



DATE: January 27, 2025

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

NEW ITEMS TO BORROW

The Library is excited to offer three new items that residents may borrow:

- Two [stargazing kits](#) that include a Celestron telescope, tripod, portable stool, flashlight, field guides, and other accessories. All contents fit into a bag that customers may pick up at the Library and borrow for two weeks. The California State Library and Southern California Library Cooperative awarded these kits to the Library through a grant.
- Customers wishing to prioritize their health in the new year may borrow one of four [FitBud simple step counters](#). The step counter can be clipped to clothing or worn around the neck. Customers may borrow this item for two weeks.
- Customers who are working or studying inside the Library may borrow one of three USB webcams with mini tripods from the second-floor information desk. These webcams support video conferencing, remote learning, virtual collaborating, live streaming, recording, and more.



HISTORY CENTER DIGITIZATION PROJECT

In July 2024, the Library applied for a competitive grant at California Revealed and nominated a number of items from the History Center collection for digitization, including Mountain View High School yearbooks from 1904-1929. California Revealed received a large number of grant applications, highlighting the demand for this valuable opportunity. In December 2024, staff was notified that the grant application was successful.

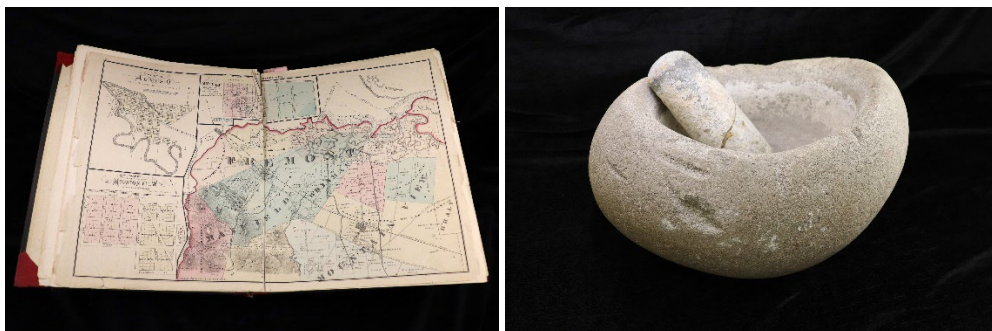
[California Revealed](#) accepted the yearbooks for digitization. This is especially exciting as the yearbook collection is one of the most popular features of the History Center. Digitization of these especially old and fragile volumes will allow staff to preserve them from damage through handling. This is the second time the Library was awarded a grant from California Revealed. In 2016, the Library was awarded a grant to digitize a [selection of photos and audio recordings](#) from the History Center collection.

Staff is currently preparing the items for shipping and scanning by the California Revealed team. Once scanned, images of the yearbooks will be accessible on the [Mountain View Public Library's page on the California Revealed site](#). As backup, images from the scanned yearbooks will also be viewable on the [Mountain View Public Library's page on Internet Archive](#).

California Revealed is a State Library initiative that helps California's heritage organizations digitize and provide long-term online access to collections and objects significant to California history.

HISTORY CENTER COLLECTION ON WEBSITE

The [History Center Collection](#) page on the Library's website has been updated to display select items currently housed in the History Center. Website visitors may scroll through a photo gallery and read detailed descriptions for each item. By providing a glimpse inside the History Center through photos and descriptions of its collection, the Library aims to spark interest in the rich and diverse history of Mountain View and invite residents to learn more about their community. Some items in the History Center collection are property of the Mountain View Historical Association.



SEED LIBRARY SERVICE UPDATE

The [Seed Library](#) will be open from Saturday, February 1 through Friday, November 21, 2025. Each household is welcome to take home three seed packets per week. The Seed Library will be closed for the nongrowing season through Friday, January 31, 2025.

FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

The Library is offering free tax preparation help every [Tuesday](#) and [Saturday](#) from February 1 through April 12, 2025. This service is provided by IRS-certified volunteers and is available to households with a 2024 income of \$66,000 or less. Help will be provided on a walk-in basis only.

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 259 reviews.

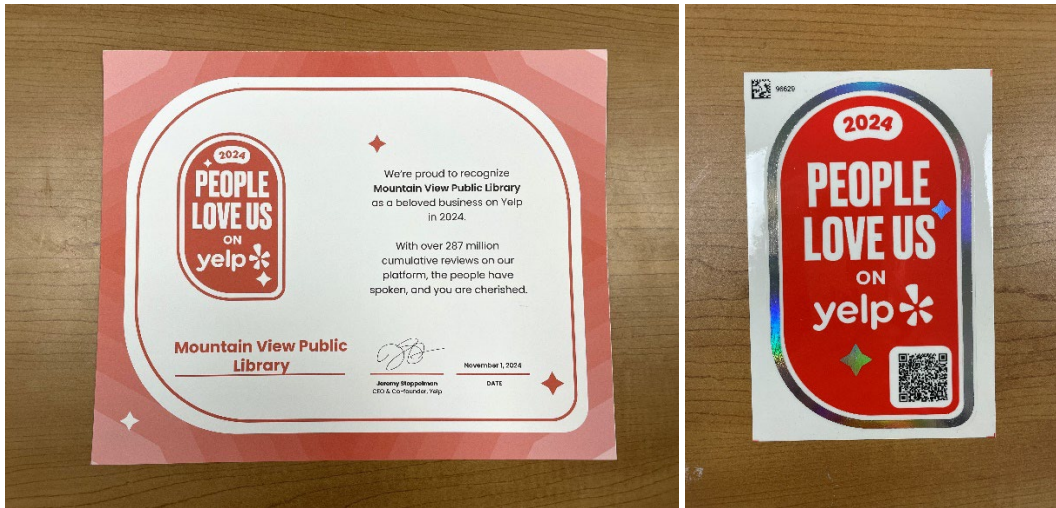
The accompanying letter reads:

"We're proud to recognize Mountain View Public Library as one of the highest-rated and best reviewed businesses on Yelp. There are over 6 million active claimed business pages on our platform and over 287 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 comment in response to the Winter Dance Party held on December 17, 2024.

“My family attended the holiday dance party today and that was the best toddler program we've been to at any library! My daughter enjoyed the diverse and energetic holiday music. Well done. Thank you so much!”

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Residents got into the holiday spirit at the Bel Canto Flutes concert on December 3, where 56 attendees of all ages enjoyed listening to traditional Christmas and Hannukah songs as well as selections from Bach and Handel. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Mrs. Claus and a friendly Library elf held two storytimes at the Community Tree Lighting Celebration on December 9. All enjoyed listening to winter-themed stories and singing festive songs of the season together.



Pamela Baird and IdaRose Sylvester from the Mountain View Historical Association shared the history of the El Camino Real roadway with 43 attentive attendees during our first hybrid program on December 12. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Families enjoyed the festive atmosphere at the Winter Wonderland crafting session where they made gnome and deer figurines out of provided recycled supplies. One hundred thirteen (113) residents of all ages attended. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Other Past Programs

- Tuesday, December 3—Bel Canto Flutes Concert, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 56
- Wednesday, December 4—Unearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection with Dr. Jeffrey Post, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, December 4—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 22
- Wednesday, December 4—Medicare Made Easy—Attendance: 38
- Thursday, December 5—Let's Create—Attendance: 63
- Friday, December 6—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 117
- Friday, December 6—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 30
- Wednesday, December 11—On Pulse-Pounding, Family Driven Mysteries: A Conversation with Laura Dave, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 4
- Wednesday, December 11—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 24
- Wednesday, December 11—Winter Holiday Ukulele Jam, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, December 11—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 38
- Thursday, December 12—Exploring El Camino Real: The Story of California's First Highway, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 43
- Friday, December 13—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 125
- Saturday, December 14—Thumbelina Preview Performance—Attendance: 114
- Tuesday, December 17—Winter Dance Party—Attendance: 153
- Wednesday, December 18—Birthday Storytime—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, December 18—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 24

- Thursday, December 19—Winter Wonderland, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 113
- Friday, December 20—Teen Winter Craft, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 9
- Saturday, December 21—Drop-In Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 14
- Saturday, December 21—LEGO® Time, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 74
- Monday, December 23—Holly Jolly Storytime—Attendance: 65

Upcoming Programs

- AI and Emerging Technologies: Friend and Foe
 - [Tuesday, February 4](#)—Join us for a live demonstration of emerging technologies followed by a community conversation on artificial intelligence, learning, libraries, and the future with Dr. Anthony Chow, Professor and Director of the San Jose State University iSchool.
- Memoir Writing Workshop
 - [Saturday, February 8](#)—This virtual memoir writing workshop led by award-winning writer and memoirist Peter Bacho will give participants the tools needed to tell their stories and tell them well. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Doodle and Discover
 - [Mondays, February 10 and 24](#)—In each session, kids will follow along to draw fascinating creatures, scenes, and more while uncovering fun facts about their subjects and exploring a variety of mediums and techniques.
- Growing Fabulous Citrus
 - [Tuesday, February 11](#)—Learn how to select, plant, and care for citrus trees to get the best harvest with Master Gardener Candace Simpson.

- Silicon Valley Reads-Inspired Storytime
 - [Tuesday, February 25](#)—Bring a blanket and enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in Pioneer Park related to artificial intelligence and the Silicon Valley Reads theme, “Empowering Humanity: Technology for a Better World.”
- Social Movement Unionism: From the Poor People’s Campaign to Educators on Strike
 - [Wednesday, February 26](#)—Commemorate Black History Month with this talk by guest presenter Jesse Hagopian, who will examine the power of social movement unionism by exploring how the fusion of movements for racial, economic, and educational justice have influenced both historical and current events. 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.
 - [Tuesday, February 4](#)—Join us for an enlightening presentation with Smithsonian curator Sabrina Sholts as she talks about the benefits and consequences of being human in her book [The Human Disease: How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs](#).
 - [Tuesday, February 11](#)—You’re invited to a riveting conversation with bestselling author Waubgeshig Rice to chat about his newest book [Moon of the Turning Leaves](#), the widely anticipated sequel to the bestselling novel [Moon of the Crusted Snow](#).
 - [Tuesday, February 18](#)—Come to a conversation with journalist and author Lee Hawkins as he talks about the examination of his family’s legacy of postenslavement trauma and resilience in his riveting memoir [I Am Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free](#).

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