



## MEMORANDUM

Library Department

**DATE:** January 26, 2026

**TO:** Board of Library Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Library Director's Report

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### **SILICON VALLEY READS 2026**

Each year, [Silicon Valley Reads](#) brings Mountain View together with neighboring Santa Clara County libraries and community organizations to explore a theme designed to inspire conversations on meaningful topics.

This year's theme is "Bridges to Belonging." The Library invites residents to read the featured books and participate in special events to explore the importance of connection, empathy, and community as we collectively find ways to build and strengthen our relationships with one another.

Featured Books for 2026:

- [The Power of Bridging: How to Build a World Where We All Belong](#) by john a. powell
- [Mainline Mama](#) by Keeonna Harris
- [Unlikely Animals](#) by Annie Hartnett

Companion Books for Children and Teens:

- [Thank You, Neighbor](#) by Ruth Chan (Pre-K through new readers)
- [Together, A Forest](#) by Roz MacLean (elementary)
- [Front Desk](#) by Kelly Yang (middle grades)
- [Give Me a Sign](#) by Anna Sortino (high school/young adult)

The Library will hold two special programs for Silicon Valley Reads in February:

- From protest anthems to grassroots organizing, Hip Hop has long been a force for political change. In a presentation on [Wednesday, Feb. 18](#), award-winning journalist, talk show host, professor, DJ, media justice, and community activist Dave "Davey D" Cook will examine how artists and activists are using music to challenge injustice, mobilize voters, and redefine political engagement in the digital age, ensuring that the culture remains a powerful force for systemic change.

- Residents are invited to a hands-on workshop exploring traditional Korean mother-of-pearl lacquer art on [Tuesday, Feb. 24](#). Participants will learn about ottchil (traditional Korean lacquer) and mother-of-pearl—natural materials used in Korean craftsmanship for centuries—while creating their own decorated chopsticks. This program offers a calm, creative experience that connects history, culture, and personal expression through guided making.

### **WIRELESS PRINTING**

The Library now offers wireless printing. After downloading the SPOT Global Print app and completing basic setup procedures, customers can print directly from their personal devices. Regular printing fees apply. Customers do not need to have a library account to print if paying with cash.

### **FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE**

The Library is offering [free tax preparation help](#) every Tuesday and Saturday from February 3 through April 11, 2026. This service is provided by IRS-certified volunteers and is available to households with a 2025 income of \$69,000 or less. Help will be provided on a walk-in basis only.

### **BABY STORYTIME: RERUN**

To better serve families and address the growing popularity of Baby Storytime, the Library has added a [Baby Storytime: Rerun](#) program on Friday mornings. This additional session features the same content as the Wednesday program and is intended to help reduce crowding while offering greater flexibility for families who are unable to attend midweek. By expanding this early literacy offering, staff aim to create a more comfortable experience for participants and increase access to one of the Library's most in-demand programs.

### **SEW SEW SATURDAYS**

In keeping with the City of Mountain View's strategic priority of Sustainability & Climate Resilience, the Library has recently rebooted [Sew Sew Saturdays](#), a drop-in program where customers can use one of the Library's Baby Lock sewing machines to stitch clothing, hem garments, and work on simple sewing projects. Volunteers are available to assist novice sewers or troubleshoot the machines as needed.

A popular program before the pandemic, Sew Sew Saturdays began in December 2013, shortly after the Library first purchased its sewing machines through a Pacific Library Partnership grant, and saw consistent attendance through 2019. While the Library also offers structured sewing craft programs through its partnership with FabMo, providing wider access to its sewing machines has been met with renewed interest from the community.

Sew Sew Saturday occurs on the first Saturday of every month from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Library's Second Floor Program Room.

### **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE**

The [Friends of the Mountain View Library](#) will hold a Book Sale the weekend of Jan. 31 to Feb. 1. Residents are invited to find great bargains on gently used books for adults and youth, DVDs, CDs and more. Funds raised will support Library programs.

Saturday, Jan. 31:

9:30-10:30 a.m. Members-Only Sale.

10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. General Public Sale.

Sunday, Feb. 1:

11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Fill-a-Bag Sale.

The Book Sale will take place in the bookmobile garage along Mercy Street in the driveway next to the Library's underground parking lot.

### **PROGRAMS**

#### **Past Program Highlights**

Forty kids and adults attended the Amplify: Ringo Crafts program to make a variety of winter-themed crafts, including origami snowmen, yarn wreaths, and cork reindeer. This event was part of the [Amplify: Teen Voices](#) program.



A full house of 71 attendees enjoyed the Bel Canto Flutes concert, where the all-flute ensemble played a variety of tunes, including medieval pieces, Hanukkah and Christmas carols, a lively Sleigh Ride Samba, and more. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Mrs. Claus and the Library Elf visited the Community Tree Lighting Celebration and shared holiday-themed books, songs, and rhymes to 177 attendees across two storytimes.



Artist Daniel Barash of Firelight Shadow Theater introduced attendees to the art of shadow puppetry and performed five fast-paced versions of best-loved folktales from around the world, including the tale of Hanukkah and an old Ukrainian folktale that is retold in Jan Brett's [The Mitten](#). This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Thirty-one participants got into the holiday spirit by practicing seasonal songs on the ukulele at the Winter Holiday Yule-kulele Jam. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



### **Other Past Programs**

- Tuesday, Dec. 2—Fall Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 239
- Tuesday, Dec. 2—Scheming Wives and High-Stakes Hilarity with Author Sue Hincenbergs, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Wednesday, Dec. 3—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 135
- Wednesday, Dec. 3—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 20
- Thursday, Dec. 4—Magical Bridge Storytime—Attendance: 75
- Friday, Dec. 5—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 34
- Saturday, Dec. 6—Amplify: Ringo Crafts—Attendance: 40
- Tuesday, Dec. 9—Fall Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 241
- Tuesday, Dec. 9—Bel Canto Flutes Concert, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 71
- Wednesday, Dec. 10—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 109
- Wednesday, Dec. 10—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 22
- Wednesday, Dec. 10—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 47
- Wednesday, Dec. 10—Winter Holiday Yule-kulele Jam, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 31
- Thursday, Dec. 11—Potty Training with Jenny, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 22
- Friday, Dec. 12—Stories in Motion—Attendance: 14
- Saturday, Dec. 13—Firelight Shadow Theater, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 92
- Sunday, Dec. 14—Holiday Book Crafts, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 35
- Monday, Dec. 15—Lullaby Storytime—Attendance: 50
- Tuesday, Dec. 16—Winter Dance Party—Attendance: 135
- Wednesday, Dec. 17—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 21
- Friday, Dec. 19—Stories in Motion—Attendance: 17

## Upcoming Programs

- Bridges to Belonging: Silicon Valley Reads Magical Bridge Storytime
  - [Thursday, Feb. 5](#)—Enjoy a fun-filled storytime at the Magical Bridge Playground and take advantage of full library services available at the bookmobile.
- Growing Transplants from Seed
  - [Tuesday, Feb. 10](#)—Join Master Gardener Laura Westley as she shares tips and techniques for germinating seeds and keeping transplants healthy and strong for your summer harvest.
- Beats, Ballots, and Power: Hip Hop's Role in Political Movements
  - [Wednesday, Feb. 18](#)—This talk, presented by Dave "Davey D" Cook, will examine how artists and activists are using music to challenge injustice, mobilize voters, and redefine political engagement in the digital age, ensuring that the culture remains a powerful force for systemic change. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Composting Basics Workshop
  - [Saturday, Feb. 21](#)—Learn how to compost at home and use compost in your garden or on your house plants. Residents can attend live demonstrations on building and maintaining a backyard compost pile and a worm compost bin at our free workshops hosted by the University of California Composting Education Program and the City's Zero Waste Program.
- Korean Mother-of-Pearl Lacquer Chopstick Decorating
  - [Tuesday, Feb. 24](#)—Join us for a hands-on workshop exploring traditional Korean mother-of-pearl lacquer art, where participants will learn about ottchil (traditional Korean lacquer) and mother-of-pearl—natural materials used in Korean craftsmanship for centuries—and create their own decorated chopsticks. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Lunar New Year - Year of the Horse
  - [Wednesday, Feb. 25](#)—Lanterns and firecrackers, red envelopes and couplets, the Chinese zodiac and auspicious foods: learn about the fascinating and colorful traditions and symbolism that accompany Lunar New Year celebrations across Asian cultures. 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.
  - [Thursday, Feb. 5](#)—Join us for an unforgettable experience as we chat online with Vanessa Riley about her newest book, [Fire Sword and Sea](#), based on the folk story of the female pirate Jacquette Delahaye.
  - [Thursday, Feb. 12](#)—Feminist philosopher Dr. Lindsey Stewart's book, [The Conjuring of America: Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic](#), tells the stories of the Negro Mammies of slavery, the Voodoo Queens and Blues Women of Reconstruction, and the Granny Midwives and textile weavers of the Jim Crow era.

- [Tuesday, Feb. 24](#)—Tom D. Crouch, a Smithsonian veteran of almost 45 years, paints a robust picture of a unique American establishment and its lasting legacies in his book [Smithson's Gamble](#).

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