



Our Community Reads 2024

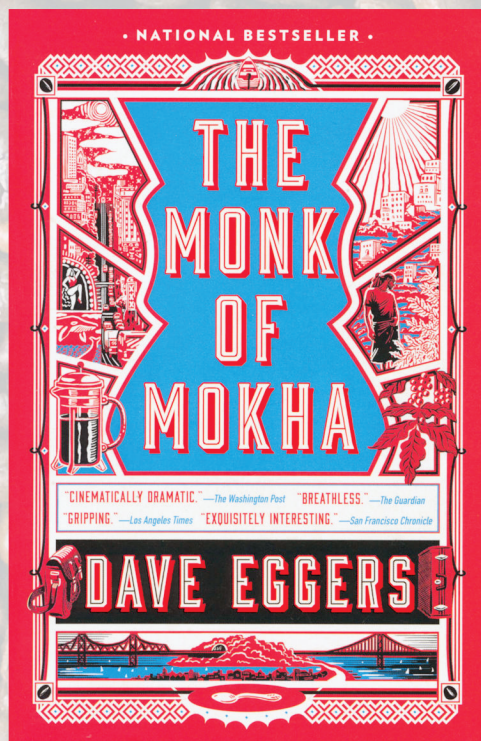
is a program of the Friends of the Aptos Library, in which the community selects a book and then comes together for a series of related events.

Presented in association with the Friends of the Capitola, Felton, La Selva Beach, and Scotts Valley libraries, in partnership with Cabrillo College and Aptos High School, and with the support of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

*All events are free and open to the public, but registration is required.
Doors open half an hour before programs begin.*

This year's Our Community Reads events will take place in person.

To register: Go to the Santa Cruz Public Library website (www.SantaCruzPL.org) and click on Calendar at the top of the home page. Scroll the Calendar page to the event you want to attend, and click the link (the name of the event). You will find registration instructions on the event's page.



The true story of Mokhtar Alkhanshali and his harrowing journey through war-torn Yemen in pursuit of the world's most dangerous cup of coffee. A Yemeni-American, Mokhtar is working a dead-end job in San Francisco when he discovers Yemen's central place in the history of coffee. He travels deep into his ancestral homeland to tour terraced farms high in the country's rugged mountains and meet beleaguered but determined farmers. But when war engulfs the country and Saudi bombs rain down, Mokhtar must find a way out of Yemen without sacrificing his dreams or abandoning his people.

"Exquisitely interesting... This is about the human capacity to dream—here, there, everywhere."

—Gabriel Thompson, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"A vibrant depiction of courage and passion, interwoven with a detailed history of Yemeni coffee and a timely exploration of Muslim American identity." — David Canfield, *Entertainment Weekly*

The Our Community Reads Passport offers special incentives to attend all the 2024 events. For information on the Passport, see the back of this calendar or go to the Friends of the Aptos Library website:
www.FriendsofAptosLibrary.org.





JANUARY

24 WED 11:00 AM	Book Discussion Join your fellow readers to talk about our 2024 selection and discuss major themes in depth. Casey Coonerty Protti , owner of Bookshop Santa Cruz, will facilitate the conversation. Sandwiches provided by Aegis Living Aptos. The Loft coffee shop — 2701 Cabrillo College Drive, Aptos
30 TUE 7:00 PM	An Evening with Dave Eggers and Mokhtar Alkhanshali <i>Monk of Mokha</i> author Dave Eggers and the book's protagonist, Mokhtar Alkhanshali , talk about the multiyear collaboration that became the story of Mokhtar's quest, traveling from San Francisco to the remote coffee farms of Yemen in search of the world's most dangerous cup of coffee. Questions from the audience are encouraged. Radius Gallery at the Tannery Arts Center — 1050 River St #127, Santa Cruz

FEBRUARY

2 FRI 6:00 PM	Sacred Brew? The Religious, Political, and Cultural Role of Coffee in Yemen Dr. Flagg Miller , UC Davis Professor of Religious Studies, talks about the role coffee plays in Yemeni culture and about his current coffee-growing research project in Yemen. Dr. Miller's academic focus is on cultures of modern Muslim reform in the Middle East, especially Yemen. Dessert and coffee will be provided. Fireside Room, Scotts Valley Library
6 TUE 7:00 PM	Yemeni Stories: The Yemeni Immigrant Experience Jehan Hakim , a 2nd-generation Yemeni-American Muslim, founder of the Yemeni Alliance Committee and board member of Just Foreign Policy, will join us for a virtual talk from Texas. Her experience spans interfaith coalition building, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, and consulting. Geneffa Jahan , Professor of English at Cabrillo College, will moderate further discussion, and there will be a bag of Harazi Blend Yemeni Style coffee for a lucky audience member! Ow Family Community Room, Capitola Library
7 WED 1:00 PM	Coffee Warms the Heart (art workshop) Hearts and flowers are familiar symbols of love. With Valentine's Day just a week away, you'll create a bouquet or a greeting card using coffee paint as your medium. Artist Lise Bixler leads this fun art workshop. No experience needed. All materials supplied. Felton Library Community Room
10 SAT 11:00 AM	Writing Under the Influence of Coffee! (workshop) Starting with a few coffee-flavored writing prompts to get you motivated, facilitators June Langhoff and members of the Santa Cruz chapter of Shut Up & Write follow up with silent writing, and end with optional sharing. Loads of encouragement and coffee will be provided. Fireside Room, Scotts Valley Library



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Our Community Reads

FEBRUARY

13

TUE
6:30 PM

"Baristas" (film)

Follow four passionate National Barista Champions — from Japan, Ireland, the USA, and Germany — as they represent their countries at the 2017 World Barista Championship in Seoul, South Korea. You'll get a terrific behind-the-scenes peek into the preparations required for this tense competition. (And yes, popcorn *will* be available!) [This film contains some profanity.]

High School Art Competition Winners

We'll also view designs from our High School Art Competition, where students redesign *The Monk of Mokha* book jacket. Judged by staff members from Bookshop Santa Cruz.

Ow Family Community Room, Capitola Library

15

THU
6:30 PM

Brewing Revolution: Coffee and Class Struggle in 20th-Century Central America

Back by popular demand, **Nick Rowell**, Professor of Political Science at Cabrillo College, discusses how coffee is a factor in contributing to peace and prosperity in some instances, and civil war and revolution in others.

Rio Sands Hotel Community Room — 116 Aptos Beach Drive, Aptos

17

SAT
1:00 PM

Coffee Botanical Illustration (art workshop)

Facilitated by art educators **Sharon Ferguson** and **Jo-Neal Graves**, participants will learn to look closely at each part of the coffee plant and create a botanical illustration. You'll be guided every step of the way. No experience needed. Materials, instruction, support, and encouragement will be provided.

Ow Family Community Room, Capitola Library

18

SUN
3:00 PM

Johann Sebastian Bach's Coffee Cantata (live music)

Bach's aria will be sung by lyric coloratura-soprano **Lori Schumann**, co-founder of the Santa Cruz Opera Project. She will be accompanied by piano and flute. Come enjoy the music and learn about Bach's relationship to coffee. (Hint: He drank 30 cups a day!) Learn a bit more from **Dinah Phillips** about the intertwined history of coffee and music over the years.

Downtown Library Meeting Room, 2nd floor — 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

21

WED
1:00 PM

"A Small Section of the World" (film) & Coffee Tasting

A moving documentary about a group of women in a small, remote farming community in Costa Rica as they spark a revolution in the coffee growing world. Stay to taste some Costa Rican coffee after the film. (Program ends at 2:30 PM.)

Felton Library Community Room

24

SAT
1:00 PM

Verve Coffee Tour and Tasting (field trip)

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the coffee roasting process and learn about the secret sauce behind third-wave coffee. Our tour leaders, **Hannah Meade** and **Laney Drury**, represent this world-famous coffee company headquartered in our own backyard.

104 Bronson Street - Suite 19, Santa Cruz

25

SUN
4:00 PM

Dror Sinai Musical Adventures

"Rhythm is all around us, in everything we see, we touch, we breathe."

Experience this true force of nature as **Dror Sinai** shares his musical gifts and tells stories about his Yemeni roots.

La Selva Beach Community Church — 26 Florido Avenue, La Selva Beach



FEBRUARY

27

TUE
6:00 PM

Trivia Night

ZACH IS BACK! The ever-popular 2nd District Supervisor **Zach Friend** poses challenging questions from *The Monk of Mokha*. Join us for a fun-filled evening. Bring your book club members, friends, or come solo to show off your knowledge of *The Monk of Mokha* and all things coffee-related. Dinner & Drinks available for purchase at this new venue.

41st Ocean Breakfast & Grill — 2623 41st Ave, Soquel (behind Café Cruz)

NOTE: This calendar is as accurate as was possible at the time of printing. For the most up-to-date Our Community Reads information, go to www.FriendsofAptosLibrary.org.

There might be a photographer present at events. If you do not wish to be photographed, please inform the photographer or a member of the Friends.



Expand your mind, engage your senses, challenge your creativity, and be a part of the Our Community Reads community! The more events you attend, the more enriching the experience will be, which is why we've introduced the Passport: to encourage participants to attend as many events as possible.

- Those who attend all fourteen events will win a "Grand Prize."
- There will be "runner-up" prizes for those who attend twelve or thirteen events.
- At each in-person event you will receive a stamp in your passport.
- For virtual events you will get a write-in code.

Pick up your Passport at library branches or when you check in to the first event. At each subsequent event, your Passport will be waiting for you at the check-in table. No need to worry about forgetting it!

Thanks for participating!

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

