other promotional materials. For more details, please call Sharon Murphy, 355-3977, or visit [sierramadrelibraryfriends.org](http://sierramadrelibraryfriends.org). Volunteers are always needed during the weekend and on various committee positions.

## READER'S REVIEW

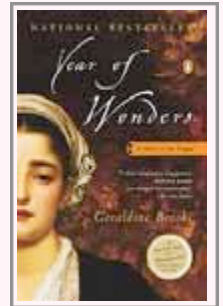
This month's review is by **Catherine Addé**, Library Trustee

*Year of Wonders*, by Geraldine Brooks

The setting for *Year of Wonders* is Eyam, a village in England during 1666 that is beset with bubonic plague, its villagers in despair. The narrator and heroine of the story, Anna Firth, is a strong but unassuming practical sort, serving as a midwife, herbalist, and maid to the Vicar of the parish. We follow Anna as she mourns the losses of those she loves while learning valuable herbalist skills in an effort to keep the villagers alive, and we admire her deeply for her survivor spirit.

The author researched her subject well, for the actual town of Eyam saved itself by sealing off its borders for a year to avoid spreading the plague to nearby villages. In this story, Eyam's villagers come to this decision as well.

The author excels in her ability to paint a picture with words; one can see the village, hear its people, and feel their prejudice and fears, in a tale that is heartbreaking and realistic, with a triumphant, if not surprising ending. The book can be found in the Library's Fiction section (FIC BROOKS).



## DISPLAY CASE FOR MARCH

David Goff's collection of Old West artifacts will be on display until March 12<sup>th</sup>. From mid-March until April 9 the theme of the case will be "Japan: Land of the Rising Sun."

## "COLLECTING THE AMERICAN OLD WEST"

On Friday, March 11, David Goff will present his collection of American Old West art and artifacts in this season's second Travelers and Collectors program. Pioneers and cowboys remain iconic figures in American culture, much admired for their "true grit" and independent spirit. We



never seem to tire of movies and novels set in this time period, and even the everyday, commonplace items unique to this period continue to fascinate us. History buffs will not want to miss this hands-on program with David Goff, who has dedicated years to collecting and preserving the art and artifacts of this colorful time in our nation's history. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard. Funded by the Friends.



**MARCH**

- 3/2: 7:00 p.m. Preschool Story Hour
- 3/3: 4:00 p.m. Teen Book Club
- 3/7: 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour
- 3/9: 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour
- 3/10: 3:00 p.m. Barks & Books  
4:00 p.m. Teen Book Club
- 3/11: 7:30 p.m. Travelers & Collectors
- 3/14: 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour
- 3/16: 7:00 p.m. Preschool Story Hour  
7:00 p.m. Friends' Board Mtg.
- 3/17: 11:00 a.m. 3rd Thurs. Book Club  
4:00 p.m. Teen Book Club  
7:00 p.m. Author Talk: Naomi Hirahara
- 3/19: 1:00 p.m. Japanese Garden Program
- 3/21: 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour
- 3/23: 7:00 p.m. Preschool Story Hour  
7:00 p.m. Trustees Board Mtg.
- 3/24: 4:00 p.m. Teen Book Club
- 3/25: 5:30 p.m. Japanese Cultural Celebration
- 3/28: 10:00 a.m. Preschool Story Hour
- 3/30: 7:00 p.m. Preschool Story Hour
- 3/31: 4:00 p.m. Teen Book Club

**SIERRA MADRE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES**

Explore local history in the Archives, jointly owned and maintained by the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society and the Library. For research assistance, please call Archivist Debbie Henderson for an appointment at (626) 355-7186.

**PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR:**

Mondays 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Toddlers and their caregivers gather in the Children's Room for stories, songs, and crafts.

**BARKS AND BOOKS FOR KIDS:**

Second Thursday of each month, October - July, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Children's Room. Children of all ages visit with and read to Mae Rose, Humane Society Volunteer Dorothy Raymond's specially trained dog.

**ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES**

Free computer classes are offered year round in Basic Computer I & II, (essential computer functions), Basic Internet I & II, Email Basics, Beginning, Intermediate & Advanced Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Desktop Publishing. Schedules and registration forms are available at the Library. A \$20.00 deposit per class is required, which is refunded upon attendance. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Library.

**TEEN BOOK CLUB AND ADVISORY BOARD:**

Teens in Grades 7-12 meet every Thursday from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., October - June, in the Library basement. Join us for fun books, games, crafts, and yummy snacks to brainstorm ideas for programs, outreach, and book selections, discuss cultural and literary trends. Sign up online or at the Library.

Sierra Madre Public Library  
 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
 Sierra Madre (626) 355-7186  
[www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us)

**LIBRARY HOURS**

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 12 noon-9 p.m.  
 Thursdays and Fridays 12 noon-6 p.m.  
 Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 Closed Sundays and holidays

**www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org**  
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