



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 4/20/2026  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Locations:** Teleconference and  
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center  
700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

### A. Call To Order

Chair Orton called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

### B. Roll Call

Present: Abdulla, Crockett, Orton, Shafer, Sisbot, Westcott, Yule  
Absent: None  
Staff: Library and Community Services (LCS) Director Nick Szegda, LCS Supervisor Rose Waldman

### C. Public Comment

None.

### D. Presentations and Proclamations

- D1. Presentation: One Book One Coast program (Attachment)  
Supervisor Waldman made the presentation (Attachment).

### E. Regular Business

- E1. Approve the minutes from the March 16, 2026 Library Commission meeting (Attachment)

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Crockett/ Shafer), to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2026 meeting, passed unanimously.

- E2. Ad hoc subcommittee on District 1 library outreach report out (Staff Report LC-2026-014)  
Commissioners Yule and Abdullah made a presentation (Attachment).

**ACTION:** None.

### F. Informational Items

- F1. Advisory body attendance report (Staff Report LC-2026-015)  
Director Szegda introduced the item.
- F2. Library Commission work plan 2025-26 goals (Staff Report LC-2026-016)  
Director Szegda introduced the item.

F3. Library and Community Services Department updates and statistics (Staff Report LC-2026-017)

Director Szegda introduced the item.

F4. Update on City of Menlo Park fiscal year 2026-27 budget process and timeline (Staff Report LC-2026-018)

Director Szegda introduced the item.

F5. Tentative agenda calendar (Attachment)

The Commission added the following items to the calendar:

- May – library of the future ad hoc subcommittee report
- June – District 1 marketing ad hoc subcommittee report out

**G. Commission Reports**

G1. Individual Commissioner reports

Commissioner Crockett reported on the quarterly board meeting of the Friends of the Library.

**H. Adjournment**

Chair Orton adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Library and Community Services Director Nick Szegda



# One Book, One Coast

"The Largest Book Club on the West Coast"

# What is One Book, One Coast

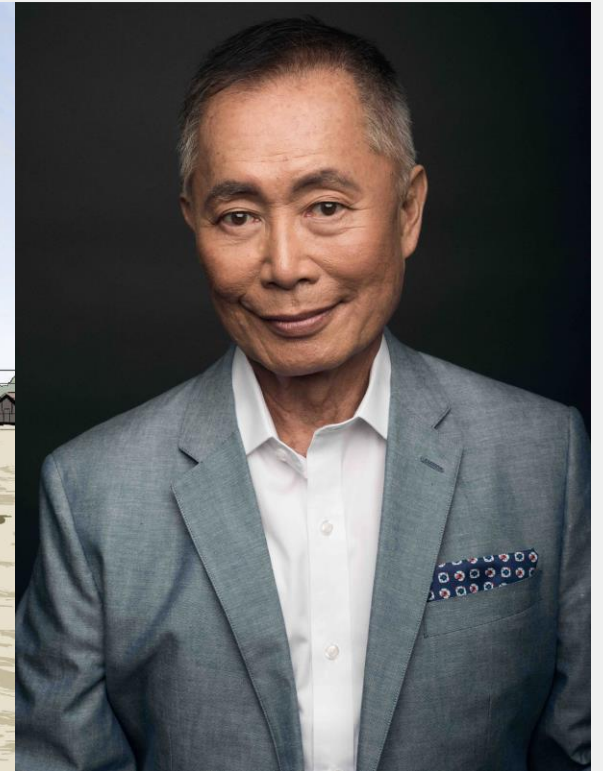
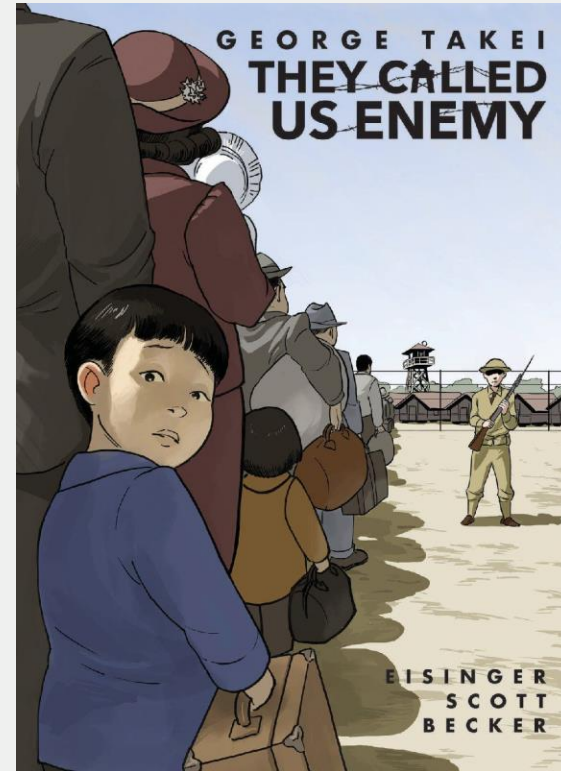
*“One Book, One Coast brings together library systems across California, Washington State, and Oregon for a shared community reading program that celebrates literacy, learning, community, and civil discourse.” – LA County Library*



**ONE BOOK  
ONE COAST**

# What is One Book, One Coast

- April 1-June 6, 2026  
Nearly 200 participating libraries read “They Called Us Enemy,” by George Takei
- May 31, 2026, 2-4 p.m.  
LA County Library hosts an author talk with Takei, livestreamed on Zoom

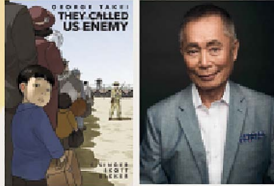


# What is Menlo Park bringing to the table

- Free copies of “They Called Us Enemy” while supplies last
- Unlimited reading on Libby and Comics Plus
- Special Exhibition: Am I An American or Am I Not?
- Two months of programs celebrating Japanese American culture and history
- 3/22-5/17: SPECIAL EXHIBITION: Am I An American or Am I Not?
- 4/8: Yoshiko Kanazawa: A Wartime Journey
- 4/10: Global Language Storytime: Japanese
- 4/14: How to Draw Manga Moods
- 4/20: Kokoro: Sacramento's Lost Japantown
- 4/21: Teen Book Discussion Group: “They Called Us Enemy”
- 5/2: Koto Music and Film with Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto
- 5/4: Americans Behind Barbed Wire
- 5/17: Japanese Taiko Drumming with Kristy “Aki” Oshiro

## JOIN THE LARGEST BOOK CLUB ON THE WEST COAST!

Read George Takei's graphic memoir *They Called Us Enemy* and tune in for a livestream author talk on Zoom and YouTube, on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 2 PM!  
Check out a copy at the library, or read the eBook on Libby!



One Book, One Coast (OBOC) is a multi-state community reading initiative that invites readers to engage with a shared text through discussion, programs, and reflection. Our inaugural selection is *They Called Us Enemy* (2019), a graphic memoir by George Takei that recounts his childhood experience of incarceration alongside more than 120,000 people of Japanese descent, most of whom were U.S. citizens, following Executive Order 9066 in 1942.  
Check with your local library about giveaway copies.

## CHECK OUT RELATED PROGRAMS AT PENINSULA LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT APRIL AND MAY!

Libraries with \*asterisk require registration. See library's website for more details.

### Remembering Tanforan: Virtual Panel Discussion & Former Internee Interviews

Watch anytime on YouTube @cityofsanbruno  
Rewatch the February 2022 discussion and hear first-hand accounts of former internees at Tanforan.

### One Book, One Coast Research Station

Available at the Burlingame Main Library  
Access the Denso archives and listen to oral histories and other personal stories at the dedicated research station.

### Special Exhibition: Am I An American or Am I Not?

On view at the Menlo Park Library until May 17  
Explore about how the violation of Constitutional rights and how it relates to the experiences of other communities.

### Mottainai - Rope Bowl Making Class

Sat. April 4	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	*San Carlos
Sat. May 2	2:00 - 3:30 PM	*Pacifica Sharp Park
Sun. May 31	1:00 - 2:30 PM	*Belmont

Sew your own rope bowl using Japanese scrap fabrics.

### Omatsuri Festival Spirit of Drumming

Sat. April 4	3:30 - 4:00 PM	Pacifica Sharp Park
Thu. May 7	3:30 - 4:00 PM	Woodside
Sat. May 9	3:00 - 4:30 PM	Millbrae
Thu. May 14	3:30 - 4:00 PM	East Palo Alto
Fri. May 22	2:30 - 2:00 PM	Belmont

Join us for a traditional Japanese Taiko drumming performance from GenRyu Arts!

### Yoshiko Kanazawa: A Wartime Journey

Wed. April 8	6:00 - 7:00 PM	Menlo Park
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Yoshiko Kanazawa recalls her family's wartime experience through a child's eyes.

### Global Language Storytime: Japanese

Fri. April 10	11:00 - 11:30 AM	Menlo Park
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Join us for a special storytime conducted in Japanese!

### Meet Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson: Shell Song

Sun. April 12	10:30 - 11:15 AM	Pacifica Sharp Park
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Join author-illustrator Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson for a reading of her book *Shell Song*.

### How to Draw Manga Moods

Tue. April 14	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Menlo Park
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Learn how to draw faces that show different moods and emotions, using the visual language of Japanese manga.

### Behind Barbed Wires: The Story of the Japanese Incarceration

Mon. April 20	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Foster City
Tue. April 21	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Daly City Westlake
Fri. April 24	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	East Palo Alto
Tue. April 28	2:00 - 3:00 PM	*Atherton
Fri. May 8	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Belmont
Fri. May 15	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Brisbane
Tue. May 26	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	San Carlos

Join Steve Okamoto for a discussion and Q&A on his family's experience in the Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno.

## CHECK OUT RELATED PROGRAMS AT PENINSULA LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT APRIL AND MAY!

Libraries with \*asterisk require registration. See library's website for more details.

### Kokoro: Sacramento's Lost Japantown

Mon. April 20	6:00 - 7:00 PM	*Zoom via Menlo Park
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Join Menlo Park for a virtual exploration of Sacramento's Japantown on Zoom. Register at [menlopark.gov/oboc](http://menlopark.gov/oboc).

### Teen Book Group

Tue. April 21	4:30 - 5:30 PM	*Menlo Park
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Read and discuss *They Called Us Enemy*. For kids between the ages of 12 and 17.

### Japanese Dance Forms & Instruments

Wed. April 29	6:00 - 6:30 PM	Foster City
Sat. May 16	3:00 - 3:30 PM	Brisbane
Tue. May 26	3:30 - 4:00 PM	Portola Valley

Enjoy traditional Japanese dance & music from GenRyu Arts!

### Koto Music & Film with Shirley Kazu Muramoto

Sat. May 2	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Menlo Park Belle Haven
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Watch and learn about how koto and other Japanese cultural arts were preserved in American concentration camps.

### Americans Behind Barbed Wire

Mon. May 4	4:30 - 6:00 PM	Menlo Park
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Learn more about the mass incarcerations from people who lived through it and their family members.

### Art Talk - Japanese Aesthetics

Mon. May 4	7:00 - 8:00 PM	*Zoom via SMCL
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Explore the variety, complexity, and beauty of traditional Japanese art forms. Register at [smcl.org/events](http://smcl.org/events).

### Origami Workshops

Tue. May 5	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	*Millbrae
Tue. May 19	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	*Half Moon Bay
Sun. May 31	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	*Foster City

Explore the art of origami while reflecting on history and the human experience.

### One Book, One Coast Book Discussions

Wed. May 6	6:00 - 7:00 PM	*San Mateo Main
Tue. May 26	12:00 - 1:00 PM	Redwood City Main

Read and discuss *They Called Us Enemy* ahead of the author talk. For adults and seniors.

### Japanese Origami Book Box

Sat. May 9	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	*Foster City
Wed. May 13	2:00 - 3:30 PM	*Millbrae
Wed. May 13	6:00 - 7:00 PM	*Atherton
Thu. May 21	5:30 - 6:30 PM	*San Carlos

Learn how to make a small box to use as a mini scrapbook or journal as a place to keep little treasures.

### Morrish Collection

Sat. May 9	1:00 - 1:45 PM	Redwood City Main
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Author Kevin W. Kaatz will discuss the J. Elmer Morrish collection and his impact in aiding internees.

### Three Boys Manzanar: Film Screening & Discussion

Wed. May 13	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Burlingame Main
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Join us for a screening and discussion of the Emmy Award-winning short documentary.

### Seeds of Activism

Thu. May 14	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Redwood City Main
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Plant seeds significant to Japanese American food traditions and discuss themes from the book.

### Japanese Taiko Drumming with Kristy "Aki" Oshiro

Sun. May 17	11:00 - 11:45 AM	Menlo Park Belle Haven
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Experience drums, Japanese language, culture, and history combine into an exciting educational experience.

### Exploring the Japanese American National Library

Sun. May 17	2:00 - 4:00 PM	Millbrae
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Learn about the history, mission, and future of the JANL located in San Francisco's Japantown.

### Printmaking Workshop

Fri. May 22	1:00 - 3:00 PM	San Bruno
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Learn about artist Chiura Obata by creating and carving your own simple linoleum block print. Limited to 25 participants.

### Meet Maggie Tokuda-Hall: Love in the Library

Wed. May 27	10:45 - 11:30 AM	Portola Valley
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Join Maggie Tokuda-Hall as she shares her picture book, *Love in the Library*.

### Stitches of Resilience: Origami Bag Sewing Project

Sat. May 30	11:00 AM - 1:30 PM	*Woodside
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Sew your own carry-all shoulder bag using Japanese fabric and origami-inspired folding techniques.

### Watch Party: George Takei Author Talk

Sun. May 31	2:00 - 4:30 PM	Belmont
Sun. May 31	2:00 - 4:00 PM	*San Mateo Main
Sun. May 31	2:00 - 4:00 PM	South San Francisco Main

Watch the livestream at the library!

### Watch the author talk from home on Zoom or YouTube

Pre-register to watch on Zoom: Watch on YouTube on May 31 at 2 PM:

### Sansei Granddaughters' Journey: Film Screening and Q&A

Sun. June 7	1:30 - 3:00 PM	Half Moon Bay
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Watch the film followed by a Q&A.



# Information and Resources

- <https://menlopark.gov/oboc>
- <https://lacountylibrary.org/one-book-one-coast/>
- [https://library-lacounty.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ek6Fa2kxSjq1vs\\_BvlyHRg#/registration](https://library-lacounty.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ek6Fa2kxSjq1vs_BvlyHRg#/registration)
- <https://pls.overdrive.com/media/6219173>
- <https://menlopark.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S76C2852777>



## Marketing Ideas

A marketing audit was performed by the commission to identify ways to bolster community engagement.

While broad strategic shifts were considered, the realities of limited resources and the complexities of engaging diverse demographics makes this line of thinking impractical.

When looking at comparative metrics, we believe that the Belle Haven branch is engaging effectively with its service population, given that Belle Haven is 1/5th of Menlo Park's population.

With that said, it is worth highlighting a few ideas that were uncovered through our evaluation of peer strategies and an audit of existing marketing resources.

## Modernizing Digital Engagement

1. Adopt new social platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Nextdoor, and BlueSky
2. Refining the online registration workflow to mitigate user friction:
  - Condense and simplify the newsletter signup process
  - Adopt a mobile responsive layout for library card applications

## Building Community Presence and Awareness

Explore establishing a light weight ambassador initiative. This program would invite a select group of volunteers to distribute flyers and actively share social media content.

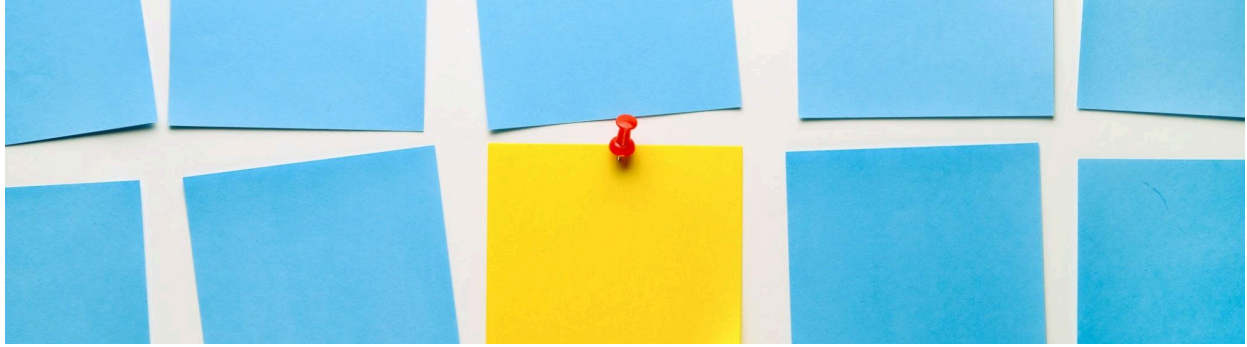
Audit local and campus signage to ensure the facility is consistently recognized as both a library and a community hub.

## Improving Data Transparency

Report out on library statistics using data visualizations. This increased visibility would simplify the identification of short- and long-term trends, fostering new insights and narratives for both the commission and the community.

Furthermore, consider tracking additional metrics to support future explorations:

- Segment card holders / registrations by favored library
- Newsletter signups, segmented by favored library
- Performance data for newsletters, including open and click-through rates
- Social media metrics
- Breakdown of program types (ex: community driven vs internal, target audience, etc etc)



# District 1 Library Outreach Report

Status In progress ▾

Timing Nov 3, 2025 to Nov 3, 2027

Owners Daniel Yule leith abdulla Sarah

## Overview

This subcommittee was formed at the November 2025 Library Commission meeting with the goal of advising on District 1 library engagement in support of the following Library Commission work plan goal (approved September 2025):

- Support and advise library program development and operations of the Belle Haven Community Center (BHCC) including:
  - Belle Haven Community History project
  - Makerspace programming and policies
  - Other policies that may be impacted by shared spaces at BHCC

# Objectives

## Project objectives

- Make a report, in collaboration with library staff, of research findings and a plan of action and present to library commission (Nov 2026)
  - Plan will include deliverables that are targeted at different audiences (city council, library staff, library commission)
- Execute on plan based on research findings, including signage and volunteering (Nov 2027)

# Strategy

## Approach

Meet with relevant stakeholders and perform literature review. Collaborate with the team to ensure that the plan is feasible and achievable within the given timeframe.

## Target audience of Report

- Library commission
- Library Staff
- City council
- People of Menlo Park

## Measurement

- Belle Haven foot traffic
- Belle Haven program attendance (target of 20% increase?)
- Belle Haven circulation
- Increasing number of community partners
- Increased number of directional signs

# Milestones

Date	Milestone	Description	Expected outcome
Aug 17, ...	Milestone 1	Add suggestions to report to city council	
Nov 16, ...	Milestone 2	Present initial report/plan to MP LC	Approval
Aug 16, ...	Milestone 3	Present execution summary to city council	
Nov 15, ...	Milestone 4	Present summary of plan execution	

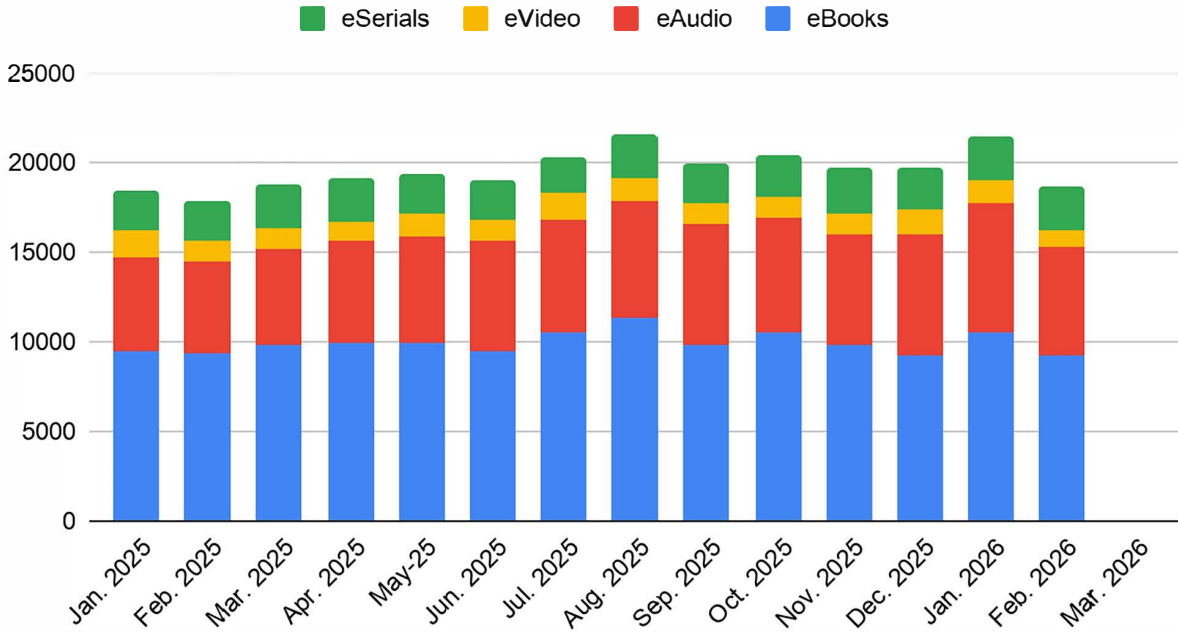
## Work Completed

- Nov 2025 Kickoff meeting
- Jan 2026 meeting
- Met with Nick Szegda to discuss outreach
- March 2026 meeting
- Met with East Palo Alto library outreach staff
- April 2026 meeting
- Performed literature survey

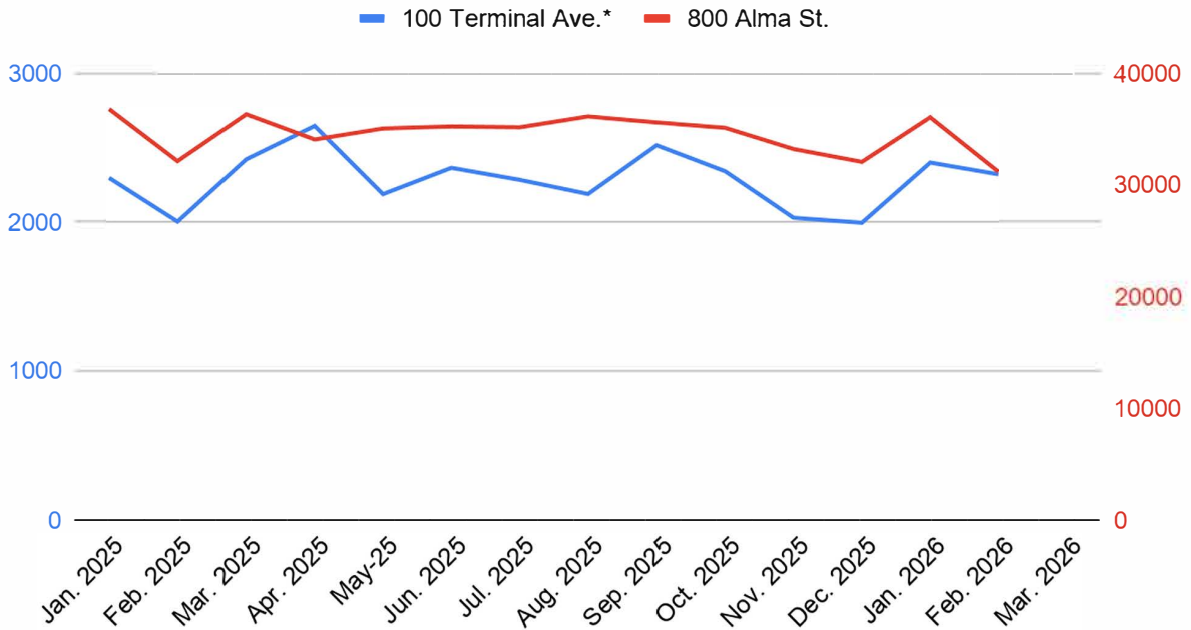
# Action Items

Name	Open question
Nick Szegda	Update on signage - alternative possible locations?
Rose	Arrange BH library tour for East Palo Alto library staff
Daniel	Meet with library staff North Fair Oaks and Friends of Library
D/L/S	Meet with Rose to learn more about MP library outreach
D/L/S	Brainstorm local organizations with which to partner
Sarah	Schedule monthly recurring time to work on proposal

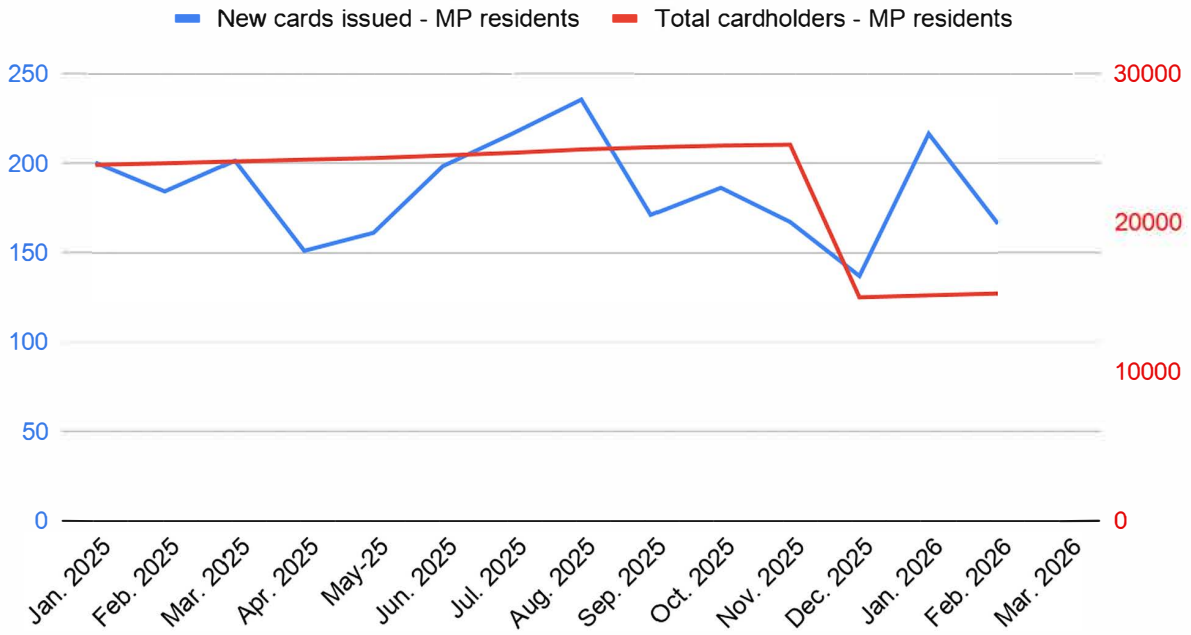
## digital lending by type



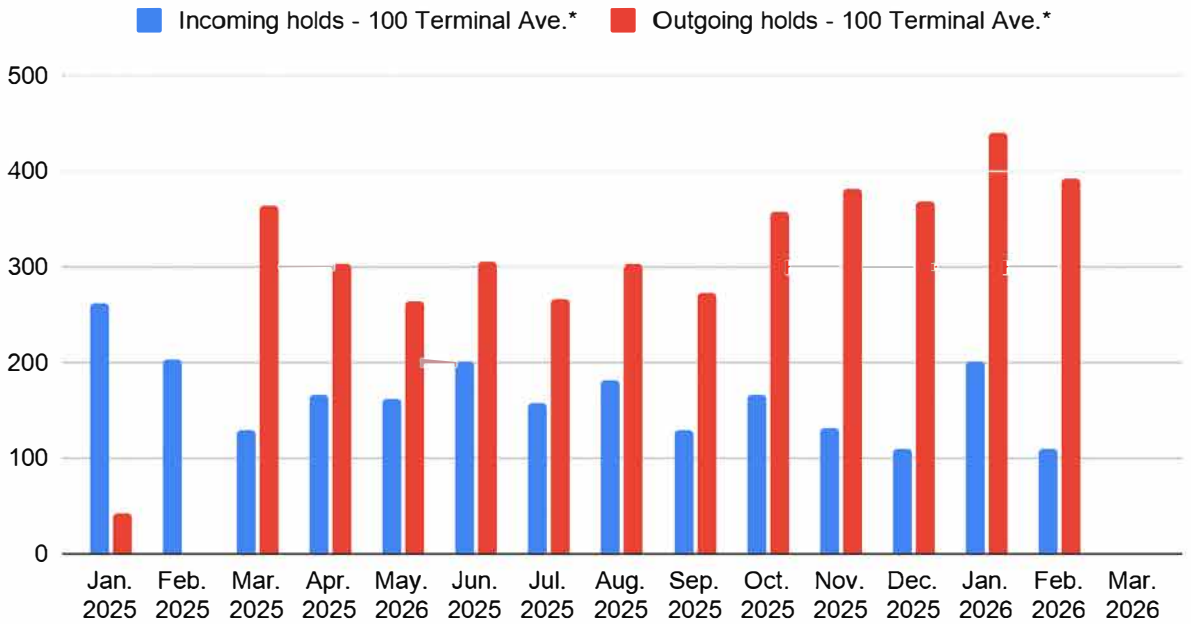
## digital lending by library



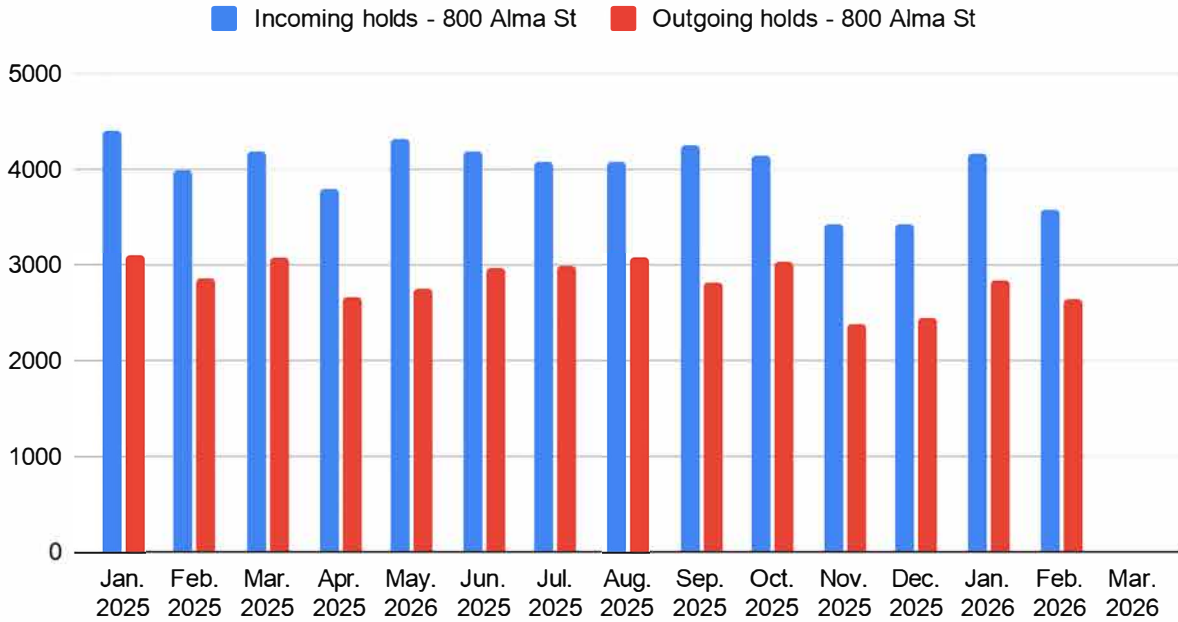
## library cards



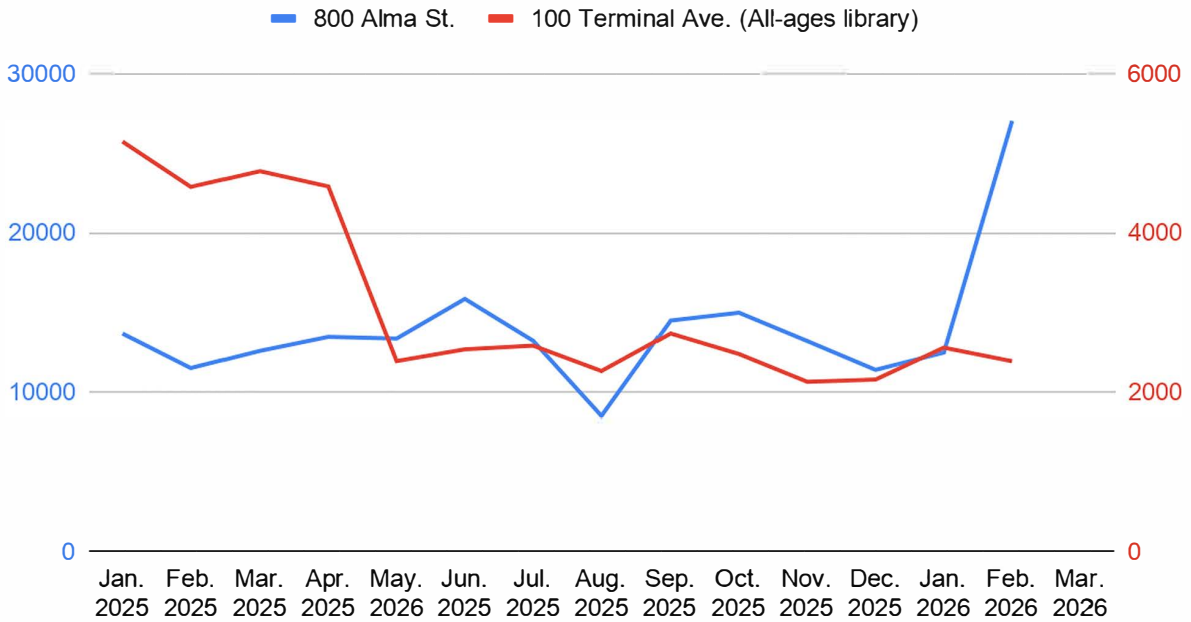
## holds for belle haven



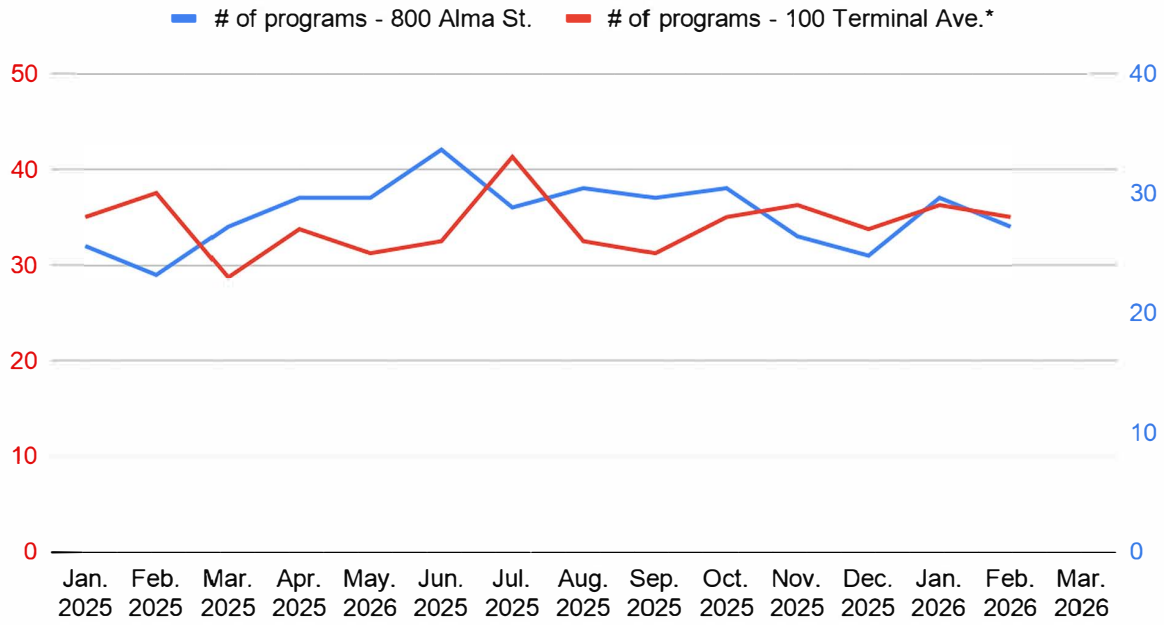
## holds for alma



## foot traffic by library



## programs by lilbrary



## program attendance by lilbrary

