



## Equity Through Art

A Conversation on the Nairobi Movement

Dear Community,

San Mateo County has a vibrant history in East Palo Alto as a prominent hub for Black culture and activism in the Bay Area and nationally. During Black History Month, it's especially important to learn this local history through the stories of the leaders who built it.

Join us on **Tuesday, February 22 at 6:00 PM** for [A Conversation With Community Elders About the Nairobi Movement](#), co-sponsored by Nairobi Advocates and the EPA Community Archive. Community elders who played leading roles during the Nairobi Movement will share personal stories about the Black Experience in East Palo Alto during the Nairobi era.

This event is part of our 2021–2022 [Equity Through Art Series](#) in partnership with the [County of San Mateo Chief Equity Officer](#). These library programs highlight the complex relationship Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) have had living and trying to thrive in San Mateo County.

[Join Us](#)



### [Join Us for Jazz & Friends Community Readings](#)

San Mateo County Libraries welcomes you to join us for Jazz & Friends Community Readings in person and online on Thursday, February 24. We're offering [in-person community readings](#) and [one virtual](#) in support of transgender and nonbinary youth.

[Read More](#)



### [Celebrating Lunar New Year](#)

The 2022 Lunar New Year ushers in the Year of the Tiger. It brings with it strength, healing and joy. Celebrate the Lunar New Year with us by checking out books and more handpicked by our staff. We share [children's top picks](#) as well as [young adult titles](#) to celebrate the Lunar New Year and authors with Asian heritage.

[Explore More](#)



### [African and African American Stories and Songs With Kirk Waller](#)

Celebrate Black History Month with award-winning storyteller Kirk Waller as he shares African and African-American folktales, legends and history. Join us online to watch these stories come to life with music, rhythm, dancing, movement and of course the spoken word.

[Register Now](#)



### [Presidents' Day Closure](#)

A reminder that [San Mateo County Libraries](#) will be closed and [Customer Care](#) will not be available on [Monday, February 21](#) to observe Presidents' Day. Plan ahead by picking up any holds in advance or visit us online where we're always open at [smcl.org](#).

# Explore More

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

#### [Practice SAT and ACT Tests for High School Students](#)

February 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 & March 5 • 10:00 AM

San Mateo County Libraries is teaming up with C2 Education of Millbrae to offer you multiple opportunities to practice the SAT or ACT college admissions tests in February and March. These practice tests are for students in grades 9–12 and online "seating" is limited.

#### [Surfeit of Citrus](#)

Tuesday, February 15 • 4:00 PM

How should we preserve the current bounty of dazzling citrus for other seasons? Join San Mateo/San Francisco County Master Food Preservers to learn about preserving lemons, grapefruit, oranges and other seasonal fruit.

#### [Meet Alia Volz, Author of Home Baked](#)

Tuesday, February 15 • 6:30 PM

San Francisco-based author [Alia Volz](#) will be with us online to discuss her autobiography, [Home Baked: My Mom, Marijuana, and the Stoning of San Francisco](#).

#### [Virtual Poetry Night Featuring McTate Stroman II](#)

Tuesday, February 15 • 7:00 PM

Let us gather to celebrate the spirit and strength of Black Americans and through poetry honor their struggles, resilience and accomplishments during all movements for justice, past and present. This month, Belmont Poetry Night welcomes featured spoken-word poet/artist, McTate Stroman II.

#### [Peninsula Ukulele Group \(PUGs\)](#)

Monday, February 21 • 5:00 PM

Join the Peninsula Ukulele Group (PUGs) on the 2nd and 3rd Monday of the month. Beginners are welcome to a special mini-lesson at 5:30 PM, then the jam session begins at 6 PM.

#### [Disability History and Activism](#)

Thursday, February 24 • 7:00 PM

Join the [Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities](#) to learn about how the Independent Living Movement and advocacy created the laws protecting individuals with disabilities. We'll focus on the rich history of disability activism in the Bay Area and local figures who pioneered the movement.

[Explore All Events](#)

# Community Picks

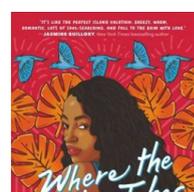
Our Community Picks titles are available digitally through [online resources](#) or in print at our libraries.



#### Children's Picture Book: [The Dam](#) by [David Almond](#)

This story is a beautiful expression of how the place you grew up will always feel like home even if it is long gone. This book especially resonated with me after hearing my grandmother's stories of her childhood in the Berryessa Valley before it was turned into a reservoir.

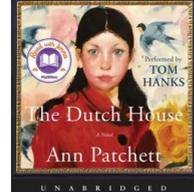
*Alice, Portola Valley & Woodside Libraries*



#### Young Adult Fiction: [Where the Rhythm Takes You](#) by [Sarah Dass](#)

Teenage Reyna feels it is up to her to carry on her mother's legacy at their family's resort in tropical Tobago, making her a bit of a control freak. But when childhood friend and sweetheart Aiden returns to the island, Reyna begins to see how sometimes, we are the ones keeping ourselves feeling stuck in place. A colorful, up-close story of growing up, grieving and finding love.

*Kailey, San Mateo County Libraries Administrative Offices*

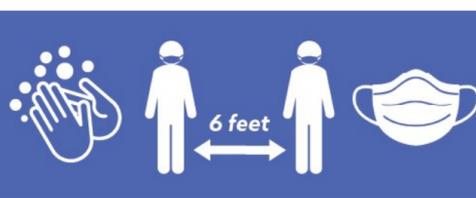


#### Adult Audiobook: [The Dutch House](#) by [Ann Patchett](#)

Audiobooks can allow us to immerse ourselves in a novel in a new way. *The Dutch House* tells the story of a brother and sister over the course of five decades. Finalist for 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

*May, Foster City Library*

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



[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](#)

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