

IN THE STACKS

Feb. 2025

To Nurture Curiosity, Spark Connections, and Foster Lifelong Learning



Director's Note

2025 is a significant year for the library as we celebrate our 30th anniversary, a milestone made possible by your support, enthusiasm, and engagement. Over the years, we have become a cornerstone for curiosity, learning, and community connections, and we are thrilled to honor this legacy with special events and programs throughout the year—stay tuned for more details!

We continue to complete our strategic plan goals. A high priority we heard from the community was creating a more welcoming and comfortable environment, and you'll soon see some updated furniture near our entryways and a few other changes. We'll continue making improvements in phases to ensure minimal disruption, keeping the library a welcoming space for all to read, relax, work, and connect.

Our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship continues into 2025. With the assistance of dedicated volunteers, we are expanding our Library of Things collection to include items that support eco-friendly living—such as gardening tools and reusable household products. Additionally, ten community volunteers will work with library staff to co-design a sustainability-focused event in the spring designed to inspire greener habits. We aim to build a healthier, more resilient future for our community and will share more about this work throughout the year.

I'm excited to share that we are launching a robust volunteer initiative later this year. Volunteers have always been essential to our library, from curating art exhibits

*Note continues on next page
Photo captions on back page*



Director's Note, Continued

to staffing our used bookstore. This new initiative will expand community members' opportunities to support and engage in programs, projects, and new services. Look out for more information in our fall newsletter.

Finally, advocating for intellectual freedom and access to information remains a core priority for our library. Last year, I had the honor of testifying at Capitol Hill in Sacramento to support AB 1825, California's Freedom to Read legislation. This vital law, signed in September 2024, reaffirms the right to read without censorship and strengthens protections for library workers to support intellectual freedom. I am proud to have shaped this legislation and will continue championing policies that safeguard the values at the heart of public libraries. I also encourage our supporters to advocate for continued federal funding to ensure libraries can thrive and serve their communities for generations.

Thank you for being an essential part of the library's journey. We look forward to celebrating, innovating, and growing with you this year and beyond!

Warmly,
Crystal Duran
Library Director



Braille & Talking Book Library

Do you or someone you know need help reading standard print materials? Whether it's due to vision impairment, a physical limitation, or a learning disability like dyslexia, access to books shouldn't be a barrier.

The Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) delivers audiobooks and braille books right to your door. Enjoy the latest bestsellers, classics, and nonfiction without limitations. Visit the library's Information Desk for a demonstration of the playback machines and assistance with the registration process.



Above: Dr. Jody Lewen, president of Mt. Tamalpais College at San Quentin State Prison, explains how prison education reduces recidivism and transforms lives and communities.



Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere

The library has partnered with the Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere to create a dynamic, educational series of speakers that appeal to the entire community.



Packed audiences have enjoyed film screenings, wine and caviar tastings, and inspiring stories from local leaders. This season we'll learn about gourmet teas, hear about the economics of healthcare and immigration, and back by popular demand - enjoy another wine tasting!

"The Rotary-Library Partnership is such a natural fit. The library benefits from the Rotary's extensive list of excellent speakers and long history of service in our community, and the Rotary benefits from the beautiful, modern, and well-equipped library venue, with excellent library staff who make working together an absolute pleasure. This is truly community cooperation at its finest."

- Kathleen M. Defever, Esq. LLM
Acting President / Membership Director
Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere

Right: Kathleen M. Defever and Monica Lopez of Aldina Vineyards

Teddy Bear Tea

Thank You for Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Teddy Bear Tea! We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended this special milestone. Your presence made this year's Teddy Bear Tea memorable.

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors for their generous support and partnership. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our donors.

Thank you for being part of our Teddy Bear Tea tradition and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Special thanks to the incredible organizing committee:

Celeste Ibraeva, Michelle Thomsen, Jessica Etchevers, and Mickey Hubbell

2025 Teddy Bear Tea Valued Sponsors

Norcal Plastic Surgery
Carson Wealth
The Tiburon Peninsula Foundation

2025 Teddy Bear Tea Generous Donors

PAAM ARTS
The Caviar Co.
Five Mountains Tea
Skin Spirit
Crown and Crumpet
Tiburon Wine
Rebounderz
Safeway
Diana's of Tiburon
Starbucks
Trader Joe's





Foundation President's Note

As we step into 2025, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our generous supporters throughout 2024. Your unwavering support has enabled us to expand our adult programming, upgrade the Makerspace, and enhance the children's outdoor patio.

This fall, we are excited to celebrate a major milestone - the library's 30th anniversary! To mark this special occasion, we will be hosting a Legacy Party at the library. This event will honor all those who have helped shape our library into what it is today, reflecting on our beginnings and celebrating how far we've come.

With gratitude,

Lucy Churton
President, Foundation
Board of Directors



Annual Fund

Help Support Your Library!

We send a huge THANK YOU to all the library supporters who have donated to the library's Annual Fund drive. Gifts will be used to help us continue offering adult speaker programs and children's events, as well as expand our popular Makerspace programs and our digital and book collections. We still have so much more we want to do to help nurture curiosity, spark connections, and foster lifelong learning.

If you have not yet had a chance to support the 2025 Annual Fund drive, please consider making your gift today by visiting our website, scanning the QR code below, or using the included envelope. All gifts of any size are greatly appreciated.

As a valued donor, you'll be recognized in our Library Foundation Annual Report and spring newsletter. Most importantly, your support will help sustain this vital institution and strengthen our community for everyone.

Thank you for including the Belvedere Tiburon Library in your annual giving!



Library Art Gallery

Our local art gallery-within-a-library, a.k.a. LAG (Library Art Gallery), was unveiled over two and a half years ago. Since then, we have produced 15 exhibitions and have shown just under 600 artworks by 406 participating artists. The Gallery has built a solid reputation for innovatively-themed group exhibitions showcasing highly vetted emerging and established artists from all over the Bay Area. The quality of art is consistently and extraordinarily high, and we are now considered a player of note in the Marin County cultural scene.

The Library Art Gallery is run by a dedicated and passionate group of local volunteers with the mission to make art accessible, inspire creativity, challenge the curious, and, importantly, to build community through art.

So, go ahead, catch some "LAG BRAG" and share the news about the gallery. We sincerely hope to see you at one of our lively gallery openings, ARTalks, or on a different day - quietly observing the art on our walls. (Please note: our gallery bench is arriving soon for comfortable art contemplation!)

Meet our Library Art Gallery Committee:

Steering Committee
Brenda Bottum
Diane Green
Anne Butler
Lucy Churton
Rekha Dutt
Susan Norton
Morag Stewart
Katherine Sutton

Full Committee
Jaleh Etemad
Victoria Fong
Nancy Freed
Lisa Klairmont
Debbie Mazzolini
Richard Rozen
Cynthia Schneider
Renee Shurstad
Diane Svigals
Ralph Vazquez
Sylvia Wilkerson

Current Exhibition

Stop by our Gallery to see the latest exhibition, **Emerging Artists: A High School Perspective**, on display until March 12th. This incredible show displays invited artwork by 21 high school artists from Marin Academy, Redwood High School, San Domenico, Tamalpais High School, and the Art School of SF Bay. Come experience this group show - you'll leave impressed by the artistic voices of local youth.



Upcoming Shows

**Artists' Narratives:
Their History and Identity**
March 20-May 7

Bay Area artists will reveal themselves through their artwork. We anticipate work ranging from bold to quietly intimate, reflecting the artists' narratives, self-image, or their own mark-making as personal stamp.

ARTalk for Artists' Narratives
April 9, 6pm

We are thrilled to invite the exceptional Marin artist, Deborah Oropallo, to share her artistic journey, social justice video montages, and wide-ranging collaborative works. Oropallo was part of the 1989 Whitney Biennial and is featured in notable collections throughout the U.S.

Art Inspired by Literature
May 15-July 9

This exhibition is dear to us as a Library Gallery and will feature artworks inspired by prose. The printed word has and continues to inspire readers, and artists have interpreted those same words through their creative process and medium. As a jumping off place, artists will create works from cherished prose, a favored text, or a book cover.

Adult Highlights

Register for all events online
beltlibrary.org/events
or call (415) 789-2661

Culture

Ballet Appreciation Series with Corinne Jonas of Marin Ballet

Learn the captivating stories and scores behind these timeless productions. Corinne will also teach us a dance from each ballet!

Feb. 27, 11am: **Romeo and Juliet**

Special Marin Ballet preview program for **Peter and the Wolf**. March 13, 11:30am

March 27, 11am: **Don Quixote**

April 24, 11am: **Giselle**

May 29, 11am: **La Sylphide**

Women in Wine

Winetasting from Aldina Vineyards
March 6, 6pm

Co-sponsored by the Rotary

Join us for an evening of wine tasting and conversation, featuring winemakers Monica Lopez and Belen Ceja of Aldina Vineyards, as they share their experiences, challenges, and triumphs in the world of wine.

There's a Truck in the Living Room!

Storytelling by Willy Claflin
March 13, 6pm

Co-sponsored by the Rotary

Join this entertaining performance by award-winning storyteller Willy Claflin and special guest Eleanor Clement Glass as they share heartwarming stories. Appropriate for adults and children ages 10 and up.

Storytelling for Beginners

March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, 1:30pm
International storyteller Willy Claflin shares what he's learned from 40 years of full-time telling: where to find good stories, how to make up stories on your own, and techniques to put you at ease on stage and at home by the kids' bedside.

Wild Geese Sorrow: The Chinese Inscriptions at Angel Island

April 10, 6pm

Join Jeffrey Thomas Leong for a reading from his book *Wild Geese Sorrow*, featuring his translations of poems carved into the walls of the Angel Island Immigration Station by Chinese immigrants detained there between 1910-1940.

Wayne Thiebaud: Art Comes from Art

Legion of Honor Docent Lecture

April 17, 6pm

Highlighting work from across the beloved artist's six-decade career, this exhibition features Thiebaud's inventive reinterpretations and direct copies of famous artworks, as well as objects from his personal art collection that inspired him.

The Language of Flowers in Asian Art

Asian Art Museum Docent Lecture

April 23, 6pm

Let your curiosity bloom as we explore floral artworks from the Asian Art Museum's collection and the messages they convey.

Author Talk & Signing with Alka Joshi:

Six Days in Bombay

April 30, 6pm

The bestselling author of *The Henna Artist* returns to the library to discuss her forthcoming novel that is set throughout India and Europe.

Wellness

Seated Yoga

Feb. 21, 28, March 21, 28

April 4, 18, May 2, 16, 11am

Join Diana Estey for a rejuvenating seated yoga session at the library with gentle poses and mindful relaxation for all levels!

Qigong: Movement Meditation

March 7, 10am and April 11, 10am

Practice self-healing through movement with Claire Cohn.

Mindful Eating Every Day

March 7, 11:30am

Learn to develop mindful eating habits and manage your weight with expert weight management counselor Claire Cohn.



Above: A local poet recites verse at the Marin Poetry Center's Traveling Show in the Founders Room

Circle on Personal Well-Being

With Marilynn Preston

March 22, 29, April 5, 10:30 am

All ages are invited to the Library's first Circle on Personal Well-being, where you can be gently guided toward figuring it out for yourself and what actions you can take to move your own sense of well-being to a calmer, more satisfying place.

Life Saving Skills Classes

April 7, 6pm and April 8, 11am

Gain the confidence and skills to act in a medical emergency in this class taught by Marin Medical Reserve Corps member Dr. Tom Cromwell.

Below: Local resident and Rotarian George Landau screens and discusses *Lies and Miracles: Childhood in a Siberian Labor Camp*, a documentary about his family, at an event co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere





Community

Book Circle: Connecting through Conversations

Join us each month in reading the chosen book and coming together in meaningful conversation that expands understanding, self-reflection, learning, and openness:

Feb. 22, 11am: **21 Lessons for the 21st Century** by Yuval Harari

Mar. 29, 11am: **Parable of the Sower** by Olivia E. Butler

Apr. 26, 11am: **Martyr!** by Kevin Akbar

May 31, 11am: **The Backyard Bird Chronicles** by Amy Tan

Contemporary Fiction Book Club

Come to our Contemporary Fiction Book Club to discuss award-winning novels:

Feb. 13: **Dr. No** by Percival Everett

March 13: **Shadow of the Wind** by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

April 10: **Klara and the Sun** by Kazuo Ishiguro

May 8: **Orbital** by Samantha Garvey

Puzzle Swap

March 1, 2pm

Do you have already-completed puzzles that you would like to trade for different ones? Visit the library for a fun puzzle swap!

Monday Cafe

March 10, 24, 10am

Bring friends and make friends! Drop by the Library select Monday mornings for a hot beverage, breakfast treats, classic games and friendly conversation.

Health Care Economics

March 12, 6pm

Co-sponsored by the Rotary

In this talk, we discuss the current state of healthcare in the United States, including an in-depth exploration of costs, access, and quality.

Let's Talk About Housing

With the Marin Environmental Housing Collaborative (MEHC)

March 18, 6pm

Join us for this nonpartisan, interactive session that covers the causes of high housing costs in Marin, how they impact the community, and what can be done.



Above: Author of Your Brain on Art and vice president of design at Google, Ivy Ross, shares her ideas on human-centered design

The Economics of Immigration

March 26, 6pm

Co-sponsored by the Rotary

This presentation will shed light on several aspects of immigration that tend to overwhelm the narrative.

Tea Education

Co-sponsored by the Rotary

April 2, 6pm

Horst 'Rover' Benecke will speak about the different types of tea, tea cultivation, production, active ingredients, and leaf grades, and bring samples of his tea.

Short Story Group

Second Wednesdays, 2:30pm

This year we are reading and discussing short stories in the anthology *The Best American Short Stories 2023*.

Fluent Italian Conversation Group

Thursdays, 1pm

The New Yorker Discussion Group

Third Wednesdays, 2pm

Technology

Drop-In Computer Help

Mondays, 2-3pm

Need one-on-one tech help? Library staff can assist for short, drop-in sessions.

Filmmaking Workshop

May 10, 17, June 7, 14, 11am

Join our hands-on workshop series and learn the art of filmmaking from script to screen.

AI Workshops

Introduction to AI in Everyday Life

Feb. 11, 11am

AI as Your Personal Assistant

March 19, 11am

AI and Your Health

April 16, 11am

AI: Your Creative Co-Pilot

May 7, 11am

Apple Workshops

New in iOS18

Feb. 25, 11am

Phones & Tablets Q&A

March 4, 11am

Lights, Camera, iMovie

March 6, April 10, May 8, 11am

5 Essential Skills for iPhone

March 18, 11am

Mastering Apple's Pages

April 3, 11am

Mail, Contacts, and Calendars

April 15, 11am

5 Essential Skills on the Mac

April 29, 11am

Sustainability

Two Mayors One Community: Fire Preparedness Briefing

Feb. 25, 5:30pm

Mayor Holli Thier of Tiburon and Mayor Jane Cooper for Belvedere are teaming up to ensure that residents have the latest information about fire safety in Belvedere and Tiburon and how each of us can prepare ourselves and our families for potential emergencies.

Marin Master Gardeners Lectures

Backyard Birds and Bird Habitats

Feb. 25, 1pm

Monarch Butterflies in Marin

March 25, 1pm

Rethinking the Lawn

March 26, 11:30am

Behind the Scenes Tour of The Marine Mammal Center

April 29, May 3, 12pm

Join an exclusive 75-minute behind the scenes walking tour of the largest marine mammal veterinary hospital in the world, located in the Marin Headlands. Register on the library's website.

Youth Highlights

Sign up for the Children's and Teen email newsletters

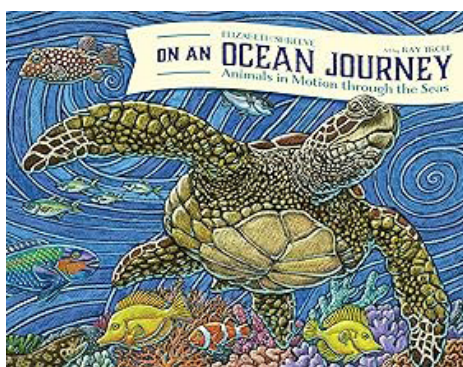


Children's Programs

Author Visit with Elizabeth Shreeve

March 12, 3:30pm

Children's science book author Elizabeth Shreeve will read her new book *On An Ocean Journey: Animals in Motion through the Seas*. We'll do ocean crafts and Elizabeth will bring books that you can buy and have her sign.



Baby Bounce

Mondays, 10:30am

This series will focus on early childhood development and parent education to explore the learning opportunities in storytime programs and reading and play at home. For ages 0-18 months.

Beginning Chess for Kids

Sundays, 11am, Feb. 23 through March 30
Beginning chess lessons for students in grades 3-5.

Cookie Club

Thursdays, 4pm

In this weekly program for early readers in grades 1-2, you'll hear a read aloud and have a discussion while we enjoy cookies.

Book Clubs

Book Buddies: 3rd Grade Book Club

Feb. 25, April 17, May 15, 5pm

Chomp: Grades 4+ Book Club

April 24, May 22, 5pm

We will eat snacks, chat about the book of the month, and either do a craft or play a game. Registration is required.

Lego Club

All ages welcome

Feb 22, March 8, 22, April 12, 26, May 10, 24, 11am

We'll provide Lego bricks, gears, and mini-figures, for everyone. You can take your creations home!

Craft Club

Feb. 12, April 16, May 14, 2:30 pm

Fun craft projects for students in grades 2-3 who are ready for some independence and time with peers.

Craft Challenge

Feb. 26, April 30, May 21, 2:30 pm

Fun craft projects for students in grades 4+ that are ready for some independence and time with peers.

Read to a Dog

March 5, April 2, 2:30pm

Build your confidence by reading to a furry friend!

Family Storytime

Sundays, 11am

Hear new stories, sing songs, and learn wiggles that the whole family can enjoy together.

Mosaic Monday

Every Monday, all day, create your own masterpiece for all to enjoy on our patio with sidewalk chalk, weather permitting. All ages welcome.

Train Time!

Sundays Feb. 16, March 2, 16,

April 6, May 4, 2pm

Open play with our Thomas the Train wooden toy collection. All ages welcome.

Crafternoon

Tuesdays, 4pm

Kids can come to the Founders Room to make an easy craft project. Younger kids are welcome!

For Toddler Storytime and Preschool

Storytime schedules, please visit our website.

Teen Services

Looking Back, Looking Forward

2024 was an exciting year for teens at the library, who visited the teen room to hangout, do homework, take practice college admissions exams, play games, create projects, volunteer, and of course, to read. Last year, teens attended over 130 events held by the Teen Services department, including 120 teen volunteers who earned community service hours for helping the library.

One of their tasks was to pack and label seeds that are distributed to the community in our Seed Library. Over 1,300 seed packets were distributed, thanks to donations from Marin Master Gardeners and Ground. Teen volunteers also worked in the garden on the Teen Patio, assisted at programs, and served as room monitors, shelving books and keeping supplies clean and organized.

Student poets and artists were featured, and a new Classics Book Club was launched. In 2025, teens can look forward to a new Dungeons & Dragons Club and continued opportunities to take free SAT and ACT practice tests. Upcoming highlights include Marin Poetry Center's inauguration of the Youth Poet Laureate in April, which is National Poetry Month.

Teen readers will have new book clubs to participate in, and more books to read as the Young Adult collection grows. Graphic novels and manga are in high demand, and teens are gravitating towards popular titles in mystery, romance and fantasy. Visit the Teen Room to see what's going on!



Right: Aaron Grossman's photography exhibition in the Teen Room

Makerspace & More



Visit the Seed Library and grow your own flowers and crops! Be sure to visit the Gardening section in the 630s and the Sustainability books in their own section near the Teen Room.



Staff Spotlight

Martha joined the library in 1998 when Alicia came into the bookstore where she was working and asked her if she wanted to work in the Children's Department. Her very first job, as a sophomore in high school, was in a library! But after that she worked in several different fields (including radio announcer, bartender, ESL teacher, and as an assistant casting director on a movie) before becoming a specialist in children's books and mysteries, she sings in a choir and works on her native plant garden.

Find Martha in the Children's Library!

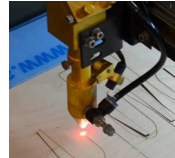
Makerspace Workshops

New! Maker Lab

Every Wednesday, 3:30-5:30pm
Join us in the library Makerspace to design, build, and experiment.

Laser Cutting 101

Feb. 12, 11am
Learn the basics of laser cutting and discover how to transform your ideas into custom ornaments, unique designs, stunning artwork, and more.



Sewing Bee

Feb. 15, March 8, April 12, 11am
Unleash your inner seamstress (or seamster!) at our Sewing Bee.

3D Printing for Beginners

Feb. 18, March 11, April 22, 11am
Join us for an introduction to the world of 3D printing!

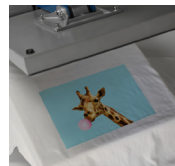


New! Repair Advice Workshop

Feb. 20, March 27, April 17, May 17, June 19, 5:30pm
Get expert help with troubleshooting, disassembly, and maybe even a fix!

Heat Press Workshop

Feb. 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, 11am
Discover the magic of sublimation printing.



Cricut Crafting for Beginners

March 1, April 5, May 10, 11am
Learn Cricut basics, design your first project, and leave with a personalized masterpiece.

Girls Who Code Club

March 15, 3pm
Want to learn to code, make friends, and change the world? Join our Girls Who Code Club! Learn Python, JavaScript, and more.



New Book Lists Curated by Librarians

Scan the QR code below to find dozens of lists created by Belvedere Tiburon librarians to help you find great books, movies, and music on all kinds of movements and topics, including:

- Seafaring Novels
- New, Award-Winning Novels in International Languages
- Black History Month
- Japanese Cinema
- AI in Fiction
- Wildfire Awareness
- And many more!



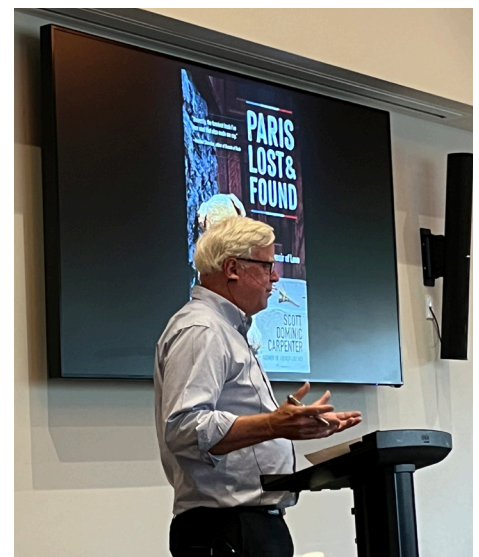
Online Speaker Series

Watch and participate in online talks with popular authors such as Jennifer Weiner, Lee Hawkins, Jodi Picoult, and Gregg Hurwitz.

Find all upcoming speakers as well as recordings of past talks here:
libraryc.org/beltiblibrary



Below: Author Scott Dominic Carpenter shares passages from his book Paris Lost & Found: A Memoir of Love





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Designed by
Joey Della Santina,
Assistant Director



2024 Highlights

- 554
New cardholders
- 3,801
Room reservations
- 18,821
Reference desk questions
- 106,073
Ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines in the MARINet Libby collection
- 146,061
Visitors to the Belvedere Tiburon Library



Cover Photos

Clockwise from top-left:

Tying in with the Library Art Gallery exhibition *Human Presence: Faces, Figures, Crowds*, Dr. Kevin Muller discusses the history of portraiture

Sewing workshop with Birgitta in the Teen Workshop

Kids are singing in Spanish as they dance and have fun with Mariela

Planting succulents with a Marin Master Gardener

Dr. Tom Cromwell's life saving skills class

Chef Rogelio Garcia of Michelin-starred Auro in Napa Valley shares recipes and stories from his latest cookbook, *Convivir: Modern Mexican Cuisine in California's Wine Country*

Corinne Jonas from the Marin Ballet teaches choreography from *The Nutcracker*

Public speaking workshop in the Teen Room

Below: Reading in the Children's Library

