Black History Month Is Live at the Library

Youth and their families will have opportunities to listen and learn from a delightful diversity of Black artists in our first-ever virtual presentation of More Than a Month—a yearlong celebration of Black history, culture and heritage. Beloved storyteller Kirk Waller brings stories from his people to school-age audiences. Take a musical trip to the West Indies with Fauna Solomon and listen to the only acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century. Explore the origins of Hambone body percussion with Unique Derique and express your own musical style in a fun interactive workshop. Tween readers will delight in a workshop featuring some of the Hatchery: Nurturing Creative Writers of Color, now held in our virtual space. Visit sfpl.org/more-than-a-month for more information.

Night of Ideas Reimagined

On February 1, 2020, more than 5,200 revelers from all corners of the Bay Area, and even as far as Portland, Oregon, flocked to the Main Library to enjoy a seven-hour marathon of speakers and performances at the second Night of Ideas. Who knew our lives would change so dramatically shortly after this event, so filled with a sense of community and the creative and innovative spirit that makes San Francisco such a beloved city? While we can’t gather in person this year, the Library and its partners, California Humanities, KQED, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Villa San Francisco, are not going to let COVID-19 prevent the third Night of Ideas from being both memorable and meaningful. The show will go on!

The Night of Ideas is sponsored by the Institut Français and takes place on the same evening in cities around the globe. This year’s virtual format is designed to spur contemplation on the 2021 theme Closing the Distance, an adaptation of the international theme proche, or “close.” Hosted by KQED Forum’s Mina Kim, the program will present a variety of perspectives on how we can collectively move closer to a better future by reimagining our civic spaces to be more inclusive and by advancing racial equity. This year’s Night of Ideas, which will be broadcast globally from France, is also designed to bring people closer to our City and to the people who make it special. Expect to see performances featuring some of our most iconic scenery and tributes to our artists and essential workers who have kept our spirits up during these challenging times. We hope you will join us and your neighbors to share this wonderful night together. Visit nightofideasssf.com.

Night of Ideas – Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

Nature Boost: Every Kid in a Park

Hey parents of 4th and 5th graders, did you know your family has free access to national parks? Join NPS Ranger Marijaoist to learn more and start planning your outdoor adventure together. Find out more: everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm.

Nature Boost – Jan. 7, 2 p.m.

One City One Book discussions kick-off the first Sunday in January! Request your copy now and get ready to join the conversation. Visit sfpl.org/one-city-one-book for more information.

One City One Book – Feb. 5, 5 p.m.

Elle Lee Morris Annual Lecture with Jason Reynolds, Author of Ghost and co-author of Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism and You.

Feb. 16, 7 p.m.
Artists Cheryl Derricotte and Ramekon O’Arwisters in conversation

Feb. 17, 6 p.m.
Author: Melissa Valentine, The Names of All the Flowers

Feb. 18, 6 p.m.
Workshop: Hambone, The Body Drum and The Rhythm Connection

Feb. 25, 5 p.m.
Effie Lee Morris Annual Lecture with Jason Reynolds, Author of Ghost and co-author of Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism and You.
Help Your Neighbors in Need

During the COVID-19 pandemic, San Franciscans have stepped up to help their neighbors. You’ve helped people access food, provided basic necessities and checked in on their well-being. San Francisco Public Library is supporting Mayor London Breed’s call to keep the generosity going by volunteering and donating to local organizations. Your contributions of time and money will help others weather this storm. Last summer, fully half of the Library’s staff was deployed as Disaster Service Workers serving in a variety of capacities, from contact tracing, hotel and test site monitors and at the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank. Preparing thousands of boxes a day to ensure that families in our city did not go hungry. With many City workers returning to work and with COVID-fatigue setting in, the Food Bank is in desperate need of more volunteers. You can learn more about how to get involved by visiting sfmfoodbank.org. The City has also compiled a one-stop shop resource for how and where to volunteer to make the most impact during this time. Visit sf.gov/volunteer-and-donate-holiday-season to start making a difference today.

Get a Head Start on the 2021 Job Market

The Business, Science and Technology Department’s (BST) Work it series has the resources you need to find work, return to the workforce, make a career change, improve your personal finances, start or expand a business and more. We assembled a vast array of online options for you where you can find job and career support, learn how to budget, save and invest or work on your business. Also, don’t forget to check out our BST databases. You will find support for business research, investing, computer education, consumer information and more.

In addition, local experts will support your needs through our Virtual Library programs. They offer support for resume writing, interviewing, how to apply for State jobs, as well as work at local nonprofits and other community-based organizations in San Francisco. Reference Solutions offers monthly programs on their robust database. This month, you’ll see programs such as How to Ace Your Next Interview, focusing on tips for 50+ job seekers, Resumes for Transitioning to New Opportunities covers ways to frame your skills for a new career. SF Reserve’s First Impressions present their program, which matches talented, skilled older adults and people with disabilities with paid part-time and project-based work. The Senior Community Service Employment Program presents their job-readiness program that helps older adults transition from on-the-job training back into the work force for full-time or part-time employment. Lastly, our financial educators, Carly Matthews and Alex Caswell continue their popular money management series with How to Budget and Save for Your Future. Stay current with upcoming Work it events.

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, visit us virtually at the Business, Science and Technology Center and check out our databases: sfpl.org/work-it.

Find Your Ground with Wellness Resources

Let the Library help you find a positive and affirming start to the new year with ebooks available instantly from hoopla, Kanopy and Overdrive. From ebooks to audiobooks, this list is just the beginning. Reach out to your trusty librarian at (415) 557-4400 for more recommendations about meditation and wellness materials for kids, teens, families and adults.

Mindful Me: Mindfulness and Meditation for Kids by Whitney Stewart
The Art of Solitude by Stephen Batchelor
The Wellness Series by Alan Chriest
True Wellness for Your Gut by Catherine Kurosu and Aihan Kuhn

Support Our Community by Volunteering in 2021

Caring for our community in 2020 largely meant keeping our distance, but in 2021, we can connect through virtual volunteering. The Library is currently recruiting for two tutoring programs.

Did you know that half of 3rd and 4th graders in San Francisco do not read at grade level? Our FOG Reader volunteers are trained to help a struggling child by using the Orton-Gillingham methodology to help students, typically 1st-4th graders, move away from guessing or skipping words by breaking words into more manageable chunks, and by building vocabulary through reading together.

To welcome and support immigrants in our community, ESL tutors are trained to work with an adult learner on their individual English language goals, such as improving conversational English, practicing for job interviews or tackling paperwork.

For more information and upcoming training dates, please write volunteer@sfpl.org.

El derecho al acceso a servicios en tu idioma / Learn About Your Right to Access Services in Your Language

En los E.U. hay leyes federales, estatales y locales sobre proveer servicios públicos en el idioma que hablan las personas. En SF, se requiere que los departamentos de la Ciudad brinden acceso a servicios en inglés, chino, español y filipino. Conoce más de esto con OCEIA, CARECEN y SFPL, incluyendo cómo abogar por tus derechos de acceso a servicios en español. Programa en español.

En el U.S., there are federal, state and local laws regarding the provision of public services in the language that people speak. In San Francisco, City departments are required to provide access to services in English, Chinese, Spanish and Filipino. Learn more about this with OCEIA, CARECEN and SFPL, including how to advocate for your rights to access services in Spanish. Program in Spanish.

Tus derechos al acceso a servicios en tu idioma - Ene./Jan., 25, 6 p.m.
Reservaciones/Reservations: bit.ly/2acceso
Celebrate Artists of Color at the Black & Brown Comix Arts Festival

The Black & Brown Comix Arts Festival (BCAF) is a free, annual three-day festival that celebrates the creativity of People of Color in the comic arts and popular visual culture and happens during the MLK Day weekend. This year’s events will happen online, but will offer the same fantastic programming as our in-person events. Once again, we offer kids activities, film screenings, panels and conversations, with the best and brightest in comic arts and pop culture. Featured artists include David F. Walker, premiering his most recent graphic novel The Black Panther Party: A Graphic Novel History, He’ll be joined by Fredrika Newton, widow of Black Panther Party founder Huey Newton, to discuss the importance of this shared local history. Illustrator and cartoonist Tim Fielder will share his most recent graphic novel, Infinitum: An Afrofuturist Tale. Also joining us is Ashley Woods, comic book artist and writer, recognized for her work on the Noire, Lady Castle and Tomb Raider series, and most recently HBO’s Lovecraft Country.

Black & Brown Comix Arts Festival – Jan. 16-18, 12-5 p.m.
Visit bcafcon.sfmlkday.org for more information.

Your New Superheroes: Black and Brown Comix Arts Festival

SFPL is excited to launch the Black and Brown Comix Arts Festival (BCAF), a new digital comic book platform with titles that focus on culturally diverse characters and storylines. The BCAF catalog includes colorful works from DC Comics, Marvel and Lion Forge publishers, such as Acell, Black Panther and Ms. Marvel. BCAF showcases some of the vast illustrated work featured at the annual Black and Brown Comix Arts Festival, a Bay Area expo that celebrates the creativity of artists of color in the comic arts and popular visual culture. The festival is organized by the Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation, a public charitable organization dedicated to programs and events that promote social, economic and environmental justice. “Libraries are essential to the joy of reading and enabling access to materials that are often out of reach for many people,” says BCAF co-founder Aaron Grizzell. “Comic books are a great access point to increasing literacy. We are excited to be partnering with the San Francisco Public Library in launching the BCAF service.”

Check out your new superheroes at the Black and Brown Comix Arts Festival, sfpl.bcaf.digital.

January/February Selection:
The Old Drift
by Namwali Serpell

Author Namwali Serpell, born in Zambia, uses that nation as the canvas for her epic work. The structure of this rambunctious debut novel follows three very different families, intertwined over three generations. The children and grandchildren come together in tragic, absurd and inevitable ways, tracing Zambia’s path through history. And the book is not shy about its ambition and reach: love meets Afrofuturism, marries into magical realism, entwines with historical fiction and is fused with speculative fiction.

The novel covers much ground, zigzagging back and forth through Africa and Europe, family to family, children to children. The reader follows and drifts along the matrilineal heritage, which is how the book is organized: grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters. Serpell begins, however, with a grandfather, a British photographer, making a living near Victoria Falls, slightly over 100 years ago. Inexplicable actions here propel a drift through love, disease, space programs; a blending of strange, vivid fiction with actual Zambian history. The saga concludes in the near future, involving digital embedded devices, drones and new vaccines. Serpell, who taught writing at UC Berkeley for more than 10 years and is currently an English professor at Harvard, has given us a lush, vibrant and inventive saga that we’re thrilled to recommend.

The Old Drift On the Same Page Book Club – Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

Wok with Chef Martin Yan

San Francisco’s own Chef Martin Yan helps us celebrate the Lunar New Year at home by providing a virtual cooking class suitable for all cooks, young to old, if “You Can Cook, So Can You!”

Chef Martin Yan has WOWed audiences from Shanghai to San Francisco for more than 40 years on American Public Television, promoting Chinese and Asian cuisine. Making it easy for home cooks has been his lifelong mission.

Since 1978, Chef Martin Yan has hosted the Yan Can Cook show on PBS—one of the longest-running cooking and traveling programs on television today—has written 30 cookbooks and is founder and chef of M.Y. China in San Francisco.

Wok with Chef Martin Yan – Jan. 29, 2 p.m.
Reserve: sfpl-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/MW_MQJEkxHxR6cGH0TQ0QUNw

Poet Leads Writing and Reflection Workshop

Lynne Sachs

June 21st, 2023

Lynne Sachs

Acclaimed poet and filmmaker Lynne Sachs leads a two-part poetry workshop. First, Sachs reads from her recent book Year by Year Poems, a collection of 50 poems which began as a half-century marker in the author’s life. Sachs will also screen her film, Tip of My Tongue, which was based on these same poems. After the screening, participants will be encouraged to write one poem in response to a chosen year in their own lives. In the second workshop, participants are invited to return with their new writing to share with each other and the public. Each participant may read their poem responding to a year in their own life, and Sachs will facilitate a discussion.

Lynne Sachs is a filmmaker and poet who explores the intricate relationship between personal observations and broader historical experiences. She has made 36 films which have screened at the New York Film Festival, the Sundance Film Festival and the Museum of Modern Art. Her celebrated Year by Year Poems feature graceful, diaristic poems that distill events and themes in the poet’s life and simultaneously, magically, reflect larger movements of history and culture.

Lynne Sachs, “Everything That Surrounds Us Becomes Part of Us” – Jan. 21, 6 p.m.; Jan. 28, 6 p.m.

Fresh Play Reading Series Goes Virtual

Kaya Minton Kaufman

Enjoy theater right from the comforts of your own home. Acclaimed theater director Kayla Minton Kaufman and talented local actors perform a dramatic reading of Straight Nonsense, a brand new play by playwright Lindsay Ford.

Kaya Minton Kaufman is a director who has worked in institutions across the nation. Of her Fresh Play Reading Series, Kaufman says that she “loves work that celebrates diversity, provokes discussion and makes audiences laugh or cry (or just remember how to be human).”

Lindsay Ford is a lesbian Bay Area actress and playwright with an expressed interest in making the mundane extraordinary.

Fresh Play Sunday Reading Series – Jan. 17, 2 p.m. Reserve: bit.ly/34qPlkg
Youtube link: youtu.be/kofTuthuZKc
teen writers logged in on a rainy November afternoon to participate in the student-led Writers Sprint. Sophomore, Sophia Peckner and Breanna Lau inspired SF teens and beyond to submit essays related to two prompts in a two-hour time period.

The Library received submissions that ranged in topics that included a fantastical trip to an extraterrestrial planet, historical fiction voyage to meet Queen Elizabeth and the first sight of a tree in a future dystopian world. Congratulations to Grand Prize winner, Faith Hardin, a 14-year-old homeschooled ninth grader with "Sacrifice," a fast-paced inside look at an assassin's first job. An honorable mention goes to Marlena Rohde, a 15-year-old tenth grader at Lowell High School with "Fish Out of Water," an introspective connection between a jellyfish, pigeon and a broken family. An honorable mention goes to Yasmin Suzani, a 17-year-old in the eleventh grade at Los Altos High School for "Night Walk," describing the beauty of a small creek. You can read the essay at Teen Made—themixatsfpl.org/teen-made. Thank you to Sophia Peckner and Breanna Lau for their hard work in realizing this opportunity as a creative outlet. Need inspiration for your own essay? For writing tips and techniques offered by Dyllen Nellis or MYEEP view the event on YouTube:youtu.be/E6RBCP7FG4g.

Fish Out of Water

Jellyfish were not meant to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house. Jellyfish were never supposed to be kept in small tanks, in small rooms of large houses. Jellyfish were never supposed to be taken out of the widest expanse of water in the world and be put into the homes of unhappy children. My jellyfish was a bribe. A tacky way for my father to apologize for bringing me to his new house with his new wife; for dragging me from the city to an endless house.

Marlena Rohde

Marlena Rohde is in the tenth grade at Lowell High School. She loves to read and write, especially while surrounded by nature. Her true passion is marine biology, which is often expressed in her stories.

Night Walk

4:00 AM is the most beautiful time

The cool air bites my cheeks keeping the monsters away With its bared teeth Welcoming me to be devoured by The beauty in its frost

The dark air lets me be unseen, Anonymous, Freeing me Free from the shackles of society

The hollow air belongs to me. It belongs to the vaporization of my breath It exists to carry the sound of my footsteps It exists to carry the light to guide my way

They don't turn the streetlights off at night Their incandescent yellow bounces off the ground, Cutting through the dark, In a surprisingly comforting way.

I walk along a four-lane road Alone The passing of a car or two every few minutes Is the only thing telling me that this is indeed real It's as real as the sound of the beating of my heart Against an empty night.

I like watching my streets during the witching hour, They keep me safe, Allowing me to observe every simple detail, Allowing me to discover the beauty in places I wouldn't see during the day

It's time to wander Tonight's a night to go west, Back to the old park Where we used to Walk in the creek, Mystified at the summer days when it wasn’t filled with water, At the days when it was a forbidden path to follow. That wonder we had is gone. It’s never filled with water anymore.

Still, I have not seen that creek Through the lens of the night, The lens that restores the wonder to everything So I continue my journey, Knowing it will come to a fruitful end
Faith Hardin is a Freshman who has been homeschooled her whole life. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, gardening and baking. Her favorite part of school is reading (and writing about) classic literature. Faith aspires to be a librarian or pursue a career in psychiatry/therapy.

Sacrifice

She opened her eyes. The dim light pointed at her appeared blindingly bright, after her long wait in the darkness.

"Are you ready?" asked a voice.

Elara didn't hesitate. "I am ready." She had been ready for years. Her whole life had been centered around her career. And now she could take her first task, to dictate whether she had the strength to continue. Or the weakness to fail. But she couldn't stop. Fail, and be killed.

"Here." The dim light was adjusted, and Elara could see a hologram of a middle-aged man. "Here is your target." She nodded briefly. "Suicide, or an accident?"

"It will be a mysterious disappearance. Dispose of the body in a way that cannot be discovered. Leave no evidence."

"I won't," Elara responded quietly. She mentally ran through the ways she could accomplish this.

"He won't be traveling alone," her employer's spokesperson warned. "Bodyguards? Associates?"

"His family."

Elara felt a small twinge of emotion in her gut. It was quickly quenched. Assassins did not feel. She had spent much of her training in teaching herself to suppress inconvenient things such as emotion. She had not felt the pain of a conscience in years.

"And?"

"Kill them too. They will not keep quiet.

"I will." Elara was once again cold and professional. "Not a word of the affair will get out."

"Yes. You have your information. It is waiting at your place of residence."

Elara glared at Diros. "I know." The assassin facing her snorted. "That's not what I meant. He was unable to finish one. Too weak. You know he killed your family."

Elara moved her hand to the hilt of a dagger. One move. It would be so easy.

"You may kill him." Diros shrugged, then gestured to Elara. "You may kill him."

The man fell to his knees. "Kill me. But let my family go."

Elara flattened. "The first part of that sounds good. The second half..."

He shrugged, then gestured to Elara. "You may kill him."

Elara moved her hand to the hilt of a dagger. One move. It would be so easy.

"Elara! Don't be like your father," Diros warned. "Finish the job."

Elara rounded on him. "He always finished his jobs! His last target was dead before he was."

"Ah, the assassin facing her snorted. "That's not what I meant. He was unable to finish one. Too weak. You know he killed your family."

Elara glanced at Diros. "I know."

"He failed to kill you."

Elara shrugged, then gestured to Elara. "You may kill him."

Elara moved her hand to the hilt of a dagger. One move. It would be so easy.

"Not my daughter! Please don't kill Elara! Just kill me!" Her real father.

Pleading.

The man who had been a father to her from that point in her life on.

Hesitant.

A few moments later, as a body fell to the ground, the assassin crossed the room. Stood, and picked up a baby.

"Fine! I'll do it!" Diros exclaimed.

Elara moved to the present, reached defensively for her dagger, but Diros had one of his own.

He drew back his arm.

With a flash of thought, Elara threw her body forward. She felt searing pain, and saw a hilt protruding from her sternum.

Everyone gagged in shock. Diros paused long enough for Elara to reach for her blade. A moment later, the assassin fell too.

Aris Xan knelt beside the young woman meant to be his killer.

"Why?" he asked brokenly.

A ghost of a smile appeared on Elara's face. "All my life I was taught my duty. To take life. Like that was the right thing to do."

"And?"

"And it's not. I was blind. But my eyes have been opened."
Virtual Event Calendar

Adults

6 Wednesday
Revelations: Art from the African American South
With the de Young Museum. 7–9 p.m.

12 Tuesday
The Hatchery: Nurturing Creative Writers of Color
Monthly writing workshop for self-identified writers of color to explore race, class, culture, gender and identity. Bring writing to share or just come to listen. 6–8 p.m.

13 Wednesday
San Francisco Genealogy Group
1–3 p.m.

14 Thursday
SF Post Laureate Monthly
Poem Jam 6–7 p.m.

17 Sunday
Fresh Play Sunday Reading Series
Presented by theater director Kayla Minton Kauffman and featuring local actors. 2–3:30 p.m.

19 Tuesday
Black Crime Writers – A Panel Series
Presented by theater director Kayla Minton Kauffman and featuring local actors. 2–3:30 p.m.

21 Thursday
Finger Labyrinth Journeys
with Maia Scott 1–2 p.m.

25 Monday
Diane Ferlatte Storytelling
7–8 p.m.

Tax derechitos al acceso a servicios en idioma Th e Right to Access Services in Your Language Program in Spanish 6–7 p.m.

27 Wednesday
Author: Dr. Rachel Brauhsen, A People’s Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area 6–7 p.m.

28 Thursday
Author: Lynne Sachs, Group Poetry Reading 6–7 p.m.

29 Friday
Work with Chef Martin Yan - Lunar New Year 2–3 p.m.

30 Saturday
Colorful Year Around Gardening with SF Native Plants 1–2 p.m.

31 Sunday
Bite Size Book Club
Chanel Miller, Know My Name – meets Jan. 3, Feb. 7, and March 7. 3–4 p.m.

Book Clubs

3 Sunday
Patrick Modiano, In the Café of Lost Youth 6–7:30 p.m.

7 Thursday
Stuart McMillan, Stories of My People 1–2:30 p.m.

21 Thursday
Author: Lynne Sachs - Poetry Reading, Film Screening and Writing Workshop 6–7 p.m.

22 Friday
Luster by Raven Leilani
A young Black artist falls into an affair with a man in an open marriage before gradually befriending his wife and adopted daughter against a backdrop of dynamic racial politics.

25 Monday
Interviewing Essentials
1–2:30 p.m.

Work it (Jobs, Business, Finance)

7 Thursday
How to Apply for a California State Job 1–2:30 p.m.

8 Friday
Investing 101 for Beginners 1:30–3 p.m.

11 Monday
Discover Employment Opportunities Anywhere in the U.S. 10–11:30 a.m.

12 Tuesday
SF Reserve First Impressions Program
SF Reserve matches older adults and people with disabilities with local nonprofit organizations. 2–3:30 p.m.

13 Wednesday
Resumes for Transitioning to New Opportunities 4–5:30 p.m.

20 Wednesday
Introduction to Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

21 Thursday
Resume Writing Essentials 1–2:30 p.m.

25 Monday
Stories of My People 2–2:45 p.m.

Youth

Early Childhood/Family

4, 11, 18, 25 Mondays
Sweet Stories for Babies 11–11:15 a.m.

5, 12, 19, 26 Tuesdays
Sweet Stories for Families 11–11:15 a.m.

7, 14, 21, 28 Thursdays
Sweet Stories for Families Bilingual español/English 11–11:15 a.m.

Elementary/School/Family

7 Thursday
Nature Boost: Every Kid Outdoors – Free Park Pass for 4th and 5th Graders 10% Ranger Mariapaigu explores the diverse natural and cultural features national parks have to offer. Find out how to claim your free pass to head outdoors with your family too 2–2:45 p.m.

22 Friday
Hand Drawing
All ages guided drawing workshop with the Museum of the African Diaspora. 2–2:45 p.m.

28 Thursday
Stories of My People 2–2:45 p.m.

SFPL Salutes Organizations Serving the Black Community

W

e want to thank our partners, past and present, for the amazing work they do to support San Francisco’s Black community—especially during this challenging time—and for the many ways in which they enrich our City..

African American Art & Culture Complex – aacc.org
African American Shakespeare Company – african-americanshakes.org
Afro Sudo – events.afrosudo.org
BAYCAT – baycat.org
Bayview Association for Youth/Bayview Hunters Point Foundation – bayviewfund.org
Bayview Hunters Point Mobilization for Adolescent Growth in our Communities (BMAACG) – bayviewmagic.org
Bayview Hunters Point YMCA – ymcsf.org
Black Community Collective – blackcommunitycollective.org
Black Educators Alliance – blackeducatorsalliance.org
Booker T. Washington Center – bwisc.org
Buchanan YMCA – ymcsf.org
California Newsreel – newsreel.org
Causa Justa Just Cause – cijc.org
Coleman Advocates – colemanadvocates.org
Collective Impact – collectiveimpact.org
Communities As One – communitiesasone.org
Community United Against Violence (CUAV) – cuav.org
Ella Hill Hutch Center – facebook.com/EllaHillHutch
Hunters Point Family – hunterspointfamily.org
Imprint City – imprintcity.org
KPOO – kpoop.com
Lorraine Hansbury Theatre – lbtfdc.org
Mo’MAGIC – momagic.org
Museum of the African Diaspora – madofsf.org
New Conservatory Theatre Centre – nctcf.org
Our Trans Home SF – ourtranshomésf.org
Portola Family Connections – fccenters.org
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House – phnhsfund.org
Push Dance – pushdance.org
Rafiki Coalition for Health & Wellness – rafikicoalition.org
Renaissance Parents of Success – renaissanceparentsofsuccess.org
San Francisco AIDS Foundation – sfaf.org
San Francisco Bay View – sfbyview.com
See Black Women – seeblackwoman.com
Seven TePees Youth Program – seventepees.org
Shanti Project – shantiproject.org
The Black Woman is God – theblackwomanisgod.com
The Village Project – vllageproject.org
YMCA Urban Services – ymcasf.org
Young Women’s Freedom Center – youngwomensfreedom.org

More Than a Month Read-Alikes

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
A history of racist and antiracist ideas in America, from their roots in Europe until today, adapted from the National Book Award winner Stamped from the Beginning.

These Ghosts Are Family by Casey Card
A man on his deathbed reveals that he stole another man’s identity and Ibram X. Kendi
A history of racist and antiracist ideas in America, from their roots in Europe until today, adapted from the National Book Award winner Stamped from the Beginning.

A Girl Is a Body of Water by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi
Coming of age with the support of the women in her Ugandan village, a girl struggling with abandonment seeks answers at the side of a local witch who shares stories about their culture’s heritage of female strength.

Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid
A story about race and privilege is centered around a young Black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

Luster by Raven Leilani
A young Black artist falls into an affair with a man in an open marriage before gradually befriending his wife and adopted daughter against a backdrop of dynamic racial politics.

Thick: And Other Essays by Tressie McMillan Cottom
Eight piercing explorations on beauty, media, money and more, Tressie McMillan Cottom—award-winning professor and acclaimed author of Lower Ed—embraces her venerated role as a purveyor of wit, wisdom and Black Twitter snark about all that is right and much that is wrong with this thing we call society.

African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle & Song edited by Kevin Young
Only now, in the 21st century, can we fully grasp the breadth and range of African American poetry: a magnificent chorus of voices, some familiar, others recently discovered from neglect. An unprecedented anthology expertly selected by poet and scholar Kevin Young, this precious living heritage is revealed in all its power, beauty and multiplicity.
Happy New Year and Happy 60th Anniversary to Friends of the Library

Founded in 1961, Friends embodies the collective community spirit that fights for robust public library funding and donates private funds to augment City funding, ensuring that all people have equitable access to the resources they need. Friends has been doing this work for 60 years! We look forward to celebrating this anniversary with you all year long.

Transitions on the Board of Directors

Several key members of Friends’ Board completed their terms of services at the end of 2020. Completing six-year terms are David Streger-Calvert and Jay Auslander, Director of Development at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, served as the Chair of the Board for three years, providing wisdom, guidance and a sympathetic ear to the Executive Director. I could not live without you, David – Marie. Jay, Director of Development at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, has blessed us with his fundraising expertise, especially in building our planned and estate-giving program. Another nonprofit professional in fundraising for more than 40 years, Katherine Bella wraps up four years on our Board. Kathy, Chief Strategy Officer at PRC, was recently awarded the prestigious Hank Rossio Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Golden Gate Chapter. All three led us through a dynamic period of transition at Friends, including the five-year strategic plan and campaign that lights our way through the pandemic and in the future. Serving on a nonprofit board requires an enormous personal commitment of time, energy and soul. We will miss seeing you around the table. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

In January, we welcome a new member to the Board of Directors: Diane Gibson. Diane has a distinguished litigation career at Squire Patton Boggs (U.S.) LLP and served on the Board of Directors of Legal Community Against Violence (now Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence) for more than ten years. Diane is already a member of the Friends’ Advocacy Committee. We look forward to welcoming her as a full Board member.

Friends Welcomes Its New Director of Philanthropy

We are delighted to announce the selection of our new Director of Philanthropy, Kimberley Drew. Drew brings a wide breadth of strategic, operations and fundraising experience in leadership positions. Most immediately, Drew was the Vice President, Program Operations for Springboard. She spent seven years at Jewish Vocational Service as Strategic Initiatives Leader and Vice President of Business Development. These jobs make her an expert in career development services and experiences that will be a great asset to the Library as we move through this recession.

After obtaining her BA from Boston College and her MBA from Harvard Business School, Drew worked in business consulting at Charles Schwab and Catalytic Strategies. Some of you may know Drew as a former Board Member of Friends, 2006-2012, Board Chair, 2010-2012 and Noe Valley Library Renovation Campaign Chair, 2002-2008.

“"We could not have found a better fit than Kim. Her professional experience speaks for itself. We also gained a lifelong, dedicated library advocate, not just in words, but in years of action and deep-hearted commitment to the SFPL. We could not be happier than to welcome Kim back to the family. “

– Marie Ciepiela, Executive Director

"I’m thrilled to be joining the Friends at this critical moment for the Library and our community. As we navigate the pandemic and economic recovery, Friends’ partnership with the Library will be essential to ensuring that everyone has access to the information, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive. I’m excited to work together with the wonderful Friends staff, board and membership, to continue to strengthen San Francisco’s premier public library system,” said Drew.

We welcome the new year and our new team members!
January 2021

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The San Francisco Public Library system is dedicated to free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning and the joys of reading for our diverse community.

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How to reach us
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5:30 p.m.
(415) 557-4400
(415) 557-4433 (TTY)
Public Affairs email: publicaffairs@sfpl.org
Website: sfpl.org

During the library closure, staff are available to assist by email or phone (TIP Line) Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, 12-6 p.m.
Online: Ask for eBook assistance or email info@sfpl.org
TIP Line: (415) 557-4400

eBook Assistance:
sfpl.org/books-and-media/ebook-collections

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.
For additional event and registration info, visit sfpl.org/virtual-library, sfpl.org/kids/virtual-library and sfpl.org/teen-virtual-library.

San Francisco Public Library

More Than a Month
Black History, Culture & Heritage - 2021 -

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To know the present is to know yourself.”

– Ibram X. Kendi, “Introduction,”
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Stay 6 feet apart

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