

SUMMER 2025



The Link

San Mateo Public Library Foundation
55 West Third Ave
San Mateo, CA 94402

**"Libraries are not
made; *they grow.*"**
— Augustine Birrell



THE LIBRARY: A PLACE FOR EVERYONE'S STORY

Hillsdale Reimagined

Discover how we're building a
more connected San Mateo.

Learn more at HillsdaleReimagined.com



Hillsdale Reimagined: A Bold New Chapter for San Mateo

For over 70 years, Hillsdale has evolved to meet the moment. Now, with fewer people shopping in traditional indoor malls, we need to adapt again. To keep retail thriving, we must reimagine Hillsdale as a dynamic place to shop, eat and come together—built for how people live today.

Hillsdale Reimagined will be a walkable neighborhood center of unparalleled quality and an extraordinary place to shop, live and work, reaffirming its role as the heart of the Peninsula.

The recently renovated North Block and Dining Terrace offer a glimpse of the quality, energy and diversity Hillsdale Reimagined will deliver. We're proud to invest in a place where work meets life in a thriving mixed-use district.

This is not just a project — **it's a promise to San Mateo's future.**



A New Kind of Neighborhood

Hillsdale Reimagined will bring up to 1600 new homes to the site, including a mix of for-sale townhomes and rental apartments ranging from studios to four bedrooms. The plan includes more than 200 affordable homes, thoughtfully integrated throughout the development to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for residents of all backgrounds.

Inspired Retail + Dining

At the heart of the new neighborhood will be Hillsdale Center, a vibrant plaza that brings the community together with shops, restaurants and active gathering spaces. Beyond Hillsdale Center, retail will extend across the first floors of many residential and office buildings, seamlessly integrating everyday experiences with lifestyle and leisure.

Walkable. Bikeable. Transit-Friendly.

Hillsdale Reimagined offers a seamless experience for everyone—on foot, bike, train or car. Enjoy wide, tree-lined sidewalks, safe crosswalks, dedicated bike paths and easy access to Caltrain for convenient commuting.

"My grandfather, Hillsdale's founder, once observed that while we can build neighborhoods and malls, building community is our greatest role. Now, almost 80 years after he first broke ground here, that's still our north star — and the principle that will guide us as we, working with you, begin to rebuild our community."

— **David Bohannon II**, President and CEO
of the David D. Bohannon Organization



BOHANNON.



Hillsdale Reimagined

and the David D. Bohannon
Organization are proud
San Mateo Public Library
Foundation supporters.

The Link

The Link, formerly known as the LibraryLink, is an annual publication of the San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF). For any comments, questions, or suggestions, please email us at info@smplf.org.

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SMPLF is not affiliated with the Foundation for San Mateo County Libraries.

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San Mateo
Public Library
Foundation



Dear Friends of the San Mateo Public Library Foundation,

SMPLF has the good fortune of working alongside a community that understands our libraries are at the heart of San Mateo. Thanks to your generosity, SMPL is able to offer essential services from Project Read to the Technology Lending Library, as well as enduring programs such as toddler storytime and the biotechnology lecture series.

The foundation's theme for the year ahead—*A Place for Everyone's Story*—captures what your support makes possible: a vibrant, welcoming space where stories are discovered, shared, and celebrated. All this happens because you believe in the transformative power of libraries.

As we wrap up our third and final year as co-presidents, we find ourselves reflecting not just on the milestones reached, but on the meaning behind the work. For us, in the midst of huge technological change, libraries are an important place to connect with our humanity—spaces where every story has a place.

This past fall we had the privilege of joining SMPL staff in their strategic planning process. Their dedication to public service—an unwavering focus on community needs—was humbling. They reminded us that the library is more than a public building, it's a living expression of civic care.

SMPL's refreshed vision affirms what we've long known to be true: It is enduring. It is essential. It is for everyone. As a gateway of community life, the library offers not only knowledge and resources, but also connection, belonging, and possibility.

We like to say "A Healthy Library = A Healthy Community", and this belief animates the foundation's mission—to amplify, advocate for, and fundraise on behalf of our library. Navigating through a post-pandemic period of renewal and growth has been both challenging and deeply rewarding. We've been buoyed by your support, grounded by a shared belief in the library's purpose, and continually inspired by our fellow Board members.

With gratitude for the journey and great confidence for the future, we are so proud to introduce the Foundation's next leadership team: president Vicky Stein, vice president Jeff Kang, treasurer Anthony Jardina, secretary Sam Perry, and at large members Suelin Lee, Sarah Phelps and Austin Volz. Backed by a strong board and skilled staff, this team is well-positioned to carry the Foundation's mission forward with purpose, creativity, and heart.

Thank you, and we'll see you at the library!

Alexandra Gillen *Jeanne L. Back*

Alexandra Gillen and Jeanne Back

Co-Presidents, San Mateo Public Library Foundation



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SECTION 02

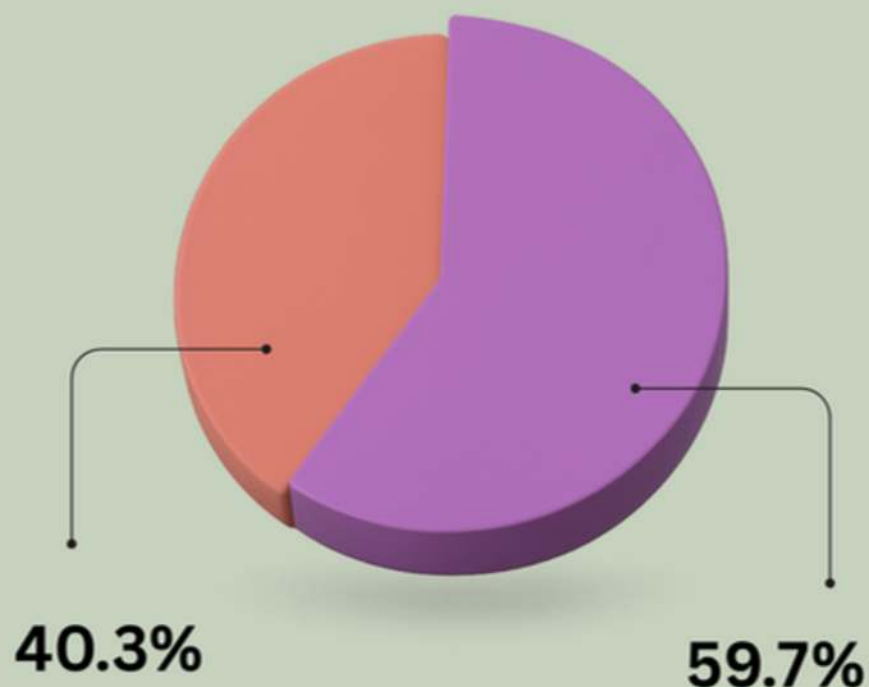
Giving

**GRANT TO THE LIBRARY
FY 24-25 DONOR LIST**

SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Grant to the Library

\$200K



Designated Donations

Grants from The George Archer Memorial Foundation and Franklin Templeton are directed toward Literacy Programming and the Library's Business Resource Center, respectively. Some individual donations are designated to specific programs as well.

General Financial Support

These gifts help the library respond to community needs and interests in areas such as:

- Children and Teens
- Community Outreach
- Cultural Programming
- Tech Lending Library
- Electronic Resources like Kanopy and Hoopla

Our Donor Family

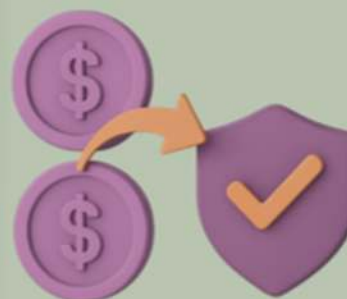
Broad Base Support

A record number of households gave this year—reflecting a 28% increase in individual donors. Most contributions came during our Fall Campaign, with the majority of gifts under \$1,000.



Matching Gifts

We extend our sincere appreciation to the corporations that generously support us via their matching gift donation programs:



Apple	Intel
Genentech	LinkedIn
Gilead	Microsoft
Google	Oracle
Illumina	Roblox

Your commitment to doubling the impact of employee contributions has significantly bolstered our mission, and we are grateful for this partnership.

Donor List FY 2024-25

+ Utilized employer's matching gift program
^ Legacy Fund donation

Library Luminaries \$5000+

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SECTION 03

Library

San Mateo Public Library
 Front Reading Room, 1960

LETTER FROM THE CITY LIBRARIAN
 MARINA BRANCH PLAN
 STATE OF THE LIBRARY
 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
 A PLACE FOR EVERYONE'S STORY



FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN

Newly appointed City Librarian Rukshana Singh reflects on her vision for a library rooted in belonging, outreach, and transformation.

Being a librarian has never been easy but today, it feels harder than ever. In the face of deep federal budget cuts, the near elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the recent dismissal of the Librarian of Congress, libraries are facing growing challenges. And yet, like the books on our shelves, we endure. We resist in quiet but meaningful ways by continuing to do what we have always done – welcoming everyone, sharing knowledge, and building community. This past year has been full of change and possibility. Stepping into the role of City Librarian is a great honor. In this new role, I am more committed than ever to ensuring our library remains a place that belongs to everyone – a place where every story matters.

Over the past year we have made significant progress with our goals. We created connections with residents across linguistic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds who live in different parts of the city by attending community events in places we hadn't been to before. We brought books to incarcerated teens and storytimes to local preschools. Our new outreach van will launch this summer with a bright new wrap, helping us further our mission to bring library services across San Mateo.

We continued to grow in ways that reflect our commitment to inclusion. One example is our ongoing effort to create welcoming and affirming spaces for neurodiverse patrons.

We continued to support youth and seniors through a variety of services and began offering services to veterans. Everyone who walks through our doors should feel seen, valued, and supported.

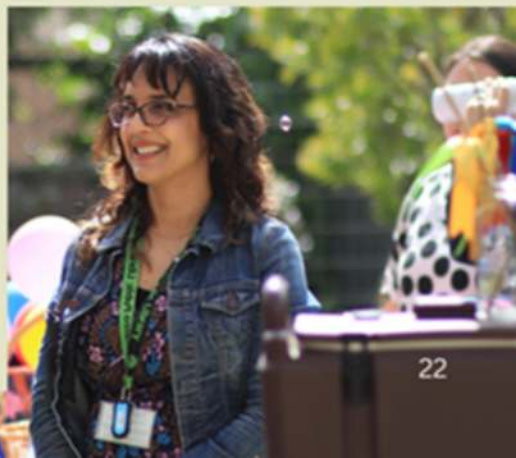
We also made significant progress on the Marina Library structural improvement project. Renovating the Marina Library is particularly meaningful for me since it is the branch that I grew up going to. As a child, I remember visiting Marina with my mom and checking out stacks of picture books. I would pester my family and friends to listen to me read aloud, including my grandfather who couldn't read himself. As a teenager, I walked to the library after middle school to hang out with friends and do homework. My parents still live in the same neighborhood and those early experiences planted the seeds for my future in librarianship. I come from a family of immigrants, many of whom didn't have access to formal education or books. I think they would be proud of the path I have taken.

Libraries have always been about more than books. They are spaces of belonging and places of discovery, reflection, and joy. They are one of the last places that people from all walks of life can gather in a shared public space. This is something to

cherish, celebrate, and fight to preserve. As public institutions, they reflect values we don't see enough of today such as equity, reciprocity, and care.

With the launch of our new strategic plan, we have a roadmap for where we want to go over the next three years. We will continue to promote literacy and a love of reading for all ages and abilities. We want to reimagine and repurpose spaces within our beautiful building to meet the needs of the current moment. To accomplish our goals, we need renewed investment and support from our community. We hope to expand our reach and engage with new audiences, welcoming their stories into our shared narrative.

Thank you for your support and for believing in the transformative power of libraries. Together, we will continue to make the library a place for every story.



Marina Branch Restoration Project

Since 1966, the Marina Branch Library has served its lagoon-side neighborhood with quiet dedication. After decades of use—and gradual structural settling—the building is now scheduled for a major restoration.

Starting in Summer 2025, the branch will close for approximately 16 months to address safety concerns such as sloping floors and seismic vulnerabilities. The project will modernize infrastructure, improve accessibility, and refresh the interior with new furniture. A revitalized children's area and dedicated teen and community spaces are also part of the updated plan.

As the space is transformed, the Foundation will offer opportunities to name furniture and other features within the renovated branch. To be notified when these opportunities become available, please email us at info@smplf.org.

Reopening is anticipated in early 2027.



A neighborhood fixture since 1966, Marina Branch will soon be renewed.



Renderings show bright, flexible interiors for patrons of all ages.



A look back: the original groundbreaking ceremony.

The Marina Branch Library opened in 1966 to serve San Mateo's growing southern neighborhoods. Nestled beside the Marina Lagoon, it quickly became a beloved gathering space for storytimes, community programs, and quiet discovery. Built during a period of civic expansion, the branch has long reflected the city's commitment to accessible learning and neighborhood-centered services. As it prepares for its next chapter, Marina carries forward a legacy shaped by decades of public investment and community use.

State of the Library

In a year of shifting policy, reduced federal funding, and renewed challenges to intellectual freedom, libraries across California—including ours—are being called to do more with less. Yet in the face of uncertainty, libraries remain places of resilience, access, and public trust.



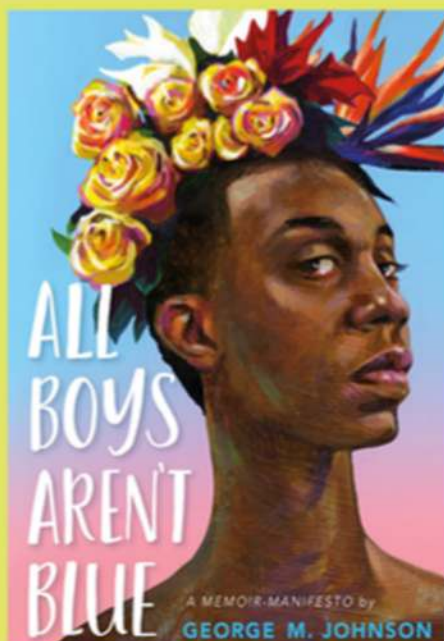
Public libraries connect generations through hands-on programs and job resources—lifelong engagement often made possible by federal funding, now at risk.

FEDERAL FUNDING IN JEOPARDY

In March 2025, the near-elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) sent ripples through the public library system. IMLS is the primary federal source of funding for libraries, supporting everything from summer learning to technology access. California stands to lose millions in federal grant dollars unless new funding pathways are secured.

BANS EVOLVE, BOOKS ENDURE

In April 2025, PEN America named George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue* the most banned book in the United States. Across the country, over 4,000 book challenges were recorded last year—most targeting titles by or about LGBTQ+ and BIPOC people. California continues to protect access, but local libraries are responding. Many are reaffirming the right to read and supporting intellectual freedom through curated displays, programs, and training.



In 2024, U.S. libraries saw over a billion visits, reflecting their enduring role as centers for access, learning, and connection.

ANCHORS THROUGH UNCERTAINTY

Even as funding uncertainty grows, public libraries continue to prove their resilience. In 2024, U.S. libraries welcomed over a billion visits and delivered critical services ranging from job support to digital access. National data shows that even after pandemic-era disruptions, library usage is steadily rebounding—underscoring the library's role as a trusted, adaptable institution.

Friends of the Library Volunteers

The Friends of the Library Book Sale is powered entirely by volunteers—book lovers, organizers, and community champions who sort, shelve, and steward one of San Mateo's most beloved spaces. While pricing vintage finds, restocking shelves, or managing online sales, these volunteers sustain a model of generosity that has supported the Library for over 60 years. We are proud to recognize the individuals who make this work possible.

Thank you!

Joy Addison
William Amsbary
Jean Barrios Natareno
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Sandra Wu



San Mateo Public Library is a gateway to empowerment and understanding. We make knowledge accessible and offer free enriching experiences and welcoming civic spaces for people of San Mateo, Hillsborough, and neighboring communities.



THE LIBRARY: A PLACE FOR EVERYONE'S STORY

If you've ever traced your roots in the second floor genealogy corner, sung at storytime with your toddler, or found quiet comfort in the stacks, you know the San Mateo Public Library is more than a place to borrow books. It's where generations of San Mateans have come to learn, gather, and grow.

Over the past year, our library spaces bustled with nearly 400,000 individual visits. Materials circulated over a million times. Programs—from author talks to tech help—reminded us that community is something we create together.

To shape the future, the library invited voices from across our city to co-create a new Strategic Plan.

What emerged is a vision rooted in equity, access, and joy: more welcoming spaces for teens and seniors, deeper community partnerships, expanded digital inclusion, and renewed commitment to lifelong literacy.

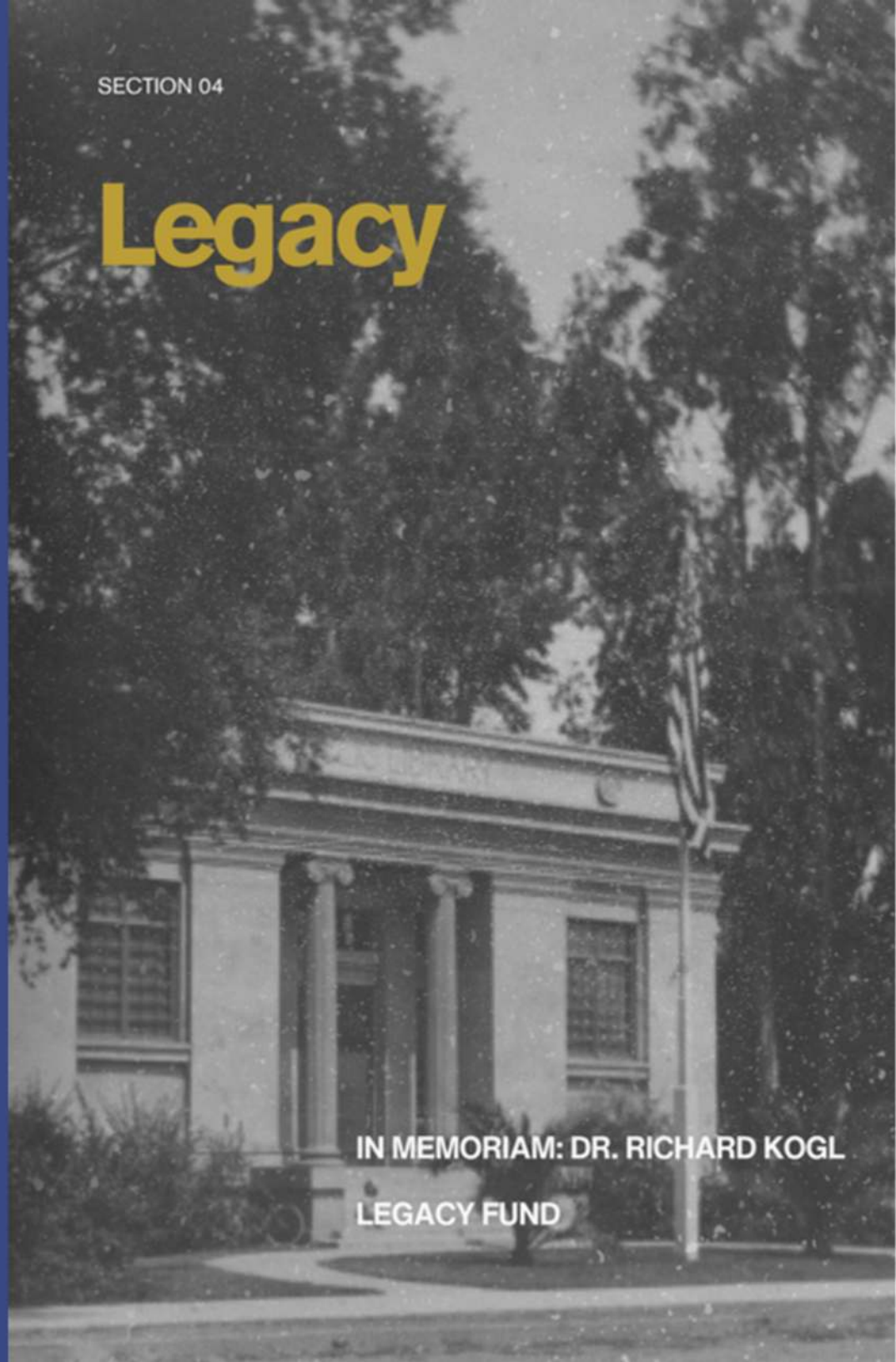
Whether you're new to town or five generations deep, the library meets you where you are—and invites you into something bigger.

From its humble beginnings in 1883 to today's dynamic, diverse offerings, the San Mateo Public Library continues to evolve with the people it serves.

Whatever chapter you're in, there's room for your story here.

SECTION 04

Legacy



IN MEMORIAM: DR. RICHARD KOGL

LEGACY FUND



Dr. Richard Kogl

(1928–2024)

Project Read Volunteer

The San Mateo Public Library Foundation honors the life and service of Dr. Richard Kogl, a longtime volunteer with Project Read, the Library's adult literacy program.

A board-certified psychiatrist and published author, Dr. Kogl brought thoughtfulness, humility, and a deep respect for learning to his work with adult learners. His quiet, consistent support reflected the spirit of Project Read: meeting people where they are and helping them move forward with dignity and confidence.

Together with his wife, Dorothy, Dr. Kogl was an active advocate and member of the San Mateo community. In the months following his passing, the Foundation received a number of donations made in his honor—a reflection of the impact he made on those around him.

We are grateful for Dr. Kogl's contributions and the values he embodied: generosity, lifelong learning, and care for others. To continue this work, we invite you to support adult literacy in our community through Project Read.



LEAVE A LEGACY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Create a legacy that inspires future generations. By including the San Mateo Public Library in your estate plans, you'll become part of our Legacy Circle—a community of donors committed to lifelong learning and access for all. Recognition opportunities can be personalized in conversation with the San Mateo Public Library Foundation.

FOR MORE INFO

We're here to help you meet your philanthropic goals. To learn more about making a future gift and joining the Legacy Circle, contact us at **(650) 558-9100** or **info@smplf.org**.

Legacy Fund

Thank you to our Legacy Fund Founding Members:

Joy Addison
Russ Allbery
Ricardo Avila & William Bonnell
Baywood Owners' Improvement Association
Mary Ellen & Tom Benninger
Peggy Berlese & David Goss
The Bruce & Medea Isphording Bern Family
Tom Blake & Jackie Stahl
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Joan Lee Bradley Trust
The Jennifer and Michael Buckley Family
Jim & Tish Busselle
Bill Casey & Pam Casey
An Huang Chen in honor of librarian Nina
Foehler
Lester Chen & Renee Cheung
Robert Chinn & Lori Tamura-Chinn
Linda & Daniel Cooperman
County Consumer Plumbing Service & Repair
Group
Ruthmary & John Cradler
Tina & Paul Crisci
Sean & Elizabeth De Winter
Aiswarya Dileep
Mary Dini & Mohammad Zarrinnegar
John & Alison Draper

Arnold Duncan to honor Trudy
Duncan
Mark Eliot & Kelly Moran
Janice Elliott
Frank Elliott & Shelly DeCorte
Jan Epstein
Diane Ervin & Bjorn Ervell
Lynne Esselstein & Jon Joseph
Dr. Jonathan Feinberg and Adella
Harris Feinberg
The Fitzpatrick Family
Gayle Flanagan
The Follis Family
Lisa, Jack, Zack & Eliana Fuchs
The Gillen Koeppen Family
Ann & Daniel Girard
Shelley and Doug Goldberg
Bill & Susan Graham
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Doug & Carol Henton
Patricia Hsiu & William Stein
The Hulsey Family
Jamie & Sinclair Hwang
Jill, Greg, Christopher, Steven
Jacobson
Kaiser Permanente
Susan & Barry Karl
Amy A. Laughlin

Clayton & Lucy Lee and Family
Sue Lempert
The Levy Family Trust
Amy & Michael Liou
Valerie London in memory of David A. London,
MD
Warren Long & Susan Lake Long
In Memory of Patricia Lorenz
Zheng Lu
Corinne & Larry Marcus
Rose & Bill Mark
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Mimi & Sascha Mornell
Michael & Lisa Nash
Amir & Meredith Nassihi
PJ and Martha Nora
Laura & Sunil Pandya
The Papan Latini Family
Margi & Tom Power
Ann Rarden
Maria Elena Ratinoff
Andrew Ryan & Eleanore Chen Dogan
Dr. Julie Schmittidell & Mr. Jason Ku
Vince & Jackie Siminitus
S. Simms & Family

Gail Sinquefield
John & Hilary Somorjai
Gary Sprague & Michele Freed
Patricia Steinhardt & Howard Krieger
Gift from Erik and Eugena Talvola
The Taube Family Foundation
The Teoman Family
Olivia Jean Ting & Kona
Jeffrey & Winnie Ting and Family
Jimmy & Eudora Ting
Cynthia Tong & John Kubodera
Sophia Tseng & Michael Feng
Yuchang John Wang
Kathleen Wardwell
The Grace C. Wehe Charitable
Remainder Unitrust
Twyla & David Weinberg
Darcy L. Wong
Geraldine Wong
For our Lolo, Romy Ronquillo, Love
Ryan, Alexa, & Max
Eleanor & Ira G. Wong, M.D.
Jason V. Wong & Lauren S. Wong
Susan Li Woo
Rick Wysong & Nancy Schneider
Rada Zarandian & Mehdi Mohtashemi
Stephanie Zheng & Chris Cooper

Legacy Circle

The following individuals and estates have included the San
Mateo Public Library Foundation in their planned giving.

Joy Addison
Robert Binn
Ann & Daniel Girard
Albert Landucci

Georgia McDaniel
Rada Zarandian & Mehdi
Mohtashemi



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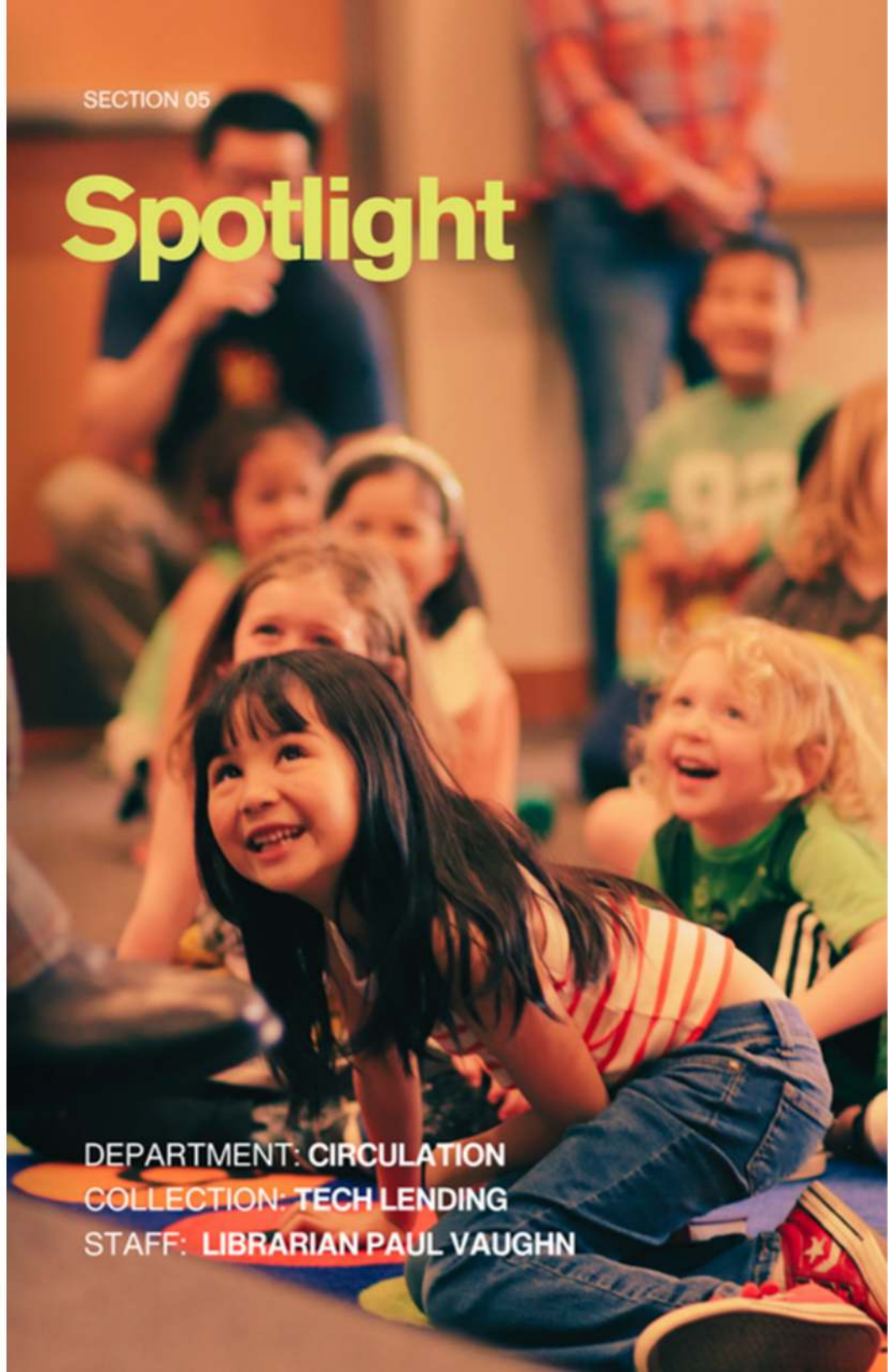


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SECTION 05

Spotlight



DEPARTMENT: CIRCULATION
COLLECTION: TECH LENDING
STAFF: LIBRARIAN PAUL VAUGHN

DID YOU KNOW?

Every book, gadget, and library card passes through the expert hands of the Circulation Division—the team that keeps the San Mateo Public Library running smoothly, day in and day out.

Led by Jon Jung, the Circulation Division includes Circulation and Technical Services, with nearly 50 staff members across branches. Many bring decades of experience, ensuring materials are purchased, processed, and borrowed with care.

From activating library cards to managing tech loans, this behind-the-scenes crew makes every checkout possible. Today we explore the Library Card Design Contest and the Tech Lending Catalog—a snapshot of some of the things Jon and the team make possible.

Library Cards That Take You Places

This year's design contest invited community members to imagine: *"My Library Card Is a Ticket to Anywhere."* The results? A trio of winning designs that turn everyday library cards into portals to adventure, creativity, and discovery.



Jennifer Roberts (Adult Winner)
"Ready for Adventure"



Elliot Roan (Child Winner)
"Bookworm and Their Friend"



Saphina Sid (Teen Winner)
"All Aboard the SMPL Express"



Coming Soon—Special Edition SF Giants Card! Fans of the black and orange will be able to rep their team with a special edition library card—a true home run for readers and baseball lovers alike. Available soon at SMPL.

Fun fact: Saphina also took the top spot in 2022 as a child!

TECH LENDING

What can your library card get you outside of books? From Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebooks to acoustic guitars and portable photo studios, the Tech Lending Library puts tools for learning and creativity directly into your hands.



Chromebook



MiFi Hotspot



playaway



RASPBERRY



MAKEY
MAKEY



SNAP CIRCUITS



STRAWBEES
MAKER KIT



STRAWBEES
INVENTOR KIT



BEEBOT



CUBELETS



FINCH ROBOT



LEGO BOOST
CREATIVE TOOLBOX



ROBOT
SHIELD BOT



ARTURIA
DRUM MACHINE



FOCUSRITE
AUDIO INTERFACE
KIT



IZOTOPE
SPIRE STUDIO



KORG
SYNTHESIZER



YAMAHA
KEYBOARD



UKULELE



PORTABLE
PHOTO STUDIO



INDUCTION STOVETOP KIT



IFIX IT KIT



ACOUSTIC GUITAR



LEGO MINDSTORMS

The Many Roles of Librarian Paul Vaughn.

If you've ever attended a packed Trivia Night at the San Mateo Public Library, tracked your portfolio through one of the Library's free financial planning sessions, or paused to admire the turning of the page on the Audubon book, chances are you've encountered Paul Vaughn—or at least his work. For nearly two decades, Paul has helped shape the Library's reputation as a responsive, thoughtful, and unexpectedly lively civic space.

"My favorite parts of working at the library are my colleagues and the community," he says. "You never know what your day will be like—it's dynamic." Paul has always leaned into the excitement of the library. As a teen in San Carlos, he chose the library as his first solo destination after he earned his driver's license. After pursuing a degree in history he circled right back to the stacks for new challenges. Since joining SMPL in 2005, he's helped patrons navigate everything from cell phone settings in Estonian to estate tax law.

Paul oversees the Library's business and financial programming, supported in part by Franklin Templeton. His workshops—on topics like investing, estate planning, and saving on taxes—draw 30-80 attendees and have been running for over a decade. Every fall, he partners with the Financial Planning Association of Silicon Valley to offer free one-on-one



consultations with certified financial planners. "It's a great resource for people considering a planner or double-checking advice they've been given," he says.

He's also known for co-hosting the Library's fast-filling Trivia Nights, where themes range from "California" to "Famous Firsts." The questions—researched and verified by staff—are written entirely in-house. "It's a real community event," he says. "Some of the regulars even formed a team after meeting at trivia." When a particularly insistent patron challenged an answer at one event, another attendee jumped in to restore order: "The librarian cited their source—now sit down!"



Paul, wearing white gloves, turns the page of the Library's rare Audubon book—a public treasure that draws monthly crowds eager to glimpse the next bird.

Paul's curiosity extends to the Library's collections. He's especially fond of the Audubon book, a rare, oversized volume donated by descendants of the Parrott family. "It's an artistic and cultural treasure," he says. Patrons gather to see a new page turned at the start of each month.

He's also contributed to the Library's efforts to rebuild San Mateo's under-documented local history archives. "Sometimes patrons share details—like the existence of a cemetery in 1870s San Mateo—that help us answer future reference questions," he explains.

Still, he's a reader at heart. "I love the whole library," he says, especially the new history and art books. He reads a rotating mix of history, art, fiction, and entertainment, often with an obscure royal biography in the pile.

For Paul, the library isn't just a place for information—it's a place for human connection. "A patron once told me she got housing with my help 15 years ago. I didn't even remember, but she came back to thank me before she moved." Others thank him for helping them pass a class, land a job, or learn something new.

After all these years, Paul's take on the library's role is both humble and expansive:

"We meet the informational needs of the community—whether that's for work, school, culture, or entertainment. And we're a safe space. That matters."



Paul helps the incredibly popular Trivia Night

Investing in our communities

We're proud to support educational opportunities for the next generation, creating positive change in their lives.



SECTION 06

Community

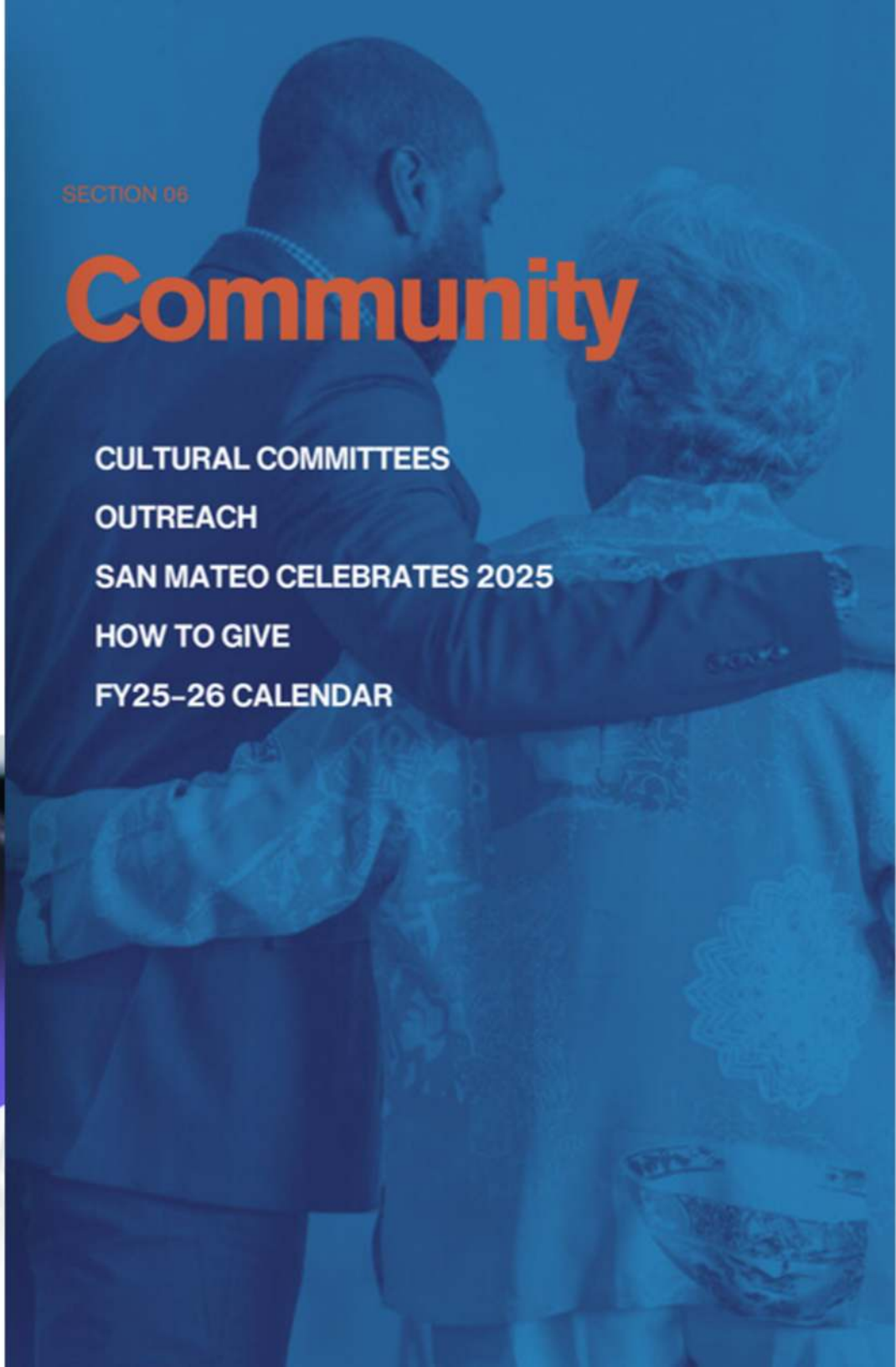
CULTURAL COMMITTEES

OUTREACH

SAN MATEO CELEBRATES 2025

HOW TO GIVE

FY25-26 CALENDAR



Cultural Committees

Help shape cultural programs at your library—*reach out to a Library Liaison to learn how you can get involved.*



IRANIAN AMERICAN LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON:
DONYA SULTANI (650) 522-7845 DSULTANI@CITYOFSANMATEO.ORG

The San Mateo Public Library's four cultural advisory committees—**African American, Asian American, Iranian American, and Latino**—are made up of dedicated community volunteers who help shape inclusive, enriching programs that reflect the history and traditions of their cultures. From **Black History Month** and **Nowruz** to **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** and **Las Posadas**, each committee brings vibrant, community-centered events to life.



LATINO AMERICAN
LIBRARY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE LIAISON:
JOEY SQUILLACIOTI
(650) 522-7886
JSQUILLACIOTI@CITY
OFSANMATEO.ORG



AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON:
AISHA WASHINGTON (650) 522-7898
AWASHINGTON@CITYOFSANMATEO.ORG

With support from library staff liaisons and funding from our Foundation, these programs foster cross-cultural understanding and celebration year-round. **Volunteer or donate to support!**



ASIAN AMERICAN LIBRARY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE LIAISON:
MARY KWAN (650) 522-7896
MKWAN@CITYOFSANMATEO.ORG

Funding Opportunity

The Library is seeking support to expand its Genealogy services with a subscription to My China Roots, a platform that helps individuals of Chinese descent trace their ancestry. The annual cost is under \$2,000.

If you're interested in funding this initiative, please contact us at info@smpfl.org.



OUTREACH FY24-25

San Mateo Public Library on the Move

Outreach is more than just a booth—it's a bridge. In FY 2024-25, library staff brought SMPL's spirit of literacy, connection, and lifelong learning into every corner of San Mateo. With over 10,000 community touchpoints, outreach remained a vital pillar supported by the Foundation.

Bringing the Library Beyond the Building

From community fairs to schoolyards, library staff made appearances where San Mateans live, learn, and gather.

- 10,525 event attendees engaged at SMPL booths
- 2,002 free books distributed
- All library divisions participated, reaching all ages

Programs supported topics from digital literacy to wellness and local culture:

- Senior eResources Training
- Veterans Curation Project events
- Project Read ESL Classes
- Book Swaps and Life Skills fairs



Go, Mateo!

With our upgraded outreach vehicle ready to roll, SMPL is preparing to serve neighborhoods like Parkside and Shoreview while Marina Library undergoes renovation.

This year's neighborhood highlights included:

- Lunar New Year at CSM
- National Night Out
- AAPI Cultural Festival
- SM PAL Halloween Family Night
- CSM Farmers Market (monthly)
- King Center Graduation

In each of these spaces, library staff offered books, conversation, and essential resources—all powered by your support.



Photography by Nico Belasco, Moses Belasco, Robert Dahut, Linnet Kwok



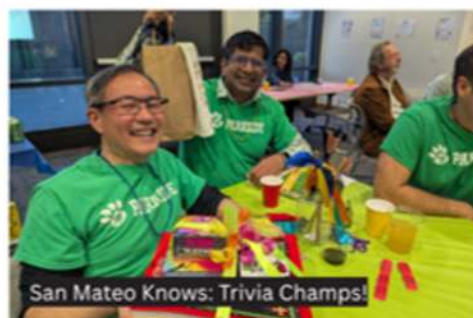
San Mateo Celebrates!

A National Library Week Festival Full of Learning, Laughter, and Library Magic

In its third year, *San Mateo Celebrates!* continued to shine a spotlight on everything our library makes possible. The weeklong festival invites neighbors of all ages to discover free programs, explore Library resources, and share in moments of cultural connection. Through interactive community programs, performances, and story-rich experiences, the festival reflects the Library's mission to educate, entertain, and bring generations together.



Fans of all ages gathered at the Main Library to meet guest author Judd Winick, creator of the acclaimed *Hilo* graphic novel series. Judd shared his creative journey—from his time on MTV's *The Real World* to the inspiration and process behind his writing and illustration.



From Latin rhythms to live storytime, community ukulele jams to library trivia, San Mateo Celebrates brought together curious kids, engaged grownups, and special guests for a week of joy, discovery, and connection.



**I LOOKED AROUND
AND SAW
GRANDPARENTS,
TEENS, LITTLE KIDS
ALL JUST ENJOYING
THE SPACE
TOGETHER. IT WAS
REALLY LOVELY."**

**SAN MATEO RESIDENT,
EVELYN B.**

Throughout the week, the Oak Room transformed into a vibrant hub of intergenerational learning. Professor James Zou's insights on AI wowed the crowd, while multiple events spurred thoughtful conversations between neighbors, civic leaders, academics, and librarians. The festival underscored the Library's enduring role: a place where knowledge is shared, stories are honored, and community thrives.



Stanford Professor Dr. James Zou



Center: Music at Kohl Mansion
Executive Director Patricia Kristof Moy



Guests gather for our speaker series

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Subscriber Brandi Magner about The Daily Journal

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HOW TO GIVE

*Your support funds programs that public dollars alone cannot.
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- Donate online: www.smplf.org/donate
- Mail a check: 55 W. 3rd Ave, San Mateo, CA 94402
- Direct a grant via your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)



DONATE NOW

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Be a part of the Leadership Circle — a community of donors giving \$1,000+ annually to keep the San Mateo Public Library vibrant and innovative. Enjoy exclusive experiences that celebrate your impact.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Include us in your will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement assets to make a lasting impact. Planned giving helps ensure our library remains a vibrant community hub for generations to come.

SPONSOR AN EVENT OR BECOME A BUSINESS PARTNER

Join us as a community sponsor or corporate partner — align your brand with a beloved civic institution while supporting literacy and learning.

Thank you for supporting the San Mateo Public Library!

PERK ALERT: YOUR EMPLOYER CAN HELP FUND THE LIBRARY

Many employers match donations or provide grants when you nominate your favorite nonprofit, like ours. Double your impact — use the matching gift or employee directed grant program available to you.



The San Mateo Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 94-3191775). To learn more or explore ways to support, reach out to us at info@smplf.org



San Mateo
Public Library
Foundation

2025-26

EVENTS

2025

OCTOBER 9

Harvest Happy Hour



Guests enjoying Harvest Happy Hour

2026

FEBRUARY 26

Mingle at Main



Our seasonal happy hours in the Oak Room invite you to unwind, connect, and experience the library in a whole new light. With delicious bites, refreshing drinks, and live music, these gatherings bring neighbors together in celebration. Suggested donation: \$20.

APRIL 19-25

National Library
Week Festival

sanmateocelebrates.com