

**DATE:** April 18, 2022

**TO:** Library Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Laura Burch, Analyst I  
Tracy Gray, Library Services Director

**SUBJECT:** **Library Services Director's Report**

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**CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE**

The Library celebrated its first graduate from the Career Online High School (COHS) program on Thursday, March 10. Library Services Director Tracy Gray spoke about the graduate and their journey through the program. Mayor Lucas Ramirez remarked on the need for more programs like COHS and presented the graduate with their tassel.

The Friends of the Mountain View Library (Friends) help sponsor the COHS program by funding scholarships which are then matched by the California State Library. The Friends also donated a gift to recognize the graduate's significant accomplishment.



## **UPDATED CITY LOOK AND FEEL**

The City of Mountain View has officially refreshed our look and feel. Starting in February, the City released a new logo, colors, fonts, and more, which builds upon the City Council's adoption of the Strategic Roadmap. The new logo pays homage to the current one that was developed in the 1990s and was not designed for digital applications. The new logo features vibrant colors with familiar images of the Santa Cruz Mountains, our 300+ days of sunshine, Mountain View's shoreline along the San Francisco Bay, and our optimistic outlook.



The City has been doing a phased roll-out of the logo over the last few months, and the refresh will be followed by the development of a new website later this year.

## **NEW E-RESOURCES FOR YOUTH**

The Library has added three new youth-oriented electronic resources through the California State Library. The resources are available now:

- [National Geographic Kids](#)—Explore the wild side!
- [Gale in Context: Environmental Studies](#)—Analyze the impact of human interaction with the environment through case studies, news reports, journals, and other reference materials.
- [Gale Interactive: Science](#)—Investigate science in a whole new way using 3D interactive models to explore complex concepts in biology, chemistry, space, and earth science.

## **AVID MOCK CAREER FAIR**

Youth Librarians Justin Pham and Alex Pantazes participated in Mountain View High School's AVID Mock Career Fair, speaking to over 150 students who are part of Pathways, Exposure, Academic Connection, Knowledge (PEAK), and Advancement Via Individual Determination ([AVID](#)). The students appreciated having the Librarians at the fair and provided some positive feedback about their experience:

- “Mountain View Library, they gave me really good advice and were very helpful.”

- “CSA, Sobrato, and MV library. The people were very friendly and gave me great feedback or I felt like I learned something new and useful.”
- “The MV Library person gave me good suggestion on what to do to my resume.”
- “Thank you to the organizations that gave out advice and allowed me to stutter a few times without judgment. The Mountain View Library specifically helped me a lot! Thank you!”

### **TEEN REFERENCE SERVICES**

The Youth and Outreach Services Division is moving to a more casual reference model to better serve teens in the Library's Teen Zone space. Staff will be available at general seating tables equipped with a laptop that will make them easier to approach when teens need assistance. This will add additional flexibility to reference services by making it easier for staff to provide roving reference in the book stacks and to move upstairs if teens need support in the nonfiction collection.

### **STATE PARKS PASSES**

California State Parks passes are available to check out at the Mountain View Public Library and all public libraries in California. With these passes, Library cardholders can [access over 200 parks, lakes, beaches, and monuments in the State Parks system for free](#). The goal of these passes is to remove barriers for people to access State Parks and to enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors. The passes are not valid for any national parks.

This [program](#) will run from April 4, 2022 until June 30, 2024 and is made possible through a partnership with California State Parks and the California State Library.

How it works:

- Place a hold on the [California State Library Parks pass](#) in your Library account, or check if a pass is available at the Customer Service desk located on the first floor of the Library.
- Once your hold is available, pick up the parks pass at the Customer Service desk.
- Parks passes are available to check out for two weeks. You will not be able to renew the pass.
- This pass is a vehicle day-use hang tag and allows access for everyone in the car. Show the pass to a uniformed State Park employee, scan the barcode on the front of the pass (green side) at a reader, or display the pass from your vehicle's rearview mirror.

- Return the pass to the Customer Service desk by the due date or report a lost pass in person at the Library or by calling 650-903-6887.

### **NEW CATALOG KIOSKS**

In the fall, the Library was awarded a grant from the Pacific Library Partnership to purchase computers for a catalog update project. The Library purchased 10 Dell all-in-one touchscreen computers to replace the existing VDI public catalog computers placed around the main Library building. The new touchscreen units function more optimally with the SiteKiosk software that was purchased as part of a previous grant project in 2018. The new catalog stations are more user-friendly and require less attention from staff.



### **OUTDOOR STORYTIMES RETURN**

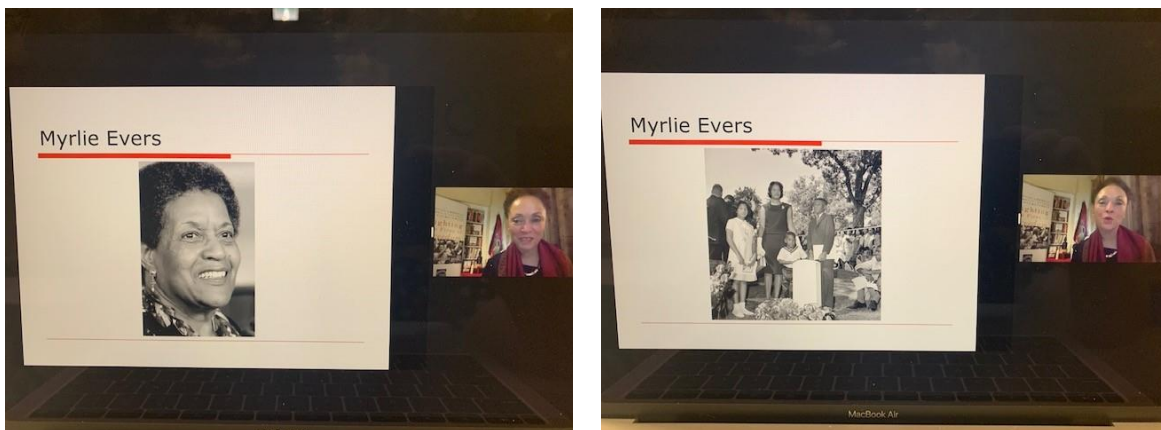
Youth and Outreach Services brought back in-person outdoor storytimes in March. Over 130 people stopped by Pioneer Park on the first Tuesday to sing songs and listen to stories from Youth Librarians Alex Pantazes and Renee Ting.



## **HIGHLIGHT ON WOMEN'S HISTORY**

### **Lighting the Fires of Freedom: African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement and Beyond—March 8**

On March 8, the Library hosted professor, social justice activist, and author Dr. Janet Dewart Bell. She discussed her NAACP Image Award-winning book, *Lighting the Fires of Freedom: African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement*. Dr. Bell showcased her research on the often-overshadowed leadership of African American women during the twentieth century fight for civil rights.



### **Women in STEM: a Discussion with Aisha Bowe—March 15**

On March 15, the Library hosted a discussion with former NASA rocket scientist, motivational speaker, and CEO of STEMBoard Aisha Bowe. Bowe discussed her journey from working at NASA to becoming a successful entrepreneur. Bowe also shared her passion for empowering girls, young women, and students of any gender to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Staff created prominent book displays on the Library's second floor showcasing items in the collection that highlight stories of women's history.

Librarians also curated topical booklists with items from the collection:

- [Women's History Month Nonfiction List](#)
- [Best Mystery, Suspense, and Crime Novels Written by Women](#)



## **PROGRAMS**

### **Past Programs**

Staff from the Museum of Bad Art returned virtually to highlight another one of their unique collections. Attendees were able to enjoy sincere, original art that included treasured pets, exotic creatures in the wild, and animals that exist only in the artist's imagination.

Local author and Caldecott Honoree Shawn Harris led an all-ages group of 33 participants in activities to create art inspired by his acclaimed picture books.

Adult and Digital Services shared information about five new skill-building resources that are now available through funding from the California State Library. Attendees learned more about Coursera, Skillshare, GetSetUp, and Northstar Digital Literacy with a special focus on the popular LinkedIn Learning platform.

Weshoyot Alvitre, a Tongva (Los Angeles Basin) and Scottish comic book artist and illustrator, spoke to teens about a career path as a comic book artist.

The Library hosted another session in the financial workshop series with Brad Hamada focused on understanding asset accumulation strategies.

On Saturday, April 2, students from Antara Asthaayi Dance Company helped the Library celebrate a new season with a Spring Festival Dance Performance. This family-friendly event took place in Pioneer Park and brought to life stories of ancient India through dramatic dance and storytelling for an audience of about 200 people.



Staff from Valley Water led a virtual tour of the award-winning Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center. Attendees learned about the role of clean, high-quality recycled water as a future sustainable water supply.

Teens celebrated National Poetry Month in April at a virtual Poetry Workshop with Maya Salameh. Salameh is a poet fellow of the William Male Foundation and a 2016 National Student Poet.

### **Upcoming Programs**

- Tuesday, April 19—[Fulfilling Long Term Goals: Financial Workshop with Brad Hamada](#)
- Thursday, April 21—[Intro to Game Design](#)
- Saturday, April 23—[Seventh Annual Plant Exchange](#)
- Monday, April 25—[The Bright Ages: A New History of Medieval Europe](#)
- Wednesday, April 27—[Sustainability in Action](#)
- Wednesday, April 27—[Potty Training with Jenny](#)
- Thursday, April 28—[Ask a Dietician: What You Need to Know About Cholesterol \(Mandarin and English presentations\)](#)
- Saturday, April 30—[Día de los Niños/Day of the Children](#)

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