

**DATE:** February 26, 2024

**TO:** Board of Library Trustees

**FROM:** Tracy Gray, Library Director  
Katie Hom, Librarian

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

---

**LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

The Library's new Bookmobile was at the City's Lunar New Year Celebration on February 10. The Bookmobile was one of the first things attendees saw before walking into the Community Center, and people were excited to see the books, movies, and games available for borrowing. Library staff issued library cards, checked out materials to customers, and let attendees spin the prize wheel to win free swag. Staff issued 14 library cards, checked out 148 materials, and interacted with over 500 attendees.



**FEEDBACK FROM AUTHOR TALK WITH JOHN SCALZI**

The Library received several positive comments to the Author Talk with Hugo-award winning and bestselling author John Scalzi on January 16. Librarian Kyle Hval was the moderator for this program.

"I am listening to the John Scalzi talk now. Kyle is a great host, really keeps the conversation going and weaves in the audience's questions. And John Scalzi is tremendously entertaining. Thank you so much for bringing him to MV Public Library." (via Zoom)

"Thanks again, Kyle. That was pretty awesome. I totally appreciate it and I thought you did a great job MCing the whole thing."

"Thanks to you and Mountain View Public Library for hosting the author talk with John Scalzi. I usually don't read science fiction but I've been wanting to branch out, and after listening to Mr. Scalzi I think I will buy a copy of *Starter Villain*. It sounds like a fun read."

"Just wanted to say thanks for running the author talk. You did a really good job of starting the conversation and moderating it. I had expected more of a canned talk from Scalzi and was pleasantly surprised by the range and quality/interest of the topics. My first exposure to Scalzi was from the new books section when the Library got *Old Man's War*—likely the year it was published—and have been reading all his new books ever since."

### **BICYCLE REPAIR KITS**

The Library will have bicycle repair kits available for checkout starting in March. The kits will include a tool set, wrench, thread crank, glueless patches, tire lever, Allen wrench, and mini bike pump. Customers can borrow a kit for one week. By offering these kits, the Library encourages residents to opt for more healthy and sustainable travel methods and supports the City Council's Strategic Priority for Livability and Quality of Life.



### **FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW LIBRARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Friends of the Mountain View Library. The Friends have created a commemorative logo and will provide free T-shirts to staff. They also plan to create banners for the light posts outside the Library on Franklin Street, hold special book sales throughout the year, and table at Summer Reading Program events.

## **CUSTOMER THANKS THE LIBRARY**

The Library received this kind comment from a customer.

"I just wanted to thank the Library for the many things a library does. I only recently got my library card, not having used one since I was a kid. I've since tried my first audiobook, read one digital book, and gotten through a number of DVDs. It's nice to be able to do that without Amazon charging me for everything. But I especially appreciate the Library as a freely accessible space for public use, when a recent power outage at my place lasted for 24 hours. It was a great relief to be able to just sit in the Library for a few hours to use the Wi-Fi and charge my electronics."

## **HISTORY CENTER REFRESH**

The History Center's collection, research service, and resources will not be available until further notice as we wait for the carpet to arrive. The second-floor program room will remain closed to the public through the end of February.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Past Program Highlights**

Kids and dogs alike had fun at our PAH Reading Buddies program with friends from the Palo Alto Humane Society. After learning more about therapy dogs and the important services they provide, kids picked up a book and practiced reading to the dogs.



Kids made a variety of crafts at Let's Create on January 23. They created stuffed toys from felt, arctic foxes from paint and clothespins, moose made from paper, cards for family and friends using unique die-cut shapes, and more.



Families shared a fun afternoon together with board games, puzzles, and Nintendo Switch games at our Family Gaming program.



### **Other Past Programs**

- Wednesday, January 3—Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 30
- Wednesday, January 3—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 12
- Tuesday, January 9—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 118
- Tuesday, January 9—Winter Fruit Tree Pruning—Attendance: 157
- Wednesday, January 10—New Bookmobile Unveiling—Attendance: 50

- Wednesday, January 10—Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with Rebecca Serle, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 90
- Wednesday, January 10—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 55
- Friday, January 12—Let's Create—Attendance: 47
- Tuesday, January 16—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 120
- Tuesday, January 16—Author Talk with John Scalzi, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 153
- Wednesday, January 17—Birthday Storytime—Attendance: 26
- Wednesday, January 17—Parenting Book Club: Never Enough (Zoom meeting)—Attendance: 8
- Wednesday, January 17—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23
- Wednesday, January 17—Parenting Book Club: Never Enough—Attendance: 8
- Thursday, January 18—Science Explorers, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 24
- Thursday, January 18—Creating Resumés and Applications That Get Results—Attendance: 4
- Friday, January 19—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 97
- Friday, January 19—Family Gaming—Attendance: 19
- Saturday, January 20—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 11
- Tuesday, January 23—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 129
- Tuesday, January 23—Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? How to Avoid the Hidden Traps in Retirement Planning Advice, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 56
- Tuesday, January 23—Let's Create—Attendance: 58

- Tuesday, January 23—Reducing Stress Through Meditation—Attendance: 14
- Wednesday, January 24—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, January 24—Sing and Play Along Ukulele Jam, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Thursday, January 25—PAH Pals Reading Buddy—Attendance: 41
- Friday, January 26—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 93
- Saturday, January 27—Waldorf School Puppet Show—Attendance: 85
- Tuesday, January 30—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 233
- Tuesday, January 30—The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine: An Author Talk with Dr. Robert Lustig, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 163
- Tuesday, January 30—Understanding Gender, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 7
- Wednesday, January 31—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 14
- Wednesday, January 31—Silicon Valley Reads 2024 Kickoff—Attendance: 9

### **Upcoming Programs**

- Teen Drop-In Mental Health Break
  - Every Friday until March 29, teens are invited to come to the Teen Zone and relax with different crafts and activities in a space set aside just for them.
- Discovering Photography: The Basics and Beyond
  - [Wednesday, March 6](#)—This beginner-friendly introduction to photography with Paul Dileanis of San Jose Camera will help familiarize attendees with the most important features of their cameras as well as the importance of light and composition in creating captivating photographs. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

- Sylvan Park Mini Storytime
  - [Thursday, March 7](#)—Families are invited to join us for a 15-minute storytime at Sylvan Park as part of our Bookmobile stop.
- Virtual Cook-Along with the Zero Waste Chef
  - [Thursday, March 7](#)—Anne-Marie Bonneau, author of [The Zero-Waste Chef](#), will demonstrate how to make pasta with a handful of ingredients in this virtual cook-along.
- Start NOW to Create a Summer Vegetable Garden
  - [Tuesday, March 12](#)—This workshop on growing fresh summer vegetables will address choosing and preparing a site or containers, positioning an irrigation system, planning what to grow and how to find seedlings or seeds, and protecting plants from pests and diseases.
- Pets 101 with Project HumaneKind
  - [Wednesday, March 13](#)—Join us for a community forum facilitated by Jennifer Ott Cameron from Project HumaneKind where attendees will learn helpful tips about how to keep your furry friends healthy, safe, and happy. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Social Security Optimization
  - [Thursday, March 14](#)—In this workshop, CFE-Certified Financial Educator Brad Hamada will help attendees obtain a better understanding of Social Security so they can leave with the knowledge and resources to make thoughtful decisions for themselves and their families.
- Family Gaming
  - [Friday, March 15](#)—Drop in with your family on the third Friday of the month and spend an afternoon playing a variety of board games, puzzles, and Nintendo Switch games.
- Chalk Art Event
  - [Friday, March 22](#)—Students are invited to contribute their artistic talents to a chalk art mural in the Library's courtyard and help assemble a work of art that celebrates

the Silicon Valley Reads companion book, [\*The Forest Man: The True Story of Jadav Payeng\*](#).

- Story Expedition
  - [Friday, March 29](#)—Participants will celebrate Anne Matheson's inspiring book [\*The Forest Man: The True Story of Jadav Payeng\*](#) by taking a Librarian-led walk around Pioneer Park to pay tribute to Payeng's incredible story and discuss the importance of trees and nature.
  
- Online Author Series
  - [Wednesday, March 6](#)—You are invited to an intimate conversation with Nina Totenberg as she talks about her nearly 50-year friendship with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her book [\*Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships\*](#).
  
  - [Thursday, March 14](#)—Join us as we chat with master storyteller and international bestselling author Christopher Paolini about his return to the *World of Eragon* with [\*Murtagh\*](#), a stunning continuation of the epic fantasy.
  
  - [Thursday, March 21](#)—You're invited to a fascinating exploratory conversation with Madeline Miller, bestselling author of [\*The Song of Achilles\*](#) and [\*Circe\*](#), as she chats with us about her body of work and her process of retelling Greek classics into modern epics in fiction.

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