

Library Board, Santa Monica Public Library  
Secretary's Report  
November 2023

## Citywide:

The City Manager's Office continues to fill department head/leadership vacancies, including the appointment of Anuj Gupta as the Director for the Department of Transportation and Jenny Rogers, Director of the new Recreation and Arts Department.

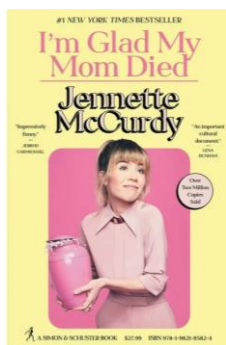
## Santa Monica Public Library

### Services

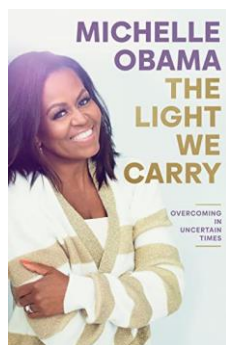
#### Top 5 Circulating Adult Nonfiction Titles by checkouts:



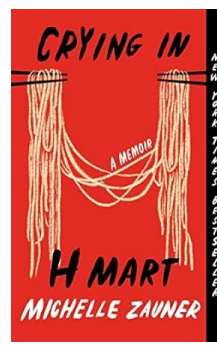
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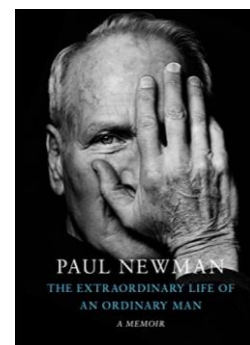
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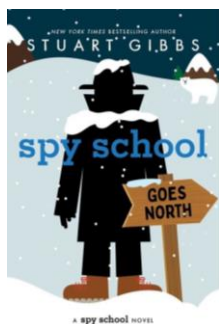
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October 2022 - October 2023

**DVD and CD optimal viewing/listening experience is back.** The Library's disc cleaner was recently refurbished, and staff will begin cleaning scratched discs again!

### Programming

#### Youth and Family Programs



**Best-Selling Children's Book Author Stuart Gibbs.** On November 18, 2023, Pico Branch Library will welcome international best-selling author **Stuart Gibbs** for an author talk and book signing. Stuart Gibbs is the author of numerous popular middle grade series such as the Once Upon a Tim series, and the long-running Spy School series. Gibbs will debut two books at this event: *Spy School Goes North*, the eleventh book chronicling the adventures of teen spy Ben Ripley, and *The Quest of Danger*, the fourth entry in the Once Upon a Tim series chronicling junior knight Tim and his ragtag crew of pals. A book sale and signing will follow the author's talk.

Last month, staff attended **McKinley Elementary School's Family Literacy Night**, where staff were able to outreach to an estimated 91 students and families who attended the event. Children who visited the Library's booth were gifted a free book purchased through the LEAF grant.



Last month's, Kindergarten readiness program at the Main Library "**Countdown to Kinder Club: Shapes**" featured the always popular, Bubblemania. Children ages 2-5, took home a backpack that included 2 books on shapes, shaped bean bags, a resource guide with a link to the reading list, the Building Blocks for Kindergarten booklet and bookmark, and flyers for ReadyRosie, LEAF and a library card application. A total 36 attendees (19 adults, 17 kids) attended and enjoyed the show.

**Halloween** - After a long pause, the library held its first movie screening since pre-Covid. Families celebrated with a screening of "The Witches", enjoyed popcorn and other spooky themed craft snacks, including curated witch-themed book displays. Teen volunteers assisted in handing out snacks and helping with crafts. 33 people attended and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Throughout the month of October in celebration of Dia de los Muertos, Calaveras Take and Make Kits were made available for teens and assembled by teen volunteers. A total of 120 kits were distributed amongst all 5 branches.



### Adult Programs



The City of Santa Monica announces its inaugural Poet Laureate program and invites Santa Monica residents aged 18 years or older to apply for this two-year honorary position.

The City of Santa Monica, seeking to highlight the City through the literary arts, support the creation of literary works that commemorate the diversity and vibrancy of Santa Monica, and promote arts education, has launched the City of Santa Monica Poet Laureate program.

The Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term and receive an annual stipend of \$5,000. Responsibilities for the position include:

- Carrying out activities that engage the public in poetry or literary arts
- Sharing the love of poetry with the community through participation in local events
- Creating an annual original poem celebrating the City of Santa Monica
- Organizing at least one annual poetry-related panel discussion or reading, writing workshop or program as part of the Library's National Poetry Month programming each April
- Presenting two annual writing workshops or poetry readings at Santa Monica public schools, the Santa Monica Public Library, or other community events

For information or to apply, visit: [santamonica.gov - Poet Laureate](http://santamonica.gov - Poet Laureate)

**New International Games Month!** The Library will be celebrating and hosting board game sessions for families, teens, adults, and seniors all month long. November is International Games Month, a worldwide initiative that aims to reconnect communities through games at the Library.

Programs and outreach in October included: Pico Branch tours for Citizenship Class. Through these tours, students are able to learn about Pico Branch, and program and services available.



**18th Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar at USC**, which featured dozens of libraries, museums and archives that gathered at USC's Doheny Library to showcase their archival treasures. The Doheny Library was a-buzz with activities --- just like the "before times"! Event organizers estimate the Bazaar drew over 500 visitors who experienced the richness of L.A. history.

**Ukulele 101 for Adults.** 30 enthusiastic adults of all ages attended the introductory ukulele class. Attendees were given the opportunity to checkout 6 of the Ukulele RED Kits available.

**Horror Book Tasting** An innovative way to sample different genres of books—through a horror book tasting event. Staff created 5 book lists, or "menus", with 9 books per list. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the tasting, with several people reading multiple books.

**Library APPs & More.** Patrons learned how to access and search different e-media platforms. **Email Basics.** Patrons learned how to create free email accounts, open/send messages, search, attach files, etc.



The Library welcomed Archives Processing Intern, Maxwell (Max) Nelson, second-year student in UCLA's Masters in Library and Information Studies program. Max will be working on a donated a collection of 5 boxes from the grassroots movement – Santa Monicans for Renter Rights (SMRR). Recent work includes interviewing long-time Rent Control Administrator, Tracy Condon.

## Partnerships

**SM History Museum:** On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Museum in partnership with the Library hosted a screening of City TV's 1991 documentary short "Pride and Prejudice," which was recently digitized and added to the *Imagine Santa Monica* database. An estimated 40 people were in attendance.

**Friends of the Library:** are holding a Booksale on November 18 from 11am to 3pm. Items will DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, books, graphic novels and Manga.

**Celebrating Community Libraries:** On October 21, the Library Board in partnership with the Friends of the Library hosted an event to recognize little libraries in our community. Attendees were able to enjoy an afternoon listening to classical music and meeting other fellow stewards while also having the opportunity to replenishing their little libraries with books made available by the Friends Bookstore. In addition, attendees were able take home a \$10 Bookstore coupon. Attendees were incredibly delighted to connect with other fellow stewards and share their love for books.



## Safety and Security

**October 2023** - Data below only reflects incidents and not day-to-day rule violation interactions.

**29** monthly incidents (23 major/ 6 minor) / **27** Incidents involving people who appear to be unhoused.

**14** incidents at main / **15** incidents at branches

**4** calls in to police / **6** active bans / **10** acts of Vandalism on library property were reported.

**61** minor incidents were reported by Netwatch during non-operational hours.

**By Erica Cuyugan, Director of Library Services**

Happy Halloween from the Library team!

