

DATE: June 17, 2024

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: Library Director's Report

CAREER SUCCESS ALLOWANCE PROGRAM

This summer, the Library will launch the Career Success Allowance Program (CSAP) to support active students in the [Career Online High School \(COHS\)](#) program. Through CSAP, students who meet progress goals may receive up to \$12,960 over the course of the 18-month-long program. The student must complete the COHS program within 18 months to receive the full allowance. CSAP seeks to support students as they earn their high school diplomas and [career certificates](#). There are no restrictions on how students may use this allowance. CSAP is available to COHS students who live in Mountain View.

COHS is a free service available through the Library that provides participants with the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate at the same time. Learning is self-paced, but students are expected to spend approximately 10 hours per week on coursework. Prospective students must apply and meet all requirements before being admitted into the program.

Funding for CSAP was approved by the City Council as part of the City's workforce development program, which provides [career and skill-building](#) resources for job seekers. Council-approved funding for workforce development also supports [Brainfuse JobNow](#). The Community Services Agency will provide administrative support for the City in the disbursement of CSAP funds to program recipients.

BRAINFUSE JOBNOW

Library cardholders can now access [Brainfuse JobNow](#) as part of the Career and Skill-Building resources available through the [Digital Library](#). JobNow provides guidance to job seekers throughout the entire process, from the initial search to the interview and beyond. Applying for a job has never been easier with tools like resumé templates, career assessments, and live resumé expert feedback. After securing an interview, people can access live interview coaches, online

resources, and JobNow's exclusive SkillSurfer library of lessons, videos, and practice exams that will prepare and instill confidence in job seekers.

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

The Library attended the Senior Resource Fair at the Senior Center on May 7. Visitors were interested in learning about the History Center and Summer Reading Program. Many were surprised to learn about free access to the Mango language-learning app, ebooks, and eAudiobooks through hoopla and Libby, and New York Times Online, Games, and Cooking. They were also excited to spin the prize wheel for free pencils, pens, erasers, and more. Library staff created four new library cards and talked to 117 visitors.



CHINESE LANGUAGE CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Library welcomed 17 participants from the Chinese Language Civic Leadership Academy on May 8. The presentation provided an overview of the Library's place in City government, support organizations such as the Board of Library Trustees and Friends of the Mountain View Library, and the Library's programs, collections, Digital Library, and Bookmobile.

Staff provided a tour of the Library where participants showed particular interest in the History Center, Seed Library, automatic returns machine, and Chinese-language materials. Participants went home with bags of swag and mugs that included the translation for the Library's mission "Connect. Create. Learn." in Chinese characters.



MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT 150TH ANNIVERSARY DISPLAYS

The Library joined the Mountain View Fire Department in celebrating its 150th anniversary on May 19. The display in the Children's Room contained books about firefighters and a paper fire engine craft that kids could take home or work on in the Library. Teens could visit the Teen Zone to borrow a book about careers in firefighting. A display case near the History Center on the second floor showcased historical photos of MVFD stations, vehicles, and personnel.



HIKING BACKPACKS

Just in time for summer, hiking backpacks are now available to borrow at the Library! The Library received four hiking backpacks from a grant awarded by the Southern California Library Cooperative and California State Library. These backpacks include trekking poles, binoculars, ponchos, flashlights, pocket microscopes, and more. Library cardholders may [borrow](#) a backpack for two weeks starting May 20. All four backpacks were borrowed the same day circulation began.



BRING ME A BOOK FOUNDATION PROJECT

Librarian Maynard Martinez visited Latham Preschool on May 23 to participate in a Bring Me a Book Foundation presentation. Maynard performed a puppet story for the children, met with parents, and spoke about the Library's summer programs and the importance of literacy. Maynard issued library cards to 15 families.

The Bring Me a Book Foundation provides high-quality books to children in underserved communities with the goal of helping families start libraries for their children and inspire reading aloud. The presentation included an activity where 20 children and their parents painted donated book cubbies.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Registration for the [Summer Reading Program](#) began on May 25. Residents are invited to register and read, learn, and earn rewards throughout the summer. All ages from babies to adults are

welcome to participate. We are off to a good start with 661 people registered during the first week, including 394 children, 45 teens, and 222 adults.

The Library will launch the Summer Reading Program with several special events in June. The program kicked off on June 1 with an all-ages extravaganza in Pioneer Park. Over 300 attendees enjoyed lawn games, treats, and music featuring guest artists Cascada de Flores and Cumbia Paradiso. Nationally recognized local musician Andre Thierry led an interactive musical experience for families that blended African and Native American Blues, French melodies, and Afro-Caribbean beats. These events were generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



[STEAM Fridays](#) for kids will return to the Library this year with new weekly activities for budding scientists, aspiring engineers, and artists. Residents may also visit the Bookmobile at a scheduled service location for [STEAM in the Park](#) activities. Professional harpist Aysha Gomez-Kureishi will showcase famous classical pieces from well-known composers in a concert on [Saturday, June 22](#). Families are invited to sing and dance with Sean's Music Factory in Pioneer Park on [Thursday, June 27](#). Summer reading prizes and programs are made possible with the generous support of the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Attendees discovered the beauty of Chinese calligraphy at a workshop presented by professional art instructor, Jojo Liu. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Gaming enthusiasts learned about the history and evolution of video game art and science, then played games on a range of classic video game consoles in a program presented by Retro Roadshow. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Children enjoyed a special story time filled with farm-related books, songs, and rhymes at Deer Hollow Farm, then they met some of the farm animals up close.





Participants learned simple techniques for painting flowers and small animals in a Chinese brush painting workshop presented by professional art instructor, Pauline Tsui. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Other Past Programs

Wednesday, May 1—Sensory Storytime. Attendance: 17

Wednesday, May 1—Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I—An Author Talk with Douglas Brunt, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 42

Wednesday, May 1—ESL Conversation Club. Attendance: 21

Wednesday, May 1—Jazz in the Park: A Concert with the Dave Rocha Jazz Group, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 110

Thursday, May 2—Sylvan Park Mini Storytime. Attendance: 31

Thursday, May 2—Let's Create. Attendance: 55

Saturday, May 4—Star Wars String Art, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 41

Tuesday, May 7—Outdoor Storytime. Attendance: 221

Wednesday, May 8—A Murder Mystery, Family Story, and Love Letter to Strong Women Everywhere: Author Talk w/ Nina Simon, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 41

Wednesday, May 8—ESL Conversation Club. Attendance: 17

Thursday, May 9—Whisman Park Mini Storytime. Attendance: 14

Thursday, May 9—Learn Chinese Calligraphy, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 23

Thursday, May 9—Evening Sensory Storytime. Attendance: 2

Friday, May 10—Family Gaming. Attendance: 27

Saturday, May 11—Retro Gaming with The Retro Roadshow, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 62

Tuesday, May 14—Outdoor Storytime. Attendance: 197

Tuesday, May 14—Managing Pests and Welcoming Beneficial Insects to Your Garden. Attendance: 10

Wednesday, May 15—Birthday Storytime. Attendance: 17

Wednesday, May 15—ESL Conversation Club. Attendance: 24

Wednesday, May 15—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English. Attendance: 60

Thursday, May 16—Del Medio Park Mini Storytime. Attendance: 23

Thursday, May 16—Let's Create. Attendance: 54

Saturday, May 18—Compost Basics Workshop. Attendance: 30

Saturday, May 18—Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 16

Tuesday, May 21—Asian American Representation in Literature: An Author Talk with Rebecca F. Kuang, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 50

Tuesday, May 21—Sewing with FabMo: Create Your Own Tote Bag, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 16

Wednesday, May 22—ESL Conversation Club. Attendance: 22

Wednesday, May 22—Ukulele Jam: Sing and Play Along, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 18

Thursday, May 23—Gemello Park Mini Storytime. Attendance: 16

Friday, May 24—Deer Hollow Storytime. Attendance: 43

Saturday, May 25—Chinese Brush Painting Workshop, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library. Attendance: 27

Wednesday, May 29—ESL Conversation Club. Attendance: 22

Wednesday, May 29—Discovering the Faintest Galaxies in the Universe. Attendance: 41

Thursday, May 30—Sylvan Park Mini Storytime. Attendance: 40

Upcoming Programs

Summer Reading Program Kick-Off

[Saturday, June 1](#)—Summer Reading will kick off with an all-ages extravaganza in Pioneer Park. Enjoy lawn games, treats, and music featuring guest artists Cascada de Flores and Cumbia Paradiso. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

Andre Thierry Zydeco Musician: Are You Ready to Learn?

[Saturday, June 8](#)—Dive into the rhythm of cultural exploration with nationally recognized local musician, Andre Thierry. Andre will lead families on a journey of musical discovery blending African and Native American Blues, French melodies, and Afro-Caribbean beats. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

How to Establish Healthy Soil in Your Garden

[Tuesday, June 11](#)—Get tips on how to improve garden-soil fertility at this workshop. Master Gardener Mint Paskdee will discuss adding compost, growing cover crops, and applying bio-fertilizers properly.

Teen Improv in the Park

[Wednesdays, June 12, 19, and 26](#)—Teens are invited to bring their friends and meet us in Pioneer Park on Wednesdays in June for improv games, laughs and friendly competition. For ages 14 to 18 only.

STEAM Fridays

[Fridays, June 14, 21 and 28](#)—This drop-in program for kids offers a variety of self-directed, interactive activities for budding scientists, aspiring engineers, and artists. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

STEAM in the Park

[Fridays, June 14, 21 and 28](#)—Residents who want to take part in STEAM Fridays but cannot make it to the Library may visit the Bookmobile for STEAM in the Park activities on Fridays this summer.

Classical Harp Concert: performed by Aysha Gomez-Kureishi

[Saturday, June 22](#)—Join us for a concert of classical music arranged for harp. Professional harpist Aysha Gomez-Kureishi will perform a selection of famous pieces from well-known composers. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

Sean's Music Factory

[Thursday, June 27](#)—Get ready to jam with Sean's Music Factory and experience inventive family music under the trees in Pioneer Park. Children of all ages will enjoy Sean's unique, high-energy performance. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

[Thursday, June 27](#)—Kids ages 10 and up will test their Super Smash Bros. Ultimate skills against other players and compete in a series of rounds to determine a victor.

Online Author Series, generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

[Monday, June 3](#)—You are invited to come learn alongside Matt Shindell, National Air and Space Museum Curator, as he introduces viewers to historical figures who have made sense of Mars and its secrets in an online discussion of the book, [For the Love of Mars: A Human History of the Red Planet](#).

[Thursday, June 13](#)—Freida McFadden will chat with us about writing psychological thrillers and her mega-bestselling [The Housemaid](#) series, in particular her forthcoming third installment, [The Housemaid Is Watching](#).

[Thursday, June 20](#)—Join us as #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Tiffany Jewell highlights the inequities Black and Brown students face from preschool through college as she presents lessons and knowledge from her new book, [Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School](#).

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

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