libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing this mission. No civilizations. Of all the institutions that purport to do this, free Access to knowledge is superb, the supreme act of truly great tuition is charged, no oath sworn, no visa demanded.

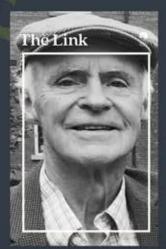
-Toni Morrison

www.smplf.org





Dedication



Donald Mackay Hill III (1936-2023)

Donald MacKay Hill III, who devoted his life to advancing and innovating public education, supporting his beloved family, and learning about the world, passed away at the age of 86 on May 7, 2023 at his home in Cloverdale, California.

Don grew up in Newton, Massachusetts, where according to his high school yearbook his fondest memories were "Dates with AD" (his future wife, Ann Dedrick). Don graduated from Wesleyan University, attended Harvard Law School, and received his Masters from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

He launched his career in education as Chair of the Aragon High School Social Studies Department in San Mateo, California. In 1988, he left Aragon to lead the Professional Development Center at the Stanford School of Education. At Stanford, he became a pioneer in the field of service learning. In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded the Alec Dickson Servant Leader Award by the National Youth Leadership Council. For more than 30 years, Don led the Stanford Summer Economics Institute to strengthen the teaching of economics in secondary education, and continued to advise the program until his final days. Don's board service included the San Mateo City School District, Pacific School of Religion, International Center for Service Learning, and San Mateo City Library.

Don was a Board Member of the San Mateo Public Library Foundation, and more recently served as a Library Trustee before relocating to Cloverdale.

He was a kind and humble champion of public education and our Library. He will be missed.



IN THIS ISSUE | SUMMER 2023

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- Archives: 1906 City Librarian Journal Entry

The Link

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

On the cover: SMPL space modification rendering by architectural firm EHDD. | July 2018



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE 2022-2023

The San Mateo Public Library Foundation Leadership Circle reflects donor family contributions of \$1000 or more

Members of the Leadership Circle enjoy the following benefits:

- · Recognition on our website and other publications
- Invitation to VIP events, such as quest speaker receptions
- Two tickets to Night at the Library

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How do you do Library?

This has been a year of reimagining for the San Mateo Public Library Foundation. From a week-long festival celebrating National Library Week to this sleek zine we are revamping how we convey our message: the San Mateo Public Library is ever-evolving and ever-relevant to our lives.

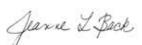
The Library's physical environment is at the heart of this continuous transformation. By thoughtfully adapting spaces and integrating the latest technologies to meet the ever-changing demands of our 21st-century community, the Library continues to be a thriving hub for learning, collaboration, and civic life.

Our job at the SMPLF is to cultivate a community of Library advocates and donors. If you're holding this you probably share our enthusiasm for the Library. Your unwavering commitment to the Foundation and its mission has been instrumental in our sustained success. We are so grateful for you, and as we evolve and adapt our work to better raise community awareness about and appreciation for the Library, we look forward to sharing this exciting journey with you.

To this end, mark your calendars for National Library Week: April 7-13 2024; we are already planning our second San Mateo Celebrates! festival. Be part of our Instagram and Facebook families which is how to stay in the loop of our plans and initiatives for the year ahead.

In the meantime, we invite you to immerse yourself in the vibrant cultural mosaic of our community, as embodied by the San Mateo Public Library and vividly depicted by Sarah Meier-Heredia within the pages of this publication.

In gratitude, Jeanne Back and Alexandra Gillen Co-Presidents, San Mateo Public Library Foundation (SMPLF)









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*We would like to thank Anne Bernard and Ann Girard for their service to the San Mateo Public Library and its Foundation



outreach programs

Special Grants

\$35.9K

Memorial Foundation for Literacy are directed

literacy programs, respectively.

toward the Library's Business Resource Center and



We only know when an era has ended, it seems, in hindsight. But sometimes we can sense what feels like the turning of a page in history, in culture, in technology, and our social lives. Now feels like such a time. Over the past several years we've experienced a pandemic, social upheavals, deep political divisions, what feels like an acceleration of climate change, and the emergence of a revolutionary technology called artificial intelligence. Just to highlight one example, the COVID-19 experience seems to have altered the ways in which people work, shop, and socialize for the foreseeable future. It is challenging downtowns and public transportation systems serving major metropolitan areas to adapt to new realities or else. When it comes to major challenges, there seem to be just two common realistic responses: 1) To hesitantly postpone making necessary decisions until there is no choice left but to react to circumstances or 2) To proactively respond by seeing the challenge as an opportunity for innovation and improvement. I consider myself to be a non-naïve optimist and, therefore, choose the latter approach.

With what feels like fortuitous timing 2023 marks the completion of the five-year cycle covered by SMPL's last strategic plan. The last plan identified five key areas of focus that we used as guides for the allocation of resources. These were life-long learning, technology, user experience (UX), staff development, and marketing/outreach. Having these priorities guided us well and we made substantial progress in every area we focused on. Now it's time to chart a course for how SMPL will provide vital tools and services to help our patrons navigate and thrive in a new era.

Answering the vital question of where to focus our resources for the next several years will require several months of exploration involving input from everyone who loves this library.

As we prepare to embark on this journey, I want to share a little history of how we got here as we consider the possibilities of where we could go next:

- The first known library belonged to an Assyrian King some 3000 years ago, it was a very private possession.
- By the time the great library of Alexandria, Egypt was accidentally torched by Julius Caesar in 48 BC, it was considered the cultural crown jewel of the civilized world. It was accessible only by scholars with the direct patronage of the ruling Ptolemy dynasty.
- A millennia later, in 1731 Benjamin Franklin and members of Junto established America's first library in Philadelphia. One had to be invited and pay a subscription to access its resources.
- In 1790 America introduced the very first free public library in Massachusetts. Still, it would be about 175 years later before all Americans were welcomed inside public libraries.
- The 20th century saw the idea of public libraries grow a bit stale, though still valued, before experiencing a remarkable renewal of relevance in early 21st century.

Two themes announce themselves in this long journey: 1)
Access to knowledge and culture went from being an
extremely exclusive privilege to a democratic right for all 2)
Public libraries have shown a remarkable talent for
adaptation and renewal, while maintaining their core
values. They have gone from resisting becoming
"community centers" to embracing the role of being
"centers of community".

The recent SMPLF's "San Mateo Celebrates" Arts and Culture Celebration showcased the eclectic mélange of cultural offerings that make SMPL such a beloved community treasure by taking library programs beyond our walls. It was just a hint of what's truly possible for us. As we begin planning our next exciting phase of evolution, we again embrace the opportunity to reimagine possibilities of what a library can be. I invite you to play an essential role conceiving a modern library that not only meets its community's present needs but one that also confidently looks ahead, guided by an inspiring vision of what we can do for our community with a mature vision and a child's sense of wonder.

- James Moore, City Librarian

Roots & Shoots

Two new offerings this year showcase how the San Mateo Public Library is deepening and widening service to the community.

San Mateo County Genealogical Society

We are proud to now share space with the San Mateo County Genealogical Society, who supports the study of family history on the San Francisco peninsula and beyond. They do this through their collections, educational programs, and research services, most of which are now largely accessible from the 2nd floor of the Main Library.

New Seed Bank at the Main Library

San Mateo Public Library now has a Seed Library that offers free vegetable, herb, and California native flower seeds to San Mateo and Hillsborough residents. Located in our seed cabinet on the 2nd floor at the Main Library, patrons are invited to take one packet per seed type, with a maximum of five total packets per visit. Marina and Hillsdale branches have mini-seed libraries as well.

This project was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.





In the photo above: George collects business cards and names from his fans to send them autographs because he could not write them in person.



BANNED BOOKS

Excerpts from Barack Obama's July 17, 2023 letter to our nation's librarians.

Today, some of the books that shaped my life - and the lives of so many others - are being challenged by people who disagree with certain ideas or perspectives. It's no coincidence that these "banned books" are often written by or feature people of color, indigenous people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community - though there have also been unfortunate instances in which books by conservative authors or books containing "triggering" words or scenes have been targets for removal. Either way, the impulse seems to be to silence, rather than engage, rebut, learn from or seek to understand views that don't fit our own.

Nobody understands that more than you, our nation's librarians. In a very real sense, you're on the front lines - fighting every day to make the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas available to everyone. Your dedication and professional expertise allow us to freely read and consider information and ideas, and decide for ourselves which ones we agree with.

That's why I want to take a moment to thank all of you for the work you do every day - work that is helping us understand each other and embrace our shared humanity.

Read full letter at barackobama.medium.com



The American Library Association documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago.



For more details visit ala.org/advocacy/bbooks



San Mateo Public Library Dahlia Show, 1913



How Do You Do Library?

Bookworms seeking solace in the pages of timeless classics. Young story time goers eagerly anticipating what happens "when you give a mouse a cookie."

Tech-savvy innovators accessing cutting-edge resources and meeting spaces.

At the heart of every San Mateo Public Library journey lies the notion that each visitor's experience is distinctive. Unique.

Indeed, the ways to "do library" are as wide-ranging and ever-evolving as the needs, passions, and curiosities of our individual community members. The Library's ability to adapt to these changing requirements is vital in ensuring it remains a dynamic hub of connection, collaboration, and enrichment for generations to come. Essential to this are innovative physical spaces that will support our collective 21st century aspirations and desires.



So, what will this look like?

Interactive learning zones? Soundproof study pods?
Outdoor rooms? Maker spaces?

It depends. On you. And how you want to do Library.



"My favorite story to tell is about three friends that walked into 3Bees twenty-one years ago.
Two of them are still with us, making a habit of it. I am so grateful."

—Rafat Haddad, Founder & Owner



Rafat at the downtown coffee shop he named for its location on 3rd Avenue & B Street



224 E Third Ave San Mateo, CA Third Floor San Mateo Public Library 55 West Third Ave

3 BEES COFFEE

Local History



Dr. James L. Hutchinson

On April 23rd 2023 we celebrated the life of Dr. James Hutchinson, our County's first African-American doctor and Hillsborough's first African-American resident. Community members gathered at Central Park to listen to City Librarian James Moore in dialogue with Henry Hutchinson about the late Doctor's life.

Here are some photos from Dr. Hutchinson's archive, which has been loaned to the San Mateo Pulblic Library. We hope to make the collection something the public can visit in the future.





"Taken the year he left Shreveport"

Born and raised in Shreveport, LA, James Hutchinson knew from a young age he wanted more from life. In this photo his adventures are about to begin.



This article inspired a woman by the name of Leda Beare to reach out to Dr. Hutchinson. She was Jewish and understood the difficulties associated with race. While dining in her Hillsborough home she said she wanted to help Dr. Hutchinson financially, to get an office of his own. When he left, Dr. Hutchinson said he was shaking while holding the check he was given and "drove like the wind" to the bank.





As a boy James excelled in school and loved to read but it was the war that really changed his life. He was made a houseboy instead of serving his country. His sergeant's wife found him reading one day and asked him what he wanted out of life. He told her he really wanted to become a medical doctor. Evidently, she convinced her husband to transfer him into being a medic.



James' Aunt Carolyn suggested young James come to California, which is where he met Evelyn Ribbs. The young couple married in Reno then moved to San Mateo shortly after.



After receiving the assistance of Leda Beare, the Hutchinsons purchased the old white Victorian on what was called in their days 'Doctor's Row'. Dr. Hutchinson's office was on the ground floor and they lived upstairs. Years later his patient Ricky Dowick sketched the building as a gift. It was Dr. Hutchinson's official office stationary.





THE FOUNDATION





30th Anniversary

The San Mateo Public Library
Foundation was founded in 1994 with the
intention of raising funds to construct the
Main Branch on 3rd Avenue.

Volunteer with us! info@smplf.org

Anniversary th

In 1899, the City voted to levy a tax for the support of a free Library. A 4,000 volume collection was purchased and the San Mateo Public Library was opened to the public on October 16. Teen Innovation

THE COMMUNITY PHOTOBOOTH

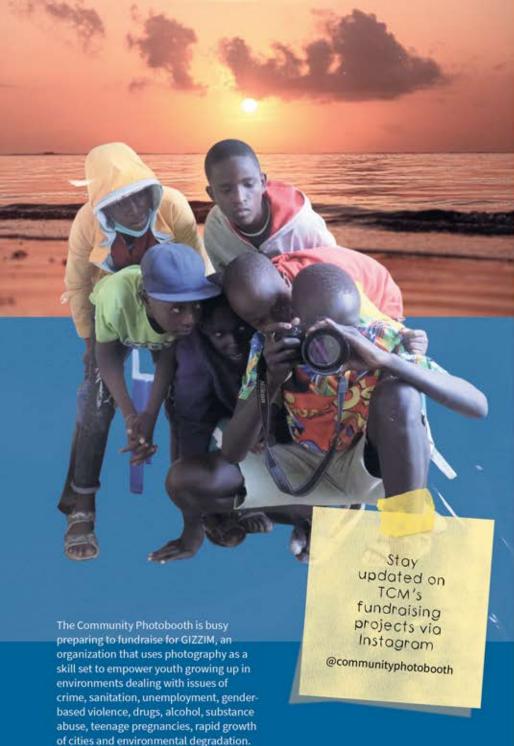
Local high schooler Charlotte Rosario started The Community Photobooth as a means of connecting with her neighbors, fundraising for community causes by providing family photoshoots, and putting the money earned back into the community through local organizations, small businesses, community educational events, and programs.

"During quarantine of 2020, with my camera dangling around my neck, I urged my mother to drive me from corner to corner of the Bay Area. Despite only being an amateur photographer, I shimmied my way into the action of lionhearted protests, election voting centers, and community volunteer events to not only show my support for the causes but to capture it all in photos. I craved the thrill of exploration, photographing hidden gems, and being amongst other people in my community who felt the same passion as I did for these issues."

"Photography can allow us to raise awareness, spread empathy, and make change like never before. Photography can bring us together. And when we come together, it's clear that we can do great things. At The Community Photobooth, we are a community helping the community."

Charlotte Rosario, Founder of The Community Photobooth





Teen Philanthrophotographers.

Irene Chen, President of The Community Photobooth, weighs in on community impact, both locally and globally.

The Link: Talk to us about the event you photographed for StarVista.

Irene: As a high schooler, I'd say mental health is one of the most important things school is meant to teach us. In addition to the academia and preparation for higher education, high school is also a time of learning how to function as a part of larger society, and a huge part of that is learning to be conscious of your own needs as it applies to mental health. Having the opportunity to contribute to the StarVista's Multiplying Good Event was huge, just being able to witness the community come together in support of such an important topic was incredible. I distinctly remember seeing several families with young children present at this event, and it makes me so hopeful to know that mental health is becoming a more talked about, and even comfortable topic.





The Link: While there seems to be a shared spirit and respect for the power of the camera as a tool for lasting positive change, what is a distinct difference between The Community Photobooth and GIZZIM?

Irene: There is a huge difference in resources; here in San Mateo, most of our photographers have their own equipment—or a means of easy access—whereas it isn't the same case for Gizzim's Team. Something that stood out to me the most during our first interaction was when Justus (GIZZIM Founder) mentioned their need to pay rent on the shipping container they were using as their classroom (in addition for being their photography headquarters, it serves as a safe space for the students to access the internet, opening up countless other opportunities). Throughout the duration of this fundraiser, we hope to raise over \$10,000, providing the funds to pay rent for several months, as well as purchase more camera equipment.







San Mateo Celebrates!

A Citywide Culture & Community Festival

If you were there, perhaps you can attest that National Library Week 2023 was full of surprises for the City of San Mateo.

The inaugural year of San Mateo Celebrates! A Citywide Culture & Community Festival sprinkled a thought-sparking panel discussion here and a flash-mob there; paired local storytelling with world-class jazz live on stage at Central Park; organized over a dozen civic and community leaders to read children's books at the Farmers' Market; and had the Main Library Branch open after hours with thoughtfully prepared food, drink, and musical performances for Night at the Library. And that's only about the half of what transpired between April 23-29, 2023.

Sponsorships from local businesses made 80% of San Mateo Celebrates programs free. Thank you to everyone that brought their talent, energy, and resources to make this year's National Library Week a success! We're so fortunate that the Library attracts such wonderful people and hope that this festival can be something this community is proud of for years to come.

Flip the page to see an overview of our week by the numbers, then proceed to enjoy a glimpse of the series of events that made up the first year of San Mateo Celebrates!

²/c

Concar Enterprises, Inc.

Baywood Neighborhood Association

3Bees Coffee | D'Elia Construction | Peninsula Family Service | Recology | BOHANNON









San Mateo Celebrates!

THANK YOU!

Chroniclers Mary L. Bianco, Ann & Daniel Girard, The Koeppen Gillen Family | Narrators Jeanne and Greg Back | Recorders Tina and Paul Crisci, Sascha & Mimi Mornell, The Nora Family Foundation | Raconteurs Marie Chuang, Diane Ervin & Bjorn Ervell | Storytellers Tom Ames, Gloria Brown, Bill Casey, Pam Casey, Donna Divodi, Marni & Rich Gerber, Bill & Susan Graham, Keren & Jeffrey Kotowitz, Sunil & Laura Pandya, Ann Rarden, Rada Zarandian & Mehdi Mohtashemi





San Mateo Remembers

Above: City Librarian James Moore and Henry Hutchinson in dialogue about the legacy of Dr. James Hutchinson at Central Park

Left: World-class jazz artists Marcus Shelby, Cyrus Chestnut, Ashlin Parker, and Carl Allen join singer Tiffany Austin on stage for our National Library Week opening event

San Mateo Celebrates!



Son Moteo Juego Guests drove from as far as San Luis Obispo to join *123Andrés* in the Oak Room!



San Morteo Shakes San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's rendition of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was a crowd favorite



San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, Nancy McGee, Genentech Senior Principal Scientist Jena Giltnane, and Professor Bryan Brown, Stanford Graduate School of Education take turns sharing their thoughts on how consequential learning how to talk to Al may be for future generations



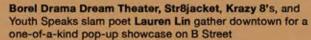
Julie Lythcott-Haims moderates

San Mateo Celebrates!

San Mateo Chats



San Mateo Slams







San Mateo Parties: Night at the Library

Pictured above: Molly Langr and her harp set the tone for our very first Night at the Library, while Library supporters enjoy the Main Branch after hours



San Mateo Celebrates!



San Mateo Reads

Assemblymember Diane
Papan is one of 16 civic
leaders that read children's
books at the Farmers'
Market; Hillsborough Mayor
Christine Krolik uses her
theatre training to bring
stories to life for the crowd

San Mateo Enchants

Joe Leon brings decades of puppet experience to Hillsdale and Marina branches







By joining SMPLF's growing donor family, you will play a direct role in supporting the Library, enhancing its impact on our community and ensuring its long-term vitality.

A gift to SMPLF advances children and teen programs, literacy programs, job seekers programs, the tech lending library, cultural programming, and capital projects.



DONATE NOW





Leadership Circle VIP Events

Above: Bohannon Childrens' Author Program (left); Jelani Cobb reception (right)
Below: Night at the Library (left), Al panel (right)



<u>o</u>

THE LEGACY FUND

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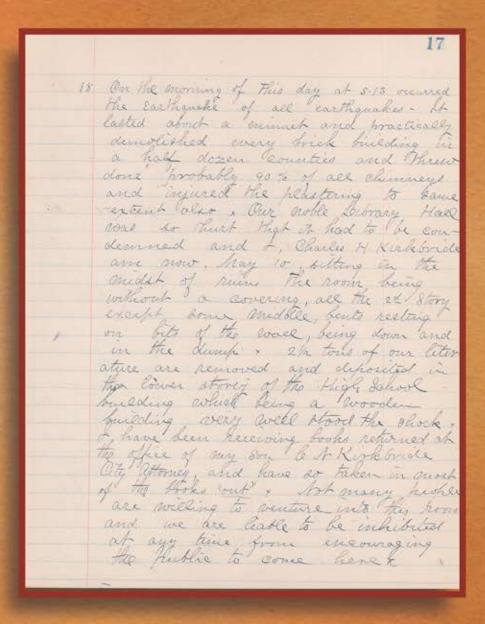
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Stephanie Zheng & Chris Cooper

From the Archives of the San Mateo Public Library



An entry from the San Mateo City Librarian's journal in the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake.



THE 16TH ANNUAL
"STROKE OF GENIUS"
PRO-AM TOURNAMENT



10 - 16 - 2023

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