Sonoma Valley Author’s Festival   
Showings in Friendship Hall

June 2nd – June 16th

# June 2nd – Isabel Allende – *My Name is Emilia Del Valle* @ 1:30 in Friendship Hall

My Name is Emilia del Valle, is set in San Francisco in 1866; an Irish nun is abandoned following a torrid relationship with a Chilean aristocrat and gives birth to a daughter named Emilia del Valle. Raised by a loving stepfather, Emilia grows into an independent thinker and a self-sufficient young woman. She is willing to defy societal norms to pursue her passion for writing. At 16, she begins to publish pulp fiction under a man’s pen name. When these fictional worlds no longer contain her sense of adventure, she turns to journalism, convincing an editor at the San Francisco Examiner to hire her. There, she is paired with another talented reporter, Eric Whela

# June 3rd – *Michael* Connelly @ **10am in Friendship Hall**

Michael Connelly, one of the most acclaimed authors in contemporary crime fiction, has crafted some of the most memorable characters in literature, including LAPD detective Harry Bosch and defense attorney Mickey Haller, known as the “Lincoln Lawyer.” Connelly’s characters are layered, complex, and deeply relatable, making them beloved figures in books and on screen

Michael Connelly discusses his latest works, **The Waiting** and **Nightshade** (just released May 2025, 2025), his path from journalist to bestselling author, and his perspective on crafting compelling crime fiction that captures the heart and the mind. Connelly’s deep knowledge of the crime genre and storytelling brilliance culminate in an unforgettable session.

# June 3rd Elizabeth Gutierrez **2pm in Friendship Hall**

While still in her early 20s, Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez exploded onto the national stage with her TED Talk about the complicated relationship that America has with immigrants – frequently celebrating one type of immigrant while villainizing others.

In that talk, and in her subsequent powerful and acclaimed memoir, **My Side of the River**, Gutierrez, now 29, tackles key issues missing from the traditional narrative about the American immigrant experience. The questions she raised and her raw and inspiring first-hand account of her journey from adversity to achievement are both timely and critically important as the immigration debate rages in Washington, D.C., and around the country.

# June 4th – Percival Everett – **10am in Friendship Hall**

Everett’s reimagining of Mark Twain’s Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the perspective of the runaway enslaved character Jim also won Everett the Kirkus Prize and the Carnegie Medal for Fiction, as well as a finalist slot for the Booker Prize. The Chicago Tribune described James as “a masterpiece that will help redefine one of the classics of American literature while also being a major achievement on its own.”

Everett has written more than 30 books across numerous genres and has been described as one of the most versatile and respected voices in American contemporary literature. He is also one of the most decorated writers of our lifetime.

# June 4th – Patrick Radden Keefe – **2pm in Friendship Hall**

Discover the brilliant storytelling of Patrick Radden Keefe, a master of investigative journalism whose New Yorker portfolio includes ground-breaking articles on the chef Anthony Bourdain, the drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, and the Sackler family’s crucial role in igniting the opioid crisis. He is the bestselling and award-winning author of Empire of Pain, Say Nothing, and most recently ***Rogues: True Stories of Grifters, Killers, Rebels and Crooks***, a collection of twelve of his enthralling New Yorker stories of skullduggery and intrigue.

# June 5th – Sal Khan – **2pm in Friendship Hall**

As the world stands on the brink of an AI revolution, few voices are as compelling and forward-thinking as Sal Khan’s. In his groundbreaking new book, ***Brave New Words: How AI Will Revolutionize Education***, the visionary founder of Khan Academy offers a bold and insightful exploration of how artificial intelligence, including GPT technology, is set to transform the way children learn. With clarity and passion, Khan provides a roadmap for teachers, parents, and students, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to navigate this thrilling yet uncharted territory. The future, according to Khan, is bright: AI cannot only enhance student outcomes but also enrich the teaching experience, paving the way for a world where top-tier education is accessible to all.

# June 9th – Dr. Alex Marson **10am in Friendship Hall**

**Acclaimed researcher revolutionizing medicine by using genetic engineering to cure previously untreatable diseases**

Through his groundbreaking work with next-generation gene therapies, Dr. Alex Marson is on the verge of curing a host of previously untreatable diseases, including some cancers, using genetically engineered cells. Marson’s lab at the Gladstone-UCSF Institute of Genomic Immunology is pushing the boundaries of what decoded and reprogrammed cells are capable of by using powerful new CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) technologies.

# June 9th Anna Quindlen **1:30 in Friendship Hall**

Anna Quindlen is a literary powerhouse whose voice resonates deeply with readers around the globe. As a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and bestselling columnist, she has captivated audiences with her candid prose, relatable narratives, and astute observations on contemporary life.

With a career of over thirty years, Quindlen’s impact on literature and journalism is profound. Her works—comprising nine novels, 10 nonfiction titles, and two children’s books—have collectively sold nearly 13 million copies and have been translated into 19 languages. Her storytelling deftly navigates universal themes such as family dynamics, personal identity, and the complexities of the human experience, making her a cherished figure in modern literature.

What really matters in life? What truly lasts in our hearts and minds? Where can we find community, history, and humanity? In her 2022 book, ***Write for Your Life***, the answer is clear: through writing. This is a book for what Quindlen calls “civilians,” those who want to use the written word to become more human, more themselves.

# June 11th Dr. Eric Topol **1:30 in Friendship Hall**

Dr. Eric Topol is not only a pioneering cardiologist, geneticist, and digital health innovator but has also profoundly influenced the landscape of contemporary medicine. In his groundbreaking new book, “***Super Agers***,” Topol reveals a transformative revolution in human longevity, providing a comprehensive guide to extending health span—the period of life spent in good health.

Topol is one of the world’s most respected medical researchers. He is a professor of genomics and the Chair of Innovative Medicine at the Scripps Research Institute. He is also the visionary founder of a medical school at the Cleveland Clinic (Lerner College of Medicine). The UK sought his expertise to lead an essential review of its National Health Service.

# June 16th Evan Thomas **1:30 in Friendship Hall**

Thomas discusses **First: Sandra Day O’Connor**, his intimate, inspiring and authoritative detailed account of the life of the first female Supreme Court Justice. Drawing on exclusive interviews and first-time access, Thomas’ bestselling biography was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and named One of the Best Books of the Year by NPR and The Washington Post.

Thomas served as a writer, correspondent, and editor for 33 years at Time and Newsweek, including 10 years as Washington bureau chief at Newsweek, where he later served as editor-at-large, retiring in 2010. He wrote more than 100 cover stories. He wrote Newsweek ‘s 50,000-word election specials in 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008. The 2004 election special issue won a National Magazine Award.

# June 16th Pat Soldano and Mark Warren **3pm in Friendship Hall**

Pat Soldano, President of Family Enterprise USA and The Policy and Taxation Group, and congressional tax counsel Mark E. Warren will join SVAF in May to discuss the vital role that family businesses play in the U.S. economy and the critical need to promote, protect, and preserve family-owned businesses in our current ever-changing economy.

Soldano has dedicated her career to presenting legislators with non-partisan intelligence, research, and information on the economic impact family businesses have on the US economy and job growth, as well as their contributions to their communities. Warren has spent over two decades serving as congressional tax counsel spanning four administrations in Washington, D.C., working on every significant tax-policy debate since the Clinton administration.