



Dear Community,

We can't wait to welcome Bay Area author [Mike Chen](#) on [Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 PM](#). Chen will discuss his newest book, [Light Years From Home](#), before taking questions from the audience.

In *Light Years From Home*, Evie Shao and her sister, Kass, aren't on speaking terms since their father and brother vanished, the former turning up days later convinced he'd been abducted by aliens. When their brother, Jakob, remained missing, Evie and Kass dealt with it very differently. Kass, suspicious that Jakob simply ran off, became the family's rock, while Evie pursued alien conspiracy theories, searching for their lost brother.

Fifteen years later, Jakob reappears, and he's different—older, stranger and talking of an intergalactic war—but the tensions between the siblings haven't changed at all. *Light Years from Home* covers issues as complex as saving the galaxy: making peace with your family... and yourself.

[Publishers Weekly](#) calls the book, "An emotional blend of space opera and family drama" that's "sure to keep readers turning pages." We hope you join us for this wonderful event!

[Register Now](#)



### [Meet Toni Mirosevich, Author of Spell Heaven](#)

[San Mateo County Libraries](#) is delighted to welcome another Bay Area author, [Toni Mirosevich](#), on [Tuesday, August 23 at 6:00 PM](#). Toni will be in conversation with Belmont Poet Laureate Emerita [Tanuja Wakefield](#) about [Spell Heaven](#), her new collection of linked short stories.

[Register Now](#)



### [Streaming Video Books for Kids Now Available!](#)

Discover video versions of some of your favorite children's books through our new offering, [Weston Woods Plus!](#) Readers will be delighted to find more recent works like [Andrea Wang's Watercress](#) next to classics like [Don Freeman's Corduroy](#). There are no holds or wait times, and emergent readers can choose the Read-Along mode that highlights text as it's read aloud. In addition to titles in English, readers will find some bilingual titles in Mandarin and Spanish.

[Stream Now](#)



### [Meditate, Sleep and Relax With Calm](#)

We are thrilled to announce that we will continue to offer free Calm accounts to our community! Take a deep breath and sign up with your library card online using the [Get Calm form](#). Experience audio content, masterclasses and sleep stories to help you meditate, practice mindfulness and get better sleep.

[Get Calm Now](#)



### [August 25 Closure](#)

A reminder that [San Mateo County Libraries](#) will be closed, and [Customer Care](#) will not be available on [Thursday, August 25](#) for staff development. Libraries will open again on Friday, August 26.

## Explore More

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

### [Meditation: A Vacation From Stress](#)

Monday, August 15 • 6:00 PM

Meditation is being prescribed by many medical practitioners and has been widely recognized as a means to enhance one's health and reduce stress. Join Arlene Samsel, who has 25 years of meditation experience, for this lively, engaging workshop where you'll have a chance to practice meditation techniques.

### [Virtual Poetry Night Featuring Sandra Anfang](#)

Tuesday, August 16 • 7:00 PM

Belmont Poetry Night invites you to join in the theme of "Work of Art" in honor of American Artist Appreciation Month. This is a virtual event on Zoom featuring poet and visual artist [Sandra Anfang](#) and hosted by [Belmont Poet Laureate Monica Korde](#). An open mic will follow the reading.

### [Fall Vegetable and Herb Gardening](#)

Thursday, August 18 • 4:00 PM

August is a great time to plan your garden for fall. It's not too late to add some fast-growing greens, vegetables and herbs. Join Master Gardener Shilpa, who will cover all the essentials for a successful fall garden from soil to harvest.

### [Growing and Preserving Tomatoes](#)

Tuesday, August 23 • 4:00 PM

Join Michael Klein, UC-certified Master Food Preserver and Master Gardener, for a one-hour workshop devoted to the tomato. Learn how to safely preserve your home-grown or farm-picked favorites through canning, dehydrating and freezing and understand the varieties best suited to each process.

### [Continuing Guided Autobiography](#)

Friday, August 26 • 10:30 AM

Join certified Guided Autobiography instructor [Liz Dossa](#) virtually for this series, running biweekly in eight guided Autobiography, August 26 to December 2. Each class will include writing prompts, themes, discussions and practice of writing techniques. Please try to attend all eight sessions and register to join. This series is intended for writers who have already attended the [Beginning Guided Autobiography](#) series.

### [Art Talk – Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy](#)

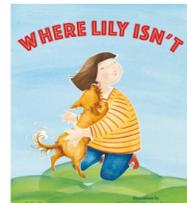
Wednesday, August 31 • 7:00 PM

In 2015, pop star Rihanna made headlines at the Met Gala by wearing a spectacular creation by [Guo Pei](#), which thrust the designer into the international spotlight. [Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy](#) is the first comprehensive exhibition of the work of the woman hailed as China's first couturier. This dazzling retrospective features her work from the past two decades.

[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: [Where Lily Isn't](#)

by [Julie Paschkis](#), illustrated by [Margaret Chodos-Irvine](#)

A heartwarming picture book for remembering and grieving a beloved pet.

*Nicole, Brisbane Library*



### Young Adult Graphic Novel: [Passport](#)

by [Sophia Glock](#)

Sophia's family moves frequently, she doesn't keep in touch with her friends once they move and she avoids questions about her parents' work. It's the only life she's known. But then Sophia reads a letter with a secret not intended for her eyes, and pieces of the puzzle fall into place. Now she must keep the secret too.

*Amy, Atherton Library*



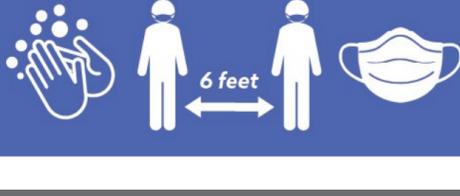
### Adult New Fiction: [Arsenic and Adobo](#)

by [Mia P. Manansala](#)

A hilarious rom-com turned murder mystery. Readers will fall in love with Lila, her aunties and her trusty dachshund sidekick Longanisa as they unravel what happened to Lila's ex-boyfriend, who mysteriously dies after eating from Lila's family restaurant.

*Carmen, North Fair Oaks 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

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PACIFICA SANCHEZ | PACIFICA SHARP PARK | PORTOLA VALLEY | SAN CARLOS | WOODSIDE | BOOKMOBILE

Open for Exploration™

[smcl.org](#)

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