

DATE: May 20, 2024

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: **Library Director's Report**

SUMMER READING

Residents are invited to sign up for the Library's Summer Reading Program starting May 25. This program is suitable for all ages, from babies to adults. Participants are encouraged to register the whole family to read, learn, and earn rewards throughout the summer.

To start the festivities, the Library is holding its [Summer Reading Program Kick-Off](#) event on Saturday, June 1. This event will be an all-ages extravaganza in Pioneer Park with lawn games, treats, and music featuring Cascada de Flores and Cumbia Paradiso.

EARTH AND ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The Library attended the Earth and Arbor Day Celebration at the Community Center on April 20 with its new, fully electric Bookmobile. Visitors had the opportunity to see the Bookmobile up close and borrow materials about earth science, environmental issues, and sustainability. Visitors also learned about the Seed Library, took home seed packets, and spun the prize wheel to win free Library swag. Staff issued 13 new Library cards and interacted with 367 visitors.



MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Library brought the bookmobile to the Multicultural Festival on April 27. Staff set up the area like a service stop, complete with specially curated materials for this event. Visitors were excited to spin the prize wheel and borrow books, media, and video games from the carts. Families took a break between performances and festivities to read together on the grass. Staff issued five new Library cards and interacted with 356 visitors.



FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Library concluded another successful year of the Free Tax Preparation Assistance program, a long-running Library program offering households of a certain income level support from IRS-certified volunteers in filing their income tax returns for free. We served 233 households for our Saturday-only events in 2022 as we came out of the pandemic and returned to in-person programming. Due to increasing demand and the need to accommodate more households, we offered Tuesday and Saturday tax preparation events in 2023 and served 654 households. This year we served 702 households, an increase of 9% from last year.

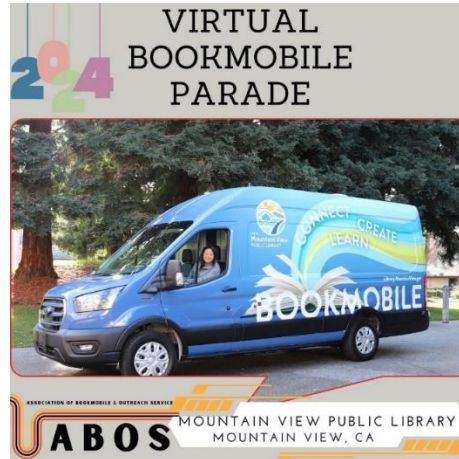
The Free Tax Preparation Assistance program continues to help more people year after year and is a popular and impactful service to the community.

VIRTUAL BOOKMOBILE PARADE

The Library participated in the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services' (ABOS) Virtual Bookmobile Parade. ABOS is a professional organization dedicated to growing and supporting library outreach services and staff nationwide. Photo submissions for the parade were published on ABOS' Facebook page.

The caption published with our submission reads: "It's a Virtual Bookmobile Parade! Hit the road with us this week as we celebrate the awesome bookmobiles bringing libraries to YOU! A huge thank you to everyone who submitted their bookmobiles! We're amazed by the creativity and dedication. Bookmobiles are lifesavers for communities facing barriers to traditional libraries."

Let's hear it for these amazing resources! This is what Mountain View Public Library in Mountain View, CA says about theirs: "It's brand new and all-electric!"



PRESENTATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Librarian Maynard Martinez spoke at a meeting for the Mountain View Whisman School District's (MVWSD) English Language Advisory Committee on April 22. The Committee is comprised of parents who have an interest in and advocate for English language learners in the District. Maynard has spoken to the Committee in the past, and they invited him again this year to talk about Library services and programs in the community. The presentation was done in Spanish.

Every year, elementary schools in the MVWSD conduct a week-long Read-A-Thon to remind children of the importance and fun of literacy. The Library participated at the Vargas Read-A-Thon event on March 4. Maynard read stories to 90 students in kindergarten through first grade, including a special puppet retelling of the popular children's book, *Who Said Meow?* The stories were well-received by both teachers and students.

STAFF DAY

Library staff received training and practiced team-building exercises at their Staff Development Day last week. Zakiya Khalfani of Khalfani Consulting presented a session on building self-esteem and self-confidence. Staff enjoyed walking along Shoreline Lake, discovering fun facts about each other while playing human bingo, learning about their colleagues' work in other divisions, and celebrating a year of department accomplishments.



LIBRARY FAN ON YELP

The Library received a five-star review on Yelp:

“I’ve been coming here since I was very little and it’s still my favorite library by far! They have a wide selection of books and services, even a gift shop. It’s also super close to downtown and the Performing Arts Center so you can just stop by on your way. A great place to study with stunning views and a second floor with designated quiet space areas. Recommended for all ages.”

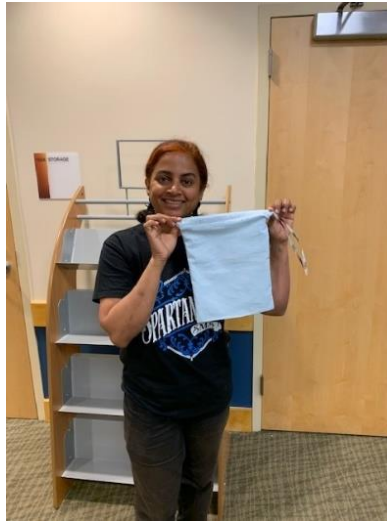
PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Attendees learned how to design their own custom 3D-printed picture frame at a workshop presented by our volunteer 3D printing guru Jason Reynolds.



Eleven (11) participants celebrated Earth Day by making an ecofriendly produce bag from rescued material at our Sewing with FabMo program led by FabMo volunteer Gayatri Ratnam.



Kids made their own take-home play kits out of paper, stickers, and recycled DVD cases at our Let's Create program.



The Plant Exchange was a big hit with the community. This program welcomed 70 attendees this year, nearly double the number from last year. There were steady streams of customers dropping off and taking home plant donations throughout the two-hour event. Several people said they would love it if we offered this twice a year.



Other Past Programs

- Tuesday, April 2—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 197
- Tuesday, April 2—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 34
- Tuesday, April 2—The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us: A Sweeping History of Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson—Attendance: 184
- Wednesday, April 3—Sensory Storytime—Attendance: 17
- Wednesday, April 3—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23
- Wednesday, April 3—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 46
- Thursday, April 4—Let's Create—Attendance: 45
- Thursday, April 4—Proper Plant Establishment and Deep Watering—Attendance: 3
- Friday, April 5—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 63
- Friday, April 5—Story Expedition—Attendance: 10
- Saturday, April 6—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 53
- Monday, April 8—Traveling Lantern Theatre: My Mother the Astronaut, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 45
- Tuesday, April 9—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 37

- Tuesday, April 9—From Murder to Atonement: Confronting My Son's Killer with Diane Foley and Colum McCann—Attendance: 55
- Tuesday, April 9—The Joy of Summer Vegetables—Attendance: 33
- Wednesday, April 10—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 18
- Wednesday, April 10—3D Printing Workshop: Design Your Own Picture Frame, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 24
- Thursday, April 11—Whisman Park Mini Storytime—Attendance: 30
- Thursday, April 11—Ask a Dietitian: What You Need to Know About Cholesterol and LDL 請問營養師: 認識膽固醇- 如何降低低密度膽固醇 (LDL)—Attendance: 95
- Friday, April 12—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 82
- Saturday, April 13—Free Tax Preparation Assistance—Attendance: 69
- Tuesday, April 16—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 262
- Tuesday, April 16—Sewing with FabMo: Create Your Own Produce Bag—Attendance: 11
- Wednesday, April 17—Birthday Storytime—Attendance: 10
- Wednesday, April 17—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 26
- Wednesday, April 17—A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art with Xochitl Gonzalez—Attendance: 118
- Thursday, April 18—Del Medio Park Mini Storytime—Attendance: 28
- Thursday, April 18—Let's Create—Attendance: 56
- Thursday, April 18—Pruning Native Plants and Trees—Attendance: 44
- Friday, April 19—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 78
- Saturday, April 20—Drop-In Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 16
- Tuesday, April 23—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 232

- Wednesday, April 24—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23
- Wednesday, April 24—Ukulele Jam: Sing and Play Along—Attendance: 21
- Friday, April 26—Visual Poetry—Attendance: 14
- Saturday, April 27—Interactive Storytelling—Attendance: 12
- Saturday, April 27—Plant Exchange—Attendance: 132
- Tuesday, April 30—Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 224
- Tuesday, April 30—Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center: Virtual Tour—Attendance: 20

Upcoming Programs

- Summer Reading Program Kick-Off
 - [Saturday, June 1](#)—The Summer Reading Program 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.
- LEGO® Time
 - [Wednesday, June 5](#)—Come and construct anything you want with LEGO®! LEGOs® will be provided.
- 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.
- STEAM Fridays
 - [Fridays, June 14, 21 and 28](#)—Kids are invited to drop in for self-directed STEAM experiences that will offer a variety of interactive activities for budding scientists,

aspiring engineers, and artists. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.

- Sean's Music Factory
 - [Thursday, June 27](#)—Jam with Sean's Music Factory in Pioneer Park! This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Online Author Series
 - [Monday, June 3](#)—You're invited to learn alongside National Air and Space Museum curator Matt Shindell as he discusses his new book [For the Love of Mars](#) and introduces viewers to historical figures across eras and around the world who have made sense of this mysterious planet.
 - [Thursday, June 13](#)—Freida McFadden will chat about writing psychological thrillers and her mega-bestselling hit [The Housemaid](#) series with the spotlight on her forthcoming third installment, *The Housemaid Is Watching*.
 - [Thursday, June 20](#)—Join us as No. 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](#).