



Get Ready for Gardening

With the Master Gardeners

Dear Community,

Gardening is a perfect summer pastime. It can be equal parts fun, educational, challenging and rewarding, especially when you're growing your own food. If you're ready to learn more about gardening, our resources and partners are here to help. A happy garden often comes down to planning.

As we reach the peak of summer, now's the time to start filling our gardens with what we want to grow in the fall. If you're looking for tips and tricks on fall vegetable gardening, then you won't want to miss our upcoming series of in-person talks [featuring the Master Gardeners of San Mateo & San Francisco Counties!](#) Attend one of our [events](#) to hear all about edible food growing in this introductory class.

We'll have a seed swap accompany these talks at most of our locations. Bring your seeds and trade, share or take new seedlings to start growing your garden. The [San Mateo County Office of Sustainability](#) also offers wonderful resources on sustainable composting for your garden, including free online [compost workshops](#). Join us for upcoming events and check out our [staff-curated gardening titles](#) to get growing.

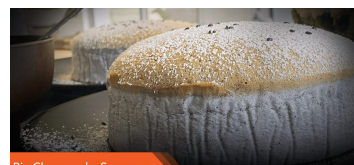
Explore Now



[Sustainability in San Mateo County](#)

This summer, we're partnering with the [San Mateo County Office of Sustainability](#) to educate a new generation of environmental stewards. Throughout July, our [Middle Scholars](#) summer program is hosting [workshops in our communities](#) to teach tweens to upcycle old materials and be mindful of the environmental impact of consumer culture. Find upcoming events, learn about the [Home Energy and Water Saving Toolkit](#) you can borrow for free from the library and discover more sustainability resources.

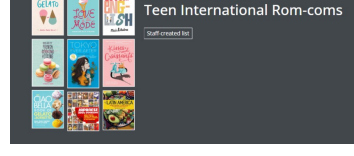
Discover Now



[Big Cheesecake Summer](#)

One of our librarians makes the case for why this summer should be "Big Cheesecake Summer." Cheesecake is an ideal summer bake. It bakes at low temperatures and it's great when served cool. You can even go for a no-bake cheesecake option. We invite you to try making a cake yourself with the many recipe resources we have at our [libraries](#).

Bake Now



[Teen International Rom-coms](#)

Check out this list inspired by [Netflix's Love & Gelato](#). Read the original novel by [Jenna Evans Welch](#), or do some armchair traveling this summer to Paris, Tokyo, New Jersey and beyond by reading any of these YA novels. Then, take a journey in the kitchen by borrowing a cookbook featuring international cuisines! Where will reading take you this summer?

Read Now

Explore More

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

[Belmont Talks – Emergency Preparation](#)

Thursday, July 14 • 7:00 PM • Belmont Library & Online

Join us as we welcome Sandra Firpo, Emergency Services Specialist and CERT Program Manager with the [San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department](#). She will address simple things you can do to increase your options during any emergency, share resources available and discuss how many of your neighbors have trained through the [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) to help all of us in a disaster. This talk will be held both in person and virtually.

[Cunamacué Family Show](#)

July 15, 16, 22, 23 & 29 • In person at some San Mateo County Libraries

Through their interactive performance for all ages, [Cunamacué](#) introduces Afro-Peruvian music and dance. Dances performed include Zamacueca, Festejo, Zapateo, Landó and Son de los Diablos. Each piece is presented with a brief description of its cultural and historical context. Audience members are invited to play an instrument and participate in a short dance class.

[Comics Drawing Made Easy: Expressions](#)

Friday, July 15 • 2:00 PM • Atherton Library

Expressions are an unspoken language that can really tell a story about your character. Is your character Excited? Frustrated? Suspicious? We'll show you how to give your character emotions with simple pencil strokes! Join us in the new [Atherton Library](#) makerspace for this fun activity. Open to artists of all abilities.

[Discover the Life-Changing Power of Meditation](#)

Thursday, July 21 • 6:00 PM

Meditation has become increasingly more popular and it can provide many life-transforming benefits when practiced regularly. By meditating we become relaxed and calm as we come in contact with a state of inner peace and wellbeing. Please join Nirav Sheth, a long-time meditator for this transformational online workshop.

[Condiments For Your Summer Barbecue](#)

Tuesday, July 26 • 4:00 PM

Yes, you can make your favorite condiments at home! Join the [UC Master Food Preservers of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties](#) for a workshop on how to make your own mustards, ketchup, BBQ sauce and even relish to use this summer and can them for future use.

[Art Talk – The Obama Portraits Tour](#)

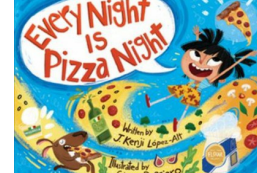
Wednesday, July 27 • 7:00 PM

The [de Young Museum](#) presents the portraits of former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama by artists [Kehinde Wiley](#) and [Amy Sutherland](#) as part of The Obama Portraits Tour organized by the [Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery](#). This talk will look at how artists Wiley and Sutherland explore complex issues of identity in their work and how portraiture shapes ideas about power, status and legacy.

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: [Every Night Is Pizza Night](#)

by [J. Kenji López-Alf](#)

A fun look at food from all around the world as Pipo tries to prove that pizza is the best food of all.

Marcia, Millbrae Library

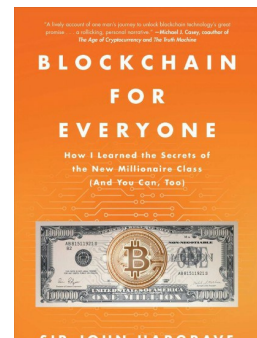


Young Adult Graphic Novel: [The Girl From the Sea](#)

by [Molly Ostertag](#)

Even better than [Molly Ostertag's Witch Boy series](#)! This book is quiet and yet dramatic, depicting changing friendships and family troubles with gorgeous illustrations.

Jenna, Foster City Library



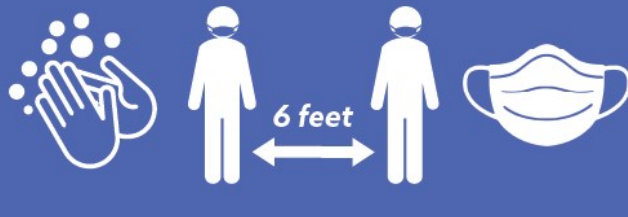
Adult Nonfiction: [Blockchain for Everyone](#)

by [John Hargrave](#)

[John Hargrave](#) speaks about his journey with blockchain and the evolution of the dot-com bubble. He reflects on his career highs and lows from the beginnings of the dot-com bubble to present day. He also explains how blockchain is important and how it can one day change how we live our lives.

Alan, Atherton 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



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San Mateo County Libraries

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