

DATE: April 21, 2025

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Library will be closed on Sunday, April 20, for Easter Sunday.
- The Library will be closed on Thursday, May 1, for Staff Development Day.
- The Friends of the Library Book Sale will take place the weekend of May 3 and 4.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR TEEN SERVICES

The Library will launch three initiatives aimed at [teens](#) this spring. These new programs, along with the Library's regular teen programming, seek to provide young people with meaningful ways to contribute to their community, develop new skills, and share their perspectives.

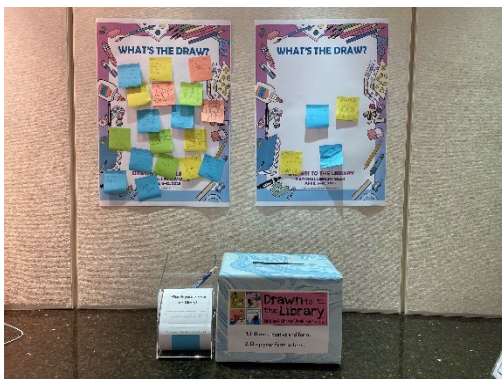
- [Teen Summer Volunteer Program](#): Participants will help with a children's STEAM program that runs weekly throughout the summer.
- [Amplify: Teen Voices](#): Librarians will work with teens individually to develop their interests or passions into a public library program or presentation, allowing them to experience the program planning process with support to bring their ideas to an audience.
- [Library Vibe Check](#): The Library will invite a group of teens to share feedback through creative activities to learn more about what teens want from the Library, what keeps them engaged, and how the Library can help.

These new programs are part of the Library's ongoing effort to be a dynamic community resource for young adults as they explore their interests and build connections.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

National Library Week took place the week of April 6 to 12. Several celebratory activities took place in the Library during this week:

- An adult, teen, and child each received a prize after responding to the prompt, "What do you like about the Library?" The giveaway included a t-shirt, tote bag, and several pieces of Library swag.
- Staff had a pie party on April 7 in recognition of National Library Workers Day.
- Staff collaborated with the City Communications team to produce a [video](#) that celebrates the Bookmobile in honor of National Library Outreach Day on April 9.
- Residents learned about the top 10 most challenged books last year and thought of ways they can best support the Library.



EMPLOYEE SERVICE AND RECOGNITION AWARDS

The 2025 Annual Employee Service and Recognition Awards Celebration was held on Wednesday, April 2, in the City Hall Rotunda.

Service Award Recipients from the Library include:

- Cynthia Fong, Library Assistant (25 years).
- Julie Jackson, Librarian (15 years).
- Kyle Hval, Librarian (five years).
- Kathleen Reed, Library Technician (five years).
- Tarri Ryan, Library Manager (five years).

Four staff from the Library received DISCOVER Awards. These awards recognize employees for Distinction in Service, Cultural Ideals, Organizational Values, Ethics, and Remarkable Performance. DISCOVER Awards provide an opportunity for employees at all levels to nominate and recognize an exemplary colleague.

DISCOVER Award recipients from the Library include:

- Julie Acosta-Boyer, Library Assistant.
- Tingna Huang, Senior Administrative Assistant.
- Julie Jackson, Librarian.
- Joy Wisner, Senior Librarian.

The Library thanks staff for their hard work and dedication in bringing free library programs and services to the Mountain View community!



STAFF ARTICLE ON BILINGUAL STORYTIMES

Senior Librarian Renee Ting from the Library's Youth, Bookmobile and Collections division contributed the article [Two Languages, One Storytime: A Guide to Bilingual Storytimes](#) to the Association for Library Service to Children blog. The article provides insight into the process of presenting a bilingual storytime from identifying community needs to implementing the program. Ting also offers advice to storytime providers by alleviating concerns regarding language barriers and encouraging intentionality in program design.

Ting currently provides Mandarin-English bilingual storytimes at the Library, offering a welcoming, safe, and inclusive space for participating families.

STAFF SPEAKS AT DISTRICT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Youth, Bookmobile, and Collections Librarian Maynard Martinez presented on Library services for youth at the Mountain View Whisman School District's [DELAC](#) meeting on Monday, April 14. The DELAC's purpose is to advise the district governing board on programs and services available for their students in order to achieve academic success. DELAC meetings are held eight times per year.

STAFF PRESENTS AT CAREER DAY AT GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Assistant Library Director Melvyn Yabut and Library Assistant Julie Acosta-Boyer will speak at Graham Middle School as part of the school's Career Day panel. The day will showcase a diverse variety of fields with panelists drawn from Leadership Mountain View graduates, partners, and connections. Presenters will share their career paths, how they trained, what they like about their field, and more.

PRESSREADER IN MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR

Mayor Ellen Kamei released a video that features PressReader as an exciting new resource available through the Mountain View Public Library website. The video can be found on the [City of Mountain View's Youtube channel](#).



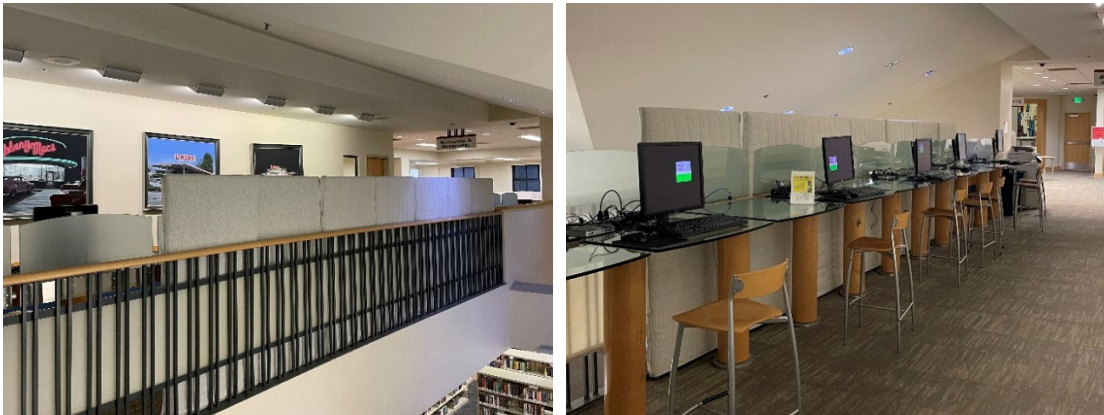
READ AND REPEAT STORYTIME SERIES

Youth, Bookmobile, and Collections librarians launched a Read and Repeat storytime series on Monday, April 7. This special type of storytime builds early literacy skills through repetition in storytelling to foster prekindergarten readiness. The story-based approach connects real-world concepts to reading material in support of different learning styles.

Each session in the five-week series focuses on rereading the same book with activities that explore key concepts in science, language arts, math, social studies, and art. By revisiting the story in multiple ways, the program will strengthen comprehension, foster critical thinking, and nurture a love of learning in a small group setting.

SOUND Baffles INSTALLED ON SECOND FLOOR

Sound baffles were installed along the bridge computers on the second floor to mitigate noise traveling upward from the lobby. These additions aim to provide a more focused experience for customers using the computers.



KUDOS CORNER

The Library received this kind comment about Customer Service Supervisor Rebecca Gamboa.

Rebecca was very pleasant and helpful, as I'm sure all your employees are. After getting the two books on hold, I asked about two other authors, and she was very helpful. In fact, I asked if she could get a book for me that was not on hold, since I use a walker and was in extreme pain. She obliged and went upstairs to get the book, which I very much appreciated. If there had been other people waiting to be helped, I would not have asked her to do so.

If the library had a rating system, Rebecca would get the highest number of stars. Please tell her again how much I appreciated her kindness. Thank you.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Fourteen (14) participants at last month's Sewing with FabMo program made dangly robots out of upcycled fabric under the guidance of FabMo volunteer, Gayatri Ratnam. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Professional harpist Aysha Gomez-Kureishi performed pieces by female composers in honor of Women's History Month, including selections by Deborah Henson-Conant, Silvia Woods, Henriette Renié, Anne Macdearmid, and more. She answered questions from the audience throughout the program and allowed attendees to pluck the strings and play glissandos on the harp. Forty-seven (47) people attended. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Eighteen (18) kids and tweens contributed to a chalk art mural depicting the cover for one of the Silicon Valley Reads featured books, *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown.



Thirty (30) youths and adults tinkered with a ThinkPad T480 provided by the nonprofit ThinkPads2All. During their exploration, attendees learned how different computer components work together to create a usable laptop.



Other Past Programs

- Saturday, March 1—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 53
- Tuesday, March 4—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 188
- Tuesday, March 4—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 26
- Wednesday, March 5—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 32
- Friday, March 7—Interactive Storytelling—Attendance: 31
- Saturday, March 8—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 52

- Tuesday, March 11—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 188
- Tuesday, March 11—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 31
- Tuesday, March 11—Prepare for Fire! Creating Defensible Space—Attendance: 8
- Wednesday, March 12—Power of Reset and How to Change What's Not Working with Author Dan Heath, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 19
- Wednesday, March 12—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 22
- Wednesday, March 12—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 29
- Thursday, March 13—Fairy Tale Science: Cinderella, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 27
- Friday, March 14—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 32
- Friday, March 14—Create Your First Resumé—Attendance: 4
- Saturday, March 15—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 43
- Saturday, March 15—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 13
- Tuesday, March 18—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 25
- Tuesday, March 18—Sewing with FabMo: Dangly Robots, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 14
- Wednesday, March 19—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 90
- Wednesday, March 19—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 30
- Thursday, March 20—How Women's Liberation Transformed America: In Conversation with Clara Bingham, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 13
- Thursday, March 20—Let's Create, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 37

- Thursday, March 20—Classical Harp Concert: Female Composer Showcase, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 47
- Friday, March 21—Silicon Valley Reads Inspired Chalk Art Event—Attendance: 18
- Saturday, March 22—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 41
- Tuesday, March 25—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 37
- Tuesday, March 25—Stargazing Kits Demo—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, March 26—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 98
- Wednesday, March 26—Dreams We Chase: An Author Talk with Novelist Jennifer Weiner, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 32
- Wednesday, March 26—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 35
- Wednesday, March 26—The Power of Native Gardens—Attendance: 25
- Thursday, March 27—Fairy Tale Science: The Three Little Pigs, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 12
- Thursday, March 27—3D Print Bookmarks—Attendance: 30
- Friday, March 28—Silicon Valley Reads Inspired ThinkPads4All—Attendance: 30
- Saturday, March 29—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 66
- Sunday, March 30—The Wild Robot: Silicon Valley Reads Inspired Virtual Author Visit with Peter Brown—Attendance: 26

Upcoming Programs

- Paint and Plant
 - [Saturday, May 3](#)—Twens, teens, and adults are invited to paint a pot and plant a succulent to take home, combining art, nature, and a bit of DIY fun. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

- Maximize Your Retirement Income: Optimizing Tax-Efficient Withdrawals from Your Retirement Portfolio
 - [Tuesday, May 6](#)—At this workshop, a presenter from Financial Aptitude Training will equip participants with the tools and techniques needed to address the key components of retirement distribution planning.
- San Jose Japantown: A Journey
 - [Wednesday, May 7](#)—Join us for a fascinating talk about the rich multicultural history of San Jose Japantown, one of three remaining Japantowns in the nation. This regional history discussion will be presented by local artist, photographer and author of [San Jose Japantown: A Journey](#), Curt Fukuda. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Artful Abilities
 - [Thursday, May 15](#)—Adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers are invited to a morning of specially designed arts and crafts. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Silicon Valley Chess Kids
 - [Saturday, May 24](#)—This program for tweens and teens will introduce the game of Chess to new players.
- Darshan: The Act of “Seeing” in Hindu Art
 - [Tuesday, May 27](#)—This talk offers attendees a chance to see some of the fabulous depictions of Hindu deities from the Asian Art Museum’s collection. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Learn Chinese Calligraphy
 - [Wednesday, May 28](#)—Adult residents are invited to an in-person workshop on Chinese calligraphy in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Guzheng Concert with Winnie Wong
 - [Saturday, May 31](#)—Professional guzheng virtuoso Winnie Wong will perform an exclusive concert accompanied by the Silk Ensemble comprised of Cameron Jang and

Jaime Hou. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

- Online Author Series, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
 - [Wednesday, May 7](#)—Dr. David H. Rosmarin, author of [Thriving with Anxiety](#), will teach attendees how to use anxiety to become more self-accepting, resilient, and connected to others.
 - [Wednesday, May 14](#)—Author Liann Zhang will talk about her diabolical debut thriller, [Julie Chan is Dead](#).
 - [Wednesday, May 21](#)—Bestselling author Rachelle Bergstein will chat with us about her newest book, [The Genius of Judy](#). This book takes an expansive look at Judy Blume's life, work, and cultural impact, focusing on her most iconic and controversial young adult novels from [Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret](#) to [Blubber](#).

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

TG-KH/JP/4/LIB
026-04-21-25M