

DATE: August 18, 2025

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Library welcomes Library Security Attendant Ravneel Chaudhary.

SUMMER READING RECAP

Summer Reading concluded on Thursday, July 31 with the End of Summer Dance Party. A total of 1,592 residents registered for Summer Reading this year, including 1,034 children, 161 teens, and 397 adults. Participants may collect their prizes at the Children's Room desk or second floor information desk throughout August.

For now, the Children's Room remains vibrant with paper caterpillars and tissue paper butterflies attached to the walls. Children who registered for Summer Reading made a caterpillar and wrote the titles of their favorite books, and those who were halfway through the reading challenge made butterflies.



MVHS YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Library is proud to announce the availability of [digitized Mountain View High School yearbooks](#) spanning 1904-1929. This unique and valuable collection of yearbooks has long been housed at the [Mountain View History Center](#), but it is now available to access online thanks to a grant through the [California Revealed digitization initiative](#). The collection can be accessed through [California Revealed](#) and [Internet Archive](#).

This collection of yearbooks chronicles Mountain View High School's first 25 years from its founding along El Camino Real and its first graduating class in 1904 to the opening of its building on Castro Street, which the school occupied until 1982.

The yearbooks contain the names and photographs of faculty and students, as well as information about student activities, advertisements from local businesses, written reflections, short fiction, and inside jokes. Most of these early yearbooks also contain details about MVHS alumni and their lives post-graduation. Inside, viewers will find details about the experience of World War I, the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, and the Prune & Apricot Exposition. As you move through the collection from the oldest to the most recent issue you can perceive the growing importance of secondary education and the emergence of youth culture facilitated by the automobile.

In addition to yearbooks, residents can also view the History Center's collection of [digitized primary resources](#) on California Revealed including historic photographs and audio recordings of oral interviews from Mountain View's Japanese, Mexican, and Spanish immigrants.

EXPANDED HISTORY CENTER HOURS

The [Mountain View History Center](#) expanded its operating hours to include Thursday evenings from 4:00-8:00 p.m. starting July 17. The additional hours will make the History Center's collections and services more accessible, allowing more residents to explore its unique resources and deepening their interest in Mountain View's history. The History Center will continue to be open on Tuesdays from 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

STATUES FEATURED IN PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATION

The *Wind in the Willows* statues outside the Library in Pioneer Park were featured in the [July 2025 issue of School Library Journal](#). The article highlights statues honoring children's literature in parks and libraries across the United States.

The Library's statue collection, *Toad's Book Club*, is included on page 10 of the issue. Accompanying text reads: "*Toad's Book Club* may be the only work on this list attached to

something living: Sculptor Albert Guibara created a door in an oak tree trunk, with Badger and Toad on either side and Ratty perched up in the tree."

School Library Journal is a monthly publication for people who work with youths in schools and public libraries. Articles cover book and media reviews, advancements in technology, changes in education policies, and current events that impact libraries.



TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

Library staff attended the Technology Showcase on Thursday, July 17. They interacted with 206 visitors, issued 11 library cards, and used a prize wheel to distribute free swag.

A [Mountain View Voice article](#) that reported on the Technology Showcase included a segment about the Library.

"It wasn't just tech companies presenting at the event. Attendees could also learn about the offerings at the Mountain View Public Library.

"Libraries are here to stay," said librarian Ashley Lang. "Even though technology changes over time, [the library is] still a big, important presence."

With a library card, "you have access to a multitude of resources," including audio and e-book platforms like Hoopla and Libby, Lang said. She added that the library plays an important role in breaking down barriers to access, offering computers, free Wi-Fi and portable chargers to those who might need them."



KUDOS CORNER

The Library received this kind comment after Customer Service Supervisor Rebecca Gamboa suggested a book purchase on behalf of a customer.

Many thanks! We use the MV Library on a daily basis. It has kept us sane through COVID and retirement.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Sixty-one children learned about the significance of alebrijes in Mexican culture and practiced making sculptures at one of the Art Around the World programs in July. Art Around the World introduced children to other countries and cultures by featuring a different country's folk art every other week during the summer. This program was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Thirteen attendees at Ukulele Jam learned how to play Life in a Northern Town and Proud Mary after practicing basic chords taught by instructor Chuck Monahan. This monthly recurring program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



A teen presenter led a discussion on Ancient History As Viewed Through Coins at the Library's first [Amplify: Teen Voices](#) program. Twenty-six attendees learned how coinage teaches us about the people who issued them, the events going on at the time, and what leaders wanted their society to see in them.



Magician Mike Della Penna gave a wildly entertaining performance to 401 attendees in Pioneer Park. This program was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Families came out to Pioneer Park to experience an interactive journey through Afro-Peruvian rhythms with featured musical guests, Cunamacué. All 153 attendees learned about the music, history, and culture of Peru's African heritage in this live musical performance. This program was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Children enjoyed a special storytime with their stuffed animal friends at the Teddy Bear Tea Party in Bubb Park. Fifty-seven children and adults attended. This program was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Other Past Programs

- Tuesday, July 1—Summer Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 310
- Tuesday, July 1—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 43
- Wednesday, July 2—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 29
- Thursday, July 3—Interactive Storytelling—Attendance: 24
- Monday, July 7—Lullaby Storytime—Attendance: 25
- Tuesday, July 8—Summer Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 337
- Tuesday, July 8—Dibuja tu mundo con Raúl the Third (Preescolar a 2.º grado), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 11
- Tuesday, July 8—Drawing Your World with Raúl The Third (PK-2nd Grade), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 6
- Wednesday, July 9—Art Around the World, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 61
- Wednesday, July 9—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 27
- Wednesday, July 9—Ukulele Jam: Sing and Play Along, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 13
- Wednesday, July 9—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 45
- Thursday, July 10—Magical Bridge Storytime—Attendance: 103
- Thursday, July 10—Interactive Storytelling—Attendance: 27
- Friday, July 11—STEAM Fridays, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 102
- Saturday, July 12—Grow Your Own Cut Flower Garden—Attendance: 19
- Saturday, July 12—Amplify: Ancient History As Viewed Through Coins—Attendance: 26
- Monday, July 14—Teen Dungeons and Dragons—Attendance: 6
- Monday, July 14—Lullaby Storytime—Attendance: 50
- Tuesday, July 15—Summer Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 341
- Wednesday, July 16—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 41
- Wednesday, July 16—Mike The Magician's Magic Show, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 401
- Thursday, July 17—Discerning the Truth with Marie Lu (9th-12th Grade), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 1
- Thursday, July 17—Interactive Storytelling—Attendance: 19
- Friday, July 18—STEAM Fridays, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 69
- Saturday, July 19—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 24
- Saturday, July 19—Pastel & Charcoal Art Workshop, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 26
- Monday, July 21—Lullaby Storytime—Attendance: 70
- Tuesday, July 22—Summer Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 297

- Wednesday, July 23—Illuminating Hope and Grace in the Face of Hardship with Rex Ogle (5th-8th Grade), sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 4
- Wednesday, July 23—Art Around the World, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 23
- Wednesday, July 23—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 49
- Wednesday, July 23—Researching Your Family History with Interviews and Records, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 12
- Thursday, July 24—Magical Bridge Storytime—Attendance: 65
- Thursday, July 24—Interactive Storytelling—Attendance: 21
- Thursday, July 24—Cunamacué, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 153
- Friday, July 25—STEAM Fridays, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 84
- Saturday, July 26—Amplify: The Tortured Poets Workshop—Attendance: 3
- Saturday, July 26—Jim Witzel Jazz Concert, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 145
- Monday, July 28—Teddy Bear Tea Party, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 57
- Tuesday, July 29—Summer Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 326
- Wednesday, July 30—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 51
- Thursday, July 31—On the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains with Pria Anand, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 31

Upcoming Programs

- Read & Repeat
 - [Tuesdays, Sept. 2, 9 & 16](#)—Repetition and active learning combine to strengthen pre-kinder skills as we explore different concepts in science, language arts, math, social studies, and art each week in a storytime geared toward smaller group learning. For ages 3-5.
- Magical Bridge Storytime
 - [Thursday, Sept. 4](#)—Stop by the bookmobile for stories, songs, and rhymes in the heart of Rengstorff Park. Enjoy a fun-filled storytime at the Magical Bridge Playground, and take advantage of full library services available from 10:00–11:00 a.m.
- Amplify: Robotics with QuantaMania
 - [Saturday, Sept. 6](#)—Build mini robot circuits, make cool robot art, protect an egg in a drop test, and even drive a real competition robot with QuantaMania 27090 in this special STEM workshop. Attendees will also get to see LEGO robots in action and take home a fun 3D-printed keychain. For grades 3-6.

- Growing Winter Vegetables and Herbs in Containers
 - [Saturday, Sept. 13](#)—Learn which vegetables grow best in Santa Clara County during the winter and which ones thrive in containers in this presentation by Master Gardener Martha Carpenter.
- Amplify: Improv-aganza
 - [Saturday, Sept. 13](#)—Enter the world of improv comedy with this interactive workshop from the LAHS improv club. For grades 4-8.
- Lullaby Storytime
 - [Monday, Sept. 15](#)—Infants and new toddlers are welcome to join us at this musical storytime with books, baby bounces, and dancing.
- Sewing with FabMo: Hourglass Blocks - Part Two
 - [Tuesday, Sept. 16](#)—Convert your hourglass blocks into one-of-a-kind mug rugs. Learn to quilt, block, sash and bind a quilt. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Mid-Autumn Festival Chinese Calligraphy Class
 - [Wednesday, Sept. 24](#)—Celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with a hands-on Chinese calligraphy workshop. 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, Sept. 3](#)—Embrace your dark side and join us in conversation with Hannah Nicole Maehrer, creator of the *New York Times* bestselling [Assistant to the Villain series](#).
 - [Wednesday, Sept. 10](#)—Join us for a virtual conversation with communication expert Jefferson Fisher as we chat about his book, [The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More](#).
 - [Wednesday, Sept. 17](#)—Have you ever wondered why the English spelling of words is sometimes weird? Come on a surprisingly hilarious journey with Gabe Henry, author of [Enough is Enuf](#), as he takes us through the history of the English language while discussing troublemakers like Mark Twain who broke all the rules.

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