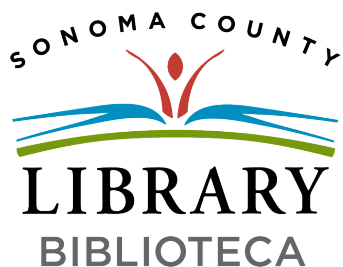


Library News April 2024



“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”

— Walter Cronkite

MEDIA ALERTS PAGE 3

Our mission is to bring information, ideas, and people together to build a stronger community

FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Sonoma County
Library Director
Erika Thibault**

National Library Week, April 7-13

Come celebrate National Library Week at Sonoma County Library, from April 7-13. The theme this year is “Ready, Set, Library!”

National Library week honors the contributions of libraries and library workers to communities across the nation and serves as a reminder of the essential role libraries play in fostering

literacy, promoting lifelong learning, and serving as centers of knowledge and cultural enrichment.

Libraries are at the forefront of efforts to promote literacy and reading and serve as hubs for books, magazines, newspapers, and digital resources.

You can find storytimes at all our branches, including a unique program for young readers called Read to a Dog. Children build confidence by reading aloud to patient, well-trained dogs.

April offers abundance! Visit our online calendar at events.sonomalibrary.org and you'll see emergency preparation tips for seniors, Master

Gardener workshops, Tai Chi classes, tax help, music and movement workshops for little ones, tech help, teen hangout groups, and more.

On April 9 we celebrate Library Workers Day. I am proud of the amazing work our staff does every day. Whether they are organizing educational programs, curating collections, or providing personalized assistance, library workers embody the spirit of service and intellectual curiosity that lies at the heart of every library.

As we celebrate Library Workers Day, join us in expressing our gratitude to these unsung heroes who enrich our lives and communities through an unwavering commitment to knowledge and access for all.

Get ready to explore, become inspired, and connect with Sonoma County Library this National Library Week and Library Workers Day.

We'd love to hear from you—please tell us your favorite thing about the library or about a positive experience you've had recently, by emailing libraryinfo@sonomalibrary.org, and we hope to see you at your local library!

Author & Chef Coming to Library

Join author, activist, and chef Bryant Terry for an interactive talk, cooking demonstration, and book signing at Central Santa Rosa Library on Sunday, April 14, from 2 to 4 pm.

Fusing food justice and personal history to improve fresh food access in our communities, Bryant discusses the intersections of food, politics, health and the environment, sharing how the food we eat directly affects issues such as poverty, sustainability and structural racism.

This event is a collaboration between the Sonoma County Library, the Sonoma County Black Forum and the NAACP of Sonoma County. Learn more and register at events.sonomalibrary.org/food-justice

**BRYANT
TERRY**

**Food
Justice**
AUTHOR TALK
COOKING DEMO
BOOK SIGNING

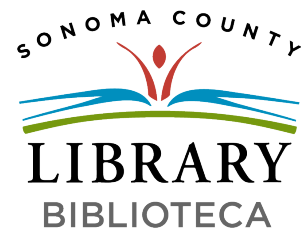


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Library News April 2024

NOTABLE IN APRIL

In April, the library recognizes Día de los Niños, Arab American Heritage Month, National Poetry Month, Earth Day, National Library Week, and National Library Workers Day.



NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April is National Poetry Month! Celebrate by recording yourself reading your favorite poem.

Tag or message Sonoma County Library on social media or email news@sonomalibrary.org to share your video submission for a chance to be featured on the library's social media.

Community members and library staff are welcome to participate. Video submissions are due by Monday, April 15.

FROM THE LIBRARY COMMISSION CHAIR

We welcome your feedback



Library Commission Chair Deborah Doyle

Spring, the time of renewal, is here. Spring is also the time for taxes, budgets and future planning.

The Sonoma County Library is so grateful to voters for supporting our service that we are sending a trained team out to talk to almost 200 unique community groups about how we're spending those funds wisely and as promised. We are also strategically budgeting for next year.

Let library staff know what programs and resources are most valuable to you; let your appointed and elected officials know, too. Your voices are critical in ensuring funding to support libraries at the local, state, and federal levels. Thank you!

Free people read freely!

OUR PATRONS SAY ...

From library patrons:

"I love the library. I've had a library card since I was 5 years old. It's so easy looking through the catalog and requesting a book on hold and picking it up once it's available. The librarians are always so helpful, knowledgeable and friendly."

"Sonoma County makes it easy to check out books as well as look for books. And if I cannot find what I am looking for the library staff are always eager to help me out."

"The library is a valuable community resource for reading material as well as classes and other public outreach."



The Sonoma County Library Commission

Deborah Doyle, Town of Windsor, Commission Chair
Brooke Greene, City of Cloverdale, Commission Vice-Chair
David Cahill, City of Santa Rosa
Andy Elkind, City of Healdsburg
Fred Engbarth, City of Sebastopol
Eve Goldberg, County of Sonoma
Thomas Haeuser, City of Sonoma
Paul Heavenridge, City of Petaluma
Sarah Laggos, City of Santa Rosa / County of Sonoma
Barbara Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Cyan McMillan, City of Cotati
Erika Thibault, Library Director

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MEDIA ALERTS: Press inquiries communications@sonomalibrary.org



Zine Fest

The fourth annual Santa Rosa Zine Fest (#SRZF24) returns to the Northwest Santa Rosa Library on Saturday, April 20, with more than 60 exhibitors and four interactive workshops. Co-presented by the Sonoma County Library and Santa Rosa Zine Collective, the zine fair is a free, outdoor event celebrating DIY publications and the creative people who make them.

Pre-events are scheduled as well:

Wednesday, April 17, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Central Santa Rosa Library: Intro to Zines Workshop with Luminescent Squid;

Friday, April 19, from 6-8 p.m. at Brew Coffee & Beer: Zine Social with Jordan Sea.

To learn more about Santa Rosa Zine Fest and to register, visit sonomalibrary.org/zinefest2024

Library event “unlocked the idea that I could play that well”

Orchestra musician first saw bassoon at library event

By his 14th birthday, Owen Polkinghorn was already interested in classical music. He was playing clarinet in school and doing well, but wasn't sure if he wanted to focus on that instrument.

For his birthday, his mother, Bonnie Polkinghorn, took him to the Northwest Santa Rosa Library to see a performance by the Santa Rosa Symphony woodwind quintet. That's when he first saw a musician perform on the bassoon, an uncommon woodwind with a double reed.

“When we went to the performance, I planned to ask the clarinet player how to improve and get better, then I heard the bassoon and I really liked how the bassoon player spoke so passionately about the instrument and about music.”

Owen went back to his Piner High School band director and asked if he could switch to the bassoon. “First, I asked if they even had a bassoon. They did, so we got a reed, fixed it up and I played it for two years in the school band.”

Owen's enthusiasm helped reinvigorate the band program at

Piner, which had been cut due to budget issues.

When he graduated, he went on to Sacramento State, where he studied and played, and graduated with a teaching credential.

Now, he divides his time between teaching and performing music. While he pursues his Master's in Music at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, he has performed with the Detroit Opera, and he teaches at the Detroit Civic Youth Ensemble, part of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

What's ahead for Owen? “I would love to have a full-time performance career, but I'll be teaching as well. I love the idea of bringing up the next generation of musicians.”

Owen and his mother credit the library experience as a pivotal moment for Owen as a teenager. “I was playing music and it was fun, but I was stumped about what to do in college. That performance unlocked the idea that I could play that well, and it led me to contacts and support from the Santa Rosa Symphony. Seeing that performance at the library was a catalyst.”

Bonnie is proud of her son's



Owen Polkinghorn

accomplishments and appreciative that the library offers arts and culture programming.

Sonoma County Library Director Erika Thibault is grateful to the Polkinghorns for sharing their family's journey. “This is why we do what we do,” Thibault said. “Libraries are for everyone, and this young man is a wonderful example of why we offer diverse and dynamic programming at all our libraries.”