



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heavy Lifting Listening Tour: 4th Anniversary of CZU Lightning Complex Fire

An Event at the Felton Branch Library with Artist Felicia Rice and Poet Theresa Whitehill



FELTON, California — Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) invites the public to join this program to honor the 4-year anniversary of the devastating CZU Lightning Complex Fire, by acknowledging grief and loss and celebrating renewal. The program will take place in the Felton Branch Library Community Room on Saturday, August 24 from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

The Heavy Lifting Listening Tour aspires to offer opportunities for healing and dreaming through dialogue. This introduction to the Heavy Lifting project opens with a display of Felicia Rice's artists' book and the experimental film, *On Heavy Lifting*, followed by a conversation between poet Theresa Whitehill and the audience, in which she alternates reading her poems with an invitation for audience members to share their own work or stories in response.

The tour kicked off in February 2023 in Ukiah and has occurred monthly in communities impacted by fire throughout northern California. The project explores a range of responses to loss as it considers what might lie beyond these difficult times, from creating space to name the darkness as the first stage of recovery from grief to building strength to tackle the unending work ahead.

In Felton, the event will mark the 4th anniversary of the CZU Lightning Complex Fire which devastated our Santa Cruz Mountain communities of friends, families, and neighbors, including Felicia's Bonny Doon neighborhood. We invite the public to join this commemoration of loss and celebration of community and resilience.

For more information, visit <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/12542943>

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ABOUT THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM:

Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) brings people, information, and resources together to enrich lives and strengthen the community. SCPL gives every Santa Cruz community member the opportunity to learn through educational resources, classes, and staff support. The Library develops programs for the broad community as well as for specific groups like students, seniors, and those who are most vulnerable, including the unhoused and incarcerated. SCPL also curates specialty collections, like genealogy and local history. Learn more about SCPL at [SantaCruzPL.org](https://www.santacruzpl.org) or on social media. To access the SCPL Press Kit visit <https://www.santacruzpl.org/press-kit/>.