



January 2026

Foster City Library's Activity Calendar

by Jerry Lerman (344)

Some of us might already know that our library is more than an excellent place to obtain books, movies, and audios, and to engage in research. Get acquainted with the amazing variety of **other** activities that are hosted there by visiting the URL <https://smcl.org/locations/1F/>

Locate the "Upcoming Events" section on the screen and click on the "View more events" button to find an impressive listing of activities .

| Upcoming Events | |
|-----------------|--|
| JAN 29 | Toddler Storytime Jan 29th 10:30am - 11:00am Foster City |
| JAN 29 | Teen Gaming Lounge Jan 29th 3:30pm - 4:30pm Foster City |
| JAN 30 | Family Storytime Jan 30th 10:30am - 11:00am Foster City |

[View more events](#) 

| | |
|-----------|---|
| JAN 30 | Maker Exploration Jan 30th 3:30pm - 4:30pm Foster City |
| JAN 31 | Scratch Workshop Jan 31st 10:00am - 12:00pm Foster City |
| JAN 31 | Maker Exploration Jan 31st 11:00am - 1:00pm Foster City |

A sampling that might be of interest to Bowfiners with children includes:

Toddler Storytime "Please join us for songs, stories and movement activities! This storytime is developmentally appropriate for children between the age of two and three years old and focuses on parent/caregiver and child interactions."

Teen Gaming Lounge "Take a gaming break afterschool every Thursday in January! We'll have a variety of games available for you to play together on the Switch. Feel free to bring your own Switch and controllers."

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Aaron's Question Column



An image of the *Shinkansen*, the Japanese bullet train system

Question: "Bullet" trains are almost commonplace in various parts of the world - except in the U.S. What can you tell me about bullet trains? (Where are they? What speeds do they attain? Are they comfortable?, etc.) Are they considered good for the environment? -- Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Bullet trains, also known as High-Speed Rail (HSR) systems, are an incredibly fast and somewhat widespread type of train designed to transport people efficiently and very quickly. Bullet trains are present in numerous Asian countries, with systems such as the Shinkansen ("New Main Line" in Japanese) or China's Gāotiě ("High Speed Rail" in Chinese) providing quick and convenient transport across long distances.

China's rail system is the second-most extensive rail transportation system in the world, but its **HSR** system is the **most** extensive in the world, with high-speed rails going to nearly every major city at speeds of over 300 km/h (186.4 mph), and further connecting with slower high-speed rails and regular rails to every population center in China. Most of China's country-wide rail system has been converted to G-series trains, which move at approximately 350

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

Street Smarts

1 SUNSET

2 ELM

3 MULHOLLAND

4 JUMP

5 WALL

6 REVOLUTIONARY

7 ARLINGTON

8 34TH

9 HILL

10 SUNSET

11 BRISTOL

NEW YEAR BLESSINGS TO ALL!

FC Library continued from page 1

Volunteer Hour “Need some volunteer hours but don't have a lot of time to commit? High school students can drop in to our library during this program to help us with tasks such as program prep, display help, and research tasks. It's a fun and easy way to make a difference in your community while hanging out with your friends. We'll vouch for your time spent!”

Maker Exploration “Discover our 3D printers and laser cutter with hands-on guidance from our Maker volunteers! Drop-ins are welcome as space and time allow. Please see our Maker volunteers or staff for details.”

Open Sewing “Join us for open time to use the library's sewing machines. Bring your project or use some of our supplies to make your own. There will be no formal instruction, but assistance will be provided for the machines as staffing and time

permit. Participants aged 7 and younger are welcome to attend with caregiver supervision.”

Editor's note: Please allow me to mention THIS one! 😊

Chess Club Fridays: “Learn chess techniques from Jerry Lerman, who has thirty years of experience playing and competing in tournaments! Play against your friends or meet your fellow local chess players! No registration is required, as space permits.

This Month's Quiz

JAY Walking

It's January, a month whose name contains the letters J, A, and Y, so it might be a good time to present you with 10 other words that also contain those letters – and see if you can fill in the missing letters. Short definitions are provided, and note that #1 is a word that only became common in the 1990's.

1. worthless J A _ Y
2. a disc jockey _ J A Y
3. a decrepit car J A _ Y
4. a bridge for emplaning J _ _ _ A Y
5. a junior varsity player J A Y _ _ _
6. self-confident and cheerful J A _ _ _ Y
7. to a great extent _ A J _ _ Y
8. a way to steal a plane _ Y J A
9. persuasion by flattery A J _ _ _ _ Y
10. a one-pot Louisiana rice dish J A _ _ _ _ Y

Transfer circled letters to find the sort of people who might see a jay while walking about.

— — — — — — — —
10 10 8 1 3 10 9 8 2 7 8

Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

km/h, while relatively few D (200-250 km/h) trains are still in operation.

For reference, most American trains run at approximately 100 km/h, while the "high-speed" services in the U.S.A. are slower than even the D-series trains in China, peaking at about 230 km/h. In 2002, China opened the world's first commercial maglev train in Shanghai, capable of speeds of up to 430 km/h. On the 17th of July, 2025, the CRRC LLC company in China officially revealed their 600 km/h high-speed maglev train in Beijing. Maglev trains are designed to use electromagnetic suspension, decreasing friction and removing most contact with the rails they ride on.

While the first HSR system was developed in Japan, bullet train technology has spread across the world, primarily with the assistance of Chinese inventors and companies. Japan, Italy, China, France, Germany, Spain, and much of Europe have HSR today, along with other nations around the world, however many of these nations have very little development in that sector, just like the United States. High Speed Rails are known to be very comfortable, especially maglev trains, but even regular bullet trains provide a quicker, smoother ride than regular trains or transport. HSR trains are additionally frequently run on electricity, making them potentially very good for the environment. While currently, a lot of the world's electricity comes from less environmentally-friendly sources, in the future we may be able to run bullet trains sustainably. Trains in general are significantly healthier for our world than driving or flying, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution (approximately four times as good as cars and **nine** times better than planes). Trains are the future of public transportation (I would know, the rail system in Dallas is very convenient!), and HSR systems are faster, easier, and better in nearly every way than prior generations of trains.

As an additional note, my contacts in China frequently use bullet trains for things such as commuting to work. Just imagine, on a high-speed rail, you could have a job in Sacramento and get there in well under an hour every single day (from Foster City)!

HUNGRY FOR CRAB?

Foster City Lions Club 24th Annual All You Can Eat Crab Feed

All proceeds to benefit the community projects

Friday, February 13, 2026

5:30 pm Doors Open — Open Seating

6:00 pm Dinner — salad, pasta, bread, entree, dessert,
coffee

Tickets: \$88

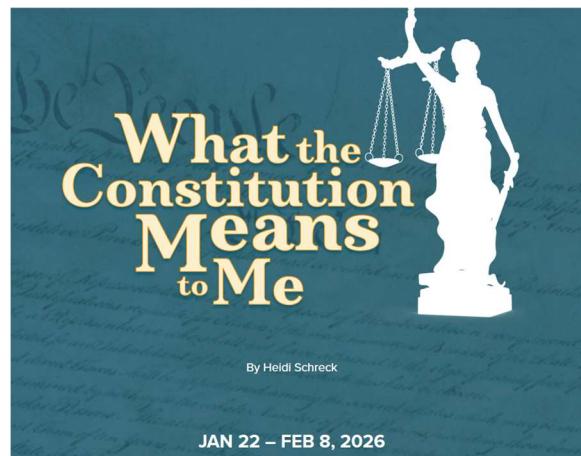
Meal \$40 / Tax Deductible Donation \$48

Please purchase tickets by February 6, 2026

Questions? [Jim Traceski](mailto:Jim.Traceski)

info@fostercitylionsclub.org

At Hillbarn Theatre – Thru 2/8



Target Date for YOUR Contributions to the next BI:
February 15, 2026

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or questions for Aaron at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or by

**adding a NOTE on our website:
BOWFININQUIRER.COM**

Around the Block ...



“Just caught a glimpse of this fine fella eating breakfast on our back yard” - Gary Colman

Gary also offered up this tongue-twister created by Google’s AI engine, Gemini

“A hungry heron heard a hurried herring,

but the heron was erring regarding the herring.”

A Bowfin “Bulletin Board”

While the website bowfininquirer.com was created in the early months of the Covid pandemic so that one wouldn’t need to risk bringing a virus into their home to read the B.I., I’d like to make clear that I’ll be glad to make it available for your posting any notices you’d like your neighbors to be aware of. If you have time-sensitive news you’d rather be distributed as a web page than as an article in this monthly “newspaper,” please feel free to reach out to me at editor@bowfininquirer.com

Climbing the Corporate Ladder?



Tired of just “winging it”, cockatiels Katy (left) and Flight show off their upward potential, step by step.