

## Hercules Library Report, December 2025

### Library Programming & Outreach Staff:

Alison Peters, Library Manager  
Katy Buder, Children's Librarian  
Eric Lee, Library Assistant  
Lydia Roybal, Library Assistant  
Kayla Etheridge, Clerk Specialist  
Ary Rangel, Senior Clerk

### Programs & Activities – Year Round

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

Month	Attendees
January	364
February	428
March	418
April	277
May	242
June	344
July	355
August	507
September	403
October	400
November	525

#### Play Pals – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 10am

Month	Attendees
January	35
February	38
March	31
April	52
May	50
June	11
July	78
August	47
September	44
October	56
November	63

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

Month	Attendees
January	12
February	17
March	27
April	14
May	22

June	Canceled-Exploration Station
July	19
August	Canceled
September	21
October	29
November	Canceled-Thanksgiving

### **LEGO Builders Club - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 3pm**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
January	32
February	18
March	27
April	18
May	16
June	Canceled-Juneteenth Holiday
July	55
August	33
September	36
October	36
November	21

### **Chess Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 4:15pm**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
January	19
February	14
March	20
April	18
May	8
June	20
July	36
August	8
September	22
October	22
November	16

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

<b>Month</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
January	10
February	20
March	21
April	39
May	18
September	41
October	14
November	15

**Max Meditation – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6pm**

Month	Attendees
January	7
February	3
March	4
April	8
May	5
June	10
July	6
August	5
September	7
October	5
November	4

**\*Homework Help – Wednesdays, 3-6pm (Jan-May / Sept-Dec)**

Month	Attendees
January	14
February	33
March	25
April	9
May	9
September	6
October	22
November	17

**\*Senior Center Visits – 3rd Tuesday of the month, 12pm**

Month	Attendees
January	25
February	55
March	30
April	Canceled
May	30
June	35
July	40
August	35
September	25
October	28

**School/Class Visits/Outreach**

August: Hercules Middle School @ library	180
September: Learn and Play Montessori	30
September: Ohlone Elementary @ library	65
October: Lupine Hills @ library	25
October: Ohlone Elementary	84
October: Ohlone Elementary @ library	28
October: Carquinez Middle School	90

October: John Swett High School	64
October: Salesian Prep @ library	35
November: Lupine Hills @ library	26
December: Tiny Tots Preschool	17
December: Hercules High/Middle School	132
December: Health & Wellness Holiday Market	75
January: Lupine Hills Spelling Bee	125
January: Tiny Tots Preschool	30
February: Lupine Hills Black History Month Storytimes	125
February: Senior Center Black History Month Library Visit	28
February: Hercules Middle/High School Book Fair	10
March: Hercules Health & Wellness Fair	105
May: Hercules High Tech Fair	61
May: Summer Reading Visit, Hanna Ranch	450
May Summer Reading Visit: Saint Patrick's	250
June: Summer Reading Visit: Lupine Hills	390
June: Summer Reading Visit: Ohlone	400
June: Grove Christian Church Library Visit	8
July: CC College Immigration Forum	50
July: Tiny Tots Storytime	18
August: National Night Out	478
September: Hanna Ranch Elementary	135
September: Hercules Middle BTS	300
September: Ohlone Elementary	22
October: Ohlone Elementary (3, 17, 24th)	52
October: Hanna Ranch Elementary	23
November: Lupine Hills Elementary	53
November: Lupine Hills Ruby Bridges Day	132
November: Montessori School	51
November: Salesian Prep	27

**\*Programs canceled November 2025.**

## November Programs Review

### Hercules Insiders – Paper Mache Pie Making, November 18 (15 Insiders)

We did a little pre-Thanksgiving prep at our Insiders group (adults with disabilities) gathering this week, thanks to our friend LaVera Wilson, who brought all the ingredients to make pie! Blueberry, pumpkin, banana, and everything we could think of went into making these paper mache delights to take home and enjoy.



### Teokalli Aztec Dance, November 4 (136 attendees)

We had the honor of celebrating Native American Heritage Month with the fabulous Teokalli Aztec dance group of the Bay Area. Teokalli, which means "House of Creation" in the Nahuatl language, taught us about ceremonial and ritual dance of indigenous Mesoamerican traditions, and how these movements are prayers communicated to the four elements: earth, fire, water, and wind.



### **Contra Costa County Library Book Vendor**

Baker & Taylor (B&T), one of the nation's largest and longest-serving book and media wholesalers for libraries, recently announced the unexpected closure of its business. B&T has served the library community for nearly 200 years, and Contra Costa County is just one of many libraries nationwide that have relied on them for decades. The abruptness of this closure presents a significant challenge across the industry.

Fortunately, we have begun diversifying our wholesale vendors over the past year and are well-positioned to resume receiving materials more quickly than many other library systems impacted by this change.

### **What This Means for the Library and Users**

**Impact on New Materials:** We anticipate a temporary slowdown in the delivery of some newly ordered physical books. As we ramp up orders with new vendors, new materials should become more available in the next few months.

**Holds and Waiting Lists:** You may see slightly longer wait times for popular new releases that were scheduled to be fulfilled by B&T. We are actively reviewing these titles and re-ordering them through our other vendors as quickly as possible.

**Digital Content:** Our eBook, eAudiobook, and other digital resources are not impacted by the B&T closure and remain fully operational.

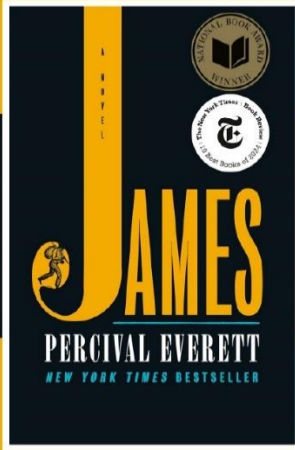
**Alternative Resources:** While we navigate this challenge, you can get access to more books by using [LINK+](#), which is a service that allows you to borrow materials from other participating libraries. If you need book recommendations, try [Novelist](#) or fill out a [short form](#), and our staff will curate a list of five titles just for you.

**Hercules Library Adjustments:** Hercules Library has approximately **45,400** items that belong to this branch. This includes our Adult, Children, Teen books, DVDs and CDs, magazines, Community Languages (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog) and African American Special Collection. During this time of transition to new vendors and new books, we are taking care to spotlight collections that patrons might not know about, prolific authors and new genres, and keeping our newer books front and center for easy access. We are also happy to search for books via Link+, if we don't own them in the County Collection. And we are helping patrons connect to digital resources like eBooks and magazines, as well as learning and entertainment databases. As we know from our most recent patron survey, Adult books are the #1 reason people come to the library, and we continue to work to help them get what they need.

Be assured that Library staff are taking immediate action to address this situation. We are focused on keeping our shelves stocked, mitigating delays, and maintaining the quality of our collection.



## Read Contra Costa, featuring Percival Everett, author of "James"



Read Contra Costa is our annual program that brings our community together through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. To increase the program's reach, this year, we partnered with Los Medanos College and the Richmond Public Library for an author talk and professor discussion.

Centered on acclaimed author Percival Everett's celebrated novel "James", the live event, Saturday, November 8 at 11 a.m., was a deep dive into the book that re-examines Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" where Everett explored the novel's themes of language, identity, and freedom, offering unique insights into his creative process and literary influences. The novel, which won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for fiction this year, is told from the perspective of Jim, an enslaved man who runs away after he discovers he's about to be sold and separated from his family. This was an incredible opportunity for our community to engage directly with one of today's most thought-provoking writers. Following the discussion, Everett signed copies of the book. The event was a great success, with 487 in attendance and 453 online for the author talk.

If you missed it, the recording is now available to watch through December 23 on the Library's YouTube channel [@theccclib](#).