



DATE: September 18, 2023

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

STAFF UPDATES

- Customer Experience and Technology Division welcomes James Thajudeen to the team as a Librarian.
- Administration welcomes Tingna Huang to the team as a Senior Administrative Assistant.
- Current recruitment is under way for Customer Experience and Technology Division Library Manager and Senior Librarian.

BOOKMOBILE'S NEW DESIGN

City Manager Kimbra McCarthy shared the design of the vinyl wrap on the exterior of the new all-electric Bookmobile at the City Manager's Annual Update. Farber Specialty is on the final stages of customizing the vehicle interior before applying the vinyl wrap. Application of the vinyl wrap will be one of the last steps before shipping the vehicle to the Library. The Library hopes to receive the new Bookmobile in October.



SCI-FI SEPTEMBER

Sci-Fi September is back at the Library! Staff has been offering a plentiful array of events for sci-fi and fantasy aficionados and science buffs of all ages. Guest speakers and performers include archaeologist Andrew Kinkella, authors Peter V. Brett and Ann Leckie, Video Game History Foundation founder and co-director Frank Cifaldi, Computer History Museum founder Len Shustek, and artist Karen Luk. Also featured is harpist Aysha Gomez-Kureishi to perform music from popular science fiction and fantasy films after her well-attended summer program that featured music from *The Legend of Zelda* video game series.

Staff tried new promotional strategies to encourage program registration, which included producing a [promotional video](#) for Sci-Fi September that received a high number of views on social media. Library staff worked with City Communications to launch a dedicated [Sci-Fi September webpage](#) to make it easier for residents to browse and register for related events.

NOTE FROM A CUSTOMER

The Library received this kind note through the Contact Us form.

"I wanted to take the time to thank you for the special place you hold in my heart. When I moved here 3 years ago, mid pandemic, I was in the throes of my postgraduate education. Your digital library services helped get me through those dark times. When you finally opened, it was such a joy to be able to study in your lovely, welcoming space and to rent your books to help escape from the nightmares of academia. In the past few months I have been a daily visitor to the library, using the tranquility of your space to write my dissertation. I cannot stress enough how important this was for me to have a place to escape to and write! This afternoon, I submitted the final draft of my Dissertation marking the end of my arduous studies (should I pass, fingers crossed). Thank you for everything you did to help me on that journey."

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Mountain View Library Book Sale took place during the weekend of August 19 and 20. They sold over 4,800 books and made over \$4,000 in sales.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

The Library hosted two concerts to wrap up the summer. Local singer, songwriter, and guitarist Casey Bogdan shared a mix of pop-country covers and original songs. Dave Rocha and his quartet

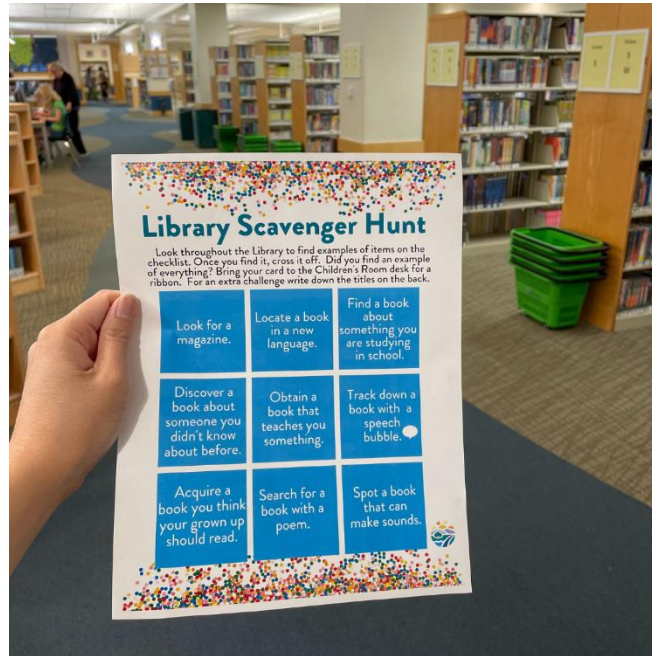
serenaded residents with a jazz performance in Pioneer Park. Both programs were generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Children and their families learned about jellyfish and enjoyed an afternoon of crafting and watercolor at the Jellyfish Art program.



Exciting activities took place in the Children's Room and Teen Zone. Kids went on a scavenger hunt in the Children's Room and received a prize for locating all items in the checklist. While completing the hunt, they discovered books with poems, books that can make sounds, books in new languages, and more.



Kids also put together and played a back-to-school board game. They cut out and folded game pieces, then placed those pieces on a board to play a Chutes and Ladders-style game. Lastly, teens can have fun with their friends by taking a photo at the selfie station in the Teen Zone.



Other Past Programs

- Wednesday, August 2: ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 37.
- Thursday, August 3: Housing and Eviction Help Center—Attendance: 12.
- Tuesday, August 8: Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 184.
- Tuesday, August 8: Casey Bogdan Concert, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 39.
- Wednesday, August 9: ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 22.
- Thursday, August 10: DIY Drip Irrigation—Attendance: 10.
- Saturday, August 12: Jazz in the Park: A Concert with the Dave Rocha Jazz Group, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 75.
- Tuesday, August 15: *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *The Prophets*: Author Talk with Robert Jones, Jr., sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 7.
- Wednesday, August 16: ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 17.
- Thursday, August 17: Jellyfish Art—Attendance: 54.
- Thursday, August 17: Housing and Eviction Help Center—Attendance: 11.
- Saturday, August 19: Drop-In Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 23.
- Wednesday, August 23: ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23.
- Wednesday, August 23: Author Talk with Cassandra Clare, Bestselling Author of *The Mortal Instruments* Series, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 20.
- Thursday, August 24: Let's Create—Attendance: 58.
- Tuesday, August 29: Estate Planning in a Time of Uncertainty—Attendance: 48.
- Wednesday, August 30: A Year Inside College Admissions: An Author Talk with Jeff Selingo, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 72.

- Wednesday, August 30: ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 26.
- Wednesday, August 30: Sing and Play Along Ukulele Jam—Attendance: 19.

Upcoming Programs

- Outdoor Storytime: Hispanic Heritage Month
 - [Tuesday, October 3](#): In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, staff will present a special storytime celebrating stories, songs, and rhymes from the culture.
- Let's Create
 - [Wednesdays, October 4](#) and [October 18](#): Drop in for an afternoon of art and crafts that is self-directed, choice-driven, and celebrates the experience of discovery.
- Online Author Series
 - [Tuesday, October 10](#): Join guidebook author and TV host Rick Steves as he shares the secrets to safe, smart, inexpensive European travel.
 - [Wednesday, October 18](#): Tune in to chat with Ruth Ware, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Woman in Cabin 10* and *The It Girl*, as she talks about her newest book *Zero Days*.
 - [Thursday, October 26](#): Join us for an intimate conversation with John Irving as he chats about his most recent novel, *The Last Chairlift*, and his prolific body of work.
- ¡Viva México!—An Exploration of Mexican History and Art
 - [Wednesday, October 11](#): Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with The Mexican Museum of San Francisco and learn about Mexico's rich and complex history.
- Social Security Optimization Workshop
 - [Thursday, October 12](#): Obtain a better understanding of the overall Social Security picture and walk away with the knowledge and resources to make the best decision for you and your family.

- Art Explorers
 - [Thursdays, October 12](#) and [October 26](#): Learn about the artist behind the art and the tools they used to create their masterpieces in this program for ages 9 to 12.
- Aavarthanam: Indian Classical Music with Sanjeev Palamand
 - [Saturday, October 14](#): Enjoy a musical performance in Indian Classical Carnatic format that showcases a unique musical meeting between the mridangam, a traditional Indian percussion instrument, and the electric guitar.
- Worms! The Fun Way to Compost
 - [Tuesday, October 24](#): Discover the how's and why's of vermicomposting in a family-friendly, hands-on experience with Master Gardener and Master Composter Terry Andre.

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

TG-KH/6/LIB
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