



DATE: December 11, 2023

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: Library Director's Report

STAFF UPDATES

- Librarian Candace Bowers retired from the City after 33 years of service. Her extensive work with the Adult Division included coordinating services on the second floor, providing reference services, performing collection development, developing programming, and overseeing the History Center.
- Librarian Justin Pham accepted a new position with Santa Clara City Library. Justin was a key contributor in developing “United Against Hate Week” and Summer Reading Program events and supported the Youth Division by championing the Student Connect Card program, managing gaming programs, and developing the Youth collection.

NEW BOOKMOBILE

Our new Bookmobile arrived at the Fleet Division on November 22. A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for mid-January. Services to residents will begin shortly after.



NEW FURNITURE

New couches were added to the Children's Room. Tables and chairs were also added to Second-Floor spaces, including the History Center. This answers a need in our community for more leisure and studying space.



UNITED AGAINST HATE WEEK

In recognition of United Against Hate Week (November 12 through November 18, 2023), the Library invited residents to participate in a movement that demonstrates our collective solidarity in growing an inclusive, anti-racist community through kindness, action, and education.

Teens were invited to make friendship bracelets to trade with new and old friends on November 14. The Council on American-Islamic Relations presented a Bystander Intervention and Community Safety Training workshop on November 16, where attendees learned how to safely intervene when witnessing a hate crime or incident of bias. On November 18, the Library hosted a *United Against Hate* film screening that featured two documentaries—*Not Your Model Minority* and *The Issue of Mr. O'Dell*.

Staff created United Against Hate booklists and displays for children, teens, and adults.

STUDENT CONNECT CARD

The Library welcomed Alta Vista High School into the Student Connect Card program. The Student Connect Card provides students with free access to all digital resources available at the Library, including research databases, eBooks, and streaming services. Students can also use their card to reserve group study rooms.

Schools already enrolled in the Student Connect Card program include Mountain View High School, Los Altos High School, and Saint Francis High School.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

The Library celebrated the 121st anniversary of the City of Mountain View's incorporation on November 7. This high-interest program welcomed 77 attendees. Local history book author Nick Perry shared highlights from his decades of research on the history of Mountain View using photos and stories that trace the City's constant growth, evolution, and reinvention throughout the decades.



Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara's Behavioral Health Services Department and the Mountain View Public Library, invited the community to a fentanyl education and Narcan training workshop on November 8. Mayor Alison Hicks provided welcome remarks to the 85 attendees who learned about the dangers of fentanyl and other opioids and received training in the use of naloxone (Narcan). Attendees received free Narcan kits at the end of the program.



Other Past Programs

Wednesday, November 1—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 18

Wednesday, November 1—Hollywood, Home, Heart, and Healing: A Conversation with Actor John Stamos—Attendance: 56

Thursday, November 2—Housing and Eviction Help Center—Attendance: 8

Saturday, November 4—Afternoon Art: Fall Flowers—Attendance: 73

Monday, November 6—Potty Training with Jenny—Attendance: 35

Tuesday, November 7—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 191

Tuesday, November 7—Mountain View History 101—Attendance: 77

Wednesday, November 8—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 22

Wednesday, November 8—Fentanyl Education and Narcan Training—Attendance: 85

Wednesday, November 8—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 60

Thursday, November 9—Get Good with Money and Reach Your Financial Goals with Tiffany “The Budgetnista” Aliche—Attendance: 19

Thursday, November 9—Art Explorers—Attendance: 11

Tuesday, November 14—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 228

Tuesday, November 14—Friendship Bracelets—Attendance: 4

Tuesday, November 14—Design Lessons from a Water-Wise Garden—Attendance: 11

Wednesday, November 15—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 16

Thursday, November 16—Why She Writes—An Afternoon Chat with Joy Harjo, Internationally Renowned Performer, Writer, and Poet of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation—Attendance: 17

Thursday, November 16—Bystander Intervention and Community Safety Training—Attendance: 4

Saturday, November 18—Drop-In Bike Clinic—Attendance: 15

Saturday, November 18—United Against Hate Film Screening—Attendance: 6

Wednesday, November 29—Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 20

Wednesday, November 29—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 21

Wednesday, November 29—Cartoonists in Conversation: Hilary Fitzgerald Campbell and Julia Wertz—Attendance: 13

Thursday, November 30—Power of Women in Science Fiction: Naomi Alderman on Writing Dystopian Worlds—Attendance: 12

Upcoming Programs

- Winter Fruit Tree Pruning
 - [Tuesday, January 9](#)—Join us for a free online workshop to learn about pruning fruit trees, presented by UC Master Gardener Allen Buchinski.
- Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English
 - [Wednesday, January 10](#)—Children ages 2 to 5 and their adults are invited to enjoy stories, rhymes, and songs in Mandarin and English in the Children's Room.
- Online Author Series
 - [Wednesday, January 10](#)—Kick off the New Year with Rebecca Serle as she talks about her journey writing epic love stories to span generations, including her *New York Times* bestselling novels *One Italian Summer*, *In Five Years*, *The Dinner List*, and more.
 - [Tuesday, January 23](#)—Start the New Year off right and learn how to avoid the hidden traps in retirement planning, advice with Elder Law Attorney Rajiv Nagaich, author of *Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster*.
 - [Tuesday, January 30](#)—Launch your new year healthy with Dr. Robert Lustig, author of *Metabofical: The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine* as he offers a plan for us to heal and to restore our health and well-being with real food.

- Birthday Storytime
 - [Wednesday, January 17](#)—Come to a special birthday storytime celebration exclusively for little ones who are celebrating their birthdays this month!
- Parenting Book Club: *Never Enough*
 - [Wednesday, January 17](#)—Join us for a discussion of *Never Enough* by Jennifer Wallace to share your thoughts on the effects achievement culture has on youth and ways to help teens feel that they are valued. Offered virtually and in person.
- Science Explorers
 - [Thursday, January 18](#)—Elementary students are invited to explore the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) through hands-on, self-directed activities. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Creating Resumes and Applications That Get Results
 - [Thursday, January 18](#)—This workshop presented by NOVAworks will cover the basics of resumé creation and provide an overview of the employment application process.
- Reducing Stress Through Meditation
 - [Tuesday, January 23](#)—Join Sangeeta Sinha, MBA, M.Ed., as she discusses the extraordinary effect meditation has on reducing stress-related responses, improving concentration, and enhancing clarity of thought and mental equilibrium.
- Palo Alto Humane Society Pals Reading Buddy
 - [Thursday, January 25](#)—Children are invited to step into the world of literacy and furry companionship by reading to a therapy dog in this exciting collaboration with the Palo Alto Humane Society.

For more upcoming events, view the [Mountain View Public Library's events calendar](#).