



Dear Community,

As we welcome the first woman of color to be elected as Vice President of the United States, we want to take this time to celebrate our diverse communities as well as the Black and African American people and events in history that continue to inspire us all year-round.

Since the 1970s, **Black History Month** has been observed in the month of February in the United States, marking a time to recognize and celebrate the innumerable achievements, contributions, and experiences of Black and African American people. Following a year in which race and racial justice rose to the forefront of national conversations, it's clear that these celebrations and dialogues shouldn't be limited to just 28 days in February. While we have some special virtual programs this month, we're committed to incorporating voices and perspectives from our diverse communities year-round in our programs and materials.

You're invited to celebrate with us at San Mateo County Libraries as we continue to amplify the history, experiences, and voices of Black and African American people. Read our [blog](#) for more information about Black History Month [virtual programs](#), [reading lists](#), and other online celebrations and resources.

[Learn More](#)



Susie Yang's *White Ivy* Author Talk

Susie Yang's debut novel *White Ivy* is a *New York Times* bestseller and is in development as a *Netflix* series on *Netflix*. Want to hear Yang discuss her writing process, influences and themes that made *White Ivy* so electrifying? Join our next [virtual author talk](#) with Yang on Monday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 PM.

A limited number of print copies of *White Ivy* will be given away to lucky readers during [Curbside Services](#) at all 12 of our locations on Friday, Jan. 29 and Saturday, Jan. 30. The book is also available for purchase through the [Foundation for San Mateo County Libraries](#) with proceeds benefiting the Foundation.

[Register Now](#)



Protect Yourself From Vaccine Scams

With all the information going around about the new COVID-19 vaccines, it can be hard to tell what information is accurate and reliable. Join us virtually on [Thursday, Feb. 4 at 2:00 PM](#) to learn how to assess the validity of emails and social media posts, and how to protect yourself from scams that could put you at risk.

[Register Now](#)



Ignite Your Reading Passion With Book Clubs

From classics to this year's best sellers, read some of the best titles in a wide array of genres and share engaging discussions with reading enthusiasts at our [virtual book clubs](#). We have more than a dozen book clubs to choose from, so you are sure to find your preferred genre and audience. Here are a few upcoming clubs for adults:

- The [Hoopla Book Club](#) will meet on Monday, Feb. 8 at 4:00 PM to discuss *The Court Dancer* by Kyung-sook Shin.
- The [Adult Book Club](#) is meeting Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.
- The [Walk and Talk Book Club](#) will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 10:00 AM to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover.

[Explore Book Clubs](#)



Foraging for Fungi in Our Forests

When you're out hiking in the beautiful parks of San Mateo County, do you see mushrooms and wonder how you could safely harvest or eat them? Join us on [Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 5:00 PM](#) to learn the answers to those questions! At this free online event, Christian Schwarz, Santa Cruz-based naturalist and author of *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast*, will share tips on identifying, foraging, and cooking wild mushrooms of California.

[Register Now](#)

Explore More

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

Interactive Storytime

Friday, Jan. 29 • 10:30 AM

You're invited to an all-ages interactive storytime! Join us virtually to bring storytime to your home.

Craft Circle: Get Organized for the New Year

Friday, Jan. 29 • 6:00 PM

Join us and connect with other crafters to share resources and get inspired! This month we'll discuss strategies for keeping our craft spaces organized.

ESL Book Club

Monday, Feb. 1 • 2:00 PM

Let's read books and learn English at the same time. Join other language learners in a virtual meeting where we read together and discuss the text.

Interactive Musical Storytime With Angela and Ashley

Tuesday, Feb. 2 • 3:30 PM

Missing live storytimes at the library? Join Ashley and Angela for the online version of their popular Musical Storytime.

The Winning Resume

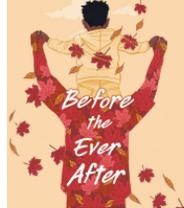
Tuesday, Feb. 2 • 9:00 AM

Learn more about the vital steps you can take to make your resume top notch at our next [career development event](#). After attending this program, you'll be eligible to sign up for one-on-one resume help.

[Explore All Events](#)

Community Picks

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



Children's Fiction: *Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson

This story is about a boy whose friends help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career. The father's health issues are portrayed realistically and his son's family and health issues show how one can be compassionate even in the face of devastating news and an uncertain future.

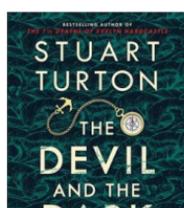
Jessica, Pacifica Libraries



Young Adult Fiction: *These Witches Don't Burn* by Isabel Sterling

This book and its sequel (*This Coven Won't Break*) are contemporary witch stories that deal not only with magic, adventures, and coven politics, but also messy and realistic relationships and issues of identity, grief, and trauma.

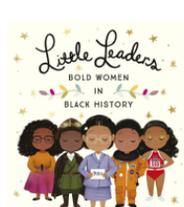
Jenna, Foster City Library



Adult Fiction: *The Devil and the Dark Water* by Stuart Turton

This historical mystery follows a famous detective's bodyguard as he uncovers who, or what, is behind a series of ominous incidents aboard a voyage to Amsterdam.

Gabriela, Millbrae Library



Children's Non-Fiction: *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison

This children's book is filled with 40 individual stories about Black women who have done amazing things to advance society. From poet Maya Angelou, to activist Audre Lorde, to chemist Alice Ball, to abolitionist Sojourner Truth, this book contains short and illustrated biographies of role models who are celebrated around the world.

Kenny, East Palo Alto Library



Movie Streaming: *Chicken People*

This film follows the struggles and triumphs of both humans and their chickens while on the road to compete at the Ohio National Poultry Show, considered the Westminster of chickens. Follow along for a funny but uplifting look at the world of show chickens. Available on [Hoopla](#).

Amy, Woodside Library

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

ATHERTON | BELMONT | BRISBANE | EAST PALO ALTO | FOSTER CITY | HALF MOON BAY | MILLBRAE | PACIFICA
SANCHEZ | PACIFICA SHARP PARK | PORTOLA VALLEY | SAN CARLOS | WOODSIDE | BOOKMOBILE

Open for Exploration™

[smcl.org](#)

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