

Hot Off the Shelf



Palo Alto City Library Bimonthly Newsletter / May 2016



A Message from Don McDougall, Library Advisory Commission Member

I joined the Library Advisory Commission in 2014 when the hard work to rebuild the Palo Alto libraries had been done by Monique le Conge Ziesenhenné, the Library Director, her library staff, the Library Foundation and particularly the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. The results of their work continue to be recognized and awarded.

The Rinconada library was just honored by the American Institute of Architects, saying the renovation “refreshes and restores original design elements and ageless intent while carefully adding spaces, systems, and resources to fulfill 21st century library needs and ensure an ongoing architectural dialogue.” Quite a compliment! There have been many more

such awards and compliments for the new Palo Alto libraries.

With the libraries com-



Rinconada library reading room

plete, Monique and her team have been able to focus on the contents and operation of the library. There are now 318,000 items in the Palo

Alto library collections and on the shelves. Many of these were in storage or simply kept at the publishers

during the renovations. In the last six months of 2015 there were 850,000 items checked out, an increase of 27% over the previous year. The eBranch (website) has had 650,000 visits in the first quarter of 2016.

Tools such as Flipster and Zinio for magazines, Hoopla for streaming video and Freegal music give users access to an infinity of electronic materials through their library card. And access to an impressive array of library conference and study rooms using LiquidSpace. And the library continues to develop interesting and fruitful partnerships in the community.

But the library is proving

to be a lot more than books and e-materials. The library is fulfilling an important role as a key platform for learning in all aspects of the community. There are Baby, Family, Toddler, Preschool or Pajama Storytimes at least twice each day. Stories are read in English, Cantonese and Russian! Teen programs range from a Finals Cram Slam to Comic Book Day. And adults aren't left out with English Learning programs and tax preparation support.

Palo Alto is rightfully proud of its library system for its books AND its programs and I am proud to serve as a Library Commissioner.

But back to books. I have recently read *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's World* by Andrea Wulf. The library has this book and many more about von Humboldt and his friend Thomas Jefferson and I would recommend them to anyone interested in the environment and/or history.



Let me know what you think. — Don

Tech Tip: Reading History in Encore

A great feature of the new catalog system Encore is the ability to keep a running list of items you have checked out. When you turn on *Reading History*, it will track all physical items (books, movies, music, audiobooks) you have checked out. The list updates as you check items in, so it cannot track what you checked out before opting in to *Reading History*.

To opt-in, login to your library account. Click your name for the account details page. Click “Reading History” and click “Save Reading History.” You always have the option to opt-out. Staff cannot turn *Reading History* on for you and cannot see your reading history.

More questions about Encore? Stop by a reference desk and ask a librarian to give you a quick tour or check out our FAQs: <http://bit.ly/1TepJmb>

Local Authors Festival

Are you looking for a good book to read? At the Local Authors Festival, which was held on Sunday April 3 at the Rinconada Library, authors shared stories that ranged from Paris to a cruise adventure to toxicology. Besides speaking, the authors were available for book signing.

As library customers entered the south doors, they were met by a festive scene. Balloons decorated the breezeway, and authors were sitting at tables with their books ready for purchase. Before entering the Embarcadero room, programs were on a table along with name tags for the authors and a floral that was a single white rose.

Each author spoke for twenty minutes. During their talk, the authors shared how they became interested in writing and their motivation for writing their book.

Jacqueline Widmar Stewart has always loved French culture. Later when she took up photography, she combined her two interests to produce exquisite coffee table books on Paris and France. Jacqui wrote in her blog, "Kudos to Palo Alto on its new forum. Like bouquinistes lining the Seine on a Sunday, writers amid stacks of tomes received their readers along the breezeway corridor. Here's wishing the city an equally distinguished literary future."

Imagine taking a cruise with other wealthy men only to return and learn that you could be a pauper. That's what happened to some of the individuals on the *Millionaires*

Cruise by Don McPhail. Don said, "The Rinconada Library audience was quite welcoming and widely read, and it is clear that they love their library!"

Alan Wu shared a story from his book, *Toxicology*. It is a tale of two college boys who came home for the holidays. One attended school on the East Coast, and one attended school on the West Coast. Upon returning to school, both became ill. The West Coast student was correctly diagnosed and was immediately treated with antibiotics. On the other hand, the health center for the East Coast student thought that it was the flu. One lived and one died. The West Coast student lived.

Authors presenting or signing were: Dante Drummond (*Homeward Bound*); Susan Edelman (*Be Your Own Brand of Sexy*); SuAnn and Kevin Kiser (*Sherman the Sheep*); Liz Lee (*The House at 844 ½*); Jean Libby (*John Brown Photo Chronology*); Don McPhail (*Millionaires Cruise*); Stuart Rojstaczer (*Mathematician's Shiva*); Elizabeth (Betty) Schneider (*Forbidden Friends*); Peter Stangl (*Painted Pebbles*); Jacqueline Stewart (*Parks and Gardens in Greater Paris*); Alan Wu (*Toxicology*).

All books are available for check-out at the Rinconada Library. The Local Interest Collection is continuously being added to. If you know of a Palo Alto author, then have them contact Anita Delaney at the Rinconada Library. This is a special collection for the Palo Alto community.



Senior librarian Anita Delaney (on the left) and author Dante Drummond stand by the welcoming sign to the Local Authors Festival.

Patron Perspectives (asked at Rinconada Branch)

PATRICIA BAILEY

- *How long have you been a library user?*
Since 13. I'm now 60, so 47 years.
- *What is the most pleasant experience that you have had with the Palo Alto Library system?*
You bought a book in the series so I could finish it, and LINK+ is awesome!
- *What is your favorite section?*
SciFi/Fantasy.

PAT BLUMENTHAL

- *How long have you been a library user?*
35 years.
- *What is the most pleasant experience that you have had with the Palo Alto Library system?*
The best of the library staff are wonderful.
- *What is your favorite section?*
Books (not e-books).

MK

- *How long have you been a library user?*
Since birth. 51 years.
- *What is the most pleasant experience that you have had with the Palo Alto Library system?*
Free yoga and composting.
- *What is your favorite section?*
Plant-based eating, Dharma books.

MONTE IRVING MITCHAM

- *How long have you been a library user?*
Lifelong.
- *What is the most pleasant experience that you have had with the Palo Alto Library system?*
General reading.
- *What is your favorite section?*
Biography.

JOSH SILVER

- *How long have you been a library user?*
30 years.
- *What is the most pleasant experience that you have had with the Palo Alto Library system?*
(No answer)
- *What is your favorite section?*
Kids/Teen books.

ALISSA WALTER

- *How long have you been a library user?*
Since December 2015.
- *What is the most pleasant experience that you have had with the Palo Alto Library system?*
Using the LINK+ system has been very helpful for my research and writing as a graduate student.
- *What is your favorite section?*
I really enjoy the fireplace seating area, history, and poetry sections.

Events and Programs May 2016

Phone: 650.329.2436
E-mail: pa.library@cityofpaloalto.org

Key: A = Adults E = Everyone K = Kids T = Teens * = Program sponsored by the Friends of Palo Alto Library, (R) = registration required

May 2 **Breathe, Meditate, Rejuvenate** (Also May 9, 16 & 23)
A 7-8 p.m. @ MP
Learn breathing and meditative techniques.

May 19 **Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County A**
7-8:30 p.m. @ RI (3rd Thursday of each month)
May theme: Blueberries in Abundance

May 4 **The Mark and Dre Comedy Show K ***
3:30 p.m. @ Mitchell Park Community Center
Enjoy this fast-paced show filled with music & juggling.

May 24 **Computer Class: Google Docs A (R)**
11 a.m.-12 p.m. @ MP, Ventura Tech Lab
Learn about Google Docs, a free web-based program.
Participants should have an existing Gmail account.

May 5 **Parenting Program: The Romance of Risk**
A * (R) 7-8:30 p.m. @ RI
Learn to help your teen make responsible decisions.

May 25 **Afternoon Adventure: Coloring and Cartoons K * (R)** 3:30-5 p.m. @ CH (Grades K-5 only)
Unwind with an afternoon of creativity & cartoons.
also **Finals Cram Slam! T * (Also May 26)**

May 7 **May Fete Parade E * (R)**
9:30-11 a.m. @ TBD (see library website for details)
Dress as your favorite hero and march with the library in this year's 94th annual May Fete Parade!
also **Free Comic Book Day E *** All Day @ MP & CH
Pick up your free comic book while supplies last.

6-10 p.m. @ MP Library & Community Center
High school students are invited to take advantage of extended study hours until 10 p.m. each evening.

May 10 **Brown Bag Book Club A *** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. @ RI
May book: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery.

May 26 **Welcome to America! E * (R)** 7-8:30 p.m. @ MP
The program for new Americans & visitors.
May theme: Public Transportation

also **Author Mac Barnett K * (R)** 3:30 p.m. @ RI
Hear Mac talk about and read from his newest book.

May 27 **Family Date Night: Summer Reading Pep Rally E * (R)**
7-8:15 p.m. @ RI
Here is your opportunity to register early for Summer Reading, as well as to play games and enjoy snacks.

May 11 **Storytime at Gamble Garden K** 4 p.m.
Join us for a family storytime in the Carriage House.
also **Exploring Happiness through Meditation and Movement A *** 5:30-6:30 p.m. @ RI (Also May 25)
Learn techniques of mindfulness meditation.
and **Art & Technology: An Evening with Roger Stoller & Bruce Beasley E** 7 p.m. @ MP
Learn how the artists use technology in their work.

May 28 **Summer Reading Kick-Off Party! E ***
2-3:30 p.m. @ MP Community Center
Join us for crafts, music, and ice cream, and register the whole family for the Summer Reading Program!

May 12 **Classic Musical Movie Series A *** 11:30 a.m. @ MP
May movie: *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (1954).
also **Graphic Novel Book Club T, A (R)** 7-8:30 p.m. @ MP
May book: *The Arab of the Future* (For Age 16+)

May 30 **Libraries Closed for Memorial Day Holiday**

May 14 **S.T.E.A.M. Lab Saturday K * (R)** 2:30 p.m. @ CH
Join us for a fun and interactive educational program.

May 18 **Society of Bookworms: Roller Girl, by Victoria Jamieson K * (R)** 3:30-4:30 p.m. @ CH (Grades 4-6)

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Book Sale
Saturday, May 14: 11:10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday, May 15: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cubberley Community Center

Weekly Programs—May
ESL Conversation Club: Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. @ MP
Knack-4-Knitting: Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. @ MP
Tai Chi: Sundays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. @ RI

Monthly Programs—May
Friday Fun: 1st Friday, 3:30-5 p.m. @ CH and MP
Saturday Board Games: 1st Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. @ DO
Medicare Mysteries Solved!: 1st Saturday, 1-3 p.m. @ MP
Bay Area Quiz Club: 2nd Sunday, 2-6 p.m. @ MP
Colorful Afternoons: 3rd Saturday, 1-4 p.m. @ MP
Paws to Read: 3rd Saturday, 2:30-3:30 p.m. @ CH

Visit the online calendar at www.cityofpaloalto.org/library for detailed listings, late additions and registration.

Key: CH = Children's Library CT = College Terrace Library
DO = Downtown Library MP = Mitchell Park Library RI = Rinconada Library

May Storytimes

Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
* Preschool Storytime- 10:30am, CH * Baby Storytime- 10:30am & 11:30am, MP * Afternoon Storytime- 4pm, CT	* Toddler Storytime- 10:30am, CH * Pajama Storytime- 7pm, MP	* Baby Storytime- 10:30 & 11:30am, CH * Russian Storytime- 4:30pm, MP	* Toddler Storytime- 10am, MP * Family Storytime- 10:30am, DO * Preschool Storytime- 11am, MP	(No Storytimes May 7) * Family Storytime- 11am, MP * Around the World Storytime- 11am, CH

Events and Programs June 2016

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June 1 **The Library Talks: Leigh Bardugo T, A**
6:30-8 p.m. @ RI
The Library Talks is a series of virtual author talks live-streamed to libraries throughout California. Our guest this month will be fantasy novel author Leigh Bardugo.

June 4 **S.T.E.A.M. Lab Saturday K * (R)**
2-5 p.m. @ RI
Program your own Lego robot with Lego WeDo.

June 7 **Teen DIY Sugar Scrubs & Bath Bombs T * (R)**
2-4 p.m. @ MP
Learn how to make bath soaps, sugar scrubs, & more!

June 8 **Wacky Wednesday: Eth-No-Tec Asian Story Theater K * 3:30 p.m. @ CH**
Enjoy a presentation of Asian stories and folktales.
also **Storytime at Gamble Garden K 4 p.m.**
Join us for a family storytime in the Carriage House.
and **Exploring Happiness through Meditation and Movement A ***
5:30-6:30 p.m. @ RI **(Also June 22)**
Learn techniques of mindfulness meditation.

June 9 **Meet the Authors: Rick & Wendy Walleigh A**
7-8:30 p.m. @ RI
The Walleighs will share their experiences of the joy of helping people in poverty grow their own businesses.

June 11 **SAT Practice Test T (R) 12-4:30 p.m. @ MP**
Students entering 7th grade and up are invited to come and take the new SAT practice test.
(SAT Review Session: June 26)

June 12 **Coding for Kids K (R) 10 a.m.-12 p.m. @ MP**
An introduction to computer programming using visual programming languages.
Sundays through July 3. **(Grades 2-6)**

June 14 **Brown Bag Book Club A * 11 a.m.-12 p.m. @ RI**
June book: *Seabiscuit*, by Laura Hillenbrand

June 15 **Wacky Wednesday: Magician Pete G. K ***
3:30 p.m. @ RI
Magician Pete G. performs tricks to impress & amaze!

Friends of the Palo Alto Library Book Sale
Saturday, June 11: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday, June 12: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cubberley Community Center
Sales occur the 2nd weekend of every month.

June 16 **Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County A**
7-8:30 p.m. @ RI **(3rd Thursday of each month)**
June theme: Tour of the Rinconada Library plant collection

June 17 **Family Date Night: Family Feud/Trivia Night E * (R)**
7-8:30 p.m. @ CH
Come prepared to show what you know and compete against other families.

June 18 **Python Programming T (R) (Grades 5-8 only)**
2-4 p.m. @ MP, Ventura Tech Lab
This Python course covers all the basics in a simple yet comprehensive way. Saturdays through 7/16.

June 22 **Wacky Wednesday: Musical Group The Dilly Dallies K * 3:30 p.m. @ CH**
Join the Dilly Dallies for an afternoon of family-friendly music.

June 23 **Welcome to America! E * (R) 7-8:30 p.m. @ MP**
The program for new Americans & visitors.
June theme: It's Summer Reading Time!

June 29 **Wacky Wednesday: Happy Birds Parrot Show K ***
1:30 p.m. @ CH **(Note the 1:30 p.m. showtime)**
See these amazing parrots perform a fast-paced show.
also **Made Into America T, A (R)**
7-9 p.m. @ MP Community Center
Hear from six storytellers who are DREAMers— young people who came to the U.S. as children, with hopes for a pathway to citizenship. This program is in partnership with the Midpeninsula Media Center.

Weekly Programs— June
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Friday Fun: Fridays, 3:30-5 p.m. @ CH & MP
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Monthly Programs— June
Saturday Board Games: 1st Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. @ DO
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June Storytimes (beginning June 7)

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