

Attachment I: Operational Staff Briefings for February

Adult Programs

Community Partner Programs

Toastmasters Talk of the Town

San Marino's Toastmasters group had 14 people attend their meetings in February. This community partnership allows the Library to offer the opportunity for patrons to hone their presentation and speaking skills in a supportive and convenient setting.

Huntington Nurses Health Screening

On February 12, 13 patrons received screenings for hypertension, heart disease, and diabetes from Huntington Hospital nurses. These screenings provide the community with access to drop-in preventive services that support a healthy life and the Library is pleased to offer this free service to patrons.

Chinese Club of San Marino

On February 13, the Chinese Club partnered with the Library to host a community program to teach patrons about Chinese culture. 4 patrons attended. The Chinese Club is another community partnership that allows us to provide patrons with opportunities to learn about Chinese culture and history.

San Marino Historical Society

On February 24, the San Marino Historical Society welcomed author, historian, and urban walker Bob Inman as part of their Speaker Series. Inman's presentation was a celebration of both the residential culture and built environment of Altadena both before and after the fire. The theme was presented as it was experienced by his 2023 walking group of two dozen people. This program was attended by 104 patrons.

Coffee, Tea, and Chat

On February 28, 7 people attended this Mandarin-language program to discuss love languages for children and adults. Programs such as this support community engagement as well as personal growth and enrichment.

Library Led Programming

Floral Mason Jar Vases

On February 20, Librarian Dahl led a program for 18 pre-registered and walk-in adult patrons. This art program allowed patrons to relax and spend time with their neighbors while making a lovely mason jar vase. Arts and crafts programs like this help adults express creativity and learn a new skill.

Peaceful Puzzling

On February 27, Librarian Dahl hosted another session of Peaceful Puzzling for 2 pre-registered and walk-in adult patrons. This program allows patrons to relax while working on a jigsaw puzzle either in small groups or alone. Puzzling has the benefits of helping to improve memory, improve fine motor skills, and help with stress management. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Youth Programs

Family Storytime

On February 4, 11, 18, and 25, 220 people (combined) attended Family Storytime for ages 0-5. Between stories, songs, fingerplays, and dances, staff modeled early literacy tips for caregivers. On February 25, Pasadena Playhouse partnered with the Library to present a special “Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile” storytime. Storytime programs not only promote language development, but also concentration and social skills to better prepare children for a classroom setting.

Lunar New Year Melodies and Stories

In celebration of Lunar New Year, the Library hosted a special bilingual Chinese and English storytime on February 1 for all ages, featuring live music from composer Mingjia Chen. Chen left the audience of 59 people entranced with the sounds of the guzheng, a traditional Chinese instrument, while Library Assistant Elliott shared stories of welcoming in the new year. Programs like this provide benefits such as expanding the Library’s role as a cultural and community center. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Tween Pizza Taste-Off

On February 4, tweens ages 8-11 showed their love for everyone's favorite pie, just in time for National Pizza Day. Pizza connoisseurs sampled three different contenders, voted for their favorite, and formed teams to play pizza-themed races and trivia. Programs like this promote collaboration, gross motor skills, and social skills in a relaxed and familiar setting. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Build-A-Puppet Workshop

On February 13, the Library hosted a Build-A-Puppet Workshop for children ages 5-10. After watching a demo of puppeteering tips, children made their own unique puppet and had the opportunity to practice in a mini puppet theater. Puppet programs like this promote language, social, and emotional development; listening and motor skills; creativity; and self-confidence. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Baby Sensory Gym

On February 14, the Library brought back two sessions of the popular Baby Sensory Gym program for 47 attendees (total) ages 0-2 and their caregivers. Babies had a free range of activities including puzzles, climbing toys, bubble play, indoor stepping stones, puppets, and more. This program provides benefits such as fine motor skills, gross motor skills, and sensory play, as well as social skills and an opportunity to connect with other families in a safe and welcoming environment. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Maker Mondays

On February 24, 31 attendees eagerly gathered in the Community Room for another session of Maker Mondays. Participants were challenged to use IQ Builder connector

pieces to build animals. Programs like this provide benefits such as promoting creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Story, Stomp, & Sing

On February 27, Librarian Torres presented a monthly storytime in partnership with the San Marino Music Center to 38 people. This music-focused early literacy program featured instrument exploration, songs, fingerplays, dance, and books in honor of National Pancake Day. Children's music programs have been shown to provide benefits such as strengthening attention, working memory, and perseverance.

Young Adult Programs

Teen Advisory Group (TAG)

7 young adults attended the February TAG meeting. Librarian Ortega opened the meeting with announcements on upcoming volunteer opportunities at the Library followed by an icebreaker to motivate attendees to get to know each other. Young adults then discussed next month's YA book display theme, which they decided would be inspired by St. Patrick's Day. They also discussed new signage for the YA Manga and New Books sections and ended the meeting by assisting with cleaning baby program materials.

Year of the Snake-let

On February 3, 19 young adults celebrated the Year of the Snake by learning about the Chinese zodiac and making paracord bracelets in snake designs. Participants practiced weaving and knotting, based on traditional Chinese knotting techniques. Programs like this provide benefits such as promoting fine motor skills, creativity, and cultural literacy. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Board Game Café

On Thursday, February 27, 29 young adults attended the Library's second monthly Board Game Café of the Winter season. Teens enjoyed this safe after school space which provided them with the opportunity to actively learn through strategy games and to connect with one another. Popular games included Cards Against Humanity Family Edition, The Game of Life, and Exploding Kittens. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Class Visits and Outreach

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Library

On February 5, 6, and 7, the Library welcomed 160 people from all five Carver Elementary TK and Kindergarten classes for behind-the-scenes tours and storytimes. Students were introduced to library resources and services, and went home with their very own Crowell Public Library card. Programs like this provide benefits such as community engagement, tailored content to the interests and needs of SMUSD students and teachers, and orienting students to the role the Library can play in developing lifelong skills such as study habits and critical thinking.

Valentine Elementary School Class Visits

On February 6, Librarian Torres made outreach visits to all three TK classes (66 people) at Valentine Elementary School. Librarian Torres shared some new and exciting titles like “Mr. Fox's Game of ‘No!’” and “Pancakes! An Interactive Recipe Book” as well as other fingerplays, and songs. Public Library outreach provides benefits such as putting a familiar face on Library services, and meeting the community where they are.

Passports

In February, staff processed 260 passport applications. Total revenue earned from passport services was \$12,880. Staff answered 104 in-person passport related questions.

Crain Art Gallery

Soft Detour, an exhibit of photographs by Priscilla Mars is currently on display in the Crain Art Gallery through March 21. The landscape-based photographs, all taken at Lacy Park, use a soft focus for extreme close-ups that render the image abstract. On February 8, a reception for the artist was attended by around 45 people. For the first week, the exhibit included a soundtrack which visitors could access by scanning a QR code with their phones.