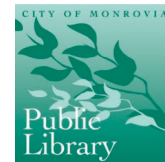




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services, Library Division

**MEETING DATE:** February 24, 2022

**PREPARED BY:** Rebecca Elder,  
Adult Services Supervisor  
Carey Vance,  
Library Manager

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

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**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

**Literacy Services**

In January, a total of 34 Learners and Tutors participated in 4 programs. During this month, staff promoted the "Citizenship & Civics Corner", a dedicated space to support learners who would like to become United States citizens. The Citizenship Corner includes resources for learners interested in studying for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration exams, including books, DVDs, voter registration forms, and information about local resources. During this month, staff attended the Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) General Meeting, which included discussion of the 2022 SCLLN Conference.

**Veterans Services**

During the month of January, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 108 veterans. The County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) supported 20; our Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) representative supported 12; and VRC staff supported 76 veterans and their families.

On January 10, staff arranged with *Soledier Socks*, to donate 500 pairs of socks for military veterans. *Soledier Socks* is a family owned company that donates one pair of socks to active military for every pair purchased. Each year staff seek donations of socks, games, and art supplies for veterans in need on behalf of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary local Unit #830, a community partner.

On January 11, Veterans Resource Center welcomed Brock Milhorn, to the Veterans Resource Center. Brock resides in Monrovia and is the newest Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) representative providing in person assistance to veterans and their families. Brock is on-site Tuesdays 10am-5pm.

On January 20, staff attended the workshop, *Missing and Murdered Indigenous People*, a collaborative partnership with CalVet Women Veterans, the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations, Native American Veterans Association, and the California Department of Justice. Held during *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month*, representatives from CalVet Minority and Underrepresented Veterans Division hosted an information sharing workshop to share ways to bring awareness, resources, and tools regarding the human rights crisis of missing and murdered indigenous people. Leaders throughout California discussed how the veteran community can best support the efforts of connecting Indigenous veteran survivors to resources and benefits.

## **Programs**

On January 13, staff hosted the first in a series of four virtual workshops for job seekers facilitated by Thomas Salazar, JVS Southern California. JVS is a non-profit providing no-cost job training, career-building skills, mentoring and access to community resources throughout Southern California. Two active and engaged attendees participated in the first workshop, *Learn Virtual Job Search Skills*, which provided tips and tools for online job searches.

Novel T's Book Club - On January 25, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual Novel T's Book Club. A total of 16 members participated in the monthly group discussion of *Squeeze Me* by Carl Hiaasen.

## **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

### **Storytimes**

Library Staff hosted Storytime in the Park on Wednesdays and Saturdays with a total of 262 kids and families gathered on blankets and chairs to hear stories, sing songs, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. Themes highlighted were music, winter, clothes, and imagination. These programs are geared to help young children with language skills, use their imagination, develop social skills, and expand their world by hearing about a variety of cultures, people, and experiences. Lastly, the teen volunteers that help with the program on Saturdays continue to be helpful, energetic and enthusiastic. We are thankful for their continued support.

### **Programs**

Bead Fusion – This program was held on Thursday, January 13 at 3:30 p.m. outside in front of the Library. A total of 28 children and families gathered to create designs with colorful beads on pegged boards. Once completed, staff fused together the plastic beads with heat. This detailed art form helps children develop hand-eye coordination skills, learn color names, and practice math and counting. All participants could take home their creations.

Lego Science – Held on January 26 in Library Park for kids 6-11 years old, we presented to just over 20 attendees three different STEM-related activities to challenge their critical thinking, problem solving abilities and concentration. The children were tasked with building a bridge to hold objects of various sizes and weights, a boat to hold the most pennies and the tallest tower. They were most interested in the boats, most likely because building a boat also meant playing with water. We were able to assist the children in experimentation using a pared down version of the scientific method while also encouraging them to play and enjoy themselves. The most pennies held in a boat while afloat was 67 and the highest freestanding tower was over 43 inches in height. There were also several children who were able to put all of the objects (an encyclopedia, a large container filled with uncooked rice, a toy bear, a large bottle of paint, a roll of paper towels and a stapler) on a single bridge.

Virtual Programming – This month's virtual offerings included a storytime about trying new things and making friends as well as the "Ten Out of Ten" booktalks, that highlight ten titles and encourage children to discover new picture books and chapter books to enjoy. The videos in January had a total of 44 views.

Teen Advisory Board - The year's first TAB meeting took place on January 11, and was attended by 33 TAB members. The meeting was held virtually over Zoom, but teens were able to sign up to volunteer for programs held outdoors. During the meeting, teens got updates on changes to library programming and going back to school for the spring semester. The month's Escape Room program was postponed to a later date due to the in-person nature of the program and feedback from the teens regarding Covid concerns. TAB Murder Mystery night was postponed as well due to scheduling conflicts for the teens

designing and leading the program. TAB officers are still planning the details of the program and look forward to holding the event at a later date.

### **Outreach**

Plymouth Elementary Afterschool Care – On January 19, library staff visited Plymouth students during the afterschool program. Literacy games were played while children teamed up in small groups. Approximately 70 children were in attendance.

Bradoaks Elementary 4th Grade – On January 27, four 4th grade classes visited the library and enjoyed a presentation on its history, as well as a walk-around tour. Students learned when the first library started in the city and how through the generous efforts of many people along the way, they now have the beautiful building we enjoy today. Students were able to receive library cards, check out materials, and participate in an interactive program. Approximately 110 children and adults were in attendance.

Monrovia Reads Van – The van visited all school sites in January, including the start of service at Plymouth Elementary. Staff worked with Plymouth’s administration to find a time and location that worked best with their modified dismissal procedures due to Covid. Starting January 12, the van now visits the school on Wednesdays during their lunch periods and is incredibly popular with the children. Across all school sites, a total of 792 students were served with staff creating 80 new library cards and the children borrowing 659 books.

Outreach to local schools both with the van, librarian school visits, and class visits to the library align with the library’s strategic plan to provide wider access to library services across the community as well as provide services to those in South Monrovia. A total of 972 students were reached by library staff in January during outreach visits. With schools returning to in-person learning after nearly two years of remote classes, outreach is more important than ever to reach children in Monrovia and connect them with the resources they need to grow, learn, and thrive.