



Our Community Reads 2025

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.

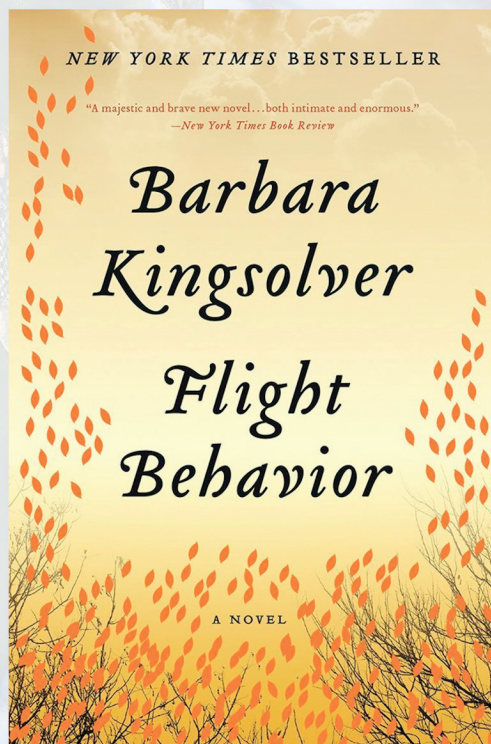
Presented in association with the Friends of the Capitola, Felton, La Selva Beach, Scotts Valley, Branciforte, and Garfield Park libraries, in partnership with Cabrillo College and Aptos and Scotts Valley High Schools, and with the support of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

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.

Events marked with a (Z) will also be available via Zoom.

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.



Set in the Tennessee mountains, *Flight Behavior* looks at the effects of climate change on people and the environment. Dellarobia Turnbow stumbles upon "a lake of fire," which is actually a valley teeming with millions of Monarch butterflies who have veered off course in their migration from the mountains of Mexico. As the news spreads, the tiny town becomes the center of media attention, religious fanaticism, and scientific scrutiny. A team of ecologists investigates; tourists flock to the mountain; opportunists look for ways to make a fast buck; mythmakers invoke religion to explain "the miracle." Caught in the middle, Dellarobia is torn between science and belief.

"Drawing on both her Appalachian roots and her background in biology, Kingsolver delivers a passionate novel on the effects of global warming."

— *Booklist*

"One of the gifts of a Kingsolver novel is the resplendence of her prose. ...creating images that stay with the reader long after her story is done... [a] majestic and brave new novel."

— *New York Times Book Review*

"Novelists like Kingsolver have a particular knack for making us empathize with lives that may bear little resemblance to our own... What lifts *Flight Behavior*...is not just Kingsolver's nuanced and funny prose; it's Dellarobia's awakening to the possibilities around her."

— Julia Ingalls, Salon





JANUARY

21

TUE
1:30 PM

Field Trip: Monarch Butterflies at Natural Bridges

Join **Martha Nitzberg**, Interpretive Ranger, and volunteer docent **June Langhoff** at a Monarch overwintering site. Learn about their amazing migration and the Methuselah generation that winters on our coast. Weather permitting, we'll take a short, guided walk to the Monarch grove. Binoculars will enhance the experience. Coffee & snacks provided.

Meet at the Visitor Center, 2531 W Cliff Drive (parking fee)

Note: There will be an optional stop at Lighthouse Field (another overwintering site) afterward.

23

THU
11:00 AM

Book Discussion

Join your fellow readers to talk about our 2025 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

25

SAT
5:00 PM

Film: "Ice on Fire" (documentary)

Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, "Ice on Fire" explores both the potential extinction-level effects of arctic methane release and newly developed technologies that could reverse global warming.

After the film, **Dr. Gary Griggs**, Distinguished Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UCSC, will moderate a brief Q&A session. His latest book is *California Catastrophes - The Natural Disaster History of the Golden State*.

La Selva Beach Branch Library

29

WED
7:00 PM

Through the Lens: Photographers in Nature

Local nature photographers **Seraphina Landgrebe**, **Kevin Lohman**, and **Bruce Leventhal** join fellow photographer **Jim Bourne** for a lively discussion of how to capture those special images in the wild. Samples of their work will be on display.

Radius Gallery at the Tannery Arts Center — 1050 River St #127, Santa Cruz

FEBRUARY

1

SAT
1:00 PM

Poetry in Flight: A Writing Workshop

In a creative and supportive setting, poet-teacher **Magdalena Montagne** will guide you in writing poems inspired by the many themes of Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior* — identity, belonging, climate activism, social justice, and more. No experience necessary, appropriate for teens and up.

Scotts Valley Branch Library, Fireside Room

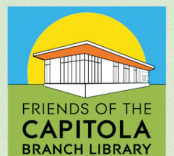
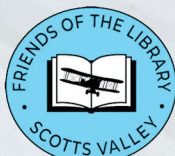
5

WED
6:30

Displaced: How Climate Change is Causing Dislocation and Economic Hardship in Latin America & Beyond

(🌀) **Nick Rowell**, Professor of Political Science at Cabrillo College, discusses how natural disasters and severe shifts in weather are destroying human habitats and forcing entire communities to abandon their homes and livelihoods, unwillingly joining the growing numbers of climate refugees.

Aptos Branch Library, Betty Leonard Community Room



7 FRI 11:00 AM	Preschool Storytime Join librarian Rowan Rammer for great stories and a butterfly craft related to Barbara Kingsolver's <i>Flight Behavior</i>. Aptos Branch Library, Betty Leonard Community Room
8 SAT 11:00 AM	38th Annual Migration Festival Celebrate all the migratory creatures — whales, birds, and (of course) butterflies — who pass through our area every year. Family-friendly, with activities for grown-ups and kids alike: talks, games, crafts, music, and more! Goes until 4:00 PM. Natural Bridges State Beach (admission is free) [This event is not affiliated with Our Community Reads. But it's relevant.]
13 THU 6:30 PM	TIMBER! A History of Local Logging and the Path Toward Sustainability (Z) A thought-provoking discussion of logging in our local forests, how proper logging practices and private landownership have come into conflict regarding protected species, and how natural disasters — especially fires — have impacted environmental policy. Panelists will be Ed Orre — Cal Fire Division Chief, Resource Management for the Santa Clara Unit; Lisa Robinson — a member of the Conference of California Historical Societies and the Society of California Archivists; and Bryan Largay of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. Moderated by Judi Heher of the Friends of the Scotts Valley Library. Scotts Valley Branch Library, Fireside Room
19 WED 6:30 PM	On the Move: How Climate Change Is Disrupting Our Natural Habitats and Causing Unintended Migration (Z) A discussion of the factors that are causing displacement and population reduction of both marine and terrestrial creatures here on the Central Coast. Panelists are Catherine Courtier (PhD candidate, UC Davis and NOAA SWFSC) and Paige Kouba (PhD, UC Davis), and the event is moderated by Lauren Hanneman, Associate Faculty, Cabrillo College Department of Environmental Studies. Live Oak Library Annex at the Simpkins Family Swim Center, 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz
22 SAT 1:00 PM	Musing on Monarchs An art project where we take a naturalist's journey with these amazing creatures. Observe, draw, and write in this unique art experience, facilitated by artists and art educators Sharon Ferguson and Jo-Neal Graves. Your interest and love of the natural world are the only requirements. Capitola Branch Library, Ow Family Community Room

4 TUE 6:00 PM	Film: "Flight of the Butterflies" The stunning cinematography of this Canadian film follows Monarch butterflies on their migration from Canada, across the U.S., to remote overwintering sanctuaries in Mexico, where they settle in the hundreds of millions. Prior to the film, Martha Nitzberg, Interpretive Ranger at Natural Bridges State Beach, will share her expertise on the Monarchs of Santa Cruz. Works from an Aptos High School student art competition, redesigning the <i>Flight Behavior</i> cover, will be shown. The judges are staff members of Bookshop Santa Cruz and Two Birds Books. Aptos Library, Betty Leonard Community Room
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8 SAT 10:30 AM	From Manzanita to Milkweed: Plants that Support Monarchs and Other Pollinators Get to know the best native California flowering plants for your home garden. You'll learn how to source the plants and even propagate some of them from seed. (Seeds will be shared, plus a list of additional resources.) With over 20 years of California native plant experience, UC Master Gardener Janice Kuch has worked on various local habitat restoration projects, including a current native plant garden project at San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. Felton Branch Library Community Room
13 THU 6:00 PM	Trivia Night Santa Cruz Public Library's Victor Willis poses challenging questions inspired by <i>Flight Behavior</i>, its setting, and subject matter. Book groups may participate, or you can fly solo. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Join us as we wrap up another stimulating and entertaining Our Community Reads! Works from a Scotts Valley High School student art competition, redesigning the <i>Flight Behavior</i> cover, will be shown. The judges are staff members of Bookshop Santa Cruz and Two Birds Books. Bruno's Bar and Grill / Kings Village Shopping Center / 230 Mount Hermon Road, Scotts Valley

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 or use the QR code.

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



MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

