
Martin Yan Lends a Hand to San Jose Public Library Foundation

By Gary Singh | Sep 18, 2024

Martin Yan has been on TV longer than ESPN or the Food Network. He goes way back. In 1978, Yan's first cooking show began a run of a few hundred episodes in Canada, after which he then started on PBS in the Bay Area in 1982. Millions know the phrase, "If Yan can cook, so can you!"

In that original era, Yan Can Cook was the only Chinese cooking show of its kind on Bay Area television. Celebrity chef culture had not yet morphed into tattooed alpha males pounding tequila shots with Sammy Hagar. There were no podcasts, no Instagram business accounts and no affiliated marketing funnels.

Now, with more than 3,500 culinary and travel episodes, plus almost three dozen cookbooks, Yan still commands a worldwide following. He returns to San Jose on Sept. 21 for a spectacular lunchtime fundraiser for the San Jose Public Library Foundation.

Always a supporter of libraries, Yan will present a five-course meal featuring his own award-winning menu, complete with premium reserve wine pairings generously provided by Bouchaine Vineyards. There will also be a live auction as well as a performance by Chinese Lion Dancers. Autographed copies of his newest releases, *Best of Yan Can Cook* (2023) and *My Asian Kitchen* (2024), will be available.

A few years ago, the library foundation threw a spectacular 35th anniversary gala, but this year marks the first time a celebrity author event has unfolded to raise money. Foundation CEO Dawn Coppin hopes to make it an annual blowout.

"Far too few people in San Jose know that the public library has a foundation they can donate to," Coppin said. "So this is both fundraising, and friend-raising, and awareness-raising, together."

Even as a successful entertainer, Yan is a humble dude. After all these decades, he still just wants to cook and teach people and make viewers happy. Everyone loves him.

Rifling through Yan's bio and credits from any previous source is a fantastic experience. He studied food science at UC Davis. He taught at the world's culinary mecca, Johnson & Wales University, where he also received an honorary doctorate along with Julia Child. He won a daytime Emmy Award in 1998. He bagged James Beard Awards for Best TV Food Journalism in 1996 and Best TV Cooking Show in 1994—30 years ago. In 1999, The Colorado Institute of Art likewise conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters.

Yan was doing the culinary travel shtick before most others envisioned the concept. He was decades before his time, connecting disparate cultures and revealing how food brings everyone together.

This is not the first time Yan has rolled into San Jose. Many years back he appeared at the Berryessa Library to a capacity crowd. Earlier this year, he showed up at Cinequest to attend a documentary about Chinese painter Chang Dai-chien. Yan is never far away from San Jose.

Now, due to September being National Library Card Sign-Up Month, the San Jose Public Library is unleashing all sorts of initiatives in addition to Yan's fundraiser. For example, late fees for overdue books will no longer be charged. Just last week, Krazy George—another Bay Area celebrity even more seasoned than Martin Yan—celebrated the “waving away” of late fees with an appearance in the San Jose City Council Chambers. He led a version of the Wave, the legendary cheer he invented in 1981 at an Oakland A's playoff game. George also predates ESPN. He's only a few years older than Yan.

Ultimately, the San Jose Public Library contains much more than most people realize. A search for Martin Yan brings up several books. If you don't want to buy a 2000-era copy of Chinese Cooking for Dummies, two copies exist at two different branch libraries. Similarly, five copies of Martin Yan's China from 2008 can be found throughout the library system.

“A lot of people forget that libraries don't just contain fiction,” Coppin said. “They contain a lot of nonfiction books and a lot of practical, how-to type books. And our cookbook collection is quite large and very well used.”

No one has any excuses. If Yan can get a library card, so can you.

<https://www.metrosiliconvalley.com/martin-yan-lends-a-hand-to-san-jose-public-library-foundation/>

Chef Martin Yan headlines San Jose Library Foundation fundraiser

Sept. 21 event features 5-course meal in City Hall Rotunda



Guests at a Sept. 21 fundraiser for the San José Public Library Foundation will receive autographed copies of Chef Martin Yan's newest release "Best of Yan Can Cook." The event will raise money for library programs that support literacy, provide career training and expand access to digital tools. (Courtesy photo)

Guests at a Sept. 21 fundraiser for the San José Public Library Foundation will receive autographed copies of Chef Martin Yan's newest release "Best of Yan Can Cook." The event will raise money for library programs that support literacy, provide career training and expand access to digital tools. (Courtesy photo)

By [ANNE GELHAUS](#) | Bay Area News Group

UPDATED: August 26, 2024 at 4:18 a.m.

The San José Public Library Foundation is teaming with Bay Area Chef Martin Yan, host of the hit show "Yan Can Cook" and author of more than 30 cookbooks, to

fundraise for library programs that support literacy, provide career training and expand access to digital tools.

Guests at the Sept. 21 event will enjoy a five-course meal featuring Yan's recipes, with premium reserve wine pairings provided by Bouchaine Vineyards. Yan will give a cooking demonstration and share the inspiration behind his cookbooks. There will also be a live auction as well as a performance by Chinese lion dancers. Guests will receive autographed copies of Yan's newest release "Best of Yan Can Cook."

The fundraiser is set for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda. Tickets are \$108.55-\$161.90 at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2024/08/25/chef-martin-yan-headlines-san-jose-library-foundation-fundraiser/>

Library Foundation teams up with celebrity chef Yan for fundraiser on Sept. 21 **SEE PAGE 7**



EIM proposal controversy
Proposed change of use of the Monterey-Bernal Emergency Interim Housing site causes concern
See page 3

Symphony San Jose and Chorale San Jose celebrate the spooky season
SEE PAGE 7



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Times Local News

San José Public Library Foundation teams up with celebrity chef Yan for library fundraiser on Sept. 21

By William Bellou
Publisher

In a first of its kind celebrity author event, the San José Public Library Foundation is teaming up with Bay Area Chef Martin Yan, host of the hit show *Yan Can Cook*, to fundraise for critical San José Public Library programs.

During the ticketed event on September 21 (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.), Chef Yan will bring his award-winning recipes and entertaining cooking demonstrations to the San José City Hall Rotunda.

The fundraiser will help fund library programs that support literacy, provide career training, and expand access to digital tools.

"Join me in San Jose! I will be doing a wonderful, delicious cooking demonstration and show you how to make some of my favorite dishes. Enjoy delicious food with great company. Learn cooking tips and tricks. And of course, support a great cause that is close to my heart," said Yan.

During the event at San José City Hall Rotunda, 200 E Santa Clara St, in San José, guests will enjoy a delicious five-course meal



Bay Area Chef **Martin Yan** to fundraise for critical San José Public Library programs by offering a 5-course meal Saturday, September 21 at San Jose City Hall Rotunda.

featuring Chef Martin Yan's award-winning menu, complete with premium reserve wine pairings generously provided by Bouchaine Vineyards, while Chef Yan performs an entertaining cooking demonstration and shares the inspiration behind his cookbooks.

Also scheduled is a live auction as well as a performance by Chinese Lion Dancers. Taking place during the Moon Festival and the Year of the Dragon, elements of the menu will pay tribute to each holiday's cultural significance. Guests will receive autographed copies of Yan's newest release "Best of Yan Can Cook."

Tickets and more information are available online: <https://tinyurl.com/6pzm6jt>

Legendary San Jose mayor's name will grace city rotunda
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Bugging out
San Jose could lose thousands of trees to invasive beetle
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SJCC, EVC faculty among most diverse in nation
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Evergreen Times

SEPT. 6 - SEPT. 19, 2024 ■ VOL. 41, NO. 19

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East San Jose groups want to increase younger voter turnout

By Lorraine Gabbert
San José Spotlight

East San Jose nonprofits are launching a youth led voting campaign to shape a more equitable society and empower residents.

In preparation for the Nov. 5 election, SOMOS Mayfair's Jovenes Activos youth, in collaboration with Amigos de Guadalupe and other community organizations, is launching the "No Decision About Us, Without Us!"

See **TURNOUT**, page 4



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Earlier this year, AchieveKids received an email from **Aneasha Janbandhu** (far right), a Leigh High School student from San Jose, working to make a difference in her community by helping "underserved special needs kids by providing them with essential things they need to live a happy life or even just a smile." She raised funds by working various jobs during her summer break and chose to use these funds to purchase new PE equipment for both of the Palo Alto and San Jose AchieveKids campuses.

Local teen helps underserved and special needs community through local initiatives

Aneasha Janbandhu imagined "Science Academy" initiative, currently hosted at Bascom and Willow Glen libraries

By William Bellou
Publisher

Aneasha Janbandhu, a rising junior at Leigh High School, is the Founder and President of the non-profit organization, Sunshine and Hope Foundation, which focuses on helping underserved and special needs kids in the community.

Founded in 2022, the overarching goal of her organization is to bring happiness to the kids by providing much-needed supplies and participating in hands-on activities. In her personal life, Aneasha is drawn to science, specifically biology.

Aneasha's desire to work with special needs and underserved children in her community started from a volunteering experience with Animal Assisted Happiness (AAH). She witnessed first-hand the pure joy and happiness that simple animal interaction brought to her and those around her.

Aneasha has worked as a Youth Ambassa-

dor for Animal Assisted Happiness since 2021. The organization, a non-profit located in Sunnyvale, allowed Aneasha to see the gleeful expressions on the faces of the kids as they were holding the guinea pigs and the chickens in their laps.

"I think that was my aha moment," said Aneasha. "It was magical! I will never forget it."

Aneasha continues to help the special needs community by donating much-needed

See **FOUNDATION**, page 2



A Science Academy classroom

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The Mercury News

Chef Martin Yan cooks up \$30K at San Jose Public Library fundraiser

City's library system ranks 26th in funding among 30 Bay Area library systems



Chef Martin Yan, right, demonstrates his chopping technique as San Jose City Librarian Jill Bourne and Scott Smead of Robert Lee & Associates observe on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 at the Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda at San Jose City Hall. Yan was the guest of honor at the San Jose Public Library Foundation's first Signature Author event. (Sal Pizarro/Bay Area News Group)

By SAL PIZARRO | spizarro@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group
UPDATED: September 24, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

We all know “Yan Can Cook,” but it turns out celebrity chef Martin Yan can fundraise pretty well, too.

Yan — energetic and effervescent as ever — was the guest of honor last Saturday at the San Jose Public Library Foundation's inaugural Signature Author event. If Yan

seems like an odd choice, remember that in addition to his award-winning PBS show, he's also shared his culinary talents through a series of cookbooks.

But whatever the reason, Yan was the right ingredient to make the fundraiser at the Janet Gray Hayes Rotunda at San Jose City Hall a success. As the capacity crowd dined on a Chinese lunch, Yan delighted them with a demonstration of his cooking skills — including boning a chicken in a matter of seconds.

He was helped out by “sous chefs” Katharine Earhart, co-founder and partner at Fairlight Advisors, and Ame Ponce, assistant director of executive recruiting at Ernst & Young, and “tasters” Scott Smead, a partner at Robert Lee & Associates, and San Jose City Librarian Jill Bourne.

“It’s a beautiful library, and it really needs your support,” Yan told the crowd, which donated more than \$30,000 — including direct donations and winning bids on a walking tour with Yan in San Francisco’s Chinatown and an eight-person dinner hosted by Yan at one of his favorite Bay Area Chinese restaurants.

And, in fact, the San Jose Public Library system could use all the support it can get. Both Bourne and SJPL Foundation CEO Dawn Coppin pointed out that the library ranks 26th out of 30 library systems in the Bay Area in per-capita local government funding. That’s only \$55 per person annually, compared to \$202 in San Francisco, \$194 in Berkeley and \$154 in Palo Alto.

No matter who you slice it, that’s a huge gap that the SJPL Foundation is working to bridge; you can find out more about the nonprofit’s mission at www.sjplf.org.

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2024/09/24/chef-martin-yan-cooks-up-30k-at-san-jose-public-library-foundation-fundraiser/>



September 21

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