

**DATE:** October 21, 2024

**TO:** Board of Library Trustees

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

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Youth, Bookmobile, and Collections Division welcomes Alex Pantazes to the team as a full-time Librarian.
- The Friends of the Mountain View Library will hold a Book Sale the weekend of November 2 and November 3.
- The Library will be closed on Monday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.
- The Library will be closed Thursday, November 28, through Friday, November 29, in observance of Thanksgiving.

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER BERMAN'S FAMILY HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR**

Library staff tabled at the Family Health and Wellness Fair at Mistral Elementary School on Saturday, September 21. They interacted with 86 people, including many Spanish-speaking children and families. Several visitors mentioned how deeply they appreciate the Library's resources, especially bilingual materials and Digital Library resources such as downloadable audiobooks. Staff also heard from a school counselor who expressed interest in having the bookmobile visit her students in the future.



## **COURSERA**

[Coursera](#) will remain available to customers as one of the Library's free [Career and Skill-Building](#) digital resources.

Coursera is an online learning platform featuring 5,000 courses and certifications led by top businesses, universities, and organizations. With courses on everything from data analysis to business English skills and organizational design, every customer can find something to help them advance their personal and professional goals.

Due to high interest and usage, the Library requested that Coursera and LinkedIn Learning be funded through its operating budget this fiscal year. Coursera was previously one of the workforce development resources funded by the California State Library that concluded as of September 30, including Northstar Digital Literacy and EBSCO LearningExpress.

## **SCI-FI SEPTEMBER RECAP: DISPLAYS AND ACTIVITIES**

Library staff refreshed the book and media displays to celebrate Sci-Fi September. Kids enjoyed picture books featuring robots, astronauts, aliens, and space adventures from the display in the Children's Room. The display in the Teen Zone showcased a selection of compelling sci-fi novels. The second-floor displays included thought-provoking sci-fi novels and films as well as popular nonfiction about the history of science.



Teens were invited to drop by the Teen Zone to vote on their favorite sci-fi movies and video games. The movies with the most votes include *Avatar*, *Hunger Games*, and *Men in Black*, while video games with the most votes include *Stray*, *Subnautica*, and *Borderlands*. Teens also had the opportunity to engage in a *Star Wars* puzzle duel with a friend to see who could complete the puzzles faster.



The Children's Room had a paper alien craft that kids could either take home or make while inside the Library. All 250 crafts were distributed.



Over 500 residents attended 10 Sci-Fi September programs. Several of these events were generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library, including the Author Talk with Martha Wells, The Future Human Exploration of Mars, and Retro Gaming with The Retro Roadshow: Science Fiction's Role in Video Game History.

### **A BLAST FROM THE PAST**

We received a curious package containing two books from 1 Main Street, Walla Walla, Washington. The package did not contain a note, but it appears that these books have been returned to the Library even though they are long overdue based on the borrowing cards located in their front cover pockets. The punch holes in the date-due slip were used to identify borrowers before barcoded library cards came into existence.

The pockets indicate that the Mountain View Public Library was once part of the Santa Clara Valley Library System along with the Santa Clara County Free Library branches in Alum Rock, Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, and Stanford-Escondido.



## **KUDOS CORNER**

Customer Service staff relayed the following anecdotes:

“We received a compliment about The Future Human Exploration of Mars program. She loved it and thought it was wonderful. She was so happy she attended and just had to tell me.

I also received another compliment about our adult collection on the second floor. I think she was talking about the fiction section. She was planning on getting a card but decided to wait until next time. She recently was sick, so she needed to rest. She wanted to let me know that she was excited about coming back.”

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Past Program Highlights**

Attendees learned how to make pattern weights using upcycled fabric at last month's Sewing with FabMo program. This workshop was led by FabMo volunteer, Gayatri Ratnam.



Local history author Nick Perry shared the fascinating history of Jackson Park and Castro City, two Mountain View neighborhoods with deep Hispanic roots, in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.



Over 80 kids and family members made a Wobblebot UFO at the Sci-Fi STEAM program, then raced their bots against others.



Residents had the opportunity to chat with Martha Wells, bestselling author of the award-winning [Murderbot Diaries](#) series. Wells was a personable and entertaining speaker, and the audience chat was lively and engaged throughout the talk. Attendees left several positive comments. There were 125 attendees at this special author talk. The [recording](#) for this program is on the Library's YouTube channel.



The Library witnessed creativity in action at the Sci-Fi September-themed LEGO® Time event. Kids created rockets, planets, space stations, and more with provided bricks. When they finished building, they took photos of their creations inside a decorated photo box to complete their visions.



Staff was impressed by the youths who participated in the two-part Robot Challenge program presented by the award-winning Paly Robotics team. Youths aged 11 to 14 worked together to create a working prototype while the Paly students guided them through a chassis build and encouraged them to grow their technical problem-solving skills. Participants were excited to test their robots on an obstacle course in Pioneer Park.



Fifteen (15) people attended the Library's exclusive author talk with prolific sci-fi author Jack Campbell. Campbell provided insightful and friendly conversation and attendees left positive comments in the Zoom chat. Several aspiring writers asked questions about Campbell's writing and publication process. Those who missed attending the live event can view the [recording](#) on the Library's YouTube channel.



Thirty-seven (37) attendees listened to a compelling presentation on the future of human exploration to Mars with Dr. Pascal Lee from the Mars Institute, SETI Institute, and NASA Ames Research Center.



The Retro Roadshow founder Huxley Dunsany delivered an entertaining and thoroughly researched presentation on how science fiction influenced the evolution of personal computers and video games. Participants of all ages spent the remaining time playing a curated selection of vintage sci-fi video games on a variety of classic gaming consoles with original hardware, including the Atari 2600, Atari 800, Nintendo Entertainment System, Sega Genesis, Sega Dreamcast, Sony PlayStation, and more. Attendees also had the opportunity to play an emulated version of the influential 1971 game Computer Space on a 3D-printed replica arcade cabinet.



### **Other Past Programs**

- Tuesday, September 3—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 192
- Wednesday, September 4—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 29
- Wednesday, September 4—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 37
- Thursday, September 5—Individualized Education Program: Discussing IEP, Parents Zoom at Noon—Attendance: 15

- Thursday, September 5—Sci-Fi STEAM—Attendance: 80
- Thursday, September 5—Author Talk with Martha Wells, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 125
- Friday, September 6—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 72
- Saturday, September 7—LEGO® Time—Attendance: 127
- Monday, September 9—Robot Challenge—Attendance: 22
- Tuesday, September 10—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 180
- Tuesday, September 10—Capturing the Human Drama through History with Garrett Graff, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 84
- Tuesday, September 10—Growing Culinary Herbs in Santa Clara County—Attendance: 12
- Wednesday, September 11—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 33
- Wednesday, September 11—Bringing Computing to the People: the History of Personal Computers, Handheld Computers, and the Internet—Attendance: 13
- Thursday, September 12—Let's Create—Attendance: 40
- Thursday, September 12—Author Talk with Sara Wolf—Attendance: 21
- Friday, September 13—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 120
- Monday, September 16—Robot Challenge—Attendance: 22
- Tuesday, September 17—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 153
- Tuesday, September 17—Sewing with FabMo: Pattern Weights, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 11
- Wednesday, September 18—Living with an Expansive Mind in a Distracted World—with Nate Klemp, Ph.D., sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 27
- Wednesday, September 18—Birthday Storytime—Attendance: 27



- Wednesday, September 18—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 24
- Thursday, September 19—Calmer Connections: Supporting the Anxious Child, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 25
- Thursday, September 19—Author Talk with Jack Campbell—Attendance: 15
- Thursday, September 19—Sci-Fi Pajama Storytime—Attendance: 18
- Friday, September 20—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 81
- Saturday, September 21—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 17
- Saturday, September 21—A Deep Dive in Character Development with Global Sensation Liane Moriarty, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 80
- Tuesday, September 24—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 178
- Tuesday, September 24—The Future Human Exploration of Mars, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 37
- Wednesday, September 25—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 21
- Thursday, September 26—Let's Create—Attendance: 40
- Thursday, September 26—Hispanic History in Mountain View, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 32
- Friday, September 27—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 103
- Saturday, September 28—Retro Gaming with The Retro Roadshow: Science Fiction's Role in Video Game History, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 53

### **Upcoming Programs**

- 3D Printing Workshop: Advanced Tinkercad Class
  - [Tuesday, November 5](#)—Residents are invited to hone their 3D printing skills in this advanced Tinkercad class and learn essential design for 3D Printing techniques.

Attendees may bring in their own projects for personalized advice. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

- Creating Effective Rain Gardens
  - [Wednesday, November 6](#)—This gardening presentation will discuss the benefits of rain gardens and offer practical insights on creating beautiful, environmentally friendly gardens.
- Avoiding Scams, Fraud, and Identity Theft
  - [Thursday, November 7](#)—Members of the Marin County Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) will share advice on preventing and detecting financial abuse such as scams, identity theft, imposter scams, sweetheart scams, and more.
- Rose: Choosing, Planting, Winter Care, and Pruning
  - [Saturday, November 9](#)—Master Gardener Martha Carpenter will show attendees how to care for all types of roses from new, easy-care introductions to old favorites.
- Native Nations: A Millennium in North America
  - [Saturday, November 16](#)—In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, we invite residents to an exclusive virtual talk with history professor and critically acclaimed nonfiction author Kathleen DuVal as she discusses her fascinating book, [Native Nations: A Millennium in North America](#).
- Online Author Series, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
  - [Thursday, November 7](#)—Navajo Ranger Stanley Milford, Jr. will chat about his chilling memoir [The Paranormal Ranger](#), which recounts his investigations into bizarre cases of the paranormal and the unexplained in Navajoland.
  - [Thursday, November 14](#)—*New York Times* bestselling author Javier Zamora will discuss his riveting tale of survival and perseverance as told in his award-winning memoir [Solito](#). This talk will be conducted in Spanish on [Saturday, November 9](#).
  - [Wednesday, November 20](#)—Mona Susan Power will talk about her newest novel [A Council of Dolls](#) and how her work explores Native Rights and Native American culture, in particular using an important symbol that anchors comfort and companionship in Native life: dolls.

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

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