SPECIAL THANKS

LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES
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Ernesto Yzquirdo District 2
Joey Martinez District 3
Elmer Dolera District 4
Stacey Wilson District 5
Juan Mendoza Romeo District 6

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SALINAS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Executive Board Members:
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Robin Young, Treasurer
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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

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.salinaspubliclibrary.org
El Gabilan Library opens to the public on February 22nd

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 14th 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.
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

“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

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

The SMA+RT Program has been providing Salinas City Elementary School District students with seamless access to library resources using their student ID's.
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 Jisella at jisellad@ciscalifornia.org or (831) 756-7120.

**Thursday**
**NOV. 21 | 5-6 PM**
Cesar Chavez Library
615 Williams Rd.

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 intermediate to 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.

GARDENING

The Practical House Plant Book

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. Select and style the best plants to suit your home, or get creative with a dozen step-by-step display ideas designed by Fran Bailey of Forest, including a succulent terrarium, a plant stand, and a woodland orchid arrangement. Featuring more than 175 detailed plant profiles, along with expert plant care advice and instruction, The Practical House Plant Book tells you all you need to know to create, cultivate, and care for your indoor garden.

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 intermediate to 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.

LIBRARIES CELEBRATE THE CULTURAL RICHNESS OF OUR COMMUNITY.
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.
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
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!
SALINAS PUBLIC LIBRARY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN EDUCATION

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

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