

# CHECK IT OUT

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

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## LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

SAN RAFAEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Celebrating Community, Connection, and Impact

What a week! National Library Week (April 19–25) was a celebration of everything we love about our San Rafael Public Library (SRPL). We screened *Free for All: The Public Library*, earned a City Council proclamation, and connected patrons with the Friends of SRPL on Take Action for Libraries Day. The fun spilled into Library Day with the Giants on April 26, where our staff engaged 120+ visitors, signed up new cardholders, and watched the Giants beat the Marlins!

This week was a perfect reminder of what makes our library so special: access, learning, community, and joy. We love our library and we hope you do too!

### Quick Highlights

- The library will be closed on **Monday, May 25** for the Memorial Day Holiday.
- While the Pickleweed Library is being remodeled, staff will be available at the **Albert J. Boro Community Center's** front desk on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**, from 9:00AM to 5:00PM for basic services.
- Hey teens, there are **free** after school snacks available at the **Downtown Library's** Teen area! Monday–Friday 2:30 PM–4:30 PM. For ages 12–18.
- May is Asian & Pacific American Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month. Check out our **book lists** and upcoming **events!**

### Congratulations to our Winners!

Thanks to everyone who participated in our first Summer Reading Design Contests. All contest entries will be on display at the **Downtown Library** through May. Come check them out!

[See the Winners](#)

## Indie Author Project

### Annual Contest

Got a book in you? Your library can help you publish it, share it, and get it into readers' hands.

The Indie Author Project Annual Contest is open for submissions through May 31st, seeking the best indie-published books in nine genres including Mystery/Thrillers, Romance, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Memoir, and more. Winners receive honors at the 2027 Indie Author Day Reception, a full-page feature in *Library Journal*, and cash prizes up to \$2,000.

San Rafael Public Library patrons have free access to the tools that can take you from draft to submission. Use **Pressbooks** to format your manuscript into a professional-quality ePUB, then submit it through the **Indie Author Project**. Even if you don't win the contest, your eBook can be added to the Indie California Regional Collection on **BiblioBoard**, where readers across the state can discover your work.

[Learn more and submit your book here](#)

### Program Spotlight



Monday, May 4 & May 11  
Friday, May 15

San Rafael Downtown Library | **1100 E Street**  
3:00 PM–4:00 PM

Come learn how to make Origami Cranes and help us with our 1,000 Cranes Community Art Project! The tradition of folding 1,000 origami cranes, known as Senbazuru, is believed to bring blessings. For all ages. You can also pick up a folding kit at any SRPL Library Branch. Make sure to return your finished origami cranes by May 16.

[Learn More](#)



Wednesday, May 6

San Rafael Downtown Library | **1100 E Street**  
3:00 PM–4:30 PM

**This is a program for kids and their accompanying adults.** This spring, join us to learn about one of our most beloved local native species, the monarch butterfly! At this event, we will read "Señorita Mariposa," a book that teaches us what makes this butterfly so incredible, and build our own personal paper butterflies to take home! Families and kids of all ages are welcome. This program is facilitated in collaboration with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

[Learn More](#)

## THE COLLEGE READY SERIES

Breaking Down UC PIQs & Activities

Wednesday, May 13

Downtown San Rafael Library | **1100 E Street**  
5:30 PM–6:30 PM

Learn what UC's look for in PIQs & how to stand out in the activities section. This step-by-step workshop series helps juniors understand the admissions process, build a strong college list, and prepare competitive UC applications.

[Learn More](#)



Thursday, May 14

Downtown San Rafael Library | **1100 E Street**  
6:00 PM–7:30 PM

To honor Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month, we'll be showing *Chinese Couplets* a film by local filmmaker Felicia Lowe of Lowdown Productions. Part memoir, part history, part investigation, *Chinese Couplets* spans two centuries, three countries and four generations of women in this intimate story that reveals the impact of America's Chinese Exclusion Acts on filmmaker Felicia Lowe's family. Discussion with the filmmaker will follow the screening.

For more information, email [Lea.Aschkenas](mailto:Lea.Aschkenas)

[Learn More](#)



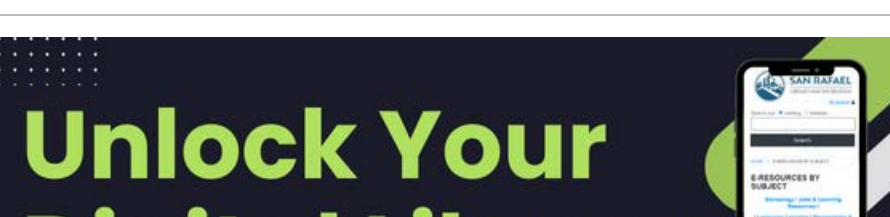
Angel Island Guided Hike

Saturday, May 16

Tiburon/Angel Island Ferry | **21 Main Street, Tiburon**  
9:15 AM–2:00 PM

As part of the One Book, One Coast community initiative, join us on a 1-hour in-person guided hike to learn about immigration history at the Detention Barracks Museum on Angel Island. This trip is for all patrons 8 years and older. Adult supervision is required for all minors registering. **Transportation to Tiburon is not provided.** Ferry tickets and guided tour fees are provided for all registered patrons. Space is limited and advance registration is required!

[Register Here](#)



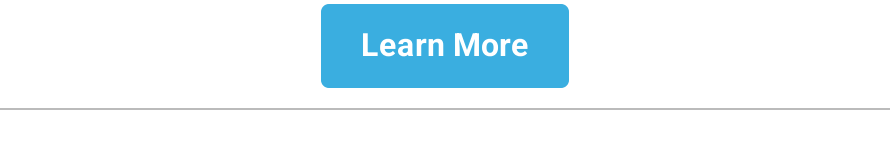
A Cultural Passport

Saturday, May 30

Downtown San Rafael Library | **1100 E Street**  
1:30 PM–3:00 PM

We will learn more about [San Rafael Creates: ProQuest Music & Performing Arts Discover & Go](#). Bring your smartphone, tablet, or questions, and we'll get you logged in and ready to go. The library will also have a limited number of Chromebooks available for in-program use. This program doesn't require registration, but you are welcome to email [Javier Morales](mailto:Javier.Morales) to receive a reminder of the event.

[Learn More](#)



One Book, One Coast Book Club Discussion

Saturday, May 30

Downtown San Rafael Library | **1100 E Street**  
2:00 PM–3:15 PM

This spring, San Rafael Public Library invited the community to take part in One Book, One Coast, a shared reading initiative connecting more than 130 library systems across California, Oregon, and Washington. Now, let's meet and discuss the book!

[Learn More](#)

One Book, One Coast Book Virtual Author Talk

Sunday, May 31

Downtown San Rafael Library | **1100 E Street**  
2:00 PM–3:15 PM

To close the program, George Takei will appear for a special author talk. The event will be livestreamed on YouTube, allowing readers across the region to participate together. The San Rafael Public Library will be showing the livestream at the Carnegie Room.

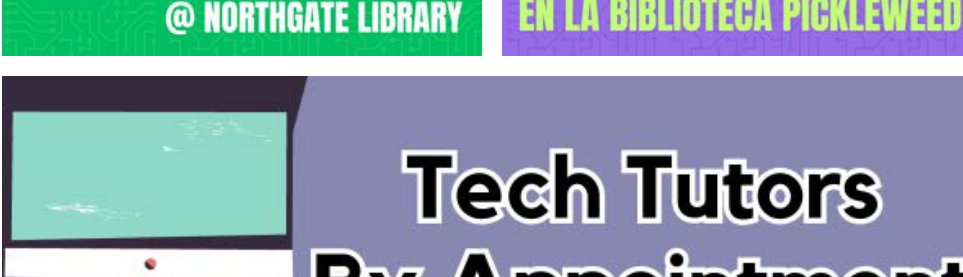
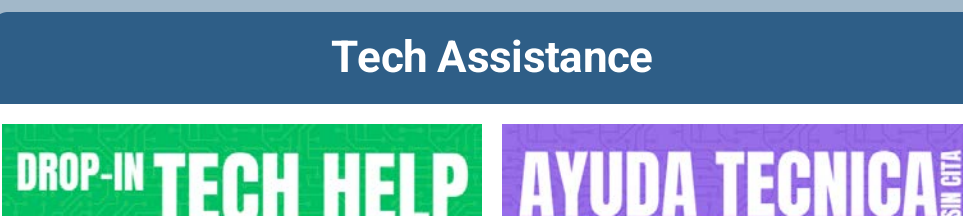
[Learn More](#)

### Ongoing Programs



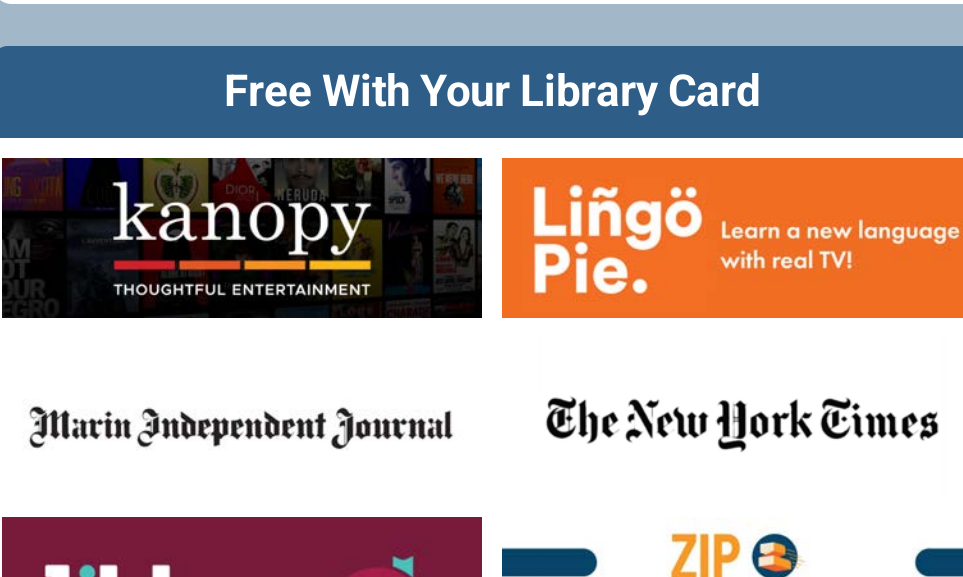
[See More](#)

### Tech Assistance



[See More](#)

### Free With Your Library Card



[See More](#)

### Need a Library Card? Friends of the Library

Don't miss out on everything San Rafael Public Library has to offer. Sign up for your Library Card today!

[Get Started](#)

Special thanks to the Friends of the San Rafael Public Library for supporting the programming at all San Rafael Public Libraries!

[Learn More](#)

### Connect With Us



[srapubliclibrary.org](https://www.srapubliclibrary.org) | [@srapubliclibrary](https://www.instagram.com/srapubliclibrary) | [library@cityofsanrafael.org](https://www.youtube.com/srapubliclibrary)

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