

THE TAB TIMES

Fairfield Cordelia Library's Teen Advisory Board Monthly Youth Newsletter



Fairfield Cordelia Library's Teen Advisory Board: An Update

BY AANYA BRIJESH

On behalf of the Fairfield Cordelia Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and our facilitator, Joaquin Ayala, welcome to the TAB Newsletter! We aim to provide you with news, entertainment and sneak peeks into what we do here at the library along with informing you on what teen volunteers do at every Solano County Library branch location, so stay tuned!

In honor of this newsletter being the first edition of 2025, we here at TAB would like to wish you a belated Happy New Year. We hope you had fun during the holidays and are excited for the new year and a fresh start!

We have had a busy few months, with our Anime Cafe in October and our Tote Bag Painting event in November, and we are looking forward to bringing you more events this coming year! We have been planning for about one event per month, so stay on the lookout!

This edition is packed with reviews, an interview with a Solano Library Librarian, and information about upcoming and past events, so we'll let you start reading now!

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A Recommendation

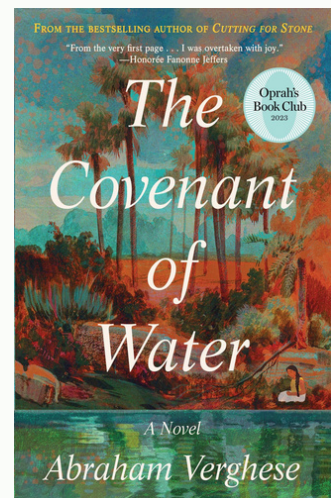


The hit PS4 and PS5 video game, *God of War*, is a part of the extensive series of the prior *God of War* games that have an impactful storyline for any player. The game features two main characters, Kratos, and his son Atreus. The game follows the previous actions of *God of War III*, where Kratos is a spartan warrior who relentlessly kills anyone who faces his path. In this new rendition, Kratos decides to follow the path of peace as the game has a more laid-back storyline instead of the fighting gameplay most returning players are used to. In addition, the father and son relationship in this game is a key factor as we can see how Kratos teaches Atreus different things about the world, while we also see Atreus growing up in front of our eyes. The gameplay features stunning graphics while featuring missions ranging from combat to puzzling tasks the player must complete. The game's open world portion adds to the game's greatness as it allows Kratos to use his main weapon, the Leviathan Axe, to slice his way through places he cannot reach. During the gameplay, Kratos uses his Leviathan Axe to defeat enemies and find victory throughout his missions. The axe can be used in many different spots as it has many abilities such as throwing the axe a far distance or its freezing capabilities. Finally, the final touch of the game is Norse Mythology. Norse Mythology is a very big factor in the game as it lets players explore the storyline outside the game. *God of War* is based on Norse Mythology as it features many easter eggs such as the nine realms and some enemies acting as Gods such as Thor and Odin. In all, the game is a 4 out of 5 stars as there are still some elements the developers can improve on such as the missions. You can check out this amazing game on the PS4 at the Solano County Library!

-Vinesh Chidambaram.

Some more recommendations...

- Vicious by V.E Schwab
- The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese
- Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross
- Romantic Comedy by Curtis Sittenfeld
- Funny You Should Ask by Elissa Sussman
- Starling House by Alix E. Harrow
- Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
- Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
- Once Upon a Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber
- Educated by Tara Westover



Set in Kerala from 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* follows three generations of a family plagued by a peculiar curse: one member drowns in each generation. Anchored by Big Ammachi, a matriarch navigating profound change, the story weaves joy, hardship, faith, and resilience. This evocative novel captures a bygone India, celebrates medical progress, and honors the sacrifices of the past, cementing its place as a literary masterpiece.

Tote Bag Painting Review

BY JADE BUAQUINA

To start out November, the Teen Advisory Board hosted a Tote Bag Painting on November 6th! The teen volunteers set up different tables for attendees to paint at, oversaw the event, and (most importantly) set music to set the mood for decorating. With a selection of different fabric paints and brushes laid out, attendees personalized their palettes and picked up a canvas bag to design. Everyone came up with creative designs and meticulously decorated their bags. Some people made designs with sprawling depictions of sea life or plants. As they painted, attendees were able to relax and enjoy hanging out with their friends. And after the entire experience, they were able to bring home their own painted souvenir: a tote bag to carry their belongings or to borrow books at the library! All around, the tote bag painting was a colorful success.

If you think that the Teen Advisory Board should organize another tote bag painting event, use the QR code on the back and fill out the form for feedback. And if you have any suggestions for future programs for the library, leave any suggestions in the form too!



Starry's Interview

BY HANNAH TRAN

Volunteering is undoubtedly an admirable effort. Hard work is input by the volunteers themselves, and are often seen as the face of the cause—but the directors who take the time to organize their collective efforts no doubt deserve their fair share of recognition. In this edition of *The TAB Time's* interview section, Starry Eigenman, a librarian from John F. Kennedy Library, makes her guest appearance, and her key involvements in teen volunteering within her community are certainly something to be admired.

“I’ve worked in my position for two years now,” she says. “I get teens from all the surrounding high schools, which lends to interactions between high school students who may never have had the chance to meet. Most of my volunteers are between the ages of 15-17, and everyone is very friendly.”

Recounting her experiences, she adds, “Our teen volunteers are a huge asset to us. We appreciate all the help that they offer to staff by pitching in and taking some of the busywork so that staff can focus on other things... They have ongoing tasks that involve straightening up the collection, cleaning the library tables and public computer terminals, processing the discarded materials, and cutting scratch paper.”

“Taking on teen volunteers is a part of my job description, but having community service hours is also a requirement by most Vallejo High Schools. This puts me in the perfect position to facilitate that requirement for the students to be able to graduate.” In other words, teens have multiple incentives to volunteer--whether it be for their community or for themselves.

We get to see this first-hand thanks to one of her own volunteers pitching in this edition. Mia Warner, a reliable teen volunteer under Starry, says she initially joined for “a need for something to do and a want to help out.”



“I've noticed that most of the community is very welcome and friendly,” she says. When asked on the effects of volunteering, Mia stated, “More people seemed to be checking seeds out of the seed library, as well as a few books I've been putting on display being checked out. I'm most proud of the things people get to see or benefit from, like working at the homework help center every Wednesday, or setting up displays.”

Going back to Starry, her coming objectives involve developing the teen volunteer community within her own library--although John F. Kennedy Library doesn't have its own TAB, her plans involve coordinating a similar board. “In the future, I hope to combine volunteers who work differing schedules and form a Teen Advisory Board similar to the one you all have in Cordelia. I admire how involved in the library your group is, and I hope to get my community teens more influence in the teen services in that we as a library offer to Vallejo.”



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