



Author Talk With Dick Evans and Kathy Chin Leong
Thursday, January 14 at 6:00 PM

Dear Community,

Did you know that San Francisco's Chinatown is the oldest Chinatown in the United States? From the iconic sights and notable sounds to the delicious tastes only found within, San Francisco's Chinatown has a rich history dating back to the 1850s.

Join us on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6:00 PM as we invite photographer Dick Evans and journalist Kathy Chin Leong for a special [virtual author event](#) as part of our [Between the Lines](#) series. They will discuss their collaborative exploration of *San Francisco's Chinatown*, highlighting its history, celebrations, and residents with informative stories, interviews, and striking photography.

Come learn about a historic neighborhood and vibrant culture that makes San Francisco home to one of the best Chinatowns in the world. Read our [blog](#) to find out more information, explore related titles, or to [register](#) in advance for the event.

[Explore San Francisco's Chinatown](#)



Let's Achieve Those New Year's Resolutions

Whether your resolution is to read more, learn a new skill or focus on improving your overall health and well-being, we're here to help. Our [latest blog](#) offers tips and online resources that will get you one step closer to meeting your goals. If your resolution includes reading more, we recommend you start with our [Best of 2020: Staff Picks](#) list that highlights the content we couldn't get enough of last year.

[Read More](#)



Let Nature Inspire Your Creative Writing

Join us on Monday, Jan. 11 at 7:00 PM for [Using Nature as Writing Inspiration](#) as we guide you through creative writing exercises that center on natural landscapes, wildlife and dynamic ecosystems. This online workshop will allow you to commune with nature in a shared space that will bring nature lovers and creative writers together in a casual forum. The event is intended for adults but is suitable for all ages with adult supervision.

[Register Now](#)



Last Chance to Take the Winter Challenge

It's the last week of the [Winter Challenge](#)! We've already seen some marvelous pictures of completed reading logs, book lists, and hand-drawn artwork. It's not too late to participate and submit your own Winter Challenge log or [online finisher form](#) for a chance to win a prize. Check out our final Winter Challenge [virtual events](#), read a book, or try a new activity for more winter fun. All ages are invited to participate until the challenge ends on Monday, Jan. 11.

[Take the Winter Challenge](#)



Financial Planning Using Online Resources

Are you looking to learn more about financial planning in 2021? Our upcoming [Tech Café](#) event on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 4:00 PM might be just what you're looking for! During this virtual event, we will go over two of our online resources, [Morningstar Investment Research Center](#) and [Weiss Financial Ratings Series](#), and teach you how to utilize them to look up stocks, learn financial basics, find ratings on banks and credit unions, and much more.

[Register Now](#)

Explore More

Explore, learn, and connect at our [virtual library programs](#)! You might also be interested in these exciting, upcoming events.

Interactive Musical Storytime With Angela and Ashley

Friday, Jan. 8 • 10:30 AM

Missing live storytime at the library? Join Ashley and Angela to hear your favorite songs and stories from the comfort of your own home in this lively event for all ages.

Labor Market Information: Find Your Next Job

Tuesday, Jan. 12 • 10:00 AM

This workshop will provide job seekers the basics of how to effectively use Labor Market Information to make accurate decisions on how to find a job and enhance their career.

Interactive Bilingual Storytime With Kelly and Kenny | Hora de Cuentos

Bilingüe Con Kelly y Kenny

Tuesday, Jan. 12 • 3:30 PM | *Martes 12 de enero • 3:30 PM*

Join Kelly and Kenny for a family friendly event of stories and songs played on the guitar in English and Spanish. *Únete a Kelly y Kenny en un evento familiar de cuentos y canciones tocadas con la guitarra en inglés y español.*

Critter Tales (Formerly Paws for Tales)

Tuesday, Jan. 12 • 6:30 PM

Wednesday, Jan. 13 • 4:00 PM

Do you have a reluctant reader—or one that needs some extra practice? Sign them up to have their own online read-aloud session with a therapy animal.

Book, Please! Young Adult Fantasy

Wednesday, Jan. 13 • 5:00 PM

Teens and tweens are invited to join Jenna and Gwyneth as they discuss fantasy book titles you shouldn't miss and listen to recommendations from participants.

How to Apply for California State Jobs

Thursday, Jan. 14 • 10:00 AM

Learn how to jump start your career and make a difference by working for the State of California.

[Explore All Events](#)

Community Picks

Our Community Picks' titles are available digitally through [online resources](#) or in print through [Curbside Services](#).



Children's Fiction: *All Around Us* by Xelena González

Finding circles everywhere, a grandfather and his granddaughter meditate on the cycles of life and nature. This picture book includes gorgeous artwork from illustrator Adriana Garcia and a beautiful story by journalist, librarian and storyteller Xelena González.

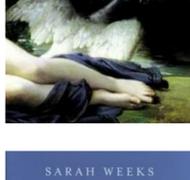
Kelly, East Palo Alto Library



Young Adult Fiction: *The Beast Player* by Nahoko Uehashi

Elin, the daughter of a talented beast doctor, is alone and far from home after a series of events that led to her mother being sentenced to death. Elin finds that she can develop special relationships with magical beasts. When her skill is discovered, she is thrust into the middle of a political power struggle. Translated from Japanese and a Printz Honor Book in 2020. Available on [OverDrive](#).

Julie, Half Moon Bay Library



Adult Fiction: *The Swan Thieves* by Elizabeth Kostova

A solitary psychiatrist takes on a patient who has attacked a painting in the National Gallery of Art and embarks on a life-changing journey to unravel the cause. Kostova's beautifully written and absorbing novel explores impressionism, love, obsession and the power of art.

Laurie, San Carlos Library Volunteer



Children's Fiction: *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks

This title was one of my favorite juvenile fiction pieces as a middle schooler. The story follows 12-year-old Heidi as she sets out to discover the truth about her family and background. It's a touching coming-of-age story that allows young readers to learn about untraditional families and sympathize with the pre-adolescent struggles of Heidi. Available on [OverDrive](#).

Alejandra, Pacifica Libraries



Streaming: *The Secret of Kells*

This not-quite-historically-accurate tale of one of the most famous illuminated manuscripts of Ireland's Middle Ages is told through beautifully stylized animation inspired by the Book of Kells. This is a story full of magic and the strength of artistic spirit in the face of danger and discouragement. Heads up, it contains some depictions of violence. Available on [Kanopy](#).

Alice, Portola Valley and Woodside Libraries

Make sure to [follow our blogs](#) for updates on new events, resources, and services.



Stay connected with our family of libraries!

San Mateo County Libraries

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SANCHEZ | PACIFICA SHARP PARK | PORTOLA VALLEY | SAN CARLOS | WOODSIDE | BOOKMOBILE

Open for Exploration™

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