

DATE: February 23, 2026

TO: Board of Library Trustees

FROM: Tracy Gray, Library Director
Katie Hom, Librarian

SUBJECT: Library Director's Report

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

The Library invited residents to celebrate Black History Month and the Lunar New Year through a series of engaging programs for all ages.

- Author Vanessa Riley discussed her latest novel, [Fire, Sword and Sea](#), based on the folk story of the mixed-race female pirate Jacquotte Delahaye.
- Feminist philosopher Dr. Lindsey Stewart presented a discussion of her latest book, [The Conjuring of America: Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's Magic](#). Drawing from her research, Dr. Stewart uncovers the real magic Black women used—their herbs, food, textiles, song, and dance—to sow rebellion, freedom, and hope across generations.
- Award-winning journalist, DJ, community activist, and professor Dave “Davey D” Cook visited the Library to present a talk on Hip Hop’s role in political movements. Davey D examined how artists and activists use music to challenge injustice, mobilize voters, and redefine political engagement in the digital age, ensuring the culture remains a powerful force for systemic change.
- Asian Art Museum docent Linda Lei held a virtual talk to welcome the Year of the Horse. Featuring artworks from the Asian Art Museum’s collections, this presentation explored the rich traditions and symbolism associated with Lunar New Year celebrations across various Asian cultures throughout history.

EVERY STORY COUNTS SURVEY

The Library participated in the California State Library’s [Every Story Counts](#) survey from January 25-31. The purpose of the survey is to gather data on how and why people use public libraries.

Thirty people completed the survey. Some highlights from the results include:

- 96.55% of respondents plan to come back.
- 89.66% of respondents feel welcome.

- 75.86% of respondents trust the information from the Library.
- The top three reasons respondents use the Library is to borrow items (93.33%), attend programs and events (73.33%), and use the Library space to read, study, work, and more (56.67%).

Comments from respondents include:

- "I use it to encourage bilingualism in my children who speak/will speak Spanish. I use it to find books for what I want to help teach them, like with potty training, or baby sign language."
- "Public libraries like this one are the last places of pure good left free of charge. In 2025, I borrowed over 180 books/audiobooks, finished 100+, spent the hottest 10 days of the year here, printed immigration and sent paperwork, prepared for a new job, and spent some quiet time looking at the autumn blossoms. At my economic level, these are a big privilege!"
- "I visit the Library 1-2 times a week to pick up or return books. I love their services, the inclusive atmosphere, and enormous catalog."

Comments regarding improvement of or additional services include:

- "In Salt Lake City the library there has an amazing creative space, with 3D printers, sewing and embroidery machines, and even audio production equipment. I'd love to see some of those things come here, maybe even craft machines like Cricuts!"
- "Passport services would be welcome. Maybe a more robust lending library of things (tools, cooking appliances, etc)."
- "More Amplify writing workshops. I love to write!"

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Library announced its participation in [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) in November 2025. Currently, participating libraries in Santa Clara County have 16,000 active children and have distributed nearly 30,000 books.

In the past month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library partnered with United Way Australia to release a [research study](#) on the benefits of early literacy and the impact of the program. The study collected data from over 86,000 families across the five countries where the program operates, making it the largest dataset in the world on shared book reading.

Findings have found that, compared to children not enrolled in the program:

- Children in the United States were 11 times more likely to be interested in books and 15 times more likely to participate in shared book reading.
- Children in the United States were nearly three times more likely to demonstrate concepts about print.

- After just 10 books, children were at least four times more likely to demonstrate stronger emerging literacy skills such as vocabulary and phonological awareness.

Residents are invited to [enroll](#) children ages 0-5. In 6-8 weeks, children will receive their first book by mail. Books will arrive monthly by mail until the child's fifth birthday.

KUDOS CORNER

A customer submitted a kind comment through Facebook messages regarding the [Field Trip: Star Session Foothill College Observatory](#) program on Monday, Jan. 26:

Thank you for the field trips to Foothill College Observatory! That was cool to see Saturn through the huge telescope. I will send photos in the next message - it doesn't capture how many people were there though the Great Horned Owl was a treat!



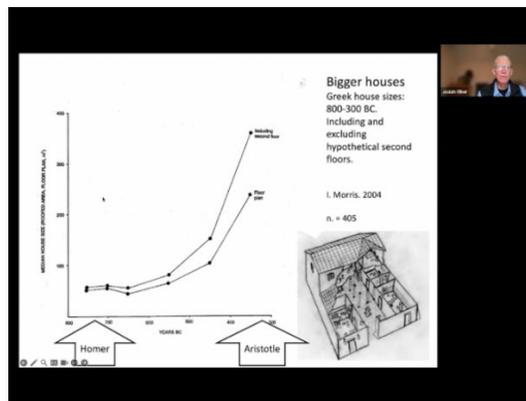
PROGRAMS

Past Program Highlights

Eighty-eight children and adults came to the Toddler Drive-in, where kids decorated their own "cars" made from cardboard boxes and craft materials, then enjoyed a selection of short picture-book video stories on the big screen. This event was generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.



Stanford professor and author Josiah Ober delivered a fascinating presentation on the rise and fall of Classical Greece, an age that reshaped the ancient Mediterranean and still influences us today. The audience was engaged throughout and asked questions at the end. The event also drew attendees from Alaska, New York, Washington, Arizona, and other out-of-state locations. Those who missed the program can watch the recording on the [Library's YouTube channel](#).



Other Past Programs

- Saturday, Jan. 3—Toddler Drive In, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 88
- Saturday, Jan. 3—Sew Sew Saturday—Attendance: 12
- Sunday, Jan. 4—Amplify: Cyber Security—Attendance: 19
- Tuesday, Jan. 6—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 176
- Wednesday, Jan. 7—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 24
- Thursday, Jan. 8—Magical Bridge Storytime—Attendance: 68
- Thursday, Jan. 8—Let's Create, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 63
- Friday, Jan. 9—Pages and Paws Reading Buddy—Attendance: 41
- Saturday, Jan. 10—Winter Fruit Tree Pruning—Attendance: 101
- Sunday, Jan. 11—Make Your Own Felt Portrait, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 1

- Monday, Jan. 12—Storytime Around the World—Attendance: 16
- Tuesday, Jan. 13—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 261
- Tuesday, Jan. 13—The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply with David Brooks, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 123
- Wednesday, Jan. 14—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 84
- Wednesday, Jan. 14—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23
- Wednesday, Jan. 14—Bilingual Storytime: Mandarin/English—Attendance: 50
- Wednesday, Jan. 14—Ukulele Jam: Sing and Play Along, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 31
- Thursday, Jan. 15—The Rise and Fall of Classical Greece, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 97
- Friday, Jan. 16—Baby Storytime: Rerun—Attendance: 63
- Friday, Jan. 16—Stories in Motion—Attendance: 17
- Saturday, Jan. 17— Drop-in Bike Clinic, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 7
- Saturday, Jan. 17—Amplify: Young Entrepreneurs—Attendance: 29
- Tuesday, Jan. 20—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 269
- Tuesday, Jan. 20—Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine with Journalist Julia Hotz, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 38
- Wednesday, Jan. 21—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 105
- Wednesday, Jan. 21—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 23
- Thursday, Jan. 22—Let's Create, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 61
- Thursday, Jan. 22—Jade: Stone of Heaven, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 15
- Friday, Jan. 23—Baby Storytime: Rerun—Attendance: 71
- Saturday, Jan. 24—Waldorf Puppet Show—Attendance: 67
- Monday, Jan. 26—Field Trip: Star Session Foothill College Observatory—Attendance: 168
- Tuesday, Jan. 27—Winter Outdoor Storytime—Attendance: 287
- Tuesday, Jan. 27—Diet for Diabetes Prevention 請問營養師: 糖尿病的預防—Attendance: 22
- Wednesday, Jan. 28—Baby Storytime—Attendance: 119
- Wednesday, Jan. 28—ESL Conversation Club—Attendance: 30
- Wednesday, January 28—LEGO® Time—Attendance: 58
- Wednesday, Jan. 28—Secrets and Second Chances with Liz Moore, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library—Attendance: 55
- Friday, Jan. 30—Baby Storytime: Rerun—Attendance: 84
- Friday, Jan. 30—Stories in Motion—Attendance: 16
- Saturday, Jan. 31—Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra Lunar New Year Performance—Attendance: 65

Upcoming Programs

- Silicon Valley Reads Inspired Storytime
 - [Tuesday, March 3](#)—Bring a blanket and enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in Pioneer Park as we read a featured book from Silicon Valley Reads.
- Low Water Ornamentals from Around the World
 - [Tuesday, March 10](#)—Learn about beautiful, hardy, ornamental plants from other Mediterranean climates, as well as some California natives, that would be great additions to your waterwise garden.
- Together a Forest Nature Exploration
 - [Thursday, March 19](#)—Head into Pioneer Park for a scavenger hunt inspired by the Silicon Valley Reads featured book, [Together a Forest](#) by Roz MacLean. This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Mountain View Library.
- Level Up Lounge
 - [Thursday, March 19](#)—Drop in with family and friends to spend the afternoon playing a variety of board games, puzzles, and Nintendo Switch games.
- The Goddess: Images of Power
 - [Wednesday, March 25](#)—Learn about the many depictions of goddesses throughout Asia, using examples drawn from the Asian Art Museum's permanent collection. 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, March 5](#)—Join us in conversation with Jenn Lueke about her new cookbook, [Don't Think About Dinner](#), in which she offers a framework to save time, money, and energy with strategic meal planning, grocery lists, and kitchen prep.
 - [Wednesday, March 11](#)—Learn how to harness your dreams to improve your sleep and health with dream engineer Dr. Michelle Carr as she discusses her book, [Nightmare Obscura](#).
 - [Thursday, March 12](#)—You're invited to join us for a virtual conversation with acclaimed author Kate Quinn about her latest fantastical work, [The Astral Library](#), which poses the question: Have you ever wished you could live inside a book?
 - [Tuesday, March 24](#)—Join us for a special conversation between award-winning journalist Shoshana Walter and bestselling and award-winning author Barbara Kingsolver as they chat about Walter's book, [Rehab: An American Scandal](#), which exposes the country's failed response to the opioid crisis and the malfeasance, corruption, and snake oil that blight the drug rehabilitation industry.

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