

“Libraries will get you
through times of no money
better than money will get
you through times of no
libraries.”

- Anne Herbert (1950-2015)

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

The Link

SUMMER 2024



Night At The Library 2024

Think Outside The Book



San Mateo
Public Library
Foundation

The San Mateo Public Library Foundation receives the 2024 California Nonprofit of the Year Award from Assemblymember Diane Papan at the California State Capitol in Sacramento.



Snippets from Night At The Library 2024

On the cover: San Mateo Buddhist Temple Taiko opens our fundraising moment
Above: Str8jacket helps convert the Main Branch lobby into a dancefloor

The Link

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

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



Thank You!

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* Leadership Circle level donation of \$1,000 or more

+ Utilized employer's matching gift program

^ Legacy Fund donation

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however if an error has been made, please contact our office.*

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Maple Zhang and Neal Bennett

To mark the second year of *San Mateo Celebrates*, we organized a vibrant festival in Central Park featuring a main stage, food trucks, a kids' zone, and an artists' fair. However, Mother Nature had other plans, and we found ourselves facing a complete rainout!

Undeterred, our unflappable Library staff and Parks & Rec team pivoted, bringing the entire day's production (sans trucks and artists) into the Main Library building.

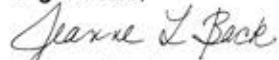
As we set out coffee and doughnuts in the lobby that rainy Saturday morning, we wondered if anyone would brave the weather to join us. To our delight, just before 10 am, families began to arrive. By 10:30 am, the Oak Room was packed, and by 11 am the lobby was thronged. Throughout the day the Library was buzzing with activity, helped along by balloons and ukulele music in the lobby, drums in the Book Bubble, games in the Makerspace, and Magic and Jazz in the Oak Room.

Our team transformed a challenging situation into an exciting opportunity to reimagine our festival. This unexpected shift underscored the Library's key role as a dynamic community space, demonstrating its capacity to bring people together, rain or shine. Something we think is worth celebrating! And so, we establish a new tradition for *next year's National Library Week (April 7-12): Festival in the Library!*

As we reflect on this experience, we see parallels to how the Library continuously evolves to meet our community's ever-changing needs. Our cover story, *Think Outside the Book*, speaks to this, and invites you to participate in our Library's newly launched strategic planning process.

We hope you join us in helping to imagine and shape our Library's future!

In gratitude,



Jeanne Back



Alexandra Gillen

Co-Presidents, San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF)



Photography by UpDog Photography



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*We would like to thank Sunil Pandya, Martha Nora, and Amy Patel for their service to the San Mateo Public Library and its Foundation as they finish their terms.



Grant To The Library



57%

General Financial Support

Enhances the Library's ability to meet the community's needs by supporting program areas long-championed by the Foundation such as:

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

43%

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.

Our Donor Family



400 individual households contributed through the year, most during our annual Fall Campaign. 80% of the gifts received were under \$1,000, highlighting the broad-based support.

Matching Gifts

Thank you to the corporations that doubled the impact of employees' gifts to SMPLF!

- Apple Inc.
- Edward Jones
- Genentech
- Gilead
- Google
- Intel Foundation
- Intuitive Foundation
- LinkedIn
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Take Two Software
- VISA Inc.
- Workday



Project Spotlight: Children's Patio

We are thrilled to share that part of this year's Library grant will go toward transforming the Main Branch children's patio into a green and interactive garden with custom shade, picnic tables, stackable Adirondack seating, and drought-tolerant landscaping.



Book Sales

Revenue from in-person Friends of the Library book sales and online Amazon book sales is a significant component of our fundraising model. Thank you to all the volunteers and Library staff who make this possible!

From the Desk of the City Librarian



SMPL staff and patrons on CA/SMC Parks Pass Excursion

As part of our continuing commitment

to being San Mateo's historical "memory bank" SMPL welcomed the San Mateo County Genealogy Society (SMCGC) to the library. After spending many years at the CSM Library, the SMCGC thought they could have a greater reach here. We jumped at the opportunity to add their resources. Among many other things, the SMCGC offers genealogy research support tailored to the needs of Peninsula residents and are committed to improving its services to residents of color whose genealogy search efforts are often more complicated by the vagaries of history. The SMCGC fits our core mission of providing San Mateo County-specific information services. We launched the in-house Genealogical

research service with a big open house event on August 26th and had our first ever Genealogy Fair on the Halloween weekend of 2023. The fair was special because it coincided with the kids Halloween parade inside the Main Library. The Genealogy Fair brought many seniors into the library while the parade, which wound throughout the entire building, brought a bunch of costumed kids into to the fair space. It was wonderful to see the interactions between the seniors and kids, who seemed quite curious about what all the family genealogy stuff was all about.

Thanks to the SMPLF, the super popular Trivia Nights at the Library returned. The event only occurs on a quarterly basis because the librarians must create bespoke questions for each one, which takes considerable time and research.

The effort pays off as we are constantly told by participants that SMPL has, by far, the best trivia nights on the Peninsula and the reservation list for the event is always filled up within hours of its posting. It occurs early on a Friday evening and brings together a diverse range of people representing all ages (21 and older because beer and wine are served). It is fun way to relax, learn, and still get home at a decent time after a long week.

Our Circulation Division introduced some truly fresh innovations that addressed practical community needs while feeding the sense of wonder that accompanies lifelong learning. On the practical side, after noticing that many patrons forgot their bike locks when visiting the library, we introduced a bike lock lending service. Most people only need to borrow the locks while they visit the library, and this program really helped reduce the number of patrons trying to bring their bikes into the library. We also launched the California State Parks Pass Program, a program providing free nature-focused education and access to all state parks, as well allowing patrons to borrow the equipment needed for nature exploration. Along the way, we added a County Parks Pass component, and library staff partnered with staff from the San Mateo Senior Center to take seniors on chaperoned hikes throughout SMC parks where they gained a sense of connection and learned about the wondrous natural world of the Peninsula. This program accompanies the addition of more musical instruments, portable scanners, and S.T.E.A.M.-focused gadgets available for SMPL patrons to borrow.

Lastly, we remain very much in a state of transition, feeling our way forward after the Covid-19 pandemic profoundly changed the ways in which people work and live. Our number of daily visitors is slowly climbing back to the heights of the pre-Covid world. Meanwhile, we have experienced a 80% percent increase in the number of patrons using our electronic resources, which brings us to the crucial need for forward-looking strategic planning. As the pandemic showed us in stark relief, predicting the future is impossible. Nevertheless, planning ways to thrive in the future is essential. We have embarked in earnest on a thoughtful process for reimagining what kind of library we should evolve into over the next decade. We do know that it needs to be both its own destination and a provider of the myriad e-resources we provide. We have the luxury of space and the challenge of properly cultivating it. From July through the early Fall we will be inviting key stakeholders to help us reimagine the possibilities for SMPL and chart a course filled with achievable goals that also challenge us to be more than we have ever been before.

Oh, the places we can go!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of SMPL and its mission to inform, inspire, and inspire our community.

Sincerely,

James C. Moore

James C. Moore
City Librarian



Genealogy Fair and Halloween Parade Participants Meet



SMPL outreach at CSM Farmers' Market



"Move and Groove" Storytime at Central Library

The Bay Area's
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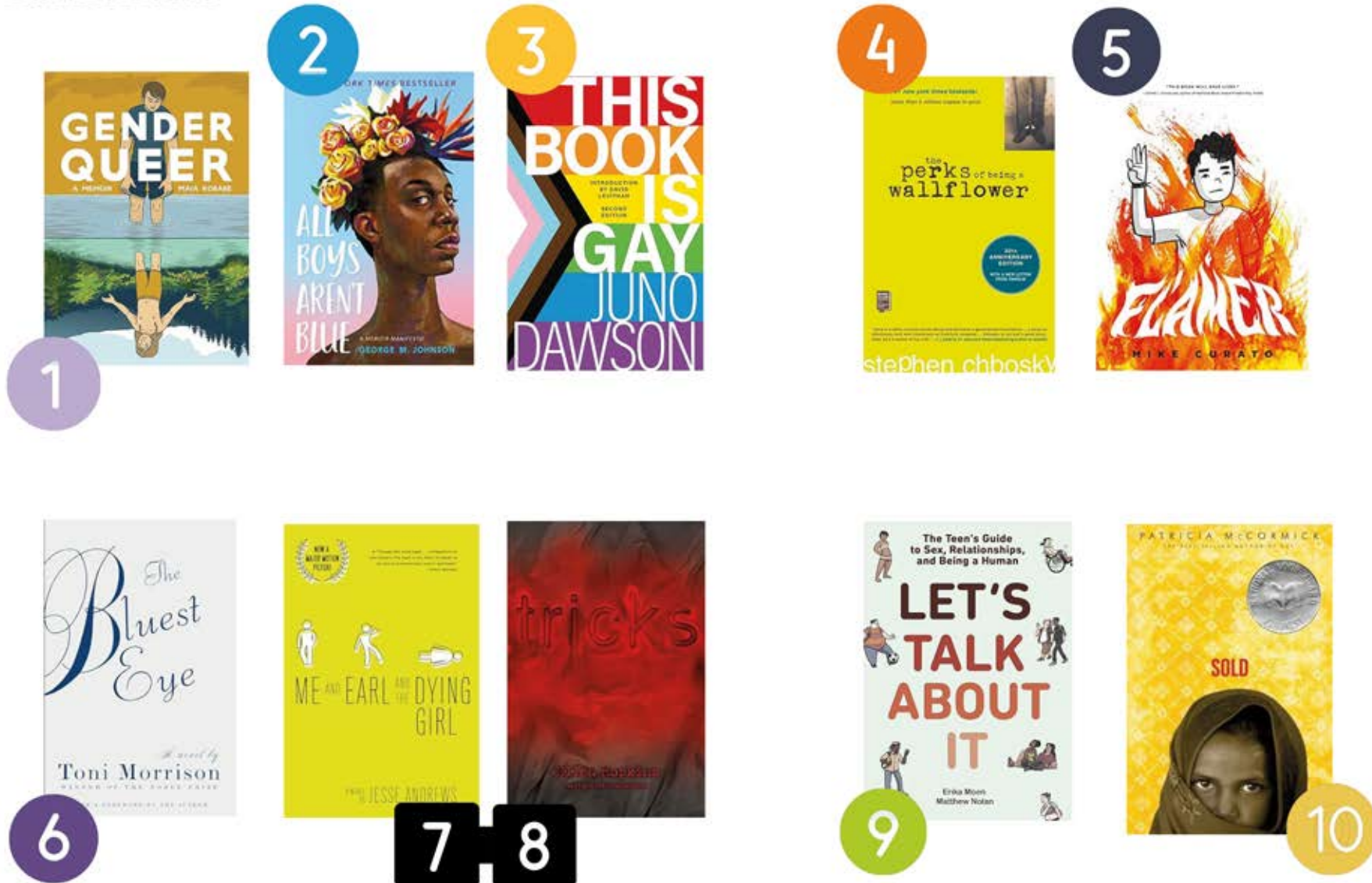


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Banned Books



Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2023

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
DOCUMENTED **4,240** UNIQUE BOOK TITLES
TARGETED FOR CENSORSHIP IN 2023.

This marks a 65% surge over 2022 numbers.

While this issue of The Link encourages us to “think outside the book”, it is important to acknowledge the books, particularly those that are being challenged.



Cover Story

Think Outside the Book

The San Mateo Public Library strives to continually evolve and meet the diverse needs of our community. From the days of mandatory silence and the Dewey Decimal system to becoming vibrant centers for arts, technology, and various forms of media, Libraries have transformed in ways we never could have imagined. But where do we go from here? We invite you to think outside the book and tell us: *What Does Library Mean to You?*

The SMPL is embarking on its strategic planning journey and needs your help to shape its future. How can the SMPL System best serve the communities of San Mateo and Hillsborough in the coming years? Your opinions, suggestions, and innovative ideas are integral to this process.

City Librarian James Moore invites you to participate in the brief, five-question survey below. Whether you are a frequent visitor or come to the branches on an as-needed basis, SMPL wants to hear from you. Your input will help leadership think outside the book and create a Library system that reflects and supports the dynamic needs of our community.

Thank you for being a part of this important conversation. We look forward to hearing from you!

Survey Questions:

1. How often do you use the Library each month, either virtually or in-person?
2. If you do not use the Library, please share why.
3. If you had to rank your impression of the Library experience with 10 being excellent, how would you rank your experience? (Please identify the branch or branches.)
4. In your opinion, what services should the Library system offer that aren't offered today?
5. Please complete this sentence: I believe it is the Library's responsibility/role to _____

How to Submit Your Responses:

Scan the QR code to access the survey online or email your responses to smplref@plsinfo.org by July 25, 2024.

Your feedback is invaluable as our Library plans for the future and strives to better serve you. Thank you for your time!





Think Outside the Book Spotlight: *Project Read*

Photo: Graduates of Project Read's ESL Class

Through the Project Read program adults are paired with a tutor for long term literacy support through regular 1:1 tutoring. These adult learners often come to the program with very specific goals in mind. The goals may seem modest to some, but to the students seeking better lives for themselves and their kids, they represent a pathway to fulfillment.

Donya Sultani, Adult Literacy Program Coordinator, recently shared a story of a PR student who works at a grocery store gathering carts. The student's current goal is to become a cashier, but she struggles, not just with reading, but also with confidently making basic polite conversation with customers and accurately counting coinage. These problems stem from a combination of poor-quality schooling, low self-esteem, and, perhaps, a learning disability. Donya describes the PR tutor's approach:

Her tutor has taken a targeted approach to helping her develop job- and content-specific vocabulary to prepare for the application and interview process, and refers her to resources where she can also develop her essential math skills. On top of that, her tutor has helped her practice for job interviews by doing mock interviews. She has not gotten the cashier job yet, but she is taking the necessary steps to be prepared for it. A side effect of her literacy skills developing is that her confidence is growing with each step she takes toward her goal.



THE GEORGE ARCHER
Memorial Foundation for Literacy

THE 17TH ANNUAL “STROKE OF GENIUS” PRO-AM TOURNAMENT

10 - 14 - 2024



TO LEARN MORE:
WWW.GEORGEARCHERFOUNDATION.ORG



A Family's Library Legacy

Former SMPLE Board members Mehdi Mohtashemi and Rada Zarandian reflect on how the library has been a central presence in their family's life.

Rada and Mehdi can't count the hours they and their children, Raayan and Neaka, have spent at the library: volunteering, reading, studying Farsi, and enjoying a range of performances. Importantly, the library has allowed the family to stay connected with their cultural heritage through the Iranian American Cultural Advisory Committee's quality programming. The family has made lifelong friends at the Library.

**"The library not only enriches the community, it enriches the family."
—Rada & Mehdi**

I grew up in Iran, and when I was in 5th grade, I became upset by the fact that some books were forbidden by the government. My friend and I pooled our money, acquired some banned books, and distributed them to our friends. We were only ten years old, but we understood that the freedom of expression is precious. My family left Iran in 1983, and over 40 years later I appreciate how my children always had free access to books. —Rada

The library is my favorite third place—more than any coffee shop or park (although there are plenty of such great places too!). I remember the excitement during the library's construction and ribbon-cutting, at looking forward to being of age to hang out in the teen section, and getting to know other volunteers who sort and catalogue books donated for the Friends of the Library book sale. I most fondly look back on the years of Persian-language (Farsi) lessons and cultural celebrations in the building. These experiences helped grow and nurture connections to my family and community—both near and far. —Raayan

One of my earliest memories was at the San Mateo Public Library. My parents had brought me for children's storytime and I was wearing a Belle Disney princess dress. I sat with a bunch of other children and listened to a librarian tell us a story. I don't remember the story because it was 1997 and I was three years old. But I do remember how I felt. It was like I had been transported to another world and indeed, I had been. —Neaka



From working on the capital campaign for the main library building's construction to helping with the annual Persian new year celebrations the family has contributed to the growth and vibrancy of "our community's living room". In 2008 Rada and Mehdi made the important decision to extend their family's passion for the San Mateo Public Library and ensure its future by pledging a Legacy gift as part of their Estate Planning.

THE LEGACY FUND

Leave A Legacy In Your Community.

The Legacy Circle

Individuals who choose to remember the San Mateo Public Library Foundation through a future gift arrangement become part of our Legacy Circle. Members of the Legacy Circle are celebrated through a range of special benefits and engagement opportunities, including:

- *Invitations to special events*
- *Recognition and other as discussed between you and the San Mateo Public Library Foundation*

We are committed to working with you, your family and your financial advisors to ensure your philanthropic and financial goals are met. For more information about how you can make a future gift to the San Mateo Public Library Foundation and become a member of the Legacy Circle please contact us at (650) 558-9100 or info@smplf.org.



Investing in our communities

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





From the Library Archives

San Mateo Library float in Armistice Parade | November 1918

Original photo: Studio Shop, Burlingame, California

Available via the Online Archive of California



Photo of 4th Ave & San Mateo Drive parade | August 9, 1974
Online Archive of California

THE CALIFORNIA COLLECTION

The San Mateo Public Library has a large collection of California history materials with an emphasis on San Mateo and the Bay Area.

The San Mateo Main Library offers:

- A reference print collection focused on local history materials
- A clipping file of topics from local newspapers from the 1940's to 1960's
- Historical maps of San Mateo and the surrounding area including Sanborne insurance maps
- San Mateo City directories from the 1900's - present
- Access to over 120,000 images and 50,000 pages of documents, letters, and oral histories via the Online Archive of California
- Local newspapers on microfilm

The San Mateo Public Library is home to several special collections. The three featured here can all be found on the second floor of the Main Branch.

THE SAN MATEO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society (SMCGS) supports the study of family history on the San Francisco peninsula and beyond through its collections, educational programs, and research services.

Located on the 2nd floor of the Main Library, the San Mateo County Genealogical Society's print collection contains books, periodicals, maps, and records.



Locals have pieced together their family history using SMCGS resources

All items in the SMCGS collection are for Library use only and cannot be borrowed. Items in the collection can be found by searching the SMCGS catalog at smcgs.org/Library-Catalog

THE LEON S. BENSON HOLOCAUST STUDIES COLLECTION

This collection is dedicated as a living memorial for Leon S. Benson and all the survivors and victims of the atrocities of the Holocaust. Funds starting this collection were provided by the family and friends of Mr. Benson.



Leon S. Benson

The collection includes written and visual accounts of those who witnessed the Holocaust, plus information on the events of the Holocaust, camp experiences, and life after the Holocaust. There are audiobooks, DVDs, and circulating books for borrowers of all ages, as well as a small number of reference books for Library use only.

SMPLF would like to thank:



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A supporter of the San Mateo Public Library
Foundation since 1997.



Founded in 1996 by resolution of the San Mateo City Council, City Arts of San Mateo was charged with the mission of promoting and stimulating interest in the arts and enhancing opportunities for the residents of San Mateo to enjoy and participate in them. City Arts of San Mateo has a history of promoting and expanding the performing, visual, and literary arts in the community, usually in cooperation with civic, educational and business organizations or City Departments. City Arts of San Mateo obtained non-profit organizational status in 2000.

City arts
of SAN MATEO

A woman with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a light blue kimono with a colorful floral pattern, is seated and playing a guqin, a traditional Chinese zither. She is looking down at the instrument. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

Cultural Committees

Asian American Library Advisory Committee

The Asian American Library Advisory Committee is dedicated to developing programs that highlight and celebrate the contributions, achievements, and rich cultural heritage of Asian Pacific Americans. In May, the committee marks Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a wide range of events, including author talks, docent presentations, music performances, performing arts showcases, movie screenings, and craft demonstrations. The committee's hope is to expand offerings its throughout the year.

To get involved or share your ideas, please contact Mary Kwan at mkwan@cityofsanmateo.org.

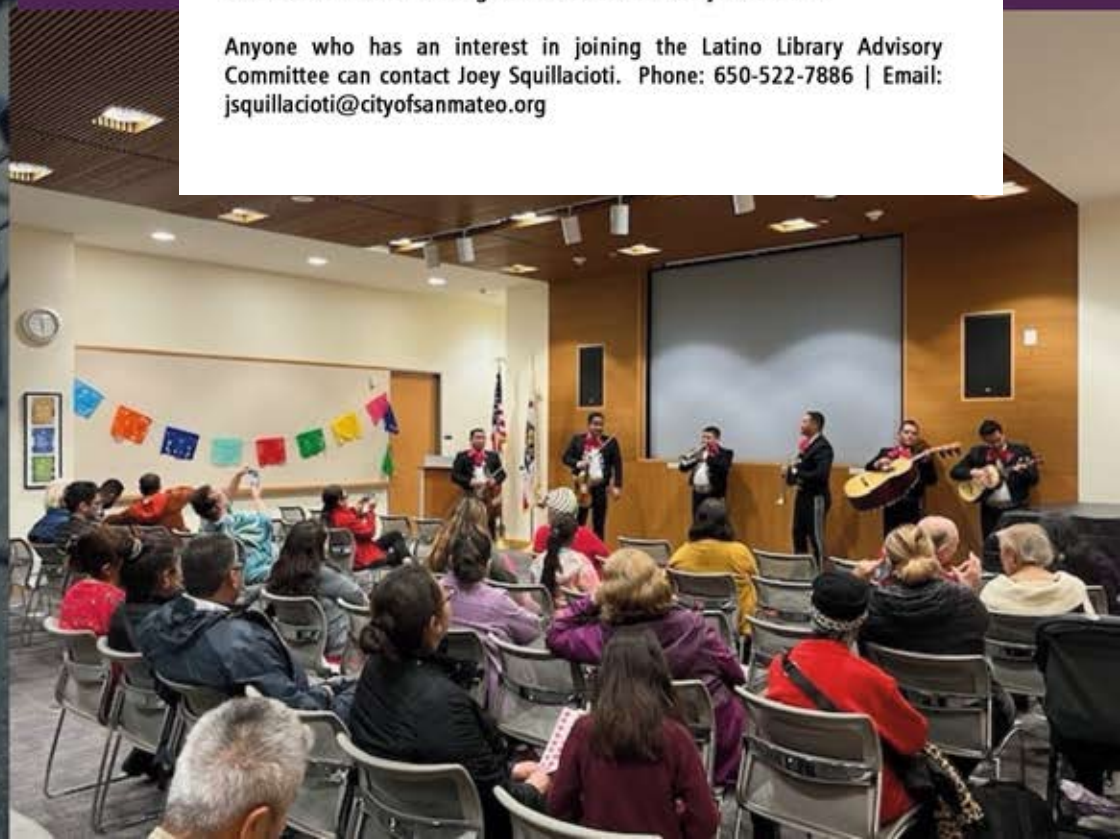
Cultural programming is one of the key areas SMPLF supports to enhance the Library's enrichment of our community.

We are grateful for the Library's cultural advisory committees, with whom we have the joy of collaborating with in a multitude of ways; from regular Library programs to special fundraising events and initiatives.

Latino Library Advisory Committee

The Latino Library Advisory committee started in 2005 to promote Latino cultural events for the Library. For the past few years the committee has organized events such as Las Posadas and a Cinco de Mayo celebration. These are fun cultural events that include music, food, and crafts for children. We are scheduled to have the talented Cascada de Flores perform storytelling and dance in September 2024 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. In the future, the committee would like to plan additional cultural events that benefit the community such as author discussions or movie screenings. The work of the committee is made possible thanks to the volunteers and the funding it receives from Library donations.

Anyone who has an interest in joining the Latino Library Advisory Committee can contact Joey Squillacioti. Phone: 650-522-7886 | Email: jsquillacioti@cityofsanmateo.org



Cultural Committees

Iranian American Library Advisory Committee

The Iranian American Cultural Committee was established in 2003, aligning with SMPL's capital campaign to engage various communities in San Mateo. With the assistance of Library staff, the committee successfully raised over \$70,000 in 2005 to support the capital campaign.

The mission of the Iranian American Committee is to promote diversity and enhance understanding of Iranian culture through the Library's Cultural Spotlight Programs. These programs are free and open to the public, offering a variety of cultural activities in both Farsi and English.

Since 2006, two main cultural events, Yalda and Nowruz, have attracted more than 5,000 participants to the Library. Additionally, the committee is involved in various activities including parenting classes for Iranian American families; inviting poets, artists, and writers to the Library; and contributing to Library-wide programming, such as celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Library's Foundation, volunteering for author's galas, and collaborating with other community initiatives.

Looking ahead, plans are in place to celebrate Iranian New Year in March of 2025.

The committee is always seeking volunteers to join and contribute fresh ideas for programming. Contact Donya Sultani: sultani@cityofsanmateo.org



African American Library Advisory Committee

The African American Library Advisory Committee is one of four volunteer cultural groups sponsored by the City of San Mateo Library System. Started in 2012, the committee is comprised of a diverse group of primarily African Americans residing in San Mateo County, and exists to bring educational and cultural events to city residents and the broader communities. Programs have included a youth musical competition, cultural arts programs, and a summer film festival. Future programs include a partnership with the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre and hosting an award-winning celebrity chef in 2025. New committee members are welcome. Email: jxconsultinginc@gmail.com.



Gudi organizes shelves in the award-winning bookstore

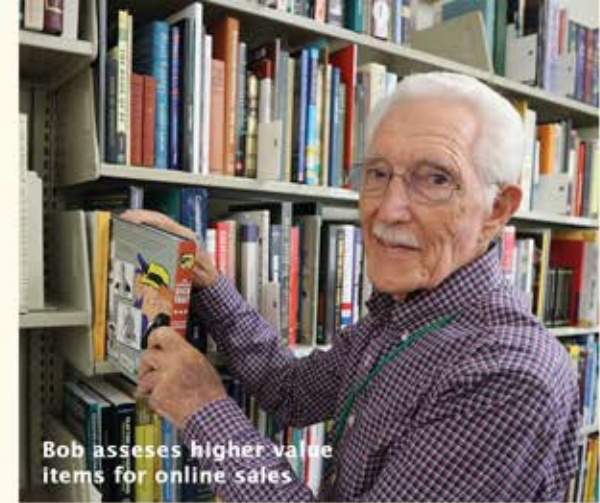
We Get By With A Little Help From Our Friends.

Dubbed San Mateo's 'Favorite Bookstore' at this year's *Best of San Mateo Awards*, the Friends of the Library Book Sale is a volunteer-run operation selling a range of secondhand books, media, and collectibles donated to the Library by the community. Located in the lobby of the San Mateo Public Library's Main Branch, the space has been lauded for being inviting, well-organized, and a true model of community-powered sustainability.

"That's the great thing about Friends of the Library," volunteer Gwedette "Gudi" Gardali shares, "It's free, free, free. Free product to sell, free labor through volunteers." This model has allowed the organization to enjoy a large margin of profit which is passed in its entirety to the Library as a donation. The funds are used primarily to support the main collection at all three branches, taking it from "good enough", to "excellent".

Longtime residents may recall when book sales were contained in a second floor space called 'The Quarter Deck', named so because everything could be purchased for 25 cents. These days the prices hover largely around the \$1 mark, with the exception of a handful of items. When new releases or classic collectors editions that have a resale value above \$10 are identified in the Friends of the Library sorting area (jokingly referred to as "the closet next to the circulation desk") these special items go "upstairs to Bob".

Bob Gardali (known as Mister G during the 25 years he taught art at Hillsdale High) runs Amazon sales from a spacious desk amidst the Librarians on the second floor. After spending years contributing at both the De Young and Legion Museums, Bob now comes into the SMPL a few hours a week to assess high value items, put them up in the marketplace and handle fulfillment. His trained eye can be credited for the single most valuable book the Friends have ever sold—a fold-out art publication that brought in \$1200 for the Library.



Bob assesses higher value items for online sales

Downstairs, surrounded by sorting shelves that mimic those in the actual store, Michael Bucher, who has been volunteering here just shy of a decade, tells of his early years with the organization. He joined the Friends "when most of the volunteers were older than I am now" which meant the retired CSM biology professor and a peer were swiftly made responsible for the physically laborious jobs of carting and lifting books, earning them the moniker 'Muscle Men'. Michael recounts laughingly, "We found it pretty demeaning at the time and said if they got to call us the 'Muscle Men', we'd call them the 'Book Babes'. That was the end of that."

The Friends' journey has been helmed by different volunteer organizers, from Sherry Fong and Julie Thoman, to Mary Holst. While the culture of the organization shifts a little bit with each new era of volunteers, the spirit of service and the success of the model prevails: this year marks the 60th anniversary of San Mateo's Friends of the Library, and their annual dollar contributions continue to flow in the tens of thousands.



Volunteer Michael Bucher

The books don't just help the Library. They help the volunteers stay fit and stay "in tune" as the donated items are a glimpse at the interests, influences and inflections of growth and change our community. "Based on what's coming in, we know when the college kids are home for summer and clearing out their old bedroom," Guidi shares thoughtfully. "We know when Grandma's died."

The Friends of the Library are opening the roster up to new volunteers. Qualifications? To like books and a good challenge; to be able to commit to a 2-hour shift at least one regular day a week; and while they welcome people of all abilities, it is indeed helpful to be able to carry books and categorize them by genre.

Interested? Apply by selecting 'I Want To > Participate > Volunteer Opportunities' at cityofsanmateo.org.

Teen Department

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT



Carla, SMPL's Teen Librarian, is dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of youth. Once a month she visits Juvenile Hall, bringing a selection of books collected from Friends of the Library donations. During her visits, Carla engages youth ranging from ages 12 to 18 in various craft activities, including origami, FIMO clay charms, shrinky dinks, and sewing. She also always brings a variety of snacks.

The relationship with Juvenile Hall began in 2022 when a Group Supervisor from the Margaret J. Kemp Camp brought some of the youth to Carla's workshops and a teen summer party at the Library. This led to brainstorming sessions on how to offer services to the teens who could leave MJK and Hillcrest with Supervisors. In the summer of 2023 Carla organized a book club with a craft component for these occasions, held in June, July, and August.

While the level of freedom to visit the Library varies among the youth, Carla's commitment to providing enriching experiences remains unwavering. She underwent fingerprinting to further support outreach and is currently collaborating with a Friends of the Library volunteer to introduce a crochet class at the Hillcrest facility.

In a chat with SMPLF, Carla shares more about her role as Teen Librarian.

How long have you been overseeing the San Mateo Public Library's Teen Department? Was this assigned to you, or something you actively chose to do?

I applied to the Teen Librarian position in 2017 and started working as the Teen Librarian in January 2018. I actively chose to do this job. I have been working as a Teen Librarian since I received my degree in 2012.

What have the teenagers taught, reminded or reinforced for you?

I always forget that teens are "new" and that they don't know how to do things because they have never done them before. A observation I have made many times is that the teens do the same foolish and brilliant things that we all did when we were teens.

What do you hope our teens recognize about our Library?

That the Library is a welcoming and safe place with resources and activities that are relevant to their needs and interests.

What do you hope our community recognizes about our teens?

That they are young people who have a lot of mistakes to make on their way to learning how to be a well rounded human. More than anything I just hope that people are not afraid of teens. Sometimes people are intimidated by the most benign behaviors.



Carla & Teen Library Assistant, Daniel



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LIBRARIES and LOCAL NEWS
are the fabric that hold a community together.

As we approach our **25th ANNIVERSARY** of providing local news coverage on the mid-Peninsula, we recognize the importance of the San Mateo Library and its Hillsdale and Marina branches as gathering places for information and community.

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**Thank you
for your continued
support.**

Outreach



Outreach is an integral part of San Mateo Public Library's services to the community. SMPL endeavors to promote programs and services and seeks ways to improve offerings by partnering with other City departments, local businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations. Staff from each Library Division participates in some type of outreach, engaging with all ages and demographic groups within the City of San Mateo.

In 2023-24:

3063
Visitors to Library
table/booths at outreach events

1464
Free books distributed

25
General outreach events beyond regularly
scheduled activities or programs

Future Outreach Goals:

1. Build more community partnerships
2. Expand list of regular outreach events/destinations
3. Purchase and customize new outreach vehicle
4. Seek methods to increase community engagement and gathering input and ideas from the public





San Mateo Celebrates!

A National Library Week Festival

Every April during National Library Week we collaborate with partners—performers, the City, Parks & Rec, local organizations, and businesses of all sizes—to host a range of events in a variety of spaces that celebrate programs the Library is loved for.

Thank you to our 2024 sponsors:

Presenter: Sares Regis Community Foundation

Celebrators: The Bohannon Foundation, City Arts of San Mateo, Concar Enterprises, San Mateo Daily Journal, SMSportz

Community Champions: Baywood Neighborhood Association, BODYROK Peninsula, Borel Estate Company, The Community Photobooth, Kaiser Permanente, Motion Arts Center, The Peninsula Regent, Prometheus, Recology, Safeway, Str8jacket

Enjoy a recap of 2024's festival on the next few pages!



¡San Mateo Juega!

Grammy-award winning childrens' duo
123Andrés delights the audience at
Martin Luther King Jr. Community
Center in North Central



Festival in the Library



Above: An all-age favorite, **DRUMMM Rhythmic Events** gives patrons permission to get loud in the Book Bubble!

Below: A community ukulele jam led by **Ukulenny** takes place in the Friends of the Library bookstore. Fun fact: Ukuleles are one of several items patrons can borrow from the Tech Lending Library.

Above: Kids enjoy **Steve the Magician's Oak Room** performance.

Right: US Representative Kevin Mullin and CA Assembly-member Diane Papan read for Storytime. Also in photo: Danielle Cwirko-Godycki, Nicole Fernandez, and SM Deputy Mayor Rob Newsom.



Left: SM City Manager Alex Khojikian reads his favorite title from childhood. His mother, in the audience with her granddaughters, smiles when Alex shares the dog-eared book in his hands is the actual copy he grew up reading.



Photos: Robert Dahut

Festival in the Library



Photo: Madeline Yung | The Community Photobooth

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's tour returns to the Oak Room with 'As You Like It.'



Photo: Madeline Yung | The Community Photobooth

"Best performance we have ever seen in the Oak Room and over the years we sure have been to plenty of them."



Photo: Robert Dahut

Above: Tiffany Austin gifts the audience with her rendition of Gershwin's compositions.

This year we partnered with locally-headquartered, globally-broadcasted radio station KCSM Jazz 91 to pay homage to Gershwin on the 100th year anniversary of *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Left: KCSM Station Manager Dr. Robert Franklin talks about honoring artistic excellence and public empowerment in music and education.



Photo: Robert Dahut

Night At The Library



San Mateo Seeks Scavenger Hunt

This year we debuted a scavenger hunt that was suitable for kids, adults, or families working together. It invited guests to visit the branch libraries, explore the main branch, say hello to a librarian, and learn something new! Enjoy a snippet of the larger hunt, which we bring back next National Library Week!



Main

55 W 3rd Ave, San Mateo, CA 94402

1. What is the name of the lion who lives in the children's section?
2. What type of molecule decorates the walls of the Biotechnology Learning Center?
3. How many seed packets can a household "check out" from the seed library in one visit?

Hillsdale

205 W Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo, CA 94403

1. What species of tree is dedicated to Trish Kaspar?
2. How many "express" computers are available for public use in the library?
3. What colors are the plastic toy bins in the children's section?

Marina

1530 Susan Ct, San Mateo, CA 94403

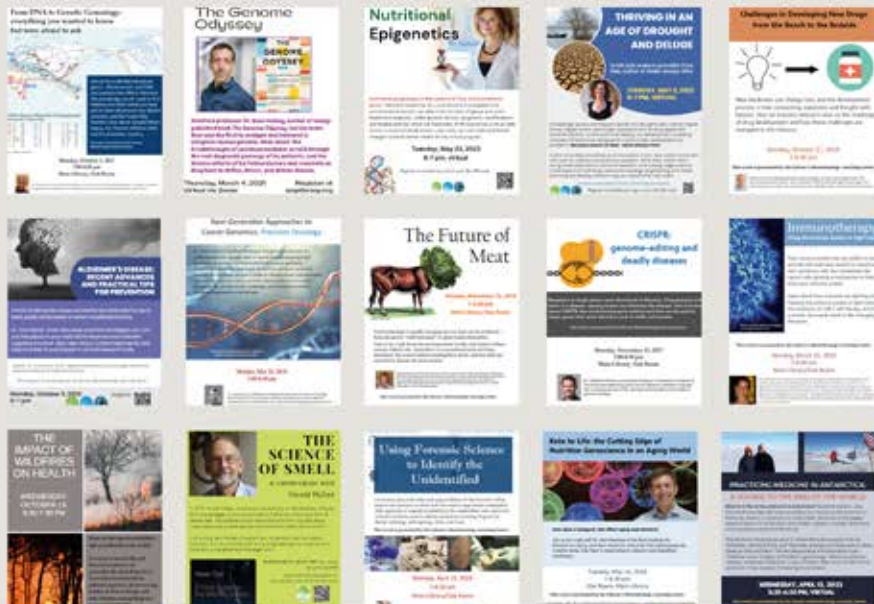
1. How many hanging light fixtures are there in the children's section?
2. Name one item available in the San Mateo County Energy Watch energy and water-saving toolkit.
3. Approximately how many parks will a Library State Parks Pass let you visit?

San Mateo Chats

**'the science
behind living
better longer'
with buck
institute's sid
madhavan**

"Six of us came for Sidharth's talk. We enjoyed the presentation and the thought-provoking discussion afterwards at the Library and on the walk home. We are inspired to exercise more...More Library science chats!"

THE SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS A SERIES OF
BIOTECH TALKS CURATED BY LIBRARIAN MICHELLE BAUTE.



SMPLF would like to thank:



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San Mateo
Public Library
Foundation

Support the San Mateo Public Library Today!

Why Give?

Because **A Healthy Library = A Healthy Community.**

Funds raised by the San Mateo Public Library Foundation enable the rich programming that helps our community thrive—programming that would not be possible with public funding alone.

Your Contribution Matters

A gift to the San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF) advances children and teens programs, literacy programs, job seekers programs, the tech lending library, e-resources, cultural programming, and capital projects.

How to Donate?

Donating to SMPLF is easy. You can make a contribution with the QR Code on the page, online through our website, by mail, or in person at our Foundation office. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Leadership Circle

Our Leadership Circle is comprised of donors who give \$1000 or more in our fiscal year. More information is available at smlibraryfoundation.org/leadership-circle



DONATE NOW

Thank you!

We host events
throughout the year and
would love to see you at
some of them!



Left: The Telegraph Quartet leads the Young Chamber Musicians' Moltres Quartet in a Masterclass for 'String Soiree'



*Right: Young Professionals gather for 'Unlock Your Dream Career' as Steve Hernandez, author of *The Job Search Manifesto*, shows how to use AI in resume writing*

Keep an eye out for our Fall Happy Hour!
5:30pm | September 26, 2024
Oak Room, Main Library