

FML News

VOL. 42 NO. 1

www.millbraelibraryfriends.org

WINTER 2021

THE CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are very grateful to all of you for continuing to support the Millbrae Library during this pandemic which has forced the library to be closed for several months. The library is steadily expanding options for remote services with increased online offerings such as author talks, storytimes, book clubs, job search help, and a citizenship learning club. The community can also reserve virtual meeting rooms and technology equipment for civic, cultural and educational purposes. Much more information about online services is available at the library website: SMCL.org.

Although our bookstore is closed and we are unable to hold our regular book sales, the Friends continue to meet virtually each month and support all the many ways the library serves our community. We provided wifi hotspots to support student distance learning and sponsored online author talks. Some of our members are participating in the San Mateo County Library Project of writing postcards to shut-ins. We appreciate your membership renewal and any donations you can make to support these and other library services. Your membership envelop is enclosed. Donations can be mailed or made online at our website: millbraelibraryfriends.org.

It's with great pleasure we welcome **Elizabeth Sor** to the Friends of the Library Board. Elizabeth tells us a little about herself below:

Hello. I am happy and honored to be serving on the Friends of the Millbrae Library Board. I was born in Mainland, China (almost 80 years ago), raised and educated in Taiwan. I majored in Journalism and worked as a radio reporter, DJ, and newspaper reporter before I came to the United States. I received my Library Degree in Eugene, Oregon and came to the Bay Area in 1968.

I began my first professional job at Millbrae Library in April, 1968, as a children's librarian. We've lived in Millbrae ever since. After working for the County Library system as a children's librarian specialist and as community librarian in Pacifica, I retired in April, 2005.

That was when the Millbrae Library was newly remodeled, and I got an offer I couldn't refuse: I was given a part-time contract and put in charge of the library's newly expanded Chinese-language collection, as well as doing a weekly Chinese/English Bilingual Story Time. That was my dream job! I had to give up that job in 2011, but continued to work as a librarian substitute and a library volunteer. For over ten years, my college alumni association in Northern California (NCUAANC) and FML cosponsored a Book/Cultural Club for the Mandarin Chinese speaking community until the COVID-19 changed everybody's life! I officially re-retired from the library position in July of 2020.

*by Lolly Pineda
& Ruth Stout*



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SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBRARY NEWS

by Raquel España

When we closed our doors in March 2020, it was with much uncertainty about the challenges we were to face. But one of our guiding principles is to provide services that are responsive to community needs, so we quickly set to reimagining our work to embrace new opportunities and continue to serve our community.

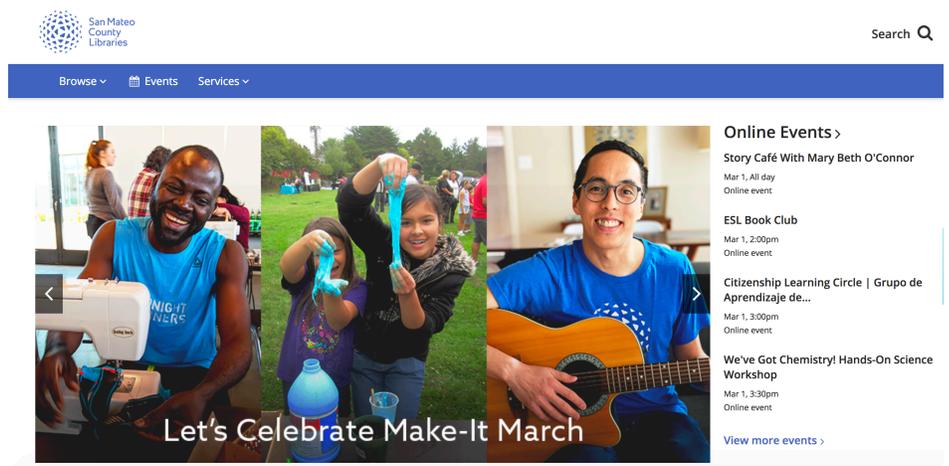
We know how important it is to you to have books and materials, so one of our most visible reimagined services has been Curbside Services. We provide safe and convenient pickup of library materials outside the Library and in recent months have expanded the types of materials and services we offer! We have provided several thousand bundles of books, movies, music and more. Thanks to Elise Staples, select libraries began checking out sewing machines in November, including Millbrae. We welcome you to come by and speak to staff during Curbside hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11-4. You can also easily get in touch with the staff by phone [1-833-YES-SMCL (1-833-937-7625)], text message [(650) 851-0147], or email (<https://smcl.org/get-in-touch/>).

We also know that some of the most missed services are our engaging and educational programs. We continue to provide many favorites in new online formats through smcl.org. We have created special sections on the website for families, adults, job seekers and students. Resources include recorded programs, resources, live event information and more.

We have been constantly adapting to address timely and relevant needs as they arise in the community. In the early stages of pandemic response, our staff assisted with local food security initiatives and mobilized our 3D printers to produce hundreds of face shields for front-line medical workers. In a census and election year, we partnered with other trusted community agencies to share accurate and trustworthy information, get people counted, and promote civic engagement through ballot workshops and informational programs. And, as race and social equity issues rose to prominence nationally and locally, we have continued to work to provide forums for discussion and resources that help people embrace our shared role in promoting understanding and positive social change. We were especially proud to host one of the nation's leading experts in understanding implicit bias, Stanford professor Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt and an Equity Author series is planned for this spring.

During this pandemic, we have learned that the way we serve our community is sure to change, but our commitment to you will remain our priority. We hope you will continue to connect with us both online and through Curbside Services as we continue to monitor and adjust to the constantly changing health landscape and prepare for safe reopening of the library building this spring.

From all the staff, we hope you are safe and well, and can't wait to see you soon.



Friends of Millbrae Library News

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