

DATE: March 17, 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 Monday, March 31, for Cesar Chavez Day.
- The Youth, Bookmobile, and Collections Division congratulates Renee Kitson on her promotion from Senior Library Assistant to Librarian.
- The Customer Experience and Technology Division congratulates John Kostka on his promotion from Building Attendant to Library Assistant.
- The Customer Experience and Technology Division welcomes Tandy Tang and Sandy Rivera to the team as Library Assistants.

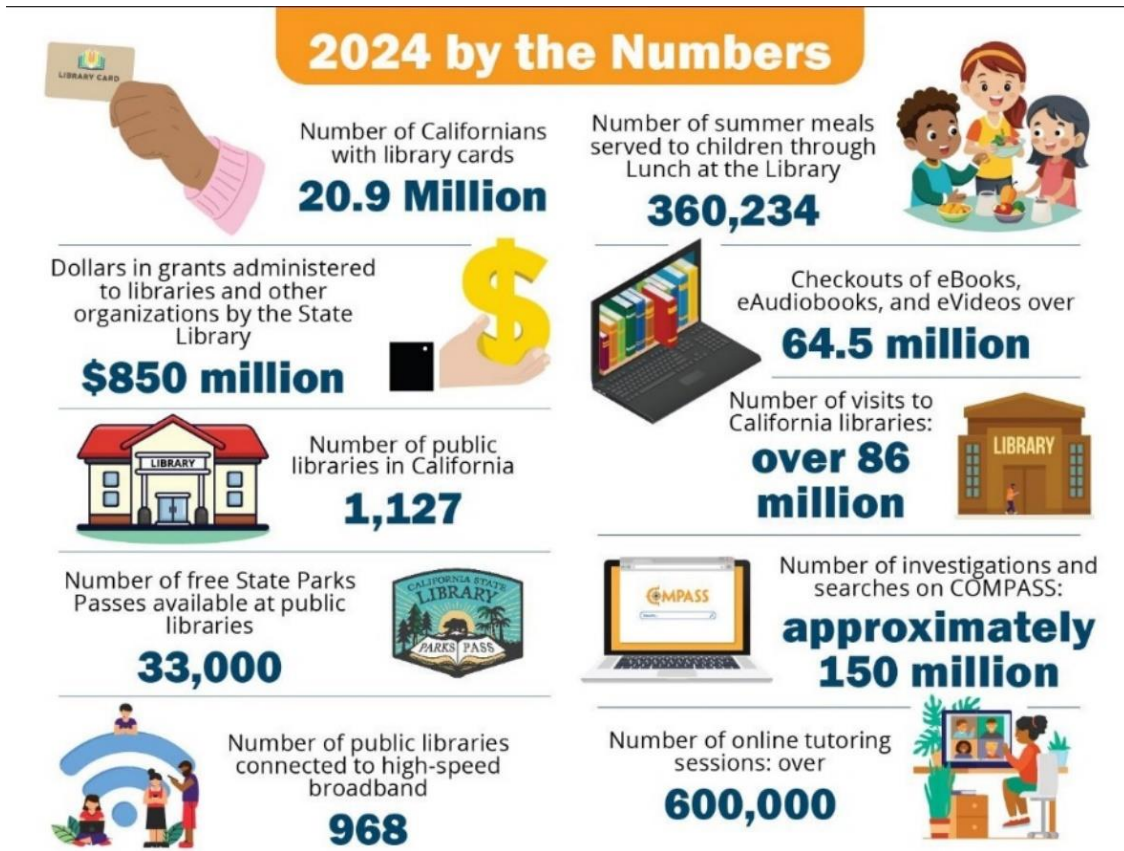
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The California State Library recently published its [2024 Annual Report](#). The report includes information about various state initiatives, including the Building Forward Libraries Facilities Improvement program, Broadband Program, Sustainable California Libraries grant program, Lunch at the Library, Career Online High School, California Revealed, and more. The California State Library also compiled a summary of 2024 statistics into the infographic below.

Throughout the years, the Mountain View Public Library has participated in several State Library programs that continue to bolster our community by:

- Providing free access to high-speed internet at the Library through the Broadband for All program.
- Promoting programs and services and offering free books to youth at community-based meal sites through the Lunch at the Library program.

- Lending California State Parks Passes to enhance physical and mental wellness.
- Supporting adults in their pursuit of a free high school diploma and career certificate through the Career Online High School program.
- Developing our work force with robust job help resources offered through the Career Pathways program.



PRESSREADER

Library cardholders can now access a broad collection of national and international publications through [PressReader](#), an online platform that provides full-color access to over 7,000 digitized publications in over 60 languages representing over 120 countries. PressReader connects the Mountain View community to news from around the world with access to newspapers and magazines from Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, France, Hong Kong, India, Japan, the Philippines, Romania, and more.

The PressReader collection features publications in multiple languages, including, but not limited to, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, German, Japanese, Norwegian, and Swedish. Articles can be

translated into 18 additional languages such as Hindi, Korean, Pashto, Persian, Russian, Slovak, Tamil, Urdu, and Vietnamese. With [51.2% of Mountain View's population](#) speaking a language other than English at home, the inclusion of PressReader as one of the Library's free online resources supports the City Council's initiative for a Community for All by making worldwide publications easily accessible for every resident, regardless of language or country of origin.

PressReader also facilitates on-the-go reading. Residents may download the app and create a free account so they can follow their favorite publications, download issues automatically for offline browsing, and print and share articles.

This powerful platform provides same-day publication and issues going back as far as 60 days. Searchable by country, title, and date, customers can stay updated on news from home and beyond. Customers may access PressReader without a Library card if they use the public computers or are connected to the Library's WiFi. Customers who wish to access PressReader outside the Library may login with their Library card.

CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

The Library recently invited Career Online High School graduates to share their experiences in the program through a [video testimonial](#). The Career Online High School Program provides adults with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and career certificate over 18 months. This self-paced online program can help jumpstart careers and open new opportunities.

Since the program's beginning in 2020, nine people have successfully graduated and continue to develop their potential. Currently, eight more learners are making excellent progress toward their goals.

EARTH MONTH

Library staff is gearing up to celebrate Earth Month this April with several special events:

- [Tuesday, April 8](#)—Master Gardeners Mary Werthman and Ann Northrup will discuss how gardeners can be part of the solution to climate change.
- [Saturday, April 26](#)—All residents are invited back to the Library's annual plant exchange in the Bookmobile garage.

A talk on the importance of the Bay Area wetlands presented by the Peninsula Open Space Trust and a landscaping class held by Public Works and the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency are in the works. Staff is also planning to create environmental-themed displays and booklists. Library staff will also attend the [Earth and Arbor Day Celebration](#) on Saturday, April 19,

organized by the City's Community Services Department and Sustainability and Resiliency Division.

SILICON VALLEY READS ENDS

[Silicon Valley Reads](#) is coming to an end. With the theme of "Empowering Humanity: Technology for a Better World," residents gained a deeper understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and the ways it has and will continue to impact our lives.

The Library invites residents to wrap up 2025 Silicon Valley Reads by attending a special event this month:

- [Friday, March 21](#)—Kids are invited to drop by Pioneer Park and contribute their artistic talents to a chalk art mural that celebrates the Silicon Valley Reads-featured book [The Wild Robot](#).
- [Friday, March 28](#)—Teens and adults are welcome to a workshop presented by ThinkPads4All, where they will operate on a provided ThinkPad T480 to learn about assembly, disassembly, and essential repairs.
- [Sunday, March 30](#)—Attendees will become immersed in the enchanting world of [The Wild Robot](#) with a captivating virtual author talk featuring Peter Brown, the acclaimed author of the beloved series. This unique online event offers a rare opportunity to delve into the author's creative process and learn about his inspiration behind the heartwarming story of Roz the robot.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

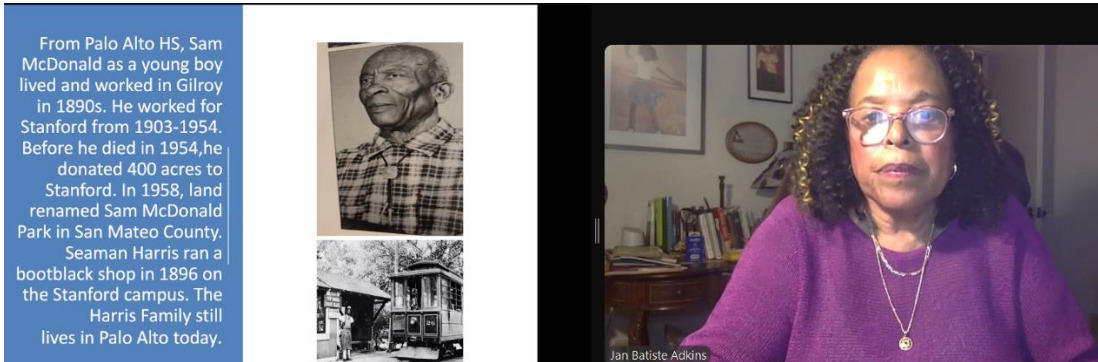
Twelve (12) attendees learned how AI has evolved over the past year in a presentation by Dr. Anthony Chow, Professor and Director of the San Jose State University iSchool. Dr. Chow also introduced the audience to an AI robot named Rosie, who has the ability to answer questions, dance, fist bump, and more.



A curious audience of 18 had many questions for Master Gardener Candace Simpson, who discussed the planting, maintenance, and harvesting of citrus trees.



Twenty-three (23) participants gained deeper local history knowledge during author and educator Jan Batiste Adkins' virtual presentation on the early presence of African Americans in San Jose and Santa Clara County.



Eight teens enjoyed an afternoon of Dungeons & Dragons in the Teen Zone under the guidance of Annika Koltermann, our Librarian turned Dungeon Master.



Seventy-five (75) youths and their families explored the inner workings of keyboards, mice, desktop computers, and other electronics while safely dismantling e-waste at the Tech Take Apart program.



Other Past Programs

- Saturday, February 1—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 29

- Tuesday, February 4—How We Create Pandemics, from Our Bodies to Our Beliefs, with Smithsonian Curator Sabrina Sholts, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 3
- Tuesday, February 4—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 30
- Tuesday, February 4—AI and Emerging Technologies: Friend and Foe—Attendance: 12
- Wednesday, February 5—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 98
- Wednesday, February 5—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 29
- Thursday, February 6—Happiness Café, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 8
- Thursday, February 6—Evening Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 20
- Friday, February 7—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 52
- Saturday, February 8—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 40
- Saturday, February 8—Memoir Writing Workshop, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 21
- Monday, February 10—Doodle & Discover—Attendance: 18
- Tuesday, February 11—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 194
- Tuesday, February 11—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 14
- Tuesday, February 11—Dystopian Tropes from an Indigenous Perspective: In Conversation with Waubgeshig Rice, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 6
- Tuesday, February 11—Growing Fabulous Citrus—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, February 12—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 82
- Wednesday, February 12—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23
- Wednesday, February 12—Ukulele Jam: Sing and Play Along, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 20

- Thursday, February 13—Let's Create—Attendance: 50
- Thursday, February 13—Human Empathy and AI "Empathy": Why We Should Care About the Difference, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 22
- Thursday, February 13—Evening Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 9
- Saturday, February 15—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 41
- Saturday, February 15—Drop-In Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Tuesday, February 18—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 230
- Tuesday, February 18—I Am Nobody's Slave: An Author Talk with Pulitzer Prize Finalist Lee Hawkins, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 7
- Tuesday, February 18—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 21
- Wednesday, February 19—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 98
- Wednesday, February 19—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 28
- Wednesday, February 19—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 19
- Thursday, February 20—African Americans of San Jose and Santa Clara County, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 23
- Thursday, February 20—Evening Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 7
- Friday, February 21—Dungeons & Dragons—Attendance: 8
- Friday, February 21—Tech Take Apart, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 75
- Saturday, February 22—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 51
- Saturday, February 22—Recyclables, Organics, and AI—Attendance: 9
- Monday, February 24—Doodle & Discover—Attendance: 15

- Tuesday, February 25—Silicon Valley Reads Inspired Storytime—Attendance: 189
- Tuesday, February 25—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 27
- Wednesday, February 26—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 102
- Wednesday, February 26—Social Movement Unionism: From the Poor People's Campaign to Educators on Strike, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 11
- Thursday, February 27—Let's Create—Attendance: 67
- Thursday, February 27—Evening Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 11
- Friday, February 28—Extra Study Space—Attendance: 6

Upcoming Programs

- Gardening in Our Changing Climate: An Overview on Ways to Respond
 - [Tuesday, April 8](#)—Master Gardeners Mary Werthman and Ann Northrup will discuss how gardeners can be part of the solution to climate change.
- Fairy Tale Science: Alice and Wonderland
 - [Thursday, April 10](#)—Kids are invited to explore classic fairy tales through hands-on science. In this session, kids will engage in STEAM experiments and activities to bring the classic tale of Alice in Wonderland to life.
- Time Trek: Hands-On Adventure with Foothill College Anthropology
 - [Friday, April 11](#)—This hands-on archaeology and anthropology program led by Foothill College students will introduce kids to the world of human history, where they will learn about the field of anthropology, dig for bones, create cultural artifacts, and observe human skulls in a fun and interactive way.
- Targeting Government Jobs
 - [Tuesday, April 22](#)—In this workshop, Lisa Gonzales from NOVAworks will discuss government employment and cover aspects of the hiring process such as applications, exams, and interviews.

- Introduction to Macro and Close-Up Photography
 - [Wednesday, April 23](#)—Photographer Paul Dileanis will introduce participants to close-up and macro photography. Attendees will learn about equipment and techniques that will allow them to create stunning photographs that focus on wildflowers, insects, and other close-up subjects. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

- Plant Exchange
 - [Saturday, April 26](#)—Residents are invited to come to the Bookmobile garage to trade their extra plants with others in the Mountain View community. All types of plants are welcome, including seedlings, cuttings, houseplants, plants in containers, and even shrubs and small trees.

- Online Author Series, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
 - [Wednesday, April 2](#)—Step into spring as we chat with the highly acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author Jodi Picoult about her newest novel, [By Any Other Name](#).
 - [Tuesday, April 8](#)—Join us as Smithsonian Horticulturalist Matthew Fleming guides us through the secret world of trees as revealed in the beautiful and absorbing guide to the giants of the plant world, [The Tree Book: The Stories, Science, and History of Trees](#).
 - [Thursday, April 24](#)—You are invited to a riveting conversation with *New York Times* bestselling author Gregg Hurwitz as he chats with us about his [Orphan X](#) series and his life as a writer of suspenseful storytelling.

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