

# 2022

Wishing You and Yours a Warm  
Holiday Season and a Happy New Year

Dear Community,

As this year comes to a close, I can't help but reflect on the incredible impact our staff and libraries have had throughout the county. Our support and dedication to those we serve never wavered, and we continued to be inspired by the strength of our communities.

At San Mateo County Libraries, 2021 was another year of profound change. From the moment we were able to reopen our libraries, we focused our efforts on deepening community connections and providing you with boundless opportunities for exploration. We welcomed the [North Fair Oaks Library](#) into our family of [libraries](#), launched free in-person youth enrichment summer camps, presented our [Equity Author Series](#), brought back our beloved [in-person programs](#), opened the beautiful [new Brisbane Library](#) and so much more.

It was also a proud moment for us to end the year being named a [Five-Star Library](#). Library Journal announced the [list of Star Libraries](#) earlier this month and out of 5,608 qualifying public library systems, 85 were awarded Five Stars, the highest honor on the list. Ratings are based on how the public uses their library and is a testament to your steadfast support.

2022 will bring new opportunities for growth, and we can't wait to continue our transformative work and expand our services. We wish you a healthy and joyful new year and look forward to seeing you at the library.

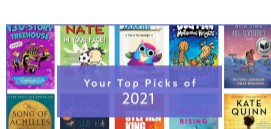
Sincerely,  
Anne-Marie Despain  
Director of Library Services



### Meet Meg Waite Clayton

San Mateo County Libraries welcomes author [Meg Waite Clayton](#) on [Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 PM](#). Meg will be in conversation with fellow author [Michelle Richmond](#) to discuss her writing and her newest book, [The Postmistress of Paris](#), before taking questions from the audience.

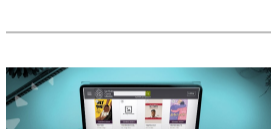
[Register Now](#)



### Your Top Picks of 2021

2021 was another year full of some incredible books, and we're always excited to see what our community is reading. Are you looking for your next great read? Take a look at the most checked-out books for adults and youth in our county from the last year!

[Read Now](#)



### De-stress and Dive Into a Good Book With Our Online Resources

Wintertime brings with it a flurry of activities. A couple of our favorite online resources can support you through this busy season.

[Explore Now](#)

## Explore More

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

#### ESL Book Club

Monday, January 3 • 4:00 PM

Join other English language learners in a virtual meeting where we read together and discuss the text. We'll read aloud and discuss the book [The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time](#) by [Mark Haddon](#).

#### Open Makerspace

Tuesday, January 4 • 5:00 PM

Visit [Half Moon Bay Library](#) during its open makerspace time to try a new DIY project, join a tech class or borrow equipment. Our makerspace is a free, collaborative workspace with tools and technology to promote creative exploration.

#### LGBTQ+ Book Club With San Mateo Pride Center

Wednesday, January 5 • 4:30 PM

The San Mateo County Pride Center and Peninsula Family Service co-host the LGBTQ+ Book Club in partnership with San Mateo County Libraries. This month we will be reading [Breakfast at Tiffany's](#), the novella by [Truman Capote](#).

#### Lit Lovers Book Club

Wednesday, January 12 • 7:30 PM

Join our Lit Lovers Book Club on Zoom! We are a regular book club for adults that meets virtually once a month on the second Wednesday at 7:30 PM. In January, we're reading [The Postmistress of Paris](#) by [Meg Waite Clayton](#).

#### How to Get a California State Job

Thursday, January 13 • 10:00 AM

Learn how to make a career and make a difference by working for the State of California. The State of California provides a wide variety of services. From accounting to woodworking — they have a job for you!

#### Online English Conversation Club | Club de Conversación en Inglés en línea | 網上英語會話社

Thursday, January 13 • 1:30 PM

Improve your English and make new friends—all online! Mejora tu inglés y haz nuevos amigos, ¡todo en línea! 改善英語能力、結交新朋友—完全在網上！

[Explore All Events](#)

## Community Picks

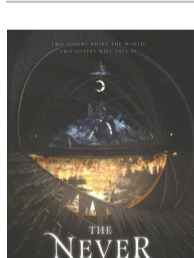
Our Community Picks titles are available digitally through [online resources](#) or in print at [our libraries](#).



#### Children's Fiction: [The Moon Is Going to Addy's House](#) by [Ida Pearle](#)

This book has wonderful cut paper illustrations and a tender, quiet story about how the moon is a constant in the sky.

*Adrienne, Foster City Library*



#### Young Adult Fiction: [The Never Tilting World](#) by [Rin Chupeco](#)

After an ancient prophecy is betrayed, a world ruled by a long line of goddesses is split in two—one half in perpetual day, and the other in an endless night—and two young twin goddesses set out on separate and equally dangerous journeys to save their broken world.

*Nicole, Brisbane Library*



#### Adult Documentary: [Desolation Center](#) directed by [Stuart Swezey](#)

Minutemen, Sonic Youth, Swans and many other acts took to the desert near Los Angeles to create a new form of expression in the early 80s. Generator parties that combined music, art and occasional pyrotechnics planted the seeds that grew into massive festivals of present day. Desolation Center was the name of the group that put on this small run of desert parties, but its influence is still felt today. Available through our streaming service, [Kanopy](#).

*Abraham, Half Moon Bay Library*

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



[smcl.org/covid](https://smcl.org/covid)  
For the latest updates on COVID-19



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](https://smcl.org)

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If you are not already subscribed to our weekly eNewsletter or would like to browse past issues, visit our [eNewsletter page](#).