



Library Director's Report

APRIL 2025

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

- The Friends of the Library Book Sale on April 5 and 6 made \$2,138 to support library programs and services. At the April 8 quarterly Friends meeting, President Armando Altamirano thanked all the dedicated Friends volunteers, some of whom helped out over the four days that included setup, sale and takedown. At this Friends meeting, members generously approved \$4,924.40 in funding for a variety of programs, crafts and makerspace supplies and staff appreciation.

- Staff is currently planning programs for AAPI – Asian American and Pacific Islander Month. One of our highlights is an encore screening of *Nurse Unseen*, a documentary film which explores the little-known history and humanity of the unsung Filipino nurses who risked their lives on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic while facing a resurgence of anti-Asian hate in the streets. Last year's screening was standing-room only and we are happy to provide this free screening for community members who were unable to attend last year and those who want to return with friends and family.

- From the California State Library:
 - We thought you would be interested to know that a coalition of attorneys general from 20 states and the District of Columbia filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court, Rhode Island related to federal actions involving IMLS. California is part of the coalition.

 - Here is the [court filing](#). California Attorney General Bonta's press release is here: <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-files-lawsuit-challenging-trump-administration%E2%80%99s-attempt>.

 - Another State joined in the lawsuit as well as the American Library Association.

- The American Library Association has released the top banned books for 2024: <https://www.ala.org/bbooks>

- High demand holds:

	Title	Author	Material Type	System Holds
1	The let them theory : a life-changing tool that millions of people can't stop talking about / Mel Robbins.	Robbins, Mel, 1968	BOOKS	375
2	The wedding people : a novel / Alison Espach.	Espach, Alison, 1984- author	BOOKS	269
3	Careless people : a cautionary tale of power, greed, and lost idealism / Sarah Wynn-Williams.	Wynn-Williams, Sarah, author.	BOOKS	249
4	ANORA [DVD].		DVD	248
5	THE BRUTALIST [videorecording].		BLURAY	201
6	Abundance / Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson.	Klein, Ezra, 1984- author.	BOOKS	161
7	GREAT BIG BEAUTIFUL LIFE / Emily Henry.	Henry, Emily, author.	BOOKS	154
8	The frozen river : a novel / Ariel Lawhon.	Lawhon, Ariel, author.	BOOKS	132
9	Beautiful ugly / Alice Feeney.	Feeney, Alice, author.	BOOKS	127
10	A complete unknown / ; a film by James Mangold ; produced by Fred Berger, James Mangold [and six others]		BLURAY	126
11	SAY YOU'LL REMEMBER ME / Abby Jimenez.	Jimenez, Abby, author.	BOOKS	120
12	Broken country : a novel / Clare Leslie Hall.	Hall, Clare Leslie, author.	BOOKS	116
13	Wicked / written by Winnie Holzman and Dana Fox ; directed by Jon M. Chu.		BLURAY	101
14	The tell : a memoir / Amy Griffin.	Griffin, Amy (Businesswoman), author.	BOOKS	100
15	The 5 types of wealth : a transformative guide to design your dream life / Sahil Bloom.	Bloom, Sahil, author.	BOOKS	92
16	Dream state : a novel / Eric Puchner.	Puchner, Eric, author.	BOOKS	91
17	A real pain / produced by Ewa Puszczyńska, [and five others] ; written and directed by Jesse Eisenberg.		BLURAY	80
18	The substance / directed by Coralie Fargeat.		BLURAY	77
19	Flight risk / produced by Icon, Davis Entertainment Company ; written by Jared Rosenberg ; directed by Mel Gibson ; produced by John Davis, John Fox, Bruce Davey, Mel Gibson.		DVD	77

20	Who is government? : the untold story of public service / edited by Michael Lewis.		BOOKS	76
21	Wild dark shore / Charlotte McConaghy.	McConaghy, Charlotte, author.	BOOKS	73
22	Isola : a novel / Allegra Goodman.	Goodman, Allegra, author.	BOOKS	70
23	MEGALOPOLIS (DVD) [videorecording].		DVD	69
24	Wicked. Part I / directed by Jon M. Chu ; screenplay by Winnie Holzman and Winnie Holzman & Dana Fox ; produced by Marc Platt, David Stone ; a Marc Platt production ; a Jon M. Chu film.		BLURAY	68
25	Nintendo Switch sports.		VIDEO GAMES	67
26	NIGHTSHADE	Connelly, Michael	BOOKS	66
27	Conclave / a film by Edward Berger ; produced by Tessa Ross & Juliette Howell, Michael A. Jackman, Alice Dawson,		BLURAY	66
28	The order / a Chasing Epic Pictures, Riff Raff Entertainment production ; produced by Bryan Haas, Stuart Ford, Justin Kurzel, Jude Law ; screenplay by Zach Baylin ; directed by Justin Kurzel.		DVD	61
29	I'M STILL HERE [DVD].		DVD	60
30	The wild robot / words and pictures by Peter Brown.	Brown, Peter, 1979- author, illustrator.	BOOKS	58

- Top eBook and eAudiobook Checkouts:

	Title	Checkouts
1	Onyx Storm (unabridged)	14
2	The Women: A Novel	14
3	The Women: A Novel (unabridged)	14
4	A Court of Thorns and Roses	9
5	Funny Story (unabridged)	9
6	Fourth Wing	8
7	Funny Story	8
8	The Queen of Sugar Hill: A Novel of Hattie McDaniel	8
9	Mothering Heights	7

10	Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea	7
11	Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones (unabridged)	6
12	Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life (unabridged)	6
13	Good Inside: A Guide to Becoming the Parent You Want to Be (unabridged)	6
14	How to End a Love Story: A Novel	6
15	The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness (unabridged)	6
16	The Covenant of Water	6
17	The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: A Novel	6
18	The Queen of Sugar Hill: A Novel of Hattie McDaniel (unabridged)	6
19	The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck: A Counterintuitive Approach to Living a Good Life (unabridged)	6
20	A Tale of Two Cities (unabridged)	5
21	Dark Matter: A Novel	5
22	Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life	5
23	Eruption	5
24	Eruption (unabridged)	5
25	First Lie Wins (unabridged)	5
26	Invincible (2003), Compendium One: Compendium Vol. 1	5
27	It Ends With Us	5
28	James: A Novel (unabridged)	5
29	Karen's Grandmothers	5

ADULT SERVICES

Digital Literacy & Online Resources

Tech Tuesday classes brought in over 40 attendees. Gmail, password management, language learning online with apps, and breaking down a new app, Notion, to help with organization and wellness. Our new schedule for the upcoming quarter can now be found online and flyers are posted in the library. One class in April will focus on artificial

intelligence and will also serve as additional promotion for an upcoming author talk on April 14th with Vauhini Vara who used AI in her writing:

<https://www.ssf.net/Events/Searches-Book-Talk-and-QA-with-Author-Vauhini-Vara>

Staff are highlighting online resources in the “Did You Know” feature of the Mayor’s newsletter to promote our amazing resources. We hope this will increase awareness and bring new users to our collection.

The Library upgraded our Newsbank subscription to offer international language news publications. We’re excited to provide more newspapers in languages from countries all over the world. <https://www.ssf.net/Departments/Library/Online-Library>

March – Key Stats & Updates

- Programs: **21** total; ~**200** attendees or participants
- Streaming Movies & Music (combined): **927**
 - Hoopla: **139**
 - Kanopy: **788**
- eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines check-outs: **8,998** total
 - eBook and eAudio checkouts (combined Libby & Hoopla): **7,172**
 - Hoopla: **508** (includes comics)
 - Libby: **6,664**
 - EMagazines checkouts: **1,826**

Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

San Mateo County Parks – San Mateo County Parks reached out to libraries late last year to offer programming opportunities for both children and adults. We hosted them in March and heard about the history of San Mateo County coastal parks. The audience was very interested in the history and the wildlife they would find at each park—even offering up their own memories at some of the parks. We hope to work with them in the future on more programming opportunities.



Fixit Clinic – Our partnership with Fixit Clinic and the SMC Office of Sustainability continues to grow! Staff are preparing to offer a new service to assist our community in finding their DIY community through a new Repair Information Station. Patrons can work with staff to ask questions about repairs on the Fixit Clinic Global Discord Server via Chromebook. This new service will be launched in April 2025.

Spanish Conversation Group – Based off patron feedback and community interest, the Main Library is now offering a weekly Spanish Conversation Group. This program is volunteer-run and is held every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. No matter your level, everyone is welcome.

History Room

The History Room is preparing for a summer intern to assist with processing collections, finishing up finding aid for photographs, and planning a potential oral history project. The job posting is live on CalOpps as of April 1st.

CIRCULATION

- Total circulation for March 2025: **39,763**
- Total number of materials checked in: **19,153**
- New library accounts: **606**
- Number of items lent to another library: **4,484**
- Number of items borrowed from another library: **3,096**

MARKETING and COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Newsletter

- Total Opens: **41,768**
- The Library's *Discover and Go* promotion received the most clicks on Mayor Eddie's March 17 Newsletter (**22% of total clicks**). Graphic below:



Social Media

- Total library content views: **6,994**
- Community members reached: **5,228**

SSFUSD

- Provided library-to-door card application service for **271 students**
- Schools served: Monte Verde, Ponderosa, Junipero Serra, and Sunshine Gardens
- Hosted 2 sessions of Pre-K students and family groups, **42 in total** (pictures below):



GRAND AVENUE BRANCH LIBRARY

March – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **23** total; **527** attendees or participants

- March storytimes drew large crowds, including a special St. Patrick's Day-themed storytime on March 17.



- The Library held a Children's Maker Workshop attended by 12 people. This was a mask-making workshop using cardboard, safe MakeDo tools, and all sorts of other materials to create a mask to match each child's interest. Attendees made dragon masks, unicorn masks, axolotl masks, and a Thomas the Tank Engine mask amongst other designs. Children used books from the collection as a guide.



- Grand Avenue Library's newly hired Youth Services Librarian, Elizabeth Conway is now hosting the Wednesday evening Pajama Storytimes, which focus upon movement, dance, and early literacy skill building.



Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

- Staff hosted multiple class visits from All Souls, Martin, and Spruce Elementary schools in March, providing library cards, read-alouds, tours, and helping students find books to check out or read in the library. A good number of class visits are scheduled for the months of April and May as well.

LITERACY SERVICES

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Youth Services



- Our *Homework Club Program* (HWC) celebrated Pi Day with a memorization competition, where students practiced digits through games, built colorful bracelets, and even created a jump rope. The winner, a 4th grader, memorized an impressive 68 digits! In *HWC Math*, students focused on strengthening

multiplication skills, with older grades emphasizing mastery while younger ones explored foundational strategies. Early exposure has proven effective, though some students need additional support for full memorization. Instructors noted improved focus, confidence, and engagement, with students demonstrating growth in problem-solving and independence. Our Teen Internship program currently has seven high school students from various schools eager to gain work experience and learn from our library staff. They recently completed a workshop where they assembled games to lead outdoor activities with younger students, demonstrating great initiative in classroom interactions as well.

Gene Mullin Community Learning Center (GMCLC) – Adult Services



- At the Festival de las Primaveras, our Familias Tomando Acción outreach was a success, with around 30 people approaching our table to learn more about GMCLC programs. A representative from Rise South City shared flyers on climate change awareness, while a local organization leader expressed interest in classes and attended GMCLC registration. Seeking assistance in improving event flyers, they explored Technology Tutoring, while another individual enrolled in multiple English and technology classes to enhance language skills. We also heard from a former student who shared how our English classes helped improve communication skills at work. Meanwhile, Citizenship Lab students remain actively engaged in the interview and application process, with a recent graduate visiting to share the journey to citizenship. A dedicated volunteer led a session, feeling confident and passionate about serving the community. Additionally, English Lab sessions on Thursdays and Saturdays continue to be in high demand, with students making meaningful individual progress. Their commitment and unique strengths have positively impacted their learning, and we remain dedicated to encouraging and supporting their academic growth.

Project Read – Adult Literacy Services

- The Project Read book club explored *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel this month, gathering for a stimulating discussion. We delved into themes of vulnerability, the unique appeal of graphic novels compared to traditional novels, and our individual reading preferences. A member shared appreciation for the book selection, which sparked a newfound interest in comic book-style literature- something previously thought to be primarily for younger audiences. Additionally, we're excited to introduce a new book selection format for our club. We've launched a form where participants can suggest book themes and specific recommendations for future meetings. We look forward to expanding our list with more member-recommended titles, including *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed and *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict.

Project Read – Family Literacy Services & Learning Wheels



- Our *My First Years* program successfully wrapped up its first session of the year in March, reaching full capacity with over 20 families, and interest continues to grow. This session featured bilingual book readings in English and Spanish, including a three-week series of engaging stories, and vendor partners joined us to share valuable resources. Meanwhile, our *Learning Wheels* initiative is making an impact. On Tuesdays, we set up a table in the SSF Health Clinic lobby, distributing books and program information while providing a play space for children as their accompanying adults complete paperwork. This effort raises awareness about our Learning Wheels truck parked outside, where families can access more books after appointments. In addition to these visits, we continue our Wednesday visits to the San Bruno Library and local preschools. We have also begun the process of redesigning the Learning Wheels truck. Our *Bilingual Storytime* program on Wednesdays has recently expanded with new books for both in-session reading and at-home enjoyment. A few new families have joined this drop-in program, and we are continuing outreach efforts to bring in more participants. Each class follows a consistent schedule to help children adjust to school routines, and this month, families engaged in alphabet crafts and spring-themed activities.

DISCOVERY CENTER

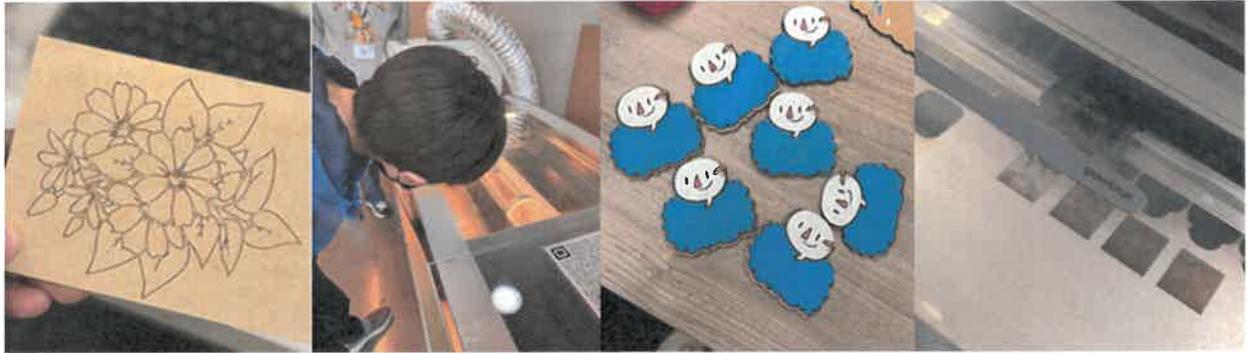
- **13** premier programs and daily pop-up activities were conducted in the Discovery Center Makerspace, Community Room and Digital Media Lab with approximately **180** participants. The Makerspace had an estimated **8,300** visitors during the month of March.
- A total of **59** 3D printer appointments, **17** walk-ins, and **5** sewing/embroidery machine appointments were fulfilled.
- On Monday, March 31, staff from the **Burlingame Parks and Recreation** department visited the Discovery Center team to learn about our Makerspace service model. Staff provided guidance and answered their questions regarding how they should roll out their Makerspace equipment and services.
- On Saturday, March 15, AMGEN scientists collaborated with the Discovery Center team to host the successful **Awesome Microscopes** STEAM activity for patrons of all ages. Patrons were able to explore more than 50 unique sample cell slides using powerful LCD microscopes. There was a microscope sample scavenger hunt and Foldscope microscopes available for people to construct and take home. Over 100 children and their families attended and are excited for more AMGEN workshops in the coming months.



A total of 5 Discovery Center class visits were held in the Community Room and Makerspace. Over 240 students and their teachers from Sunshine Garden, Junipero Serra, Ponderosa, Monte Verde Elementary and SSF Family Literacy came to experience different resources like the mBot coding robots, LCD microscopes, ProCreate, Apple Pencils and the RigAmajig engineering kit.



After a month-long hiatus, the Glowforge laser cutter is back up and running after new lenses were installed.



The Discovery Garden has expanded its collection of plants with the addition of a Flame Sword plant, Gold Dust plant and a repotted Monstera to foster more growth. The plants release oxygen into the space and are a great conversation starter with the patrons.



Every other Thursday, the Discovery Center hosts Ability Path movie showings in the Young Adult Room.



High school volunteers, Matthew Pun and Nicholas Nand, teach **Mastering the iPad and iPhone** program every first Monday of the month. Next month will be the ninth and last class in the series before Nicholas and Matthew go to college.



*Staff and a patron creating a **Squishy Circuit** together in the Makerspace*



*Patron testing the **Cricut** cutter with different materials like cardstock and foam*



Staff creating the next mural for the Makerspace windows



A patron designed, and 3D printed a prototype of a board game they are manufacturing, using our 3D printers



Patron creating digital art and ceramics in the Makerspace



YOUTH SERVICES

March – Key Stats & Updates

Programs: **33** total; **1,968** attendees or participants

- Weekly storytimes include Toddler, Baby, Filipino Bilingual, and Cantonese. Coffee is now offered at select storytimes to encourage families to help foster community building. Baby Storytime with Stacey featured below.



- A special leprechaun-themed storytime took place on St. Patrick's Day. The storytime was led by a community member, and library staff led a craft in the Community Room afterward.



- Family Craft Evenings- Two family craft activities took place in the Youth Library. A Shamrock collages craft was in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, and a dot art craft inspired by artist Yayoi Kusama was in celebration of Women's History Month.



- The library hosted class visits from Junipero Serra, Monte Verde Elementary, and Sunshine Gardens Elementary schools.



- Brain Explorations teaches neuroscience concepts through fun, interactive workshops. The Spring 2025 sessions are currently running between January and April.



- STEMsters

High school volunteers who serve as program leaders host weekly STEM activities for children and teach STEM concepts related to each activity. The Spring 2025 sessions took place between January and March. The program leaders are interested in leading more sessions in the summer.



- Weekly Video Game Series in Young Adult Room



Premiere Programming & Community Partnerships

San Mateo County Parks led three after-school programs for children at the library in March: Bird Adaptations, Food Webs, and Animal Engineers. Each session featured a presentation on the day's topic followed by two different activities.



Valerie Sommer

Valerie Sommer
Library Director