

DATE: January 23, 2023

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Melvyn Yabut, Assistant Library Director

SUBJECT: Report on Adult Programming at the Library

SUMMARY

The Adult and Digital Division continues to provide current and innovative programs and events to the Mountain View community that are geared toward adults from young professionals to homebound seniors and everyone in-between. These programs meet community needs and interests in areas such as education, literacy, technology, culture, and entertainment to support lifelong learning.

Presenters are topic experts or from organizations that partnered with the Library. Some of the presenters hired by the Library are paid professionals, and the cost for the honorarium is provided through the generous sponsorship of the [Friends of the Mountain View Library](#). For this fiscal year, the Friends provided the Library \$9,000 to fund adult programs. Division staff develop and continually assess programs based on the standards and criteria outlined on the [Library Program Policy](#). The programs are always free to the public.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

In March 2020, with the onset of COVID-19, staff had to cancel all in-person programs, and access to the building was closed to the public. With the uncertainty of not knowing when service levels would return to prepandemic levels, staff quickly regrouped and offered virtual programs to our community who were mostly confined in their homes. Both Adult and Digital and the Youth and Outreach Divisions hosted online programs as early as the first week of May 2020. Overnight, Librarians shed their inhibitions and learned as they go to be virtual presenters and master the online videoconferencing platform, Zoom. The Adult Division offered virtual ESL conversation clubs, author talks, a virtual bike clinic, virtual crafts, and many more. By the end of Fiscal Year 2020-21, the Adult Division hosted 167 virtual programs with a total of 3,401 attendees.

In the second year of the pandemic, as the Library's service levels started to move towards prepandemic level, the Adult Division continued with virtual programs but slowly brought back in-person programs within the limits of County and City health orders. The Adult Division's first return to in-person programs in September 2021 was the City's weekly Rent Relief and Eviction

Help Clinic. Staff from the City's Housing Division assisted members of the community impacted by the pandemic in accessing COVID-relief resources.

The Division started to bring back recurring programs and host new and original programs from September 2021 through the end of Fiscal Year 2021-22, such as the monthly bike repair clinic, musical performances, ukulele jam, free tax preparation help in filing Federal and State income tax returns from February through April 2022, a gender and sexuality workshop and a disaster preparedness workshop, both in June 2022. The Adult Division offered 207 programs in Fiscal Year 2021-22 with a combined attendance of 3,974 attendees, of which 1,326 are from in-person programs.

Even with the Library's return to its prepandemic service levels and the return to more in-person programs, the Division will continue to offer virtual programs as it gives access to Library programming for those who are homebound. From July through November 2022, the Division offered almost equal number of online and in-person programs with 36 virtual programs and 37 in-person programs. The Division will continue to monitor trends in attendance and assess programming to come up with the right balance of online and in-person programs.

FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

This fiscal year, the Adult Division is excited to highlight examples of programs that meet the Library's initiative of providing diverse and inclusive programming that are engaging, socially relevant, fun, informational, and recreational and support lifelong learning and community needs.

Adult programs that support civic engagement and support vulnerable populations:

- *ElevateMV*. The Library was one of the application hubs for the City Council's pilot guaranteed basic income program (September 2022). A total of 138 applicants were able to submit their application for the pilot program at the Library.
- *Housing and Eviction Help Center*. We continue to offer a venue for members of the community to access needed eviction help resources, twice a month and ongoing.
- *Introduction to Medicare Basics*. Information session to assist older adults in navigating Medicare (October 2022).
- *Health and Wealth: Estate Planning and Healthcare*. Information session on estate planning and health-care basics (November 2022).
- *Identifying and Interrupting Microaggressions*. Training session in December 2022.

Adult programs that celebrate multiculturalism and promote inclusion:

- *Ask a Dietician Chinese Bilingual Wellness programs.* In partnership with the Chinese Health Initiative of El Camino Health, wellness topics are presented in English and in the Mandarin language (started July 2021, latest in August 2022).
- *ESL Conversation Club.* Weekly meet up to practice English and learn about American mainstream culture in a relaxed, social, and nonjudgmental setting (weekly, ongoing).
- *A Brief History of Indian Civilization.* Lecture/presentation by author Namit Aurora on Indian history in the last 5,000 years (October 2022).
- *How to Have Difficult Conversations About Race: Practical Tools for Necessary Change in the Workplace and Beyond.* Conversation with author Kwame Christian in November 2022.

Adult programs that involved recreational activities or entertainment:

- *Sing and Play Along Ukulele Jam.* Return of an old favorite. Attendees get to play their ukulele and sing (started July 2022).
- *Aurora Mandolin Ensemble Concert* in July 2022.
- *Fantastic Creatures Drawing Workshop* in September 2022.
- *Tolkien Music Performance* in September 2022.
- *Opera San Jose Performance* in October 2022.
- *The Joys of Chinese Brush Painting* in October 2022.
- *3D Printing Workshop: Mini Jack O' Lanterns* in October 2022.
- *Bel Canto Flutes Holiday Performance* in December 2022.
- Upcoming craft programs in January and February 2023 facilitated by a FabMo volunteer in repurposing materials.

Adult programs that are informational or promote the love of reading:

- *The Henna Artist.* Author Talk with Alka Joshi (July 2022).

- *Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity*. Author Talk with David Allen (July 2022).
- *Author Talk with Jim Butcher* in September 2022. One of the banner events of the annual Sci-Fi September celebration of science fiction, and the science that inspires the fiction. Jim Butcher, bestselling author of the *Dresden Files* and *Codex Alera* book series, engages with fans and readers about his bestselling works.
- *The Rise and Reign of the Mammals*. Conversation with author and paleontologist Steve Brusatte (September 2022).
- *Trust*. Author Talk with Hernan Diaz (September 2022).
- *Cat Q&A with Jackson Galaxy*. Conversation with noted cat behaviorist and TV host Jackson Galaxy (October 2022).
- *The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR: Author Talk with Lisa Napoli* (November 2022).
- *Author Talk with Fredrik Backman: Bestselling Author of a Man Called Ove* (December 2022).

Adult programs that promote sustainability and wellness:

- *Purifying Wastewater to Combat Drought* in August and November 2022.
- *The Healing Power of Meditation* in August 2022.

In addition, here are a few more programming initiatives that the Adult Division implemented and/or are upcoming this fiscal year.

Online Author Series

The Library joined Professional Book Club's Library Speakers Consortium and launched in July 2022 the [Online Author Series](#) giving access to the Mountain View community to talks with best-selling authors and renowned thought leaders covering a wide range of topics. Noted authors, such as Alka Joshi, Fredrik Backman, Geraldine Brooks, Simon Winchester, and Dr. Marcia Chatelain, to name a few, have guested at the online series. Membership in the consortium was funded by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. These talks are livestreamed, and attendees who registered in advance were able to submit questions to the speaker at the event. The events are recorded, and most past recordings are available to watch on the Library's Online Author Series page, indefinitely. The Mountain View community has

embraced this author series with a combined total of 762 registrations, live views at 308, and on-demand views at 985 from July through December 2022.

The Human Library

The Library collaborated with the worldwide [Human Library](#)[®] to host Human Library events which aim to ignite dialogue and understanding between people by creating a safe space to have conversations that challenge society's stereotypes and prejudices. During the event, community members, who registered in advance, are able to check out a human "book" to "read" in one-on-one conversations. Each book in the Human Library is a real person who is available to answer questions about the person's unique experience and life experience. We hosted the Library's first Human Library in July 2022. The Human Library event on January 21, 2023 featured the following human book titles: *Transgender*, *Autistic/Psychiatric Patient*, *Lesbian*, *Adoption/Abuse*, *Women in Tech/Chronic Illness*, and *Police Officers*. We are planning the third, and final, Human Library event for the fiscal year in April 2023. Hosting Human Library events is one of the Library's major goals for this fiscal year.

Silicon Valley Reads

To celebrate 20 years of bringing together communities in Silicon Valley with books and events centered on a timely theme, this year's Silicon Valley Reads theme is Journey to New Beginnings. Three adult fiction titles were selected for 2023: [There There](#) by Tommy Orange, [The Second Life of Mirielle West](#) by Amanda Skenendore, and [What the Fireflies Knew](#) by Kai Harris. The kickoff event is on January 26. The Adult Division has three programs in line with the theme of journeying through new beginnings: a conversation with the author of one of the book selections, Kai Harris in March 2023; an opioid prevention information session; and a meditation talk, both, also in March 2023.

Upcoming Programs

Finally, the Library is looking forward to continuing or restarting partnerships that offer programs that are well-received by the Mountain View community. The UC Master Gardeners are back with programs on the practice of environmentally friendly gardening in January and February 2023. United Way Bay Area returns with IRS-certified tax-preparer volunteers to offer twice-a-week, free tax preparation assistance in filing income tax forms for low-income residents from February through April 2023.

MY/JP/1/LIB

021-01-23-23M