

DATE: December 8, 2025

TO: Friends of the Mountain View Library

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

LACTATION POD IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Library staff are pleased to announce the installation of a new lactation pod in the Children's Room. This private, safe, and comfortable space is designed to support nursing mothers and caregivers feeding young children. The pod is available to users on a first-come, first-served basis.

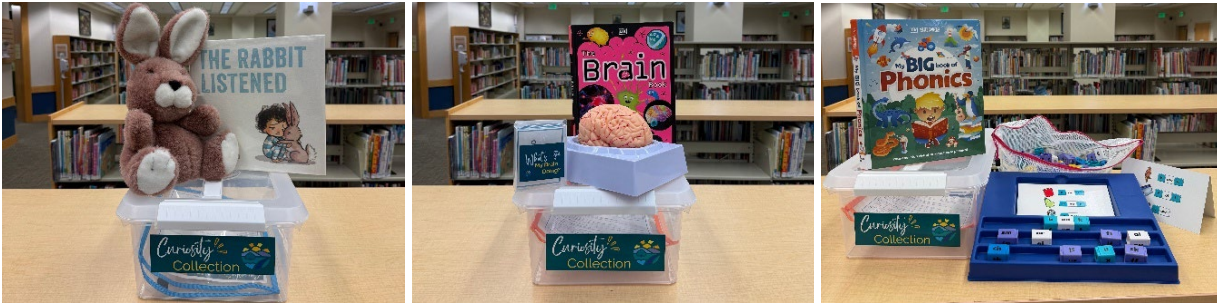
We're proud to offer this new resource as part of our ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for families.

**DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

The Library recently became a Local Program Partner with [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](https://www.dollypartons.org/). The Imagination Library is a worldwide program that mails free books to children 0-5 years old to support literacy and instill a love for reading. Families may register children online at [SCCLD.org/ImaginationLibrary](https://www.sccld.org/ImaginationLibrary).

CURIOSITY COLLECTION

Children can now borrow Curiosity Collection kits from the desk in the Children's Room. Each box includes a book and engaging hands-on activities that bring its themes to life, inspiring imagination and learning. The kits can be enjoyed in the Library and will be refreshed regularly, so there's always something new to explore.



NEW ITEMS IN LIBRARY OF THINGS

The Library now offers [ukulele kits](#) and [bird watching backpacks](#) that customers can borrow from the Customer Service desk. The ukulele kit includes a ukulele, tuner, and beginner's book. The bird watching backpack contains two pairs of binoculars, a California bird field guide, and an information card. Each kit may be borrowed for two weeks.



NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK

The Library celebrated [National Friends of Libraries Week](#) from Oct. 19-25. Since 1975, the Friends have raised over \$1.3 million for the Library through quarterly Book Sales, the Lobby Shop, and online sales. Funds raised by the Friends go toward Summer Reading, Sci-Fi September, and Silicon Valley Reads programs, as well as concert and craft programs throughout the year. Funds also go toward the Lucky Day collection and extra copies of popular titles.

In recognition of National Friends of Libraries Week, staff created a video for [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) that highlights the Friends and all the work they do to support the Library.

MONSTER BASH

The Library participated in the city-wide Monster Bash event on Saturday, Oct. 25. Attending staff interacted with 748 table visitors. Staff held three Halloween-themed storytimes, distributed craft kits to children, offered library cards, and shared information about everything the Library offers.



WINTER EVENTS

Staff have lined up several festive events to celebrate the holiday season.

Residents who enjoy music will have the opportunity to hear the [Bel Canto Flutes](#) ensemble perform melodies old and new, spanning genres from Bach to rock, on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Those who are interested in playing music are invited to the [Winter Holiday Yule-kulele Jam](#) on Wednesday, Dec. 10, to learn how to play seasonal songs on the ukulele.

A special performance by [Firelight Shadow Theater](#) on Saturday, Dec. 13, will introduce attendees to the art of shadow puppetry and perform shadow puppetry versions of best-loved stories, including wintry folktales.

Lastly, kids will be excited to come to the Library's annual [Winter Dance Party](#) on Tuesday, Dec. 16, where the Library DJ will play both popular and seasonal songs to get everyone moving and shaking.

The Bel Canto Flutes, Winter Holiday Yule-kulele Jam, and Firelight Shadow Theater events are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

ADJUSTED HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

The Library will be open with [limited hours](#) on Wednesday, Dec. 24 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

PEOPLE LOVE US

Yelp sent us a People Love Us on Yelp certificate and sticker to commemorate the Library as a “beloved business” in 2024. We are currently rated at 4.4 out of 5 stars based on 265 reviews.

The accompanying letter reads:

“We’re proud to recognize Mountain View Public Library as one of the highest-rated and best reviewed businesses on Yelp. There are over 8 million active claimed business pages on our platform and over 300 million cumulative reviews, so to have such high ratings and positive reviews is no small feat.

In honor of this distinction, we are sending you an official 2024 People Love Us On Yelp sticker and certificate of authenticity. Display it on your door, window, business vehicle, or other high-visibility areas to show customers:

- *You are a universally loved business in the community*
- *You are vetted on the world’s largest review site*
- *You value customer feedback and encourage engagement with your business*

Our mission will always be to connect people with great local businesses, and we can do that because of you. You’re doing an incredible job, and we thank you for being such a valuable community member.”



KUDOS CORNER

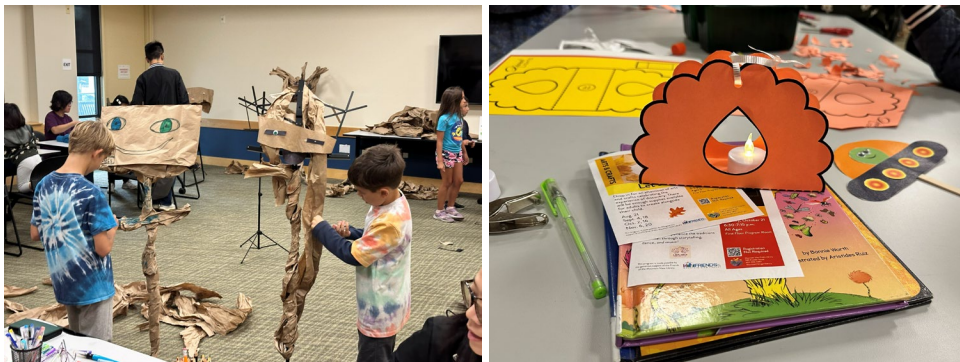
The Library received a kind shout-out on Facebook regarding the new lactation pod in the Children's Room.



PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Children enjoyed crafting at Let's Create. One activity involved repurposing brown packing paper and old or broken music stands to make larger-than-life models of Marvel's Groot. Kids also used colored paper and tealight candles to make candle holders in celebration of Diwali. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Local band Sang Matiz energized a crowd in Pioneer Park to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Fusing World and Afro-Latin beats with tropical grooves, funk, and flamenco-inspired guitar,

Sang Matiz creates an irresistible sound that radiates passion, energy, and creativity. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Author Vivienne Chang and illustrator Eugenia Yoh presented a special storytime featuring their second picture book, [*What If We....*](#). This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



The Retro Roadshow delivered an action-packed presentation that examined the multi-decade battle between video game companies, including Atari, Sega, Nintendo, and others. After the talk, attendees had the chance to play games on a curated collection of consoles such as Atari, ColecoVision, Vectrex, Sega, Nintendo, Neo Geo, TurboGrafx-16, 3DO, and more. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Entomologist Dr. Stephanie Dole presented on the astonishing diversity of insects and beetles, and shared her own research into the diversity of tropical bark beetles. Attendees also learned about the vital role beetles play in the natural world. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Youths trick-or-treated around the Library during open hours on Halloween day and received playdough, sidewalk chalk, and bubble bottles from each of the service desks. This program was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Other Past Programs

- Wednesday, Oct. 1—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 105
- Wednesday, Oct. 1—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 27
- Thursday, Oct. 2—Nuestra América: Stories of 30 Inspiring Latinas/Latinos Who Have Shaped the United States with Smithsonian Educators, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 13
- Thursday, Oct. 2—Let's Create, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 50
- Friday, Oct. 3—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 25
- Saturday, Oct. 4—What If We...? Storytime Author Event, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 58
- Saturday, Oct. 4—Sang Matiz: Afro-Latin Concert in the Park, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 75
- Monday, Oct. 6—Amplify: Intro to 3D Printing and CAD—Attendance: 16

- Tuesday, Oct. 7—Fall Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 326
- Wednesday, Oct. 8—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 99
- Wednesday, Oct. 8—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 31
- Wednesday, Oct. 8—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 44
- Wednesday, Oct. 8—Spookulele! Halloween Ukulele Jam, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 15
- Thursday, Oct. 9—Magical Bridge Storytime—Attendance: 61
- Thursday, Oct. 9—10 Years of Daring Heists and Lovable Outcasts in YA Fantasy with Leigh Bardugo, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 60
- Thursday, Oct. 9—Your Brain Has Been Hacked: Rethinking Attention, Tech, and the Crisis of Digital Overload, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 68
- Saturday, Oct. 11—Introduction to Kids LEGO Robotics—Attendance: 73
- Monday, Oct. 13—Amplify: Intro to 3D Printing and CAD—Attendance: 15
- Tuesday, Oct. 14—Fall Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 191
- Tuesday, Oct. 14—Worms! The Fun Way to Compost—Attendance: 19
- Wednesday, Oct. 15—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 104
- Wednesday, Oct. 15—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 29
- Thursday, Oct. 16—Let's Create, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 61
- Friday, Oct. 17—Amplify: Bio Bridge—Attendance: 28
- Saturday, Oct. 18—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 10
- Monday, Oct. 20—Lullaby Storytime—Attendance: 54
- Tuesday, Oct. 21—Fall Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 272
- Tuesday, Oct. 21—Laya Arts Collective's Diwali Celebration, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 41
- Wednesday, Oct. 22—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 101
- Wednesday, Oct. 22—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 28
- Wednesday, Oct. 22—Finding My Way with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 81
- Thursday, Oct. 23—Bad Art & Boba—Attendance: 17
- Friday, Oct. 24—Deer Hollow Spooky Storytime—Attendance: 47
- Saturday, Oct. 25—Console Chaos! Retro Gaming with The Retro Roadshow, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 52
- Monday, Oct. 27—Myth Masters, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 4
- Tuesday, Oct. 28—Fall Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 271
- Tuesday, Oct. 28—Sewing with FabMo: Fabric Pumpkins, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, Oct. 29—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 107

- Wednesday, Oct. 29—Courtly Intrigue and Whispers as Weapons with Historical Fiction Queen Philippa Gregory, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 17
- Wednesday, Oct. 29—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 28
- Wednesday, Oct. 29—Nature Talk: Stephanie Dole, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 8
- Thursday, Oct. 30—Medicare Made Easy—Attendance: 10
- Thursday, Oct. 30—Practical Privacy Advocacy for All, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 7
- Friday, Oct. 31—Halloween Trick-or-Treat, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 322

Upcoming Programs

- Bel Canto Flutes Concert
 - [Tuesday, Dec. 9](#)—The Bel Canto Flutes ensemble will present a concert featuring melodies old and new, spanning genres from Bach to rock. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Winter Holiday Yule-kulele Jam
 - [Wednesday, Dec. 10](#)—Join us for a special winter holiday edition of our Sing and Play Along Ukulele Jam, where participants will learn and perform songs with a seasonal theme. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Potty Training with Jenny
 - [Thursday, Dec. 11](#)—Jenny Phelps, an Oh Crap! Potty Training Certified Expert who coaches hundreds of parents with real-world, from-the-trenches potty training information, will provide tips and advice on potty training children. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Stories in Motion
 - [Fridays, Dec. 12 & 19](#)—Children are invited to participate in this storytelling series where they will learn foundational theater skills to bring stories to life.
- Firelight Shadow Theater
 - [Saturday, Dec. 13](#)—Discover the magical world of shadow puppetry with Daniel Barash from Firelight Shadow Theater, who will introduce attendees to the art form and then perform shadow puppetry versions of best-loved stories, including wintry folktales. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Winter Dance Party
 - [Tuesday, Dec. 16](#)—Get the kids' dancing shoes ready as the Library DJ will play both popular and seasonal songs to get everyone moving and shaking!

- Online Author Series, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
 - [Tuesday, Dec. 2](#)—Join us as we sit down for an online chat with debut author Sue Hincenbergs to discuss her novel, [The Retirement Plan](#), in which murder is the name of the game.
 - [Tuesday, Dec. 9](#)— Join us for a conversation that's sure to warm your heart (and make your stomach rumble) as we delve into the legacy of cooking icon Julia Child with Smithsonian curator and public historian Paula J. Johnson, author of [Julia Child's Kitchen: The Design, Tools, Stories, and Legacy of an Iconic Space](#).

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