



Dear Community,

Censorship is on the rise in 2022. Libraries and school districts across the country are receiving challenges and bans at an unprecedented rate. A challenge is when an individual or group seeks to get a book removed, while a ban is an institutional decision to remove a book.

[Banned Books Week](#), September 18–24, amplifies intellectual freedom and pushes back against censorship because everyone deserves to see themselves in the library. The [American Library Association](#) (ALA) recorded 729 book challenges last year, double the total from 2020 and the highest number recorded since the organization first started tracking these statistics. ALA reports that books are frequently banned for Black or LGBTQIA+ content.

We pride ourselves in having something for everyone in our collection. Our job is to offer a large variety of choices, and give community members the freedom to choose what to read or not read. We champion the ALA's [Library Bill of Rights](#), seeking to provide useful materials to all community members from many points of view.

Join us for this year's Banned Books Week to learn how to protect the freedom to read, and come see us in person for special displays, crafts and more!

[Read Now](#)



[Join Us For a Mid-Autumn Celebration!](#)

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or the Mooncake Festival, is a traditional Chinese festival celebrated for over 3,000 years. This year's Mid-Autumn Festival will take place on **Saturday, September 10**. Celebrate with us at our [upcoming events](#), and check out our blog for related staff picks.

[Celebrate Now](#)



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

[San Mateo County Libraries](#) is teaming up with [C2 Education of Millbrae](#) to offer opportunities to practice the SAT or ACT college admissions tests this summer and fall. These practice tests are for students in grades 9–12, and in-person seating is limited, but C2 Education of Millbrae also offers an online option.

[Register Now](#)



[Sound Healing With Joseph Coffin](#)

[Sound healing](#) is a type of guided meditation that uses sound and vibrations to restore your body and mind. The vibrations provide a focus for an individual's meditation practice and promote relaxation and stress relief. [San Mateo County Libraries](#) and Joseph Coffin of [THE MATS Pacifica](#) look forward to sharing this ancient practice with our communities this September.

[Explore Now](#)



[Pacifica Sanchez Library Is Updating Its Hours!](#)

[Pacifica Sanchez Library](#) is launching updated hours. Beginning the week of **September 18**, the library will transition its hours, opening for Wednesday service. This service adjustment comes after hearing feedback from the community. We're excited to start sharing Wednesdays with you at Sanchez Library for more discovery, connection and exploration opportunities!

[Discover Now](#)

Explore More

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

[Upcycled Glass Jar Painting](#)

Saturday, September 10 • 11:00 AM • [Brisbane Library](#)

Learn basic painting strokes with Sarita from Sarita's Creations and decorate your own glass jar with special glass paint. No experience is necessary. Explore your artistic side and be prepared to have fun! Bring your own clean glass jar to class. Registration is required, and spots are limited.

[Welcoming Week Storytime With SMC Office of Community Affairs](#)

Monday, September 12 • 10:30 AM • [Millbrae Library](#)

Join us in celebration of [Welcoming Week](#) 2022: Where We Belong! We'll be reading books highlighting the immigrant experience, what it feels like to be included, and that home is where you make it.

¡Únase a nosotros en celebración de [la Semana de Bienvenida](#): ¡Donde Perteneceemos! Leeremos libros que resaltan la experiencia del inmigrante, lo que se siente al ser incluido.

[Virtual Book Club](#)

Monday, September 12 • 04:00 PM

San Mateo County Library's Virtual Book Club meets online every second Monday of the month and is open to everyone 16 and older. We read a wide range of titles that are available free with your [SMCL library card](#). Visit our [book group page](#) to see what we're reading next and prior book selections.

[Vinyasa Yoga](#)

Thursday, September 15 • 11:30 AM

Are you interested in learning how to do yoga or already have a practice and want to join others in your community for free online sessions? Join certified yoga instructors for accessible vinyasa-inspired flow yoga and chair yoga classes on alternating Thursdays from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

[Art Exhibit Event – A Glimpse Inside Out](#)

Thursday, September 15 • 5:00 PM • [East Palo Alto Library](#)

The [East Palo Alto Library](#) is proud to host a very special art exhibition created by 4th – 7th grade students from [East Palo Alto Charter School](#). Come view their 42 large-scale portraits hanging throughout the library and learn about the social action that this project represents.

La [biblioteca de East Palo Alto](#) se enorgullece de presentar una exhibición de arte muy especial creada por estudiantes de 4° a 7° grado de la [escuela East Palo Alto Charter](#). Ven a ver sus 42 retratos colgados en nuestra biblioteca y aprende sobre la acción social que representa este proyecto.

[Diamond Head Jazz](#)

Thursday, September 15 • 6:00 PM • [Pacifica Sharp Park Library](#)

In [celebrating Latinx Heritage Month](#), we are hosting the very popular local jazz band, [Diamond Head Jazz](#). The band will perform famous Latin covers and jam to some classics.

[Explore All Events](#)

Community Picks

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

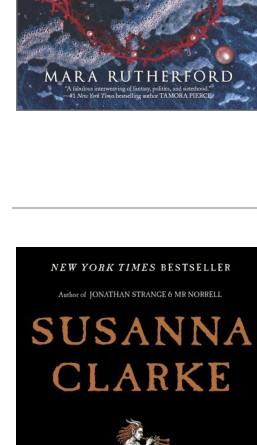


Children's Fiction: [When the World Turned Upside Down](#)

written and illustrated by [K. Iburu](#)

The lives of four friends are changed when their teacher announces that school will be closed for two weeks because of a virus that has been making people sick. Shayla, Ai, Ben and Liam soon learn how to navigate quarantine safely amid fears of getting their families sick as well as learn about police brutality. They also discover that people may need help at this time, so they come up with ideas on how to help their neighbors and be advocates for social justice. A sweet story of what even kids can do in a time when the world turns upside down. For ages 8–12.

Angela, Pacifica Libraries

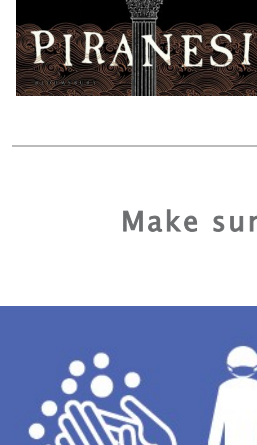


Young Adult Fiction: [Crown of Coral and Pearl](#)

by [Mara Rutherford](#)

This story explores the strong bond between twin sisters, Zadie and Nor, and how beauty can make or break a family. Nor must prove to herself and her family that she is more than just beauty. She is capable of protecting not only her family, but the whole village of Varenia, from the greediness of the Ilarian Kingdom.

Nancy, Half Moon Bay Library



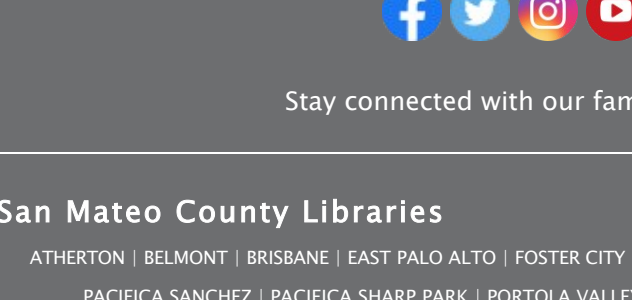
Adult Fiction: [Piranesi](#)

by [Susanna Clarke](#)

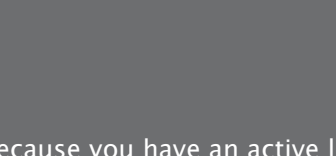
Piranesi lives to explore the Labyrinth. The never-ending Labyrinth is his whole world, and he and the Other are the only ones there. But soon, Piranesi's exploration of the Labyrinth has him questioning all he believes.

Gabriela, Millbrae 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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