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2020 Newsletter



Friends of the Portola Valley Library

Serving our Community...

During this pandemic, we've 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.



New Events, Services, and Notes
From Your Library



Introducing Live Experiences!
Let's meet virtually for staff-led programs.

Our Library is Still Here for YOU ...

When we closed our doors back in March, there was much uncertainty about the challenges we were to face. Yet, because one of our guiding principles is to provide services that are responsive to our community needs, we quickly began to reimagine our work and embrace new opportunities for continuing to service 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've provided several thousand bundles of books, movies, music, and more to members of the community. We welcome you to come by and speak to our staff during Curbside hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11-4.

We also know that some of the most missed services are our engaging and educational programs. We are happy to report that many favorites are now available in new online formats through www.smcl.org.

We have created special sections on the website for families, adults, job seekers, teachers, and students. Venues include

recorded programs, resources, live event information, and more. Check them out!

We are 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 promoted **civic engagement** through ballot workshops and informational programs. And, as race and social equity issues rose to prominence nationally and locally, we've 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, in a lecture moderated by our Town Council member Mary Ann Derwin.

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

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

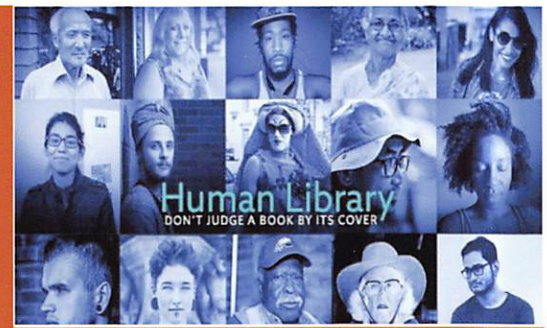
Expanding understanding of social differences...

Human Library

In February our Portola Valley Library, with sponsorship by the Friends, launched the Human Library pilot for San Mateo County Libraries. The Human Library is a worldwide movement for positive social change. Started 20 years ago in Denmark by anti-violence organizers, today Human Library events can be found in over 80 countries worldwide. The goal of the Human Library is to challenge the misunderstandings that divide us from one another. The program uses intentional one-on-one conversations to deepen understanding, challenge bias, and strengthen our human connections.

At the Human Library event, the “books” are people – volunteers willing to share their lived experience with you. “Readers” check out “books” for an open-ended conversation lasting up to 20 minutes. Some of our “book titles” are transgender, poet laureate, surviving the streets and addiction, border humanitarian, suicide survivor, police officer, veteran, surviving a liver transplant, and more.

My book was a paraplegic and his wife, both are young and vibrant people. They were inspiringly open and shared their challenges and struggle to live their daily life yet retain a sense of humor and hope



about their future. Within the brief 20 minutes, I was able to get a real connection and gained some understanding of a new perspective.

This program truly meets the objective of “Don’t judge a book by its cover”. Please take the opportunity when you see future Human Library events – it is a worthwhile experience.

Kwok Lau, FOPVL President



Please donate!

We understand you have many needs and requests to manage, but please consider contributing to FOPVL in your annual giving. Your donations help extend FOPVL sponsorship to support enrichment programs and events for all ages, as well as specific Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment expense requests to enhance the functionality of our library spaces. 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

Giving thanks

“I’m feeling so much gratitude for the good people at the Portola Valley Library. I just stopped by to use the Curbside Pickup service and return some books. While it’s a bittersweet experience to be outside the library and unable to go in, seeing the names of friends on the other book bags awaiting pickup, the table of summer reading books, and the thoughtful setup with hand sanitizer and social distancing signage, reminds me that our library Friends are here for our community and doing fantastic work to keep literacy and community vibrant during these tough times. Many, many thanks!”

Judy Gilbert, PV Library patron



Book Donations

During library closure due to current health safety regulations, we cannot accept any book donations. Please refrain from leaving any boxes or bags of books at the door. (It only creates more labor and health risks for our loyal library workers.) In the meantime, we eagerly look forward to the day when our library can safely return to the happy, bustling, creative space that we all enjoy so much. Until then, stay well and stay safe.

Jo Ann Mitchell and Lin Pearlstein, FOPVL Board Members

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PORTOLA VALLEY CELEBRITIES

Who is Garrett Kuramoto?

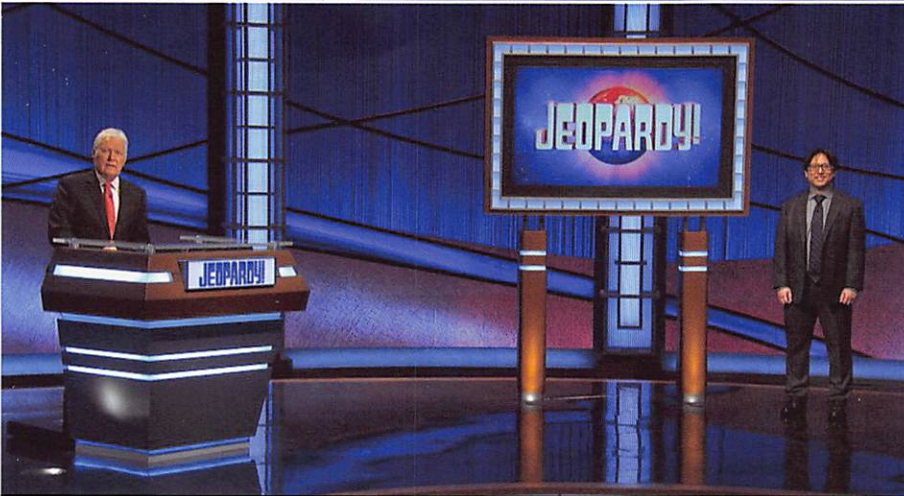


Photo credit: "Jeopardy Productions, Inc."

Our own Garrett Kuramoto (Portola Valley and Woodside Libraries Branch Manager) recently WOW'd us as a contestant on Jeopardy! The show aired on national television on November 2 (Season 37 Episode 36). Garrett shares his thrilling experience with us below.

Q: How long have you been interested in being a contestant on the show and what was the process to apply and get accepted?

GK: *I've been a fan and dreamed about competing as long as I can remember. My grandma was a big fan and some of my earliest memories growing up are watching with her and yelling responses at the TV together. I've tried to become a contestant consistently for many years, which always begins by taking the online test. This time, I was one of a small percentage of people passing and was invited to an audition process where I took another test live with a staffer, and did interviews and played a mock game with other hopefuls, all via Zoom. Out of the auditions, I was fortunate enough to make it high enough on the list to be invited to appear on the show.*

Q: Were there specific procedures due to the Covid-19 pandemic which made this more challenging?

GK: *There was extra paperwork to sign, guidelines to follow, pre-show Covid testing, social distancing, masks except when on stage, and extra equipment safety precautions.*

Q: How did you study for the wide variety of questions asked?

GK: *After finding out I was to appear, I crammed using a variety of reference books from the library! I also watched reruns of Jeopardy! for ideas of categories and topics to study. I do think being a librarian helps with preparation because we are naturally curious people who enjoy researching information.*

Q: Was Alex Trebek as gracious in person as he appeared on TV? He was a strong example of a warrior fighting pancreatic cancer.

GK: *Alex was so professional, smooth, and upbeat on stage. His kindness made us feel at ease. Despite all he was dealing with, he made everything about the show and the people. Alex's passing has been felt deeply all over the world but has also revealed many wonderful stories about his life and character. I am incredibly fortunate to have had the chance to meet him in such a fun and positive setting and am beyond grateful for the experience we shared during what we now know were difficult final days. His heart and perseverance will inspire me forever.*

RIP Alex Trebek! You will be missed!



Pandemic Poem

by Sue Chaput

PV Arts Guild Literary Contest

Honorable Mention: "Best Local Color"

*We've almost done every trail and
street ...in this old Town
What a treat and good for the feet ...
we've got it down.*

*Alamos to Zapata. Golden Oak.
Golden Hills Brookside Wayside
Shady Lane Fawn Lane Larry Lane
Quail Possum Bearpaw Deer Park
Horseshoe Buck Meadows Fawn*

*'Met new friends, great to see many old
Easing the Pandemic stress twice-told
Restoring the feeling of being whole-
souled*

*'Met a cool dude getting his kicks
On his skateboard doing amazing
tricks.*

*I asked about a helmet to take up the
slack
"Oh sure". He said. Right there in my
backpack.*

*Our next hike he rode by
On his bike just to say hi
Still no helmet – I wish he'd wear
His head to spare. At least he knows I
care. My new BFF.*

*When passing on trails we step off into
poison oak on creek-banks
Everyone always says "Thanks".
(Nice)*

*If we have to shelter in place,
This is a wonderful space.
Here's my Covid travelogue
Just me and my buddy dog.*



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Portola Valley Library

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Website: www.smcl.org

Curbside hours: Tuesdays-
Saturdays, 11am-4pm

ECRWSS

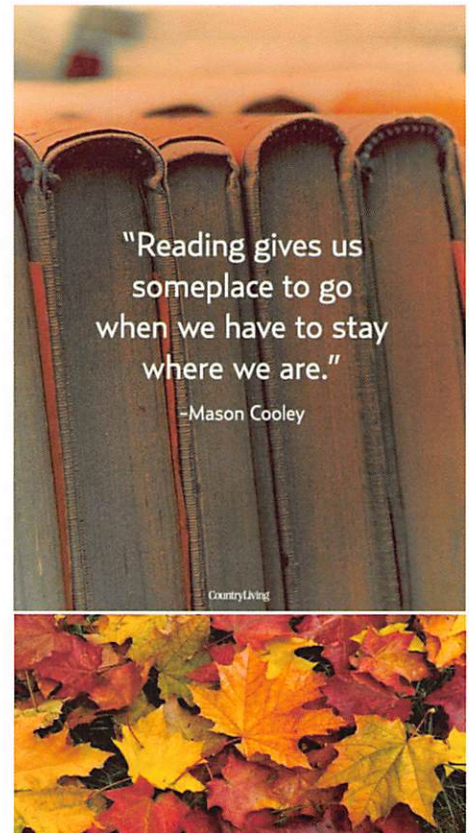
POSTAL PATRON

PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028

Great Libraries Build Community

At times such as this, we recognize and honor the dreams and drive of the wonderful founders of our library who paved the way for our Portola Valley Library which yet today remains a center of our community and strives to meet our intellectual and social needs in this everchanging world. A quote from Lenora Ferro's historic files aptly states, "What site better suited for such "goal-tending" than a local public library in our center as a way to ensure that our small, tucked-away town would have its own storehouse of knowledge to access, as well as a place where community-building would continue to thrive?"

Although our library building remains closed for yet awhile, our minds remain open and our library's story never ends. Our library continues to write exciting new chapters and create new adventures in life-long learning for our community.... Sharing the world of books, knowledge, and information remains our legacy and our future. Check out new virtual opportunities for you and your family on our website at www.FOPVL.org and www.smcl.org.



"Reading gives us
someplace to go
when we have to stay
where we are."

-Mason Cooley

Country Living