

Hercules Library Report, July 2026

Library Programming & Outreach Staff:

Alison Peters, Library Manager
Katy Buder, Children's Librarian
Natalie Hernandez, Adult/Teen Librarian on loan from Pinole Library
Eric Lee, Library Assistant
Lydia Roybal, Library Assistant
Kayla Etheridge, Clerk Specialist
Ary Rangel, Senior Clerk
Alex Durniak, Senior Clerk on loan from Pinole Library

Programs & Activities – Year Round

Children's Storytime – every Saturday, 10 & 10:30am

Month	Attendees
January	665
February	500
March	258 (See Touch a Truck)
April	608
May	438
June	455

Play Pals – 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, 10am

Month	Attendees
January	19
February	65
March	86
April	102
May	111
June	110

Pajama Storytime – Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Month	Attendees
January	37
February	27
March	27
April	21
May	25
June	13

LEGO Builders Club - 1st Thursday of the month, 3pm

Month	Attendees
January	22
February	43
March	50

April	32
May	44
June	46

Chess Club – 1st Wednesday of the month, 3:30pm

Month	Attendees
January	18
February	10
March	10
April	18
May	30
June	26

Insiders – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 11:30am (Jan-May/ Sept–Dec)

Month	Attendees
January	No program
February	45
March	20
April	20
May	25
June	On break

Max Meditation – 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6pm

Month	Attendees
January	13
February	4
March	7
April	9
May	6
June	5

School/Class Visits/Outreach

January 2026: Montessori Preschool	50
May 2026: Hanna Ranch	425
May 2026: St Patrick's	172
May 2026: Ellerhorst	171
May 2026: Ohlone	425
May 2026: Hercules High Tinker Fair	103
June 2026: Hercules Senior Center Membership Drive	85
June 2026: Mandarin School	420
June 2026: Lupine Hills	415
June 2026: Shannon Elementary	300

May Programs Review: Taiko Drumming, Homeschool Science Fair

Taiko Drumming with Diablo Taiki (an all-women group!) Saturday May 2 – 187 drummers in training
We had the pleasure of welcoming [Diablo Taiko](#) to Hercules Library for an afternoon of drumming, honoring those from the past by carrying forth cultural traditions for future generations. What a beautiful and meaningful way to begin AANHPI (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander) Heritage Month!



Hercules Library Homeschool Science Fair, Tuesday May 19 – 20 budding scientists

Our second ever Homeschool Science Fair at Hercules Library was a success! From local Bay Area birds and earthquakes to what plants need to grow and the efficacy of natural preservation methods, each young scientist did a fabulous job researching, testing, and presenting on their chosen topics. We learned so much and are so proud of these young learners for presenting their work in front of the whole group!



June Celebrations!

Laya Arts Collective - Priya Narayan joined us on June 25th and shared beautiful stories through Kathak and Bharatanatyam dance at the library. We learned some history of Indian classical dance traditions and enjoyed stories from Hindu epics, all told through expressive dance. Priya encouraged the children in the audience to join the story and to try their hand at Kathak as well. Thank you to all who attended!



Thank you to our friends from the **Oakland Gay Men's Chorus** for the delightful Pride kick off concert Saturday June 6th at Hercules Library. We were treated to tunes such as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and the classic "It's Raining Men", with lots of joy and positivity and groove in between. The perfect start to Pride!



On Saturday, June 13th we gathered to celebrate **Juneteenth** at city hall for a community flag raising ceremony & line dancing. We enjoyed a themed Storytime with Mayor Chris Kelley and Council Member Tiffany Grimsley, and learned about our history with the Walking Ghosts of Black History. Finally, we had the privilege of attending an interactive workshop on quilting in the African American community, shown through quilted tapestry made by the talented Khristel Johnson. It was a day full of storytelling, music, culture and community celebration honoring the legacy of Juneteenth. Thank you to everyone who joined us!





Local Hercules author **Emerald Alexandra** joined us Saturday June 20th for a pop up “cat cafe” for teens to celebrate the launch of her new, Junior Library Guild Gold Standard debut novel, “The Music of Us”. Attendees DIYed sprayed edges on books, played with the cutest kitten from Contra Costa Animal Services, and left with their own signed copies of Emerald’s book.



Spotlight On: Hercules' Special Collections

Hercules Library is proud to hold many Special Collections that cater to specific groups of library patrons and are always open for anyone to borrow. Some of these include:

Community Languages

Hercules' collection includes books in Spanish, Chinese, and Filipino for readers of all ages, fiction and nonfiction. We also have a small trial collection of children's books in French.

And if you're searching online the Library's website can be translated into the nine languages the library carries using the Google Translate widget found on the upper left of the page. In addition to the languages above, this includes Russian, Korean, Farsi, Hindi, and Vietnamese.

Lite Reads

Lite Reads is a collection of titles curated specifically for new adult readers. It features books with simple vocabulary and short chapters while maintaining high interest and relevant storylines for adults. The Lite Reads collection is featured regionally throughout the county, available to all, and easily browsable.

Newspapers

Hercules Library's newspapers include a variety of languages to meet our community needs. Our current holdings include: New York Times & New York Times Book Review, San Francisco Chronicle, USA Today, Korea Times, World Journal & Sing Tao Daily (Chinese publications), Wall Street Journal.

Serials/Magazines

We have so many serials they can't easily be listed here! As a preview, we have magazines for just about every age and interest, including Baby Bug, Ladybug and Kazoo for the kids; People to Scientific American to Barron's and Good Housekeeping for adults; a full subscription to Consumer Reports and the Economist, and a newer title, India Today (in English). You can check out our full collection by just popping into the library.

Parks Pass

The California State Library Parks Pass program provides a free vehicle day-use entry for one passenger vehicle with capacity of nine people or less or one highway licensed motorcycle at 200+ participating state parks to library cardholders. Hercules has our own set, and you can usually find one available by coming to the main info desk. Parks Passes include a list of all of the participating California State Parks, and can be checked out for three weeks, like all library materials.

Library of Things

The Library of Things includes all sorts of non-bookish items that you can borrow, and in some cases take home to keep forever. At Hercules Library, this includes items such as:

- C-Pen: Portable scanning pen which reads printed text out loud. Optical character recognition (OCR) and natural voice to text speech.
- Energy Efficient Toolkit: Contains an electric use meter to test home appliances and thermometers to test refrigerator/freezer and room temperatures.
- Outdoor Explorer Backpack: An actual backpack you can borrow for three weeks, containing binoculars, local nature identification guides, temporary parking pass, and membership card for any EBRP facility. Perfect to pair with a Parks Pass!
- Stories to Go Kits: Early literacy kits with over 50 themes for babies and young children. Each comes with five books on the theme, a toy, and inspiration for songs you can use at your own storytime.

- Ukulele Kit: Started at Hercules Library pre-pandemic, each kit includes a ukulele, tuner, chord diagram, and music sheets in a hard carrying case.
- STEAM Kits for Kids: Offering a selection of grab-and-go kits for families and educators to explore building, coding and nature.
- Sensory Backpack: Our Sensory Backpacks contain calming, tactile sensory objects designed to help people with sensory sensitivities feel more relaxed and comfortable during their visit. Each library has a backpack that is available for anyone to explore on a first-come, first-served basis. Ask library staff to use one.
- Seed Library: At the Hercules Seed Library all seeds are free! Please take only what you need - we'll provide the envelopes, and books as guide and inspiration. Seeds are refreshed on a regular basis, so come back often to see what's in season.

Wifi Hotspots

Contra Costa County Library Wi-Fi hotspot kits give you portable wireless internet access, Wi-Fi calling, and texting as allowed by your mobile service provider. Just turn it on and you're ready to connect up to 10 devices to one hotspot. You can use tablets, laptops, or smartphones to do research online, shop at your favorite website, download movies, and more. The hotspot lets you access the internet in all 50 states with unlimited data. Service is limited to areas with T-Mobile network coverage and signal strength may vary by location.

Anyone who has a Contra Costa County Library card can borrow a Wi-Fi hotspot kit at no charge. Wi-Fi hotspots are displayed in the [Library catalog](#) and may be requested by [placing a hold](#), visiting a community library service desk, or [contacting Library staff](#) for assistance.

Hercules Library Homeschool Resource Center

Not technically a special collection, but a room with a special purpose. The Homeschool Resource Center is a room reserved for Homeschool families from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. The room is shared with other families, and can be used for study, meetings, or group work. We even have STEAM kits, textbooks, and learning resources to enjoy. Once a month, the library holds a Homeschool Program, to further enhance homeschool learning and create community. If you're a homeschooling family, please come sign in at the front desk to use the room.

The Homeschool Room is open to the general public weekdays after 2pm