

THE SANTA CLARA CITY LIBRARY FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2021

Keeping Our Community Connected

We have all been through a lot the last fifteen months. One of the hardest things has been the loneliness. Even if you were staying home with your family, not seeing your coworkers, friends, and acquaintances daily made things more difficult.

The Santa Clara City Library stepped up to help fill that void, and the Foundation and Friends was there to help. Below are four things we helped the Library provide.

Hotspots: Keeping Santa Clara Online

2020 was the year that everything moved online. But what if you didn't have reliable internet? Or what if you suddenly had multiple kids who needed to attend online school while you and your partner were both online for work? Enter: the WiFi hotspots.

A WiFi hotspot is a device that connects to the internet via cell data, so you can use it anywhere. It allows other devices that only use WiFi, like your computer, to have an internet connection anywhere the hotspot can reach a cell signal.

The Foundation and Friends has been helping the Library to fund hotspots - both the devices and the service - for patrons to check out since 2016. During 2020 we bought twenty new hotspots and continued to fund service for the existing devices. This has allowed our community to keep accessing school and work and fun while we have all been stuck at home.



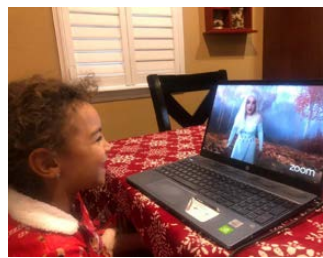
Online STEAM Classes: Engaging Students Around the World

The Library had been hosting STEAM labs in the library before the pandemic began. They are hands-on science activities aimed at children 7 and up, and have been very popular.

The classes moved online, featuring inexpensive household materials. A recent build-a-volcano lab required: an empty 8oz bottle with a narrow top, a party hat, a tray (or a surface you didn't mind getting messy), and, of course, baking soda and vinegar.

The STEAM classes' goal is to keep students interested in science, even during distance learning when engagement can be tough. Class attendance online has spiked to upwards of

250 children in each class, and because the classes are online, attendees are coming from places like Florida, India, and Mexico. The Library's virtual classes have made a difference not only in our community, but around the globe!



Comic Con @ Home: Keeping a Community Favorite Going

The Santa Clara City Library's annual Comic Con is always a big hit in the community. It's typically held on an October Saturday, and draws thousands of attendees from all over Silicon Valley.

This year's Comic Con had to be online; but it still drew big crowds! Storytime with Princess Elsa received over 40,000 views in the short time it was posted on YouTube. There were also graphic novel recommendation sessions, cosplay tips, a lesson on how to draw Baby Yoda, and more.

We hope to bring this popular event back in-person for 2021. Our community loves these stories and we're passionate about bringing them to you!

Expanding Literacy

Funding literacy programs is one of our biggest impacts on the community. Literacy programs moving forward this year include: ESL Book Club is meeting online; Storytimes have moved to YouTube; My First Book Club is on zoom, teaching reading skills to 4-6 year olds.

Plus, Read Santa Clara has an extensive YouTube channel with lessons on how to be a better speaking and writing tutor, family literacy lessons, and inspiring talks to keep you motivated.

Our Library and our community have been able to stay connected and keep moving forward throughout the pandemic thanks to the wonderful Library staff that has been so flexible and capable. We are proud to support them.



A Message from our Executive Director

By JoAnn Davis

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! We are looking forward to summer, the re-opening of our Libraries, and the freedom to gather with friends and family. And we are looking forward to seeing you!



Our 20th Anniversary year presented the Foundation with many challenges, but with the support of our members, volunteers, donors, and Board of Directors, we saw an increase in our individual donations, were able to continue to support library programs, remained engaged with our corporate sponsors, and hosted a virtual Librarpalooza Trivia Game for our community that raised almost \$25,000.

As we look forward to the beginning of our new fiscal year in July we will welcome a new Executive Committee to our Board of Directors, a new City Librarian, continue our commitment to supporting library programs throughout the year, and host Librarpalooza 2022: "Back to the Future". We are planning an exciting gala and hope to see you all there!

Of all the things learned this past year, the ones that stay in the forefront of my mind is that we are stronger together, we thrive when we are a part of a community, and we appreciate the opportunities to gather, share and learn from each other. Our Libraries are central to this and we are grateful for your time, support, and commitment to our mission.

Warm Regards,
JoAnn

Our Corporate and Foundation Sponsors



Michael J Kirsch
Foundation



Mission City
Community Fund



Money Spent on the Library during the 2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year

26%

STEM Classes
and Girls Who
Code



21%

Children's, Teens,
and Family
Programs



12%

Art & Music,
including
Comic Con



READ SANTA CLARA
YEAR AT A GLANCE

10%

Literacy, ESL,
and Read
Santa Clara

5%

Adult Classes &
Events



4%

2020 Summer
Reading Program



A LIBRARYPALOOZA UNLIKE ANY OTHER

LibraryPalooza 2021 - our online trivia night - was unlike any other LibraryPalooza we've held. The Foundation & Friends works to make LibraryPalooza a fun party for library lovers to meet each other, to show their support for the library, and to raise money for their library and community.

The pandemic made it impossible to have the big in-person bash we wanted to celebrate our 20th anniversary. Luckily, we have a great community!

Our sponsors and donors came along with us as we moved the event to an online trivia night. The Foundation's Board did a great job of keeping guests engaged in the chat, our trivia host was dynamic and enthusiastic, and everyone kept their wits about them as they competed to show they knew more than everyone else about books, movies, and television. We raised almost \$25,000!

We are hopeful that LibraryPalooza 2022: Back to the Future will be in person. Keep an eye out for information as we move forward!

THE SANTA CLARA CITY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION
AND FRIENDS



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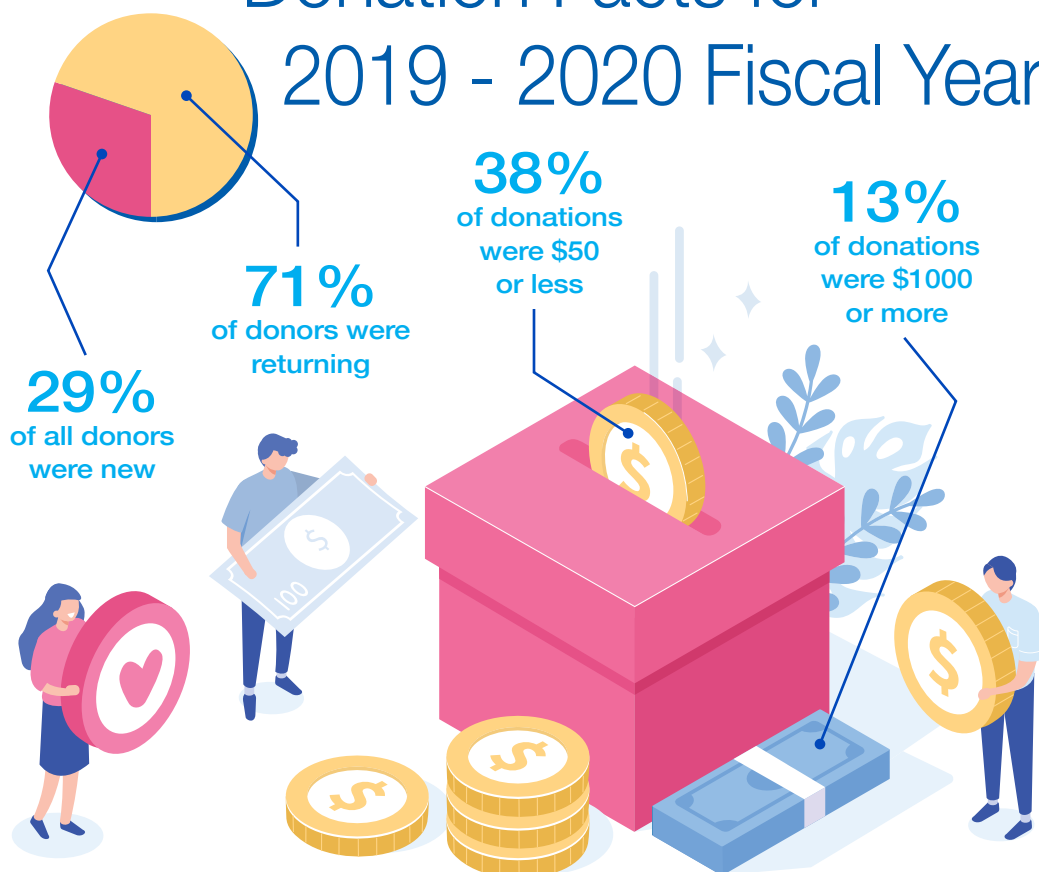
Nancy Toledo

Staff Members

JoAnn T Davis,
Executive Director

Kate Degelau-Pierce,
Associate Executive Director

Donation Facts for 2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year



Support Your Libraries

- Make a monetary donation – any amount helps!

- Volunteer your time

- Donate your gently used books, movies, and music

- Shop our book sales

- Add us to your will or estate plan

Santa Clara Searching for New City Librarian



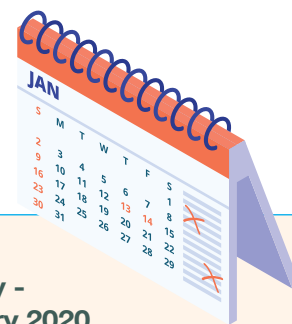
The search for a new City Librarian is active again, after having been put on pause because of the pandemic.

The City is working with executive search firm Teri Black & Company to recruit and hire a new City Librarian for Santa Clara City Libraries. The Library Board of Trustees and the Library Employees have given feedback on both the ideal attributes for the City Librarian and the hiring process. The application process has so far been competitive, and there are several strong candidates.

Assistant City Manager Cynthia Bojorquez is the current Interim City Librarian. She has previously served as the Director of Library and Community Services for both Sunnyvale and Salinas.



We are sad to announce the passing of Judy Hight (second from the left), one of our longest serving volunteers. This photo was taken in the original Friends of the Library Bookstore on El Camino Real, which operated from 2001-2004 during the Central Park Library reconstruction. We will miss her.



January - February 2020

Hilary Keith submits her letter of intent to retire. City retains executive search firm to conduct a national search for a new City Librarian, set to begin March 18, 2020.

March 2020

City declares state of emergency and pauses search.

April - September 2020

Feedback from the public and Library employees gathered online for desired attributes for City Librarian.

September 2020

Hilary Keith retires; Cynthia Bojorquez becomes interim City Librarian.

March 22, 2021 - April 18, 2021

Applications are open for City Librarian.

June 2021 (anticipated):

Interviews will be conducted.

July - August 2021 (anticipated)

New City Librarian will begin.



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