



Connecting & Capturing the Community through Conversation

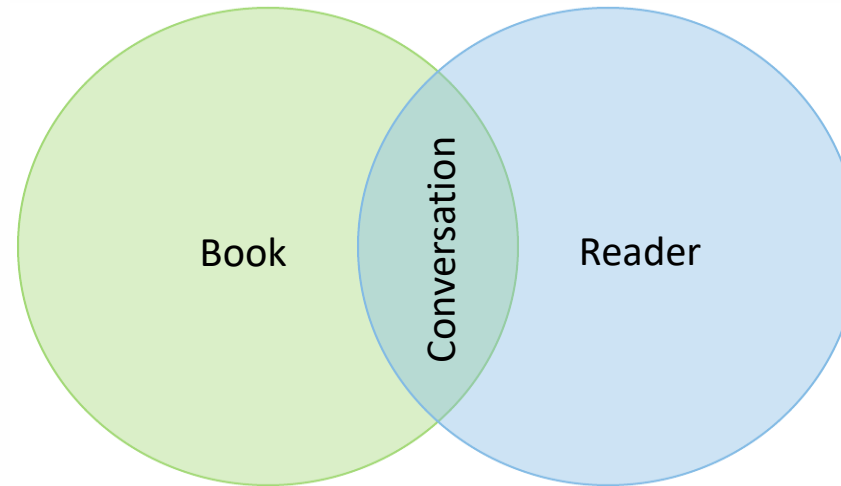
Susanne Sakai

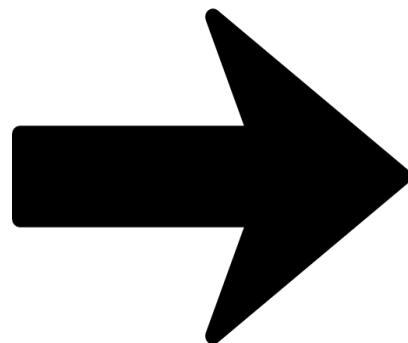
Special Collections Librarian

Book Arts & Special Collections

What's a Living Library?

- ❖ Books are **real people** – volunteers willing to share their life story
 - get “checked out” by Readers (members of the Public) to engage in one-on-one conversation
 - Serve as a catalyst to **foster dialogue and understanding between strangers**, and provide the opportunity and a safe space for **community members to get to know one another**





LIVING LIBRARY

- International organization & movement that began in Copenhagen in 2000
 - A way to challenge stigma & stereotypes:
 - “Every human book from our bookshelf, represent a group in our society that is often subjected to prejudice, stigmatization or discrimination because of their lifestyle, diagnosis, belief, disability, social status, ethnic origin etc.”
 - Trademarked
- Felt HL approach was too broad & sensational
 - Wanted to focus more specifically on the community & everyday folks in it
 - Allowed for creative freedom:
 - Didn't want to be limited by HL criteria: no themes, complete anonymity of Books, have to use their forms, etc.

Collection Development



- Most challenging part of the process
- Put out a general call & reached out to people I know
 - Those people reached out to people they knew
- Leverage your community contacts



Publicity

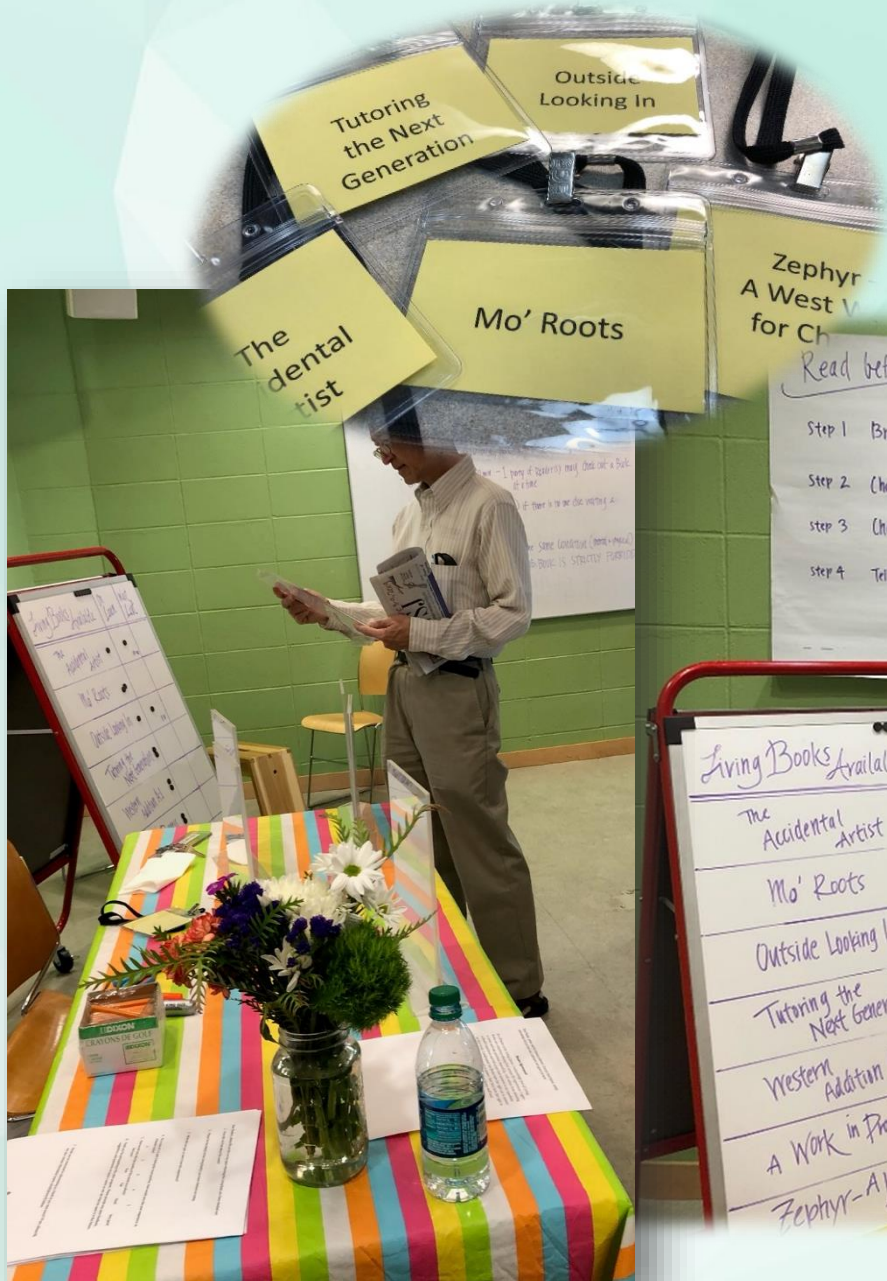


- Local news & media outlets
- Event listing websites
- Social media
- Poster/flyer
- Word of mouth
- Community Programs & Partnerships



Western Addition Branch Library
June 8, 2019

The Set-Up



Read before Starting:

- Step 1 Browse through the Living Book Cards
- Step 2 Choose a Living Book
- Step 3 Check out for up to 30 min (have a conversation)
- Step 4 Tell us about your experience (fill out a brief survey)

Living Library Rules

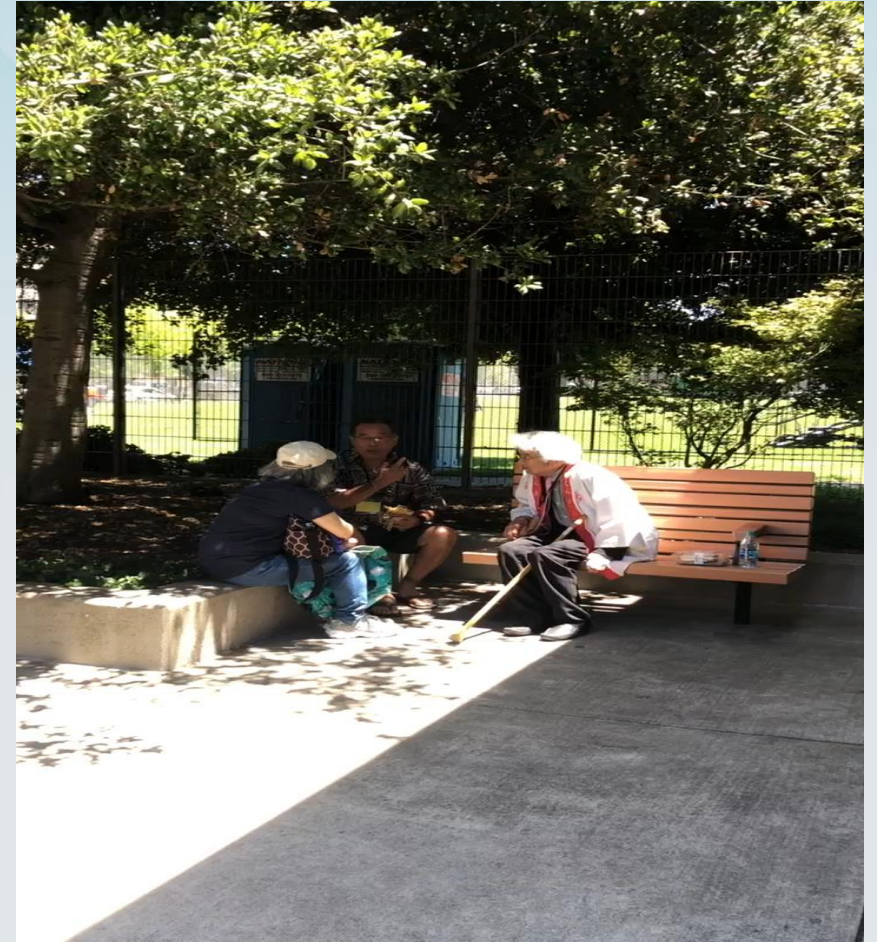
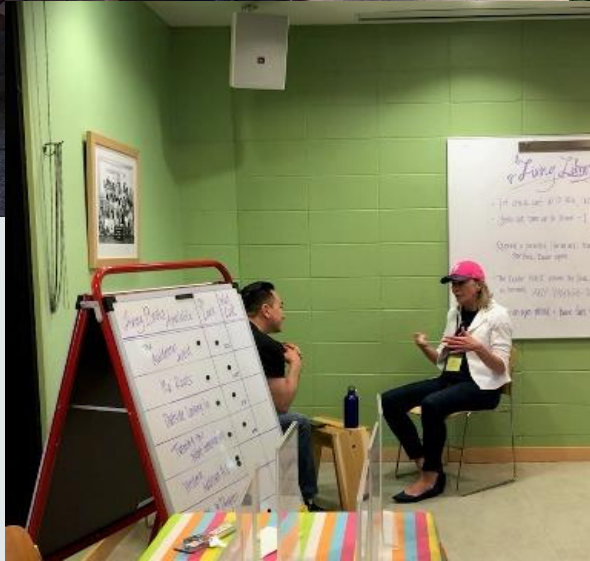
- 1st check out @ 10:30 a, last @ 12:30 p
- Check out time up to 30 min - 1 party of Reader(s) may check out a Book at a time
- Renewal is permitted (for an add'l 30min) if there is no one else waiting & the Book/Reader agrees
- The Reader MUST return the Book in the Same Condition (mental+physical) as borrowed. ANY DAMAGE TO THE BOOK IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN
- Keep an open mind & have fun 😊

Living Books Available	On Loan	Wait List
The Accidental Artist		
Mo' Roots		
Outside Looking In		
Tutoring the Next Generation		
Western Addition A1		
A Work in Progress		
Zephyr - A West Wind for Change		

Read before Starting:

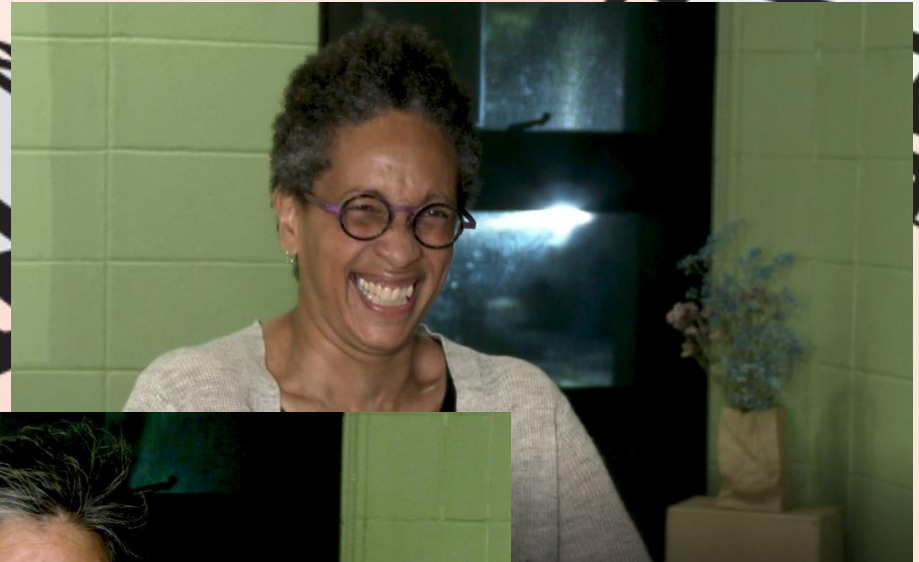
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In Action




Lively conversation all around!

The other part: *Archiving the Stories*



Shizue
writer / editor / visual artist / activist



Living Library Videos now up on SFPL YouTube channel!

Naima <https://youtu.be/twfYUALkrk0>

Marilynn <https://youtu.be/KV7Easuqs9M>

George <https://youtu.be/d8AFnxKu-Xo>

Roger <https://youtu.be/6P6xfwEi5bk>

Monica <https://youtu.be/2m6RPL3013k>

Donna https://youtu.be/yo_gUixM82o

Shizue <https://youtu.be/oFShrUI-z4k>