

## San Mateo County Libraries Named a 5-Star Library

Dear Community,

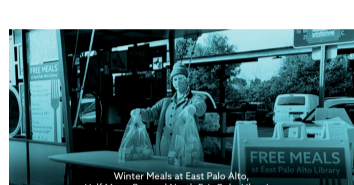
We're excited to announce [San Mateo County Libraries](#) has been named a 2021 5-Star Library! The national honor comes from the professional publication Library Journal (LJ), who every year scores U.S. public libraries on its LJ Index of Public Library Service.

The award acknowledges our success and commitment to serving our community through transformative experiences and is a testament to our efforts in designing programs and services that enrich and uplift those we serve.

The 2021 scores and ratings are based on fiscal year 2019 data, but also spotlight our most recent efforts during the challenges of 2020 and this year. They wanted to learn how we quickly responded to public need during the pandemic. At San Mateo County Libraries, that has included curbside service, central [Customer Care](#), WiFi hotspots, laptops and more [online resources](#) than ever before.

Throughout the pandemic's challenges, we have seized the opportunity to reimagine our programs and were honored to support our county's emergency work by assisting with contact tracing, vaccination efforts and helping to ease food insecurities. Read more about our efforts featured in the [interview](#) with our Director of Library Services, Anne-Marie Despain.

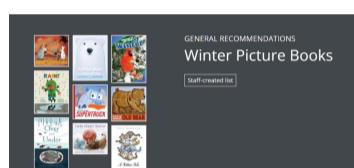
Celebrate with us by accessing our array of materials and services. Check out a book or register for one of our [upcoming events](#), and know that we are delighted to serve you!



### [Winter Meals](#)

Families are invited to visit the [East Palo Alto Library](#), [Half Moon Bay Library](#) and [North Fair Oaks Library](#) to pick up Winter Meals to take home beginning at 3:30 PM Monday–Thursday during the weeks of December 20–23 and December 27–30. Due to holiday closures, meals service will be unavailable on December 24 and December 31.

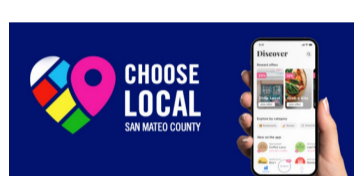
[Learn More](#)



### [Winter Picture Books](#)

The weather is turning cold! What better way to enjoy winter than curling up with a good book? Meet bear friends, learn about winter and explore snow-covered places, above and underground in these wintry picture book picks.

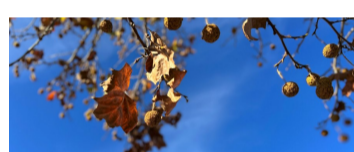
[Read Now](#)



### [Support Local Businesses and Earn Rewards](#)

This holiday season, the County of San Mateo and seven cities are asking shoppers to support local small businesses and rewarding those who do through a new points-based mobile app! The Choose Local app allows users to earn cash discounts at participating locations.

[Get the App](#)



### [Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Closures](#)

A reminder that [San Mateo County Libraries](#) will be closed and [Customer Care](#) will not be available on Friday, December 24 – Saturday, December 25 for Christmas. Libraries will open again on Monday, December 27.

[Learn More](#)

# Explore More

Explore, learn, and connect at our [library programs!](#)

#### [Haiku Club](#)

Thursday, December 16 • 7:00 PM

Join us on the third Thursday of every month as we discuss haiku, haiku theory, writing tips, strategies and share our own poems.

#### [Mike Della Penna's Winter Magic Show](#)

Monday, December 20 • 1:00 PM

Celebrate winter with beloved magician Mike Della Penna and his Winter Magic Show, inspired by the most magical season of the year, a time of shorter days, colder nights and annual celebrations of light.

#### [Vinyasa Yoga](#)

Thursday, December 23 • 11:30 AM

Join certified yoga instructors for accessible well-rounded vinyasa-inspired flow yoga with a focus on relieving stress and rejuvenating your body!

#### [Puppet Art Theater Presents The Three Little Pigs](#)

Monday, December 27 • 1:00 PM

The Puppet Art Theater Company performs live for family audiences hundreds of times each year. Join us virtually as the three pigs strike out on their own looking to have fun and adventures.

[Explore All Events](#)

# Community Picks

Our Community Picks titles are available digitally through [online resources](#) or in print at our [libraries](#).



**Children's Fiction:** [The Paper Kingdom](#) by [Helena Ku Rhee](#)

An adorably sweet depiction of a little boy accompanying his parents during one of their night shifts as office cleaners. The parents entertain their young child by letting his imagination flourish and partaking in playful scenarios together.

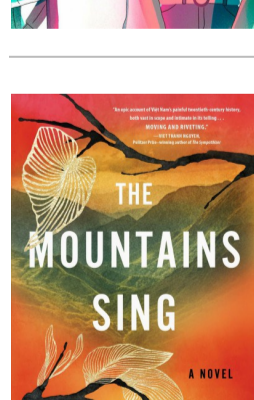
*Cherry, Belmont Library*



**Young Adult Fiction:** [Made in Korea](#) by [Sarah Suk](#)

[Frankly in Love](#) meets Shark Tank in this feel-good romantic comedy about two entrepreneurial Korean American teens who butt heads—and maybe fall in love—while running competing Korean beauty businesses at their high school.

*Jessica, Pacifica Libraries*



**Adult Fiction:** [The Mountains Sing](#) by [Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai](#)

This is historical fiction at its best! The story gives a whole different perspective on the Việt Nam war – the perspective of families caught in the middle of warring factions and power struggles. The book is also available in [Hoopla](#).

*Sharon, Pacifica Libraries*

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



**Explore in-Person Library Events for Children**



Stay connected with our family of libraries!

**San Mateo County Libraries**

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

Open for Exploration™

[smcl.org](#)

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