

THE SANTA CLARA CITY LIBRARY FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS

FALL NEWSLETTER

2026

Celebrating a Banner Year



2026 was a banner year for the City of Santa Clara and the Santa Clara City Library. More than 800,000 people came through our

doors, patronized the bookstore, used our services, or engaged with our virtual offerings. Thousands attended our STEM Zone event, over 3,300 joined Summer Adventure, and hundreds participated in The Big Read, a community reading event where we read *Bite by Bite* and shared stories about food and culture

Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends (SCCLFF) volunteers continue to support our operations, including behind-the-scenes tours and major signature events like Comic Con, coming up on October 10.

Your generosity directly impacts the Santa Clara community. People come to this library because of YOU. SCCLFF activities—including book sales, donations, and grants—make this vital work possible.

Our community needs are forever changing. We restored Sunday hours at Central Park Library, added Saturday

service, and reopened the library café. We also established a new strategic plan and facilities master plan to serve as a roadmap for responsible growth in the coming years.

As I prepare to retire in December after 42 years of public service, I want to thank you for your unwavering commitment to literacy and the Santa Clara City Library. SCCLFF remains a phenomenal source of advocacy and resources supporting our mission and vision.

With appreciation,
Patty Wong

A huge thank you to all our volunteers! We, and the Santa Clara City Library, held a volunteer appreciation event in August 2026 for all the volunteers who make the Santa Clara City Library such a warm and welcoming place for all. We couldn't do this without you!





A Message from our Executive Director

By JoAnn Davis

Dear Friends,

This has been an extraordinary year for the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends. We exceeded our fundraising projections, thanks to your generosity. Thank you!

Earlier this year, we received a \$1.5 million bequest from Mrs. Betty L. Wilson. She was a long-time library patron who left much of her estate to the Foundation. This gift is transformational for us. It provides both security for the Foundation and annual support for library programs for years to come. The SCCLFF Board and Library leadership are developing a stewardship plan for these funds.

This fall will be busy, and we hope to see you at our upcoming events. Visit our table at the Santa Clara Art & Wine Festival on September 19 and 20 at Central Park, the Parade of Champions on October 3 in the Old Quad neighborhood, and Comic Con on October 8 at the Central Park Branch. Please join us for these fun community events!

As always, we are deeply grateful to our incredible volunteers, donors, and sponsors who allow us to support the library. We appreciate you!

With gratitude,

JoAnn Davis, Executive Director



Summer Adventure Keeps Thousands Reading

Registrants 3,381	Adults 27.5%	Program attendees 15,438
Items checked out 296,689	Teens 8.3%	Teen volunteers 60
Programs held 234	Children 64.2%	Hours they volunteered 400+



Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends Receives \$1.5m Donation

The Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends (SCCLFF) received their largest donation to date from the estate of Betty L. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson was a long-time patron of the Central Park Branch and left the bulk of her estate to the SCCLFF, whose mission is to strengthen the library as a pillar of our diverse and thriving community.

This donation is not only transformational for SCCLFF but will have a long-term impact on our entire community. Last year, there were over 750,000 visits to the City's three library branches; nearly 1,500 classes and events were offered free of charge, and over 70,000 community members attended at least one class/event. This donation will enable the SCCLFF to provide even more support for new and innovative programs, expansion of existing programs, and to plan for future library needs.

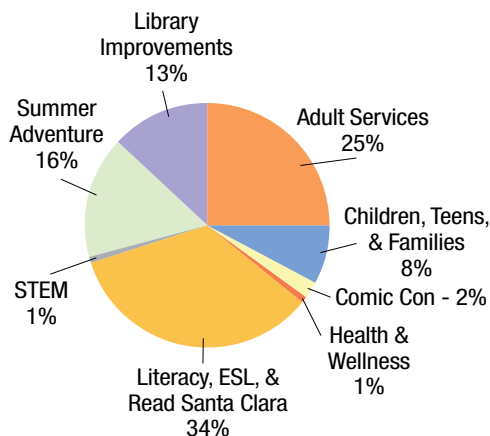
"This support from Betty L Wilson means that the library will be able to expand our programs to provide services to the community who need it the most – especially our children, youth, and families. We will be able to reach more people than ever before! And will help people achieve their dreams." Patricia Wong, Santa Clara City Librarian.

While all donations are deeply appreciated, bequests are particularly meaningful. They represent a thoughtful, lasting decision to align one's life savings with causes that truly matter. It is clear that Mrs. Wilson's heart was with the Santa Clara Library and the invaluable resources it provides to our community.

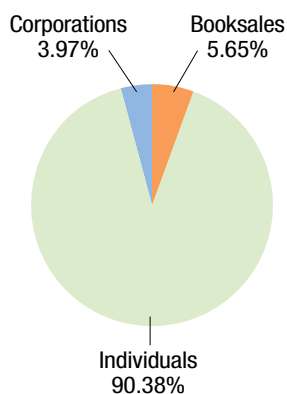
At SCCLFF we are humbled that she trusted us to be good stewards of the funds and ensure they support the library she loved for years to come.

As this year's "where the money comes from" chart illustrates, bequests can have an outsized impact on an organization's finances. Over 90% of our income this year is from individual donations, which includes this bequest. It will have a real impact on where and how we can best support the Santa Clara City Library. If you want to have a similar impact on your community, we urge you to also include us in your will or estate plan.

Where the Money Goes



Where the Money Comes From



Upcoming Events List

Art & Wine Book Sale -
September 19 & 20

Parade of Champions -
October 3

Comic Con -
October 10

October Book Sale -
Oct 16, 17 & 18

November Book Sale -
November 20, 21, 22

December Patio Sale @
Northside Library - December 4

Last Day to Donate in 2026 -
December 31

January Book Sale -
January 15, 16, 17

February Book Sale -
February 19, 20, 21

THE SANTA CLARA CITY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION
AND FRIENDS



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25th Anniversary Gala

The Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends hosted a gala to celebrate our 25th anniversary in May 2026. Attendees enjoyed music, food, a live auction, and more at the event. Luis Pedro Castillo Photography captured images of the event.



Mark your calendars - our 2027 gala will be Saturday, April 10, 2027



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