Summer Stride Comes to an Exciting Finale

It’s been a thrilling summer of virtual family programming at the Library. We hope you’ve been following our weekly STEM Challenge that airs @sfpubliclibrary on Instagram and YouTube each Tuesday at 11 a.m. (Don’t miss our final episode on Tuesday, Aug. 4. [All STEM Challenge Yo’Self episodes are available on our YouTube channel.]

We’re so excited to close out the Local Talent Showcase for Families series with Tree Frog Treks and Alphabet Rockers. Chris “Mr. Science” Giorni, founder of Tree Frog Treks, joined us at the Main Library pop-up “TV studio” to record an up-close meet-and-greet with some of his favorite amphibians and reptiles—some small and some very, very large! In our final week, we bring back two-time Grammy-nominated hip-hop group, Alphabet Rockers, for a Songwriting for Young Change Makers workshop.

This is a rare chance to have an interactive workshop with some of the most innovative and passionate music makers in a creative, intimate online setting.

For adults, we have many fun and educational events, featuring story, poetry, book clubs, gardening and more. Linda Jackson, local writer, photographer and historian, presents a photographic retrospective of the City’s African American community, featuring many previously unpublished photos by her father Steve Jackson, Jr., resident photographer at Jimbo’s Bop City (1951-1965). Publisher and arts editor of 48 Hills, Marke Bieschke speaks about his new book, into the Streets: A Young Person’s Visual History of Protest in the United States. West Oakland to West Africa Poetry Exchange transcends technological space through poetry, featuring poets from the Bay Area, Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire. The California Native Plant Society teaches budding and experienced gardeners how to attract San Francisco’s butterflies and pollinators.

See the calendar on page 4 and sfpl.org for program details.

Immerse Yourself in Red Power

SFPL and the National Park Service on Alcatraz Island continues the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Occupation of Alcatraz with two special events. Tane Ross, Director of Animation at Injunuity—a mix of animation, music, and real thoughts from real people exploring our world from the Native American perspective—discusses and screens films from the Injunuity team. We are honored to once again host Dr. LaNada War Jack, member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, scholar, educator, author and leader. In her program, Dr. War Jack moderates a discussion around the role of Indigenous women during and after the occupation of Alcatraz Island.

Dr. LaNada War Jack. Photo: Theodore Means Jr.


Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of US Women’s Suffrage

California women won the right to vote in 1911, nine years before American women gained universal suffrage in 1920. This early victory was the result of two hard fought statewide campaigns, the first which was lost in 1896 and the second, successful one that passed by a mere 3,587 votes in 1911. This upcoming program brings to light one of the hidden San Francisco stories of the California campaign. In 1908, 12 years before ratification of the 19th Amendment that gave all American women the right to vote, women of the California Equal Suffrage Association linked arms and protested in what is believed to be the first suffrage march in America. Co-led by two women from San Francisco and one from Mill Valley, the march to the California State Republican Convention in Oakland helped raise awareness and broadcast the determination of these emboldened women to gain their equal rights.

In the program “Undocumented History: America’s First Suffrage March and the San Francisco Women Who Led It,” Evelyn Rose, PharmD, Director and Founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, describes the backstory of these women and the activities of the California Equal Suffrage Association leading up to this little-known event.


Photo: Johanna Pinther (right) and Jeanette Pinther (center) of San Francisco, and Lillian Harris Coffin of Mill Valley, Marin County, co-lead the first suffrage march in America on Aug. 27, 1908. Image courtesy of the California Historical Society.

Dr. Evelyn Rose

Dr. LaNada War Jack. Photo: Theodore Means Jr.

WomenRedPower8-8-20
Lessons Learned from 2020 YELL Teens

This summer, 29 teens participated in the annual Youth Engaged in Learning (YELL) Internship program. The talented intern pool, who met twice a week from mid-June to August, successfully executed two Community Impact Projects to help youth and their families and seniors in San Francisco and beyond—all from their virtual desks—changing both the lives of others, as well as their own.

In their own words, two teens describe what they learned while applying and interviewing for YELL.

Sophia, a member of the STEM Challenge Team, used to visit Ortega Library constantly during middle school. During the fall semester of my 9th grade year, I began searching for summer STEAM opportunities. I was immediately hit by a wave of nostalgia for the Library when I came across SFPL’s YELL program. Although you cannot predict exactly how an interview is going to unfold, it’s important to take preparation seriously and think through possible questions and practice your answers.

Another member of the STEM Challenge team is Bryce, who learned about the program through an eye-catching design. The application process for YELL was very easy and straightforward, but the interview process made me a bit nervous since I had never interviewed that before. However, the interview went much better than expected and I was able to get into YELL, so that was marvelous!

Learn more about what the teens accomplished in our next At the Library newsletter, and read Sophia and Bryce’s full stories in our August enewsletter.

Discrimination and Technology: Cut Through the Code with Ruha Benjamin

The Library is thrilled to announce an author talk with Ruha Benjamin, author of Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code.

Cutting through tech-industry hype, Benjamin explores how emerging technologies reinforce white supremacy and even benevolently discriminate, all the while appearing neutral and even benevolent when compared to the racism of a previous era. The book makes a compelling case for race itself as a kind of technology, designed to stratify and sanction social injustice in the architecture of everyday life. Benjamin provides conceptual tools for decoding tech promises with sociologically informed skepticism, and challenges us to question not only the technologies we are sold but also the ones we ourselves manufacture.

Ruha Benjamin is an Associate Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, studying the social dimensions of science, technology and medicine, is the founder of the JUST DATA Lab and also the author of People’s Science (Stanford University Press, 2013) and editor of Captivating Technology (Duke University Press, 2019). She writes, teaches and speaks widely about the relationship between knowledge and power, race and citizenship, health and justice.

Ruha Benjamin — Aug. 5, 4 p.m. Reservations required: https://bit.ly/RBenjamin8-5-20

Lessons from 2020 YELL Teens

SFPL’s virtual YELL program

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Brown Handler Resident Book Announcement

Shruti Swamy’s book, A House Is a Body: Stories, comes out from Algonquin Books on Aug. 11, available wherever books are sold. For more information, visit ShrutiSwamy.com.

Changes to Book Program

Friends is deeply saddened to announce several changes to the Book Program, brought about by a series of considerations resulting from the unexpected impacts of COVID-19 and long-term sustainability.

• The 2020 Big Book Sale has been canceled
• The Bookstore at Fort Mason Store will close permanently
• The Bookstore at the Main Library and Wednesday Step Sales are closed indefinitely and will re-open alongside the Library as we monitor the public health situation
• The Donation Center will open to book donations by the end of August at the latest

We do not underestimate the impact on our community from these difficult decisions. But we assure you that Friends is still committed to its Book Program and will continue to create and revitalize book-loving experiences as we journey through and beyond this pandemic. In the meantime, you can find our book offerings online at our bookstores at our Ebay and Amazon stores. Visit FriendsSFPL.org/Online to find out more.

When you think of buying books, please consider our stores. Along with donating to Friends, buying books for our stores (virtual for the moment) is the best way to support our great Library.

Friends Bookstore

Friends’ Bookstore and Donation Center are temporarily closed. Visit FriendsSFPL.org for updates. Friends staff are currently observing Shelter in Place.

Donate to Friends at FriendsSFPL.org/Support

Writing in Lockdown: Brown Handler Residents in Conversation with Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler

Two years ago, author/illustrator Lisa Brown (The Phantom Twin, The Airport Book) and author Daniel Handler (A Series of Unfortunate Events) created a Writer’s Residency to provide local writers with free, adequate and accessible space to produce creative work in San Francisco. Residents were also able to work directly with the Library on creative endeavors in tandem with their creative projects.

Since shelter-in-place went into effect, the physical space that the residency offered has been put on pause, but the community around the residency has still thrived. In the series, now available on our YouTube channel and on our Library Friends Podcast feed, Brown and Handler check in with all the talented residents about how they are adapting to creatively working from home.

Each writer shares an excerpt of what they worked on during their residency. Amanda Moore, a poet who draws inspiration from San Francisco and the neighborhoods she’s lived in, shares poems that evoke the feeling of walking through the city. Shruti Swamy, a fiction writer, reads a story from her upcoming book A House Is a Body.

Don’t miss these exciting conversations. Go to FriendsSFPL.org/Residency to watch and listen to them all.

Help Our Local Independent Bookstores Recover from COVID-19 Closures and Get 10% Off

Friends members ($60+ level) receive a 10% discount at the following bookstores:

- A. Cavalli Italian Bookstore
- Academy Store, California Academy of Science
- Adobe Bookstore
- Alan Wofsy Fine Arts LLC
- Alexander Book Co., Inc.
- Black Oak Books Holding Corp.
- Bolerium Books
- Books, Inc.
- Booksmith
- Browser Books
- Christopher’s Books
- Chronicle Books
- Compass Books, Inc.
- Dog Eared Books
- Eastwind Books
- Globus Slavic Bookstore
- Great Overland Book Company
- Green Apple Books & Music
- The Green Arcade
- Kayo Books
- Louie Brothers Book Store, Inc.
- Manning’s Books & Prints
- Marcus Books
- Omnivore Books on Food
- Friends Bookstore: Fort Mason and Main Library
- Red Mill Books
- San Francisco Botanical Gardens, Garden Bookstore
- Thidwick Books

The mission of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library is to create, steward and support a superior, free public library system in San Francisco. We are committed to raising the standard of excellence of our libraries by funding programs and services beyond what is allocated in the city’s budget. We believe in free and equal access to information for all.

Stay connected with all the latest happenings, events and deals at Friends!
FriendsSFPL.org
Visit Our Virtual Library! We offer many opportunities for eLearning. Build valuable job skills or work on your resume, get one-on-one tutoring and homework help, all from your home. We’ve got you covered. For additional event and registration info, visit sfpl.org/virtual-library, sfpl.org/kids/virtual-library and sfpl.org/teen-virtual-library.

### AUGUST 2020 VIRTUAL EVENT CALENDAR

#### Poem Jam with Kim Shuck and Guests
Thursday, Aug 13
6-7:30 p.m.
Reservations required.

#### Re-Creation: A Play
Tuesday, Aug 18
6–7:30 p.m.
Reservations required.

#### Author Talk: Ruha Benjamin, Race After Technology
Wednesday, Aug 5
4–5 p.m.
Reservations required.

#### Gardening for San Francisco’s Butterflies and Pollinators
Saturday, Aug 22
1–2 p.m.
Susan Karasof from the California Native Plant Society.

#### Resume Writing Essentials
Monday, Aug 24
10–11:30 a.m.
Zoom platform.
Reservations required.

#### citizen by Claudia Rankine
Monday, Aug 17
7–8 p.m.
SFPL presents a Social Justice Book Club. Reservations required.

#### Tech Tuesday
Featuring online resources the library subscribes to and other free online resources to help promote your small business, get a job, create graphics, or to get organized. For best results know your library card number and PIN.

#### Getting a City Job
Tuesday, Aug 11
11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Reservations required.

#### eMusic at the Library
Tuesday, Aug 11
11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Reservations required.

#### Getting a City Job
Tuesday, Aug 25
11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Reservations required.

### SFPL To Go Services
San Francisco Public Library is phasing in SFPL To Go, a contact-free front door pick-up service, at select locations (see article, page 1). Check back for updates on locations and hours. At the Library subscribes to and the latest on our response to COVID-19 here: sfpl.org/coronavirus and sfpl.org/services/library-closure-frequently-asked-questions-flqs.