

# A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES & INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



**SALINAS PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

# SPECIAL THANKS

## LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION APPOINTEES

Albert Fong, *Mayor's Appointee*

Dominic Dursa                      District 1

Ernesto Yzquierdo                District 2

Joey Martinez                      District 3

Elmer Dolera                      District 4

Stacey Wilson                    District 5

Juan Mendoza Romeo            District 6

## FRIENDS OF THE SALINAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Executive Board Members:

Ken Allen, President

Paula Herrera, Vice President

Brenda Orr, Secretary

Robin Young, Treasurer

Liz Nolan, At Large

Mary-Alicia McRae, At Large

[www.friendsofsalinaspl.org](http://www.friendsofsalinaspl.org)



**Mayor Joseph Gunter  
1947-2020**

We dedicate our 2019-2020 annual report to Mayor Joseph Gunter who was a tireless advocate for library services. His leadership will be greatly missed.

“He’d treat you like you were one of the most important people in the world. He’d joke with you and then pretty soon he’d take whatever problem you had and all of a sudden things would start happening. He’d start focusing on that particular issue.”

—Former City Manager Ray Corpuz



Mayor Gunter at the El Gabilan Library ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 22, 2020.



Dear Library Community,

It truly has been a year like no other for our library system, and for the community at large. The excitement of opening the new El Gabilan Library after more than a year of construction was sharply

contrasted by the abrupt closing of our doors in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we continue to face many uncertainties, I am confident that our community will rebound, and that the library will reopen its doors at all locations as soon as it is possible to do so safely. It's also my belief that our services will have become more innovative because of these challenges.

This past year, I have been extremely proud of the resiliency and creativity of library staff as they continue to provide services for the community, and create a wide variety of programs that are being delivered on digital platforms. I hope you have had a chance to participate in some of these virtual programs, whether it was a talk on Alzheimer's, a small-business workshop, a computer literacy class, a family reading circle program, a take-home activity kit, or one of our many story times and

book recommendations that are posted on our social media weekly. Please take a look at the Salinas Public Library YouTube page to see the variety of programming offered.

We currently provide curbside services at El Gabilan and Cesar Chavez Libraries where you can pick up materials placed on hold, get a library card, get help copying or printing, or ask for a "Grab & Go Bundle" of children's board books, picture books, videos or early readers. We will continue to safely expand our services during this time to meet your needs for library services.

Innovative and resourceful approaches to library services are needed now more than ever, especially in light of the unique challenges that this pandemic has presented. We remain committed to providing the services that educate, empower and engage the Salinas community.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the new year and beyond together.

Sincerely,

Kristan Lundquist

Director of Library & Community Services

(831) 758-7222

# LIBRARIES ARE



# FOR EVERYONE!

[www.salinaspublishing.org](http://www.salinaspublishing.org)



## El Gabilan Library opens to the public on February 22<sup>nd</sup>

The construction of El Gabilan Library took just over a year and was the result of multiple collaborative efforts and community meetings with Salinas residents, community groups, and city staff.

- **841 books checked out during opening weekend!**
- **500+ attendees to the grand opening**

While the library had to close on March 14<sup>th</sup> because of the COVID-19 pandemic and county-wide shelter-in-place orders, we look forward to providing many years of service in this exceptional new building.





## Award-Winning Design

The new library is approximately 21,000 square feet and includes a new Makerspace, a digital arts lab, outdoor educational spaces, a reading deck, amphitheater, and a large community room.

El Gabilan Library received two prestigious design awards:

- Silicon Valley Structures Award, Community Impact category
- The Engineering News Record (ENR) Northern California 2020 Merit Award Winner in the Cultural/Worship category



Libraries create equity by providing equal access to information for all residents.



## Early Literacy, Preschool and School-Aged Programs

Playgroups and other creative programs teach literacy skills like letter recognition and phonemic awareness, help with socializing skills, and launch children on a path to lifelong reading.

- **285 early literacy programs**  
**5,919 attendees**
- **807 primary school programs**  
**9,334 attendees**



## Homework Centers

Parents appreciate the support and individualized attention provided to their children after school five days a week during the school year.

- **131 children participated weekly**
- **9,437 student visits**



We are much more than a place to house books! By participating in library programming at an early age, children develop a relationship with their local public library that can last a lifetime.



“Each year we see a new group of Kindergarten students, but what remains constant is their excitement to choose their own books and materials. They proudly show me what they’ve chosen, and are reassured to know we’ll be back in a month!”

—Casandra, Librarian II



## KinderMobile

The KinderMobile program served 28 schools and 108 kindergarten classrooms during the academic year. This important program provides high quality picture books and early readers for children to bring home or keep in the classroom.

- **2,469 new library cards issued**
- **26,502 books checked out September, 2019 through March, 2020**

## Teens

We provide safe spaces for youth and programs that match their interests, as well as opportunities to volunteer and practice leadership skills.

- **44 programs**
- **338 total attendance**

## SMA+RT Program

The SMA+RT Program has been providing Salinas City Elementary School District students with seamless access to library resources using their student ID's.

**smart**

Salinas Makes A+ Readers Together

# LIFELONG LEARNING

## Adult Programs

Adult programming empowers community members to become informed voters, improve their health outcomes, manage their finances, run their small businesses, and much more.

- **33 total programs**
- **414 attendees**

Libraries celebrate the cultural richness of our community.



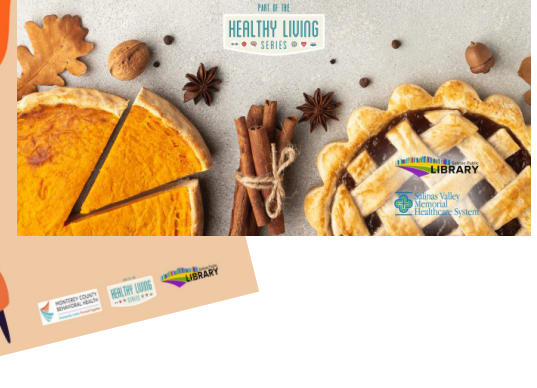
## MANAGING DIABETES *during the Holidays*

Holiday food can be tough to navigate. Learn tips and tricks to keep your blood sugar levels under control while still enjoying the holiday season.

This workshop will be in Spanish. For more information, please contact Jissella at [jissellad@cicsalinas.ca.us](mailto:jissellad@cicsalinas.ca.us) or (831) 758-7020.

Thursday  
NOV. 21 | 5-6 PM

Cesar Chavez Library  
615 Williams Rd.



## GARDENING



### THE FAMILY GARDEN PLAN GROW A YEAR'S WORTH OF SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY FOOD

Do something good for your family by planting a garden that will yield healthy, wholesome fruits and vegetables throughout the year. Learn the entire process from planning your food crops and garden space to harvesting and preserving the food you grow. Even interested but experienced gardeners will discover dozens of new ideas. More than just practical advice, you'll learn how gardening can contribute to a sustainable lifestyle and give you a sense of accomplishment, peace of mind, and overall joy. Make the Family Garden Plan your "grow-to" guide for good eating and greater well-being for you and your loved ones.



Bring the outdoors into your home with the **Practical House Plant Book**, an in-depth guide to choosing, caring for, gardening, and designing with indoor plants. Selected style the best plants to suit your home, or get creative with a dozen step-by-step styling ideas designed by Fern Bailey of Forest, including succulent terrariums, a plant stand, and a succulent shelving arrangement. Featuring more than 175 detailed plant profiles, along with expert plant care advice and inspiration, the **Practical House Plant Book** tells you all you need to know to create, cultivate, and care for your indoor garden.



**PRACTICAL HOUSE PLANT BOOK**





## Adult Literacy Center

Our literacy program helps adults improve their reading, learn how to use a computer, write a resume, apply for a job, prepare for High School Equivalency exams and Citizenship tests, and much more.

Families for Literacy programs foster a love of reading in the home and help adults build home libraries.



- **440 adults participated in adult literacy programs**
- **10,806 total instructional hours**
- **1,164 books given away to build home libraries**
- **100+ volunteers and tutors engaged with Literacy Center programs**



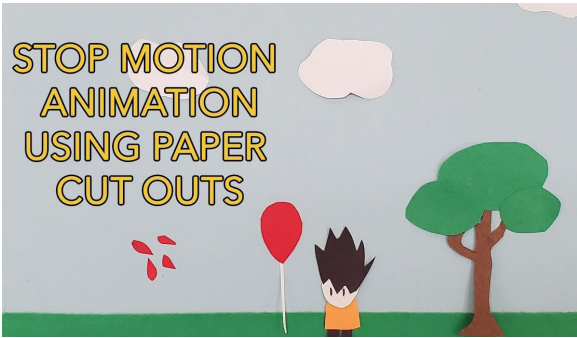
## Embracing the new norm!

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff focused on safety protocols and reaching out to the community with relevant services. We asked ourselves “what could we do to help?”

Soon, we were helping the Monterey County Free Library produce 3D printed masks with equipment we had purchased for the Makerspace at El Gabilan Library, and using new sewing machines to create cloth masks for distribution to community and essential workers.



## STOP MOTION ANIMATION USING PAPER CUT OUTS



## HOW TO DRAW DOG MAN



## Embracing the new digital norm!

We took many of our ongoing programs online and created new ones, including:

**Stop Motion Animation**

**Drawing tutorials**

**Tuesday Tunes**

**Friday Fun**

The library began Curbside Services in June 2020 to safely provide community access to library materials.

- **24 families participated in Family Reading Circles**
- **39 families participated in Get on Board Families**

“Once we were able to help learners get comfortable with Zoom meetings, and Google classrooms, our literacy programs became incredibly successful.”

—Margarita, Literacy Specialist

“I miss the connection we develop with our families. In early summer, we transitioned to live-streamed story times and children's programs. We are now able to interact more and for this I am so thankful.”

—Leslie, Librarian I

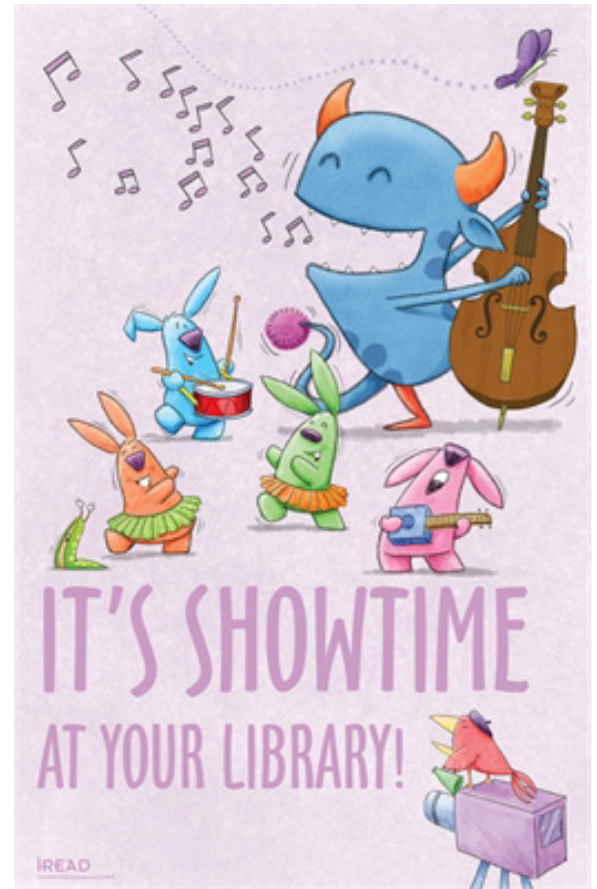
# SUMMER READING 2019

## It's showtime at your library

Our summer reading programs are essential in keeping youth engaged and learning during the summer months.

- **1,196 Youth Summer Reading participants**
- **298 Adult Summer Reading participants**
- **598 books given away**
- **56 programs offered**
- **3,290 total attendance**

We collaborated with the Recreation Department to host a Summer Kick-Off which was attended by several hundred Salinas residents!



## BY THE NUMBERS



### SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

**\$260,00**

California State Library  
(Bookmobile)

**\$149,950**

CA State Library Literacy Services  
(Adult & Family Literacy)

**\$75,000**

Monterey Peninsula Foundation  
(Bookmobile)

**\$75,000**

Tanimura Family Foundation  
(Technology)

**\$62,000**

David & Lucille Packard Foundation Fund of the  
Community Foundation for Monterey County  
(Salinas Youth Initiative)

**\$47,395**

First Five of Monterey County  
(Early Literacy Playgroups)

**\$6,000**

Friends of the Salinas Public Library  
(Summer Reading)

**\$4,328**

Monterey County Gives  
(Makerspace)

**\$3,500**

Pebble Beach Foundation  
(KinderBootcamp)

**TOTAL: \$683,173**

## SALINAS PUBLIC LIBRARY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN EDUCATION

### SOCIAL MEDIA



**34,642** people reached each month on Facebook



**2,447** people reached on Instagram a year



**4,875** people reached with weekly newsletter

**207,504**

items were  
checked out

**59,496**

people used library  
computers

**404,286**

visits to our  
libraries

**12,738**

new library card  
holders

**16,005**

people attended  
library programs



[www.salinaspubliclibrary.org](http://www.salinaspubliclibrary.org)

### **John Steinbeck Library**

350 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas CA 93901 • (831) 758-7311

### **Cesar Chavez Library**

615 Williams Road, Salinas CA 93905 • (831) 758-7345

### **El Gabilan Library**

1400 N. Main Street, Salinas, CA 93906 • (831) 758-7302