



MEMORANDUM

Library Services Department

DATE: August 16, 2021
TO: Board of Library Trustees
FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Services Director
Laura Burch, Analyst
SUBJECT: **Library Services Director's Report**

LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2020-21 Fiscal Year has ended and the Library had an eventful 12-months. The attached Fiscal Year 2020-21 Year in Review provides an overview and highlights of Library operations during that period. Report

FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET

The City Council approved the budget at their June 22 meeting. The final budget for the Library includes \$20,000 in limited term funds to bolster the digital collection. In addition, the Library request for additional funding for an upgraded bookmobile replacement vehicle was approved.

LIBRARY REOPENING

The Library building has now been open to the public for four months and most in-person services have resumed. The remaining services, including in-person programs and bookmobile service, will be added back in the coming months. Operating hours are currently Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., with full regular hours resuming after Labor Day.

Visits to the Library have been steadily increasing as time goes on. Since July 1, the Library has been averaging 723 visitors with 3,110 physical items borrowed each day.

FACILITY UPDATES

The Teen Zone is in the middle of a refresh with many updates already completed.

- New carpet has been installed in the Teen Zone, holds area, and the hallway leading to the first floor restrooms and elevator.
- The Teen Zone, holds area, public hallway and the first floor staff spaces have received a fresh coat of paint.
- New shelving will be installed on the first floor to provide more room for the teen book collection.



SUMMER READING

Another summer reading program is complete. This year the program had a total of 1,020 people sign up to participate:

- 591 children
- 133 teens
- 296 adults

Of those participants who logged activities, 73% completed the program in its entirety. The adults and teens logged a combined 1,992 books. The children, who tracked the number of days they read over the program, read for a total of 9,171 days.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Past Programs

Pajama Dance Fiesta, a bilingual storytime with English and Spanish, took place on two consecutive Thursdays in early July. Participants read books, watched puppets and danced along to festive music.

Children's and Outreach Services hosted an interactive virtual Puzzle Party where attendees worked together to solve puzzle and play games. The two sessions were facilitated by co-founders of the Solving Fun.



Adult and Digital Services hosted author Terri Hanson Mead to speak about her experiences as a woman over the age of 40 and provided encouragement for other women to design and live a life of their own creation.

The Teen Librarians hosted a series of Teen Comic Strip Book Clubs. The group met three times in July to discuss different comic strip series in appreciation of this short literary format. The comics are all perennial fan favorites, including *Peanuts*, *Garfield*, and *Calvin and Hobbs*.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness – Santa Clara facilitated a conversation about mental health. The interactive presentation gave participants a safe space to ask questions and gain understanding about an often misunderstood topic.

The Library held its first adult program in Mandarin with Ask a Dietitian: Diet for Diabetes Prevention. The program was offered in two sessions, once in Mandarin and again in English, and provided information about how to prevent diabetes through positive lifestyle changes. The Mandarin session proved to be popular with 37 people in attendance.

The popular Civics Kids program series from last summer returned in 2021 with a special Washington D.C. edition. Staff also created a [government and public service book list](#) to pair with the programs.

- July 26: Live from the U.S. Congress with Mountain View Mayor Ellen Kamei
- July 27: Live from the U.S. Supreme Court with Judge Leslie Nichols
- July 28: Live presentation of recorded program from the Black Lives Matter Plaza and the White House with Mountain View Police Chief Chris Hsiung



The Library hosted the Diversity Center Santa Cruz and EDI Educators for a virtual presentation about gender and sexuality diversity. Topics included LGBTQ+ terminology, inclusive language, myths and barriers for the LGBTQ+ community, and practical actions to celebrate and embrace diversity.

A virtual presentation slide. The main slide has a colorful, abstract background with the title "Gender & Sexuality 101" in bold black text. Below the title, the speaker information is listed: "Ashlyn N Adams (she/her/sir) Equity & Action Trainer, EDI Educators Youth & TAY Services Manager, The Diversity Center Santa Cruz County" and "Lesley-Reid Harrison (they/them/theirs) Gender & Sexuality Trainer, EDI Educators Pajaro Valley Pride Board Secretary". On the right side of the slide, there is a vertical strip of five small video call windows showing participants.

Adult and Digital Services led a virtual digital library workshop to instruct attendees on how to use the new online learning platform, Universal Class.

The Master Food Preservers of San Mateo & San Francisco Counties presented information on how to preserve hatch green chile peppers for year-round use.

Brad Hamada, a CFE Certified Financial Educator®, led a discussion on how to properly build toward investment goals. Attendees learned how to take the guesswork out of their finances by understanding the facts behind investing and eliminating the two main factors in poor financial decision-making.

Upcoming

On Thursday, August 19 Sanford Holst, a historian, author and explorer, will present a lecture on the Ancient Mediterranean World. Holst will discuss marvels including the Egyptian pyramids, Minoan palaces, and Phoenician ships and share how much we actually know about the people who built these things.

Award winning author Charlie Jane Anders returns with a virtual author talk on Wednesday, August 25. Anders will discuss her latest nonfiction book, *Never Say You Can't Survive*, about how to use creative writing to get through hard times.

Ms. Alex and Ms. Renee will be presenting the first in-person storytime of the year on Friday, August 27 at Deer Hollow Farm. The storytime will have a farm theme with books, songs and rhymes along with special guest appearances from the farm animals.



Adult and Digital Services is hosting an End of Summer Book Club on Monday, August 30. Book lovers can gather virtually and engage in a discussion about what they're reading. Rather than focus on one book selection, people can share their favorite titles and get recommendations from other readers.

September marks the return of regularly scheduled in-person outdoor storytimes. This weekly half-hour of books, music and movement will take place in Pioneer Park on Tuesdays from 10:30 - 11 a.m.