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2019 Newsletter



Friends of the Portola Valley Library



Community in the making...

Our Library is a Magical Place!

Full of wonder-filled programs, books, and more...

A place to learn, a place to play,
A place to meditate, a place to stay,
A place to explore, and oh so much more.

Happenings abound, friends waiting to be found.

Our library is a magical place,
That does indeed speak poetry to our community.



Kat, Garrett, Kayla Marie, Kaylene, Alice, Mark, Rachael, Sherry (not pictured)

New Faces, Same Heart for Service

Regular library visitors may have noticed some new faces amongst the staff lately. Three new staff members have joined the team in place of others who retired or were promoted or transferred to other San Mateo County Libraries. We know you will miss Amy, Elise, Fred, and Michael, but will enjoy getting to know our new staff. You will soon find that they are eager to serve our community with the same heart and passion for inspiration and discovery that are hallmarks of our Library.

In their words...

My name is **Alice Erickson** and I'm very excited to be a new Librarian. I come to SMCL from my role as a Children's Librarian for the Cupertino Library. I have a BA in Math from Bryn Mawr College, with a minor in Italian, and earned my Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington. While there, I worked with the Seattle Public Library using participatory design to develop stronger STEAM programming for children. When I'm not at the library, I enjoy folk dancing, hiking and playing my violin.

My name is **Kayla Marie Figard** and I am thrilled to be your new Senior Librarian. I have worked for SMCL since 2008, first as a teenage Library Aide at the Pacifica Libraries and later as a Library Assistant, Community Program Specialist and Teen Librarian at the Belmont Library. I have an AA degree in Journalism from College of San Mateo, a BA in American Studies from San Francisco State University, and

a Masters in Library and Information Service from San Jose State University. When I'm not at work, I enjoy hiking with my dog, backpacking and working on trails.

My name is **Kaylene Ogden** and I'm pleased to join the warm and welcoming Portola Valley community as your new Library Assistant. I have worked for SMCL since 2017 and have done lots of outreach, helped with Big Lift Inspiring Summers, and have worked at almost every library in SMCL. I'm aiming to collect them all. I also work at the Alameda Free Library where I work with children and families and have led a book club for 5th-8th graders. I have a BA in English from UC Berkeley and just completed my Masters in Library and Information Science from San Jose State. When not at work, I enjoy a long walk with a good podcast, murder mysteries, smart house conversion, and trying out new art supplies.

> **Garrett Kuramoto**, Library Manager, Portola Valley and Woodside, SM County Libraries

A look back...

A Page from the Good Old Days

Lenora Ferro for FOPVL Board of Directors

Harking back to days past can stir memories of forgotten treasures that are underpinnings of today's continuing mission and purpose.

Such is the case with this piece of memorabilia, unearthed recently in the Friends' archives. The source of this treasure is Pat Brown, FOPVL's former president and treasurer. A beloved community volunteer, Pat was a founding member of Portola Valley's incorporation team and board of directors. Along with her husband, Bob Brown, thrice Mayor of Portola Valley,

Pat spearheaded the campaign to secure a permanent site for our town library.

She remained on the Friends' Board for many years, serving in official capacities and as "on-call" factotum. In each of her roles, Pat applied her keen mind and signature devotion, giving heart and fidelity to all that she valued.

We are indebted forever to Pat and Bob Brown for their example and for this reminder of the Friends' philosophy and mission.



Some of our FOPVL Board members at the Jackie Speier event

Please donate!

To continue offering fun and enriching programs, we need your ongoing support. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website to submit your contribution. We welcome your donation via check* or online via credit card/PayPal.

www.FOPVL.org/donate-now

*Checks payable to:
"Friends of the Portola Valley Library"

Tax ID#: 23-7006543

Portola Valley Poetry Celebration

April 24 was a lovely evening at the Portola Valley Community Hall with San Mateo County's new Poet Laureate, Aileen Cassinetta. She was the special guest for the annual PV Poetry Celebration. She shared her background and non-traditional path to the literary arts, as well as what it means to freely express emotion through poetry. As Poet Laureate, her role will be to elevate poetry among San Mateo County residents and to celebrate the literary arts by making poetry more accessible to people in their everyday lives.

The evening began with students in grades K-5 reading poetry they had written, then having a casual open conversation with Aileen about her thought process and approach to writing poetry. Older students in grades 6-12 then shared their poetry with great depth and artistry. Those in attendance were touched by the connective feelings, relatable content, and emotions stirred.

Our appreciation to Aileen for reminding us that poetry expressing the beauty of nature, insecurities and joys, and freedom of spirit can reach us all.

Library Service Philosophy

The library is a community resource and its vitality comes from its use. Until it is utilized, it is no more than a storehouse of ideas and imagination and we are no more than custodians of forgotten dreams and visions.

The value of the library is not in its books and files but in the questions and ambitions of people seeking knowledge. We are not here to serve the library. We are here to serve a more important community resource – its citizens.

It is only through the creation of a client-centered environment that we can fulfill our mission. It is the ideas and needs of the community that determine which materials and skills we offer. And it is only in an atmosphere of freedom and accommodation that these community assets are used.

The Library is a valued community resource when it is a marketplace of ideas and imagination. In a community that has such a library, dreams and visions flourish and multiply.

**Source to FOPVL Board is Pat Brown but original author is uncertain.*

FOPVL Board of Directors

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Aileen Cassinetta with poetry celebration participants

In the Spotlight:

Kathryn Wiszowaty

Community Programs Specialist, PV Library

To regular attendees of our library programs, “Kat” Wiszowaty needs no introduction. You’ll recognize her as the energetic lady who opens many of our programs, introduces our guest speakers, and ensures the event runs smoothly.



Kat grew up in a small Butte County farm community where she learned about local arts and crafts as well as the beauty, benefits, and skills of living in tune with nature. Always curious, Kat is a lifelong learner and educational enthusiast. Her knowledge and broad interests serve her well in facilitating the diverse programs offered at our Portola Valley Library. She especially enjoys science-based programs and welcomes questions, experiments and experiences with “creatures.” Whenever an uninvited creature accidentally visits our library, Kat is summoned to “handle the situation” humanely.



Aileen Cassinetto with poetry celebration participants

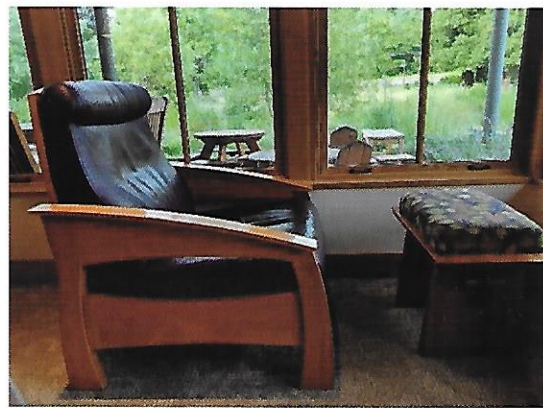
The library’s summer reading program is Kat’s personal favorite. She was one of the program’s founders and continues as an advocate, witnessing first-hand the advances youngsters make in critical reading skills. As part of the San Mateo County Libraries Big Lift Inspiring Summers Program, it received a “Bright Spot” award and national recognition.

Kat has been at the library since 2001 when she began as a volunteer shelving books. She was soon offered a staff position and quickly found her niche assisting the librarian with Story Time. The babies in those classes are now in high school, yet she still enjoys sharing books with toddlers long before they can read. Kat’s energy and enthusiasm are contagious as she makes stories come alive for children of all ages. Kat is inspired by her work and enjoys watching children grow and learn.

You’ll often see Kat “here and about,” encouraging and reminding us of the adventures waiting to be discovered at our beautiful Portola Valley Library. She is just one of our special Library staff members waiting to serve you. She hopes to see you at our library, so come soon and often!



Kat facilitating event with participant sharing her poetry



If Tables Could Talk...

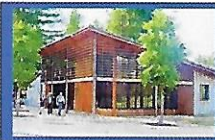
Our library furniture has a story to tell!

Did you know that the gorgeous American black cherry wood furniture in our library was personally designed and crafted for our very own Portola Valley Library?

Those hefty wooden tables, chairs and benches were “specially constructed using sustainably harvested regional hardwoods, with environmentally friendly, non-toxic fabrics and finishes... in a small artisan workshop in Portland, Maine. Designer and founder Doug Green creates these pieces using precision-engineered sliding dovetails, similar to a Japanese puzzle box. Each component slides and locks into place, forming a structure that refuses to weaken over time – no screws, bolts, glue, or tools are needed.” And each of our library pieces is numbered and signed by its maker. – *Green Designs*

Those silky-smooth finishes are soothing to the eye and touch, exuding an organic reverence. I now appreciate them more than ever. Thank you, Kat, for introducing me to the rest of their story... and thanks to David and Annette Jorgensen, FOPVL supporters, whose generous donation funded the purchase of this uniquely-designed furniture.

> Jeanne Kunz, President, FOPVL Board



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Website: www.smcl.org
Monday-Thursday 11am – 7pm
Friday, Saturday 11am – 5pm

ECRWSS

POSTAL PATRON

PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028

June 2019 Events

Event Color Code: All Ages BLUE | Children & Families ORANGE | Grades K-5 GREEN | Teens TEAL | Adults GREY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2019 SUMMER LEARNING CHALLENGE June 1 to August 31	Join the 2019 Summer Learning Challenge! All ages and abilities are welcome.	Complete a summer reading log for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship available for youth ages 18 and under!	Visit the library to enter in a weekly drawing for tickets to local attractions.	Register at the library or online at www.summerlearners.org		1 1:30 - 3:30 PM Crafty Saturday
	3 11:00 AM Babies & Books Storytime 11:30 AM Caregiver Workshop 3:30 PM Ray Bibeo Beings With Green Art	4 11:00 AM Toddler Storytime 11:30 AM Toddler Stay & Play 3:30 PM Mad Science Movie Special Effects	5 2:00 - 3:30 PM 3D Printing Drop-In 3:30 - 4:00 PM Teen Lounge 3:00 PM Perfectly Wilhelm Impass	6 2:30 - 4:30 PM Little Explorers Petting Zoo 4:00 - 7:00 PM eMedia Help / 3D Object	7 10:00 AM Tai Chi & Chi Kung 11:00 AM Morning Tea at the Library 11:00 AM Preschool Storytime 11:30 AM Art Adventure	8 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM LEGO Club
	10 11:00 AM Babies & Books Storytime 1:00 PM Christie's Art: Embossed & Stamped Cards 4:00 PM The Beetlelady Bugs to Dye For	11 11:00 AM Rainbow Singalong With Cassie Levy 12:00 PM Tiny Tots Art Adventure	12 2:00 - 3:30 PM 3D Printing Drop-In 2:30 - 4:30 PM Summer Learning Challenge Kickoff Party With Wildmind 2:30 - 4:00 PM Teen Lounge	13 1:00 PM DIY Rainbow Bath Salts 4:00 PM Summer STEAM Club 4:00 - 7:00 PM eMedia Help / 3D Object	14 10:00 AM Tai Chi & Chi Kung 11:00 AM Morning Tea at the Library 11:00 AM The Beetlelady Preschool Edition	15
	17 11:00 AM Babies & Books Storytime 4:00 PM Maker Monday: Pride Scrabble Art Edition 23/30 Block Party M-Th, June 24-27 4:00 - 6:00 PM F/Sa, June 28/29 3:00 - 5:00 PM	18 11:00 AM Toddler Storytime 11:30 AM Toddler Stay & Play 24 11:00 AM Babies & Books Storytime 1:00 PM Adult Craft Club: Quilted Jewelry	19 2:00 - 3:30 PM 3D Printing Drop-In 	20 1:00 PM Non-Fiction Book Club 4:00 PM Summer STEAM Club 4:00 - 7:00 PM eMedia Help / 3D Object	21 10:00 AM Tai Chi 11:00 AM Morning Tea 11:00 AM Preschool Storytime 11:30 AM Stay & Play Rainbow Dance Party	22
	25 11:00 AM Toddler Storytime 11:30 AM Tiny Tots Art Adventure 5:00 PM Documentary Film: Brother Outsider	26 2:00 - 3:30 PM 3D Printing Drop-In 	27 4:00 PM Dinosaurs Rock 4:00 - 7:00 PM eMedia Help / 3D Object	28 10:00 AM Tai Chi & Chi Kung 11:00 AM Morning Tea at the Library 11:00 AM Magician Mike Della Penna	29 	



San Mateo
County
Libraries

PORTOLA VALLEY

765 Portola Road, Portola Valley CA 94028
smcl.org

To keep current on all the library events, subscribe to the Library Events e-Newsletter by sending an email to PortolaValley@smcl.org. You'll receive a detailed calendar and summary of activities monthly with a mid-month highlight. Or visit the PV Library to pick up a printed color copy or the San Mateo County Library's website: <https://smcl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/index>