

Volume 42 Number 2

February 2017

Kris Matarrese, Editor

Embrace Art on Your Own Terms!

Discover & Go!

Free entry to many Bay Area museums, historic homes and other cultural attractions. Your library card is the key! See page 4

THANKS TO THE SPRIGHTLY imaginations of staff (right) and volunteers, the Alameda libraries—Main and branches—are freeing patrons, from teens to seniors, to pursue their creativity in an atmosphere of receptivity and admiration! Invited to eschew conventions, they turn delightedly to make art and lots of it!



A grand example: Alameda resident Nancy knew that Amy, the niece of a close friend, had entered the Bay to Breakers race for the first time. Not wanting her family to watch, the young woman prepared to run while aunt Audrey fled to Alameda. She and Nancy, with an empty afternoon awaiting, searched the listings in the *Alameda Sun*.

There they found an invitation to visit the Main and partake of “Bad Art.” A newspaper release spelled out the principles: “Leave your good taste at home and do your best bad work; you’ll have something truly awful to take home.” What a liberating idea, they thought, and hunkered down amidst the heaps of feathers, glitter, ceramic shards, buttons, fake jewels of Hope Diamond heft, glue, and backings such as canvas, paper plates, floor tiles and other seeming detritus that were soon to become cherished works of love and art!

Amy (left) was as thrilled with her own efforts, as she was touched by the charming trophy concocted by her aunt to commemorate the successful fruition of a goal reached after months of work, conditioning, and belief in herself. Who says any art is bad? □





Donated materials have to be sorted and priced before the sale!



TWICE A YEAR for 40 plus years, Book Sales have been serious fund raisers that enable the Friends of the Library to support the Alameda Free Library and its many programs. Without volunteers, the Book Sale will not happen, so we need your help. Please contact Adair at phone-email below.

Volunteers Needed During the Sale:

Friday May 5 – 10 a.m. till we finish! Load every table with books, DVDs, and other donated items! Afterward, volunteers may shop, though a two box limit is strictly enforced.

Friday May 5- 6:30 to 9 p.m.: The Preview Sale needs people as Book Sitters, Table Watchers, Pre-Counters, Cashiers, and Hand Truck Drivers.

Saturday May 6 – 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: The busiest of the three days! Sign up for the same tasks as the Preview Sale, above.

Sunday May 7 - Noon to 4 p.m.: Box and Bag Sale. Same Saturday tasks listed above.

Sunday May 7 – 4 p.m. till we finish! Box up remaining items, remove and put tables away, and clean up. Lots of high energy volunteers needed here!

Please contact Adair [510-865-0347](tel:510-865-0347) or ajnordicstar@outlook.com to volunteer. Only you can make this happen! Thank you! ☐



FOLLOWING A VENERABLE TRADITION, the Great Books Club of Alameda meets each month to discuss tomes listed on a curriculum that has been celebrated for almost a century. There is even an idea that the idea although not the name, originated with Thomas Jefferson who developed and distributed lists of “great books” for the elucidation of friends, family and correspondents. The Alameda contingent meets the second Tuesday of each month and so well organized are they that we have their entire program for the next year! For information, contact leader Jeffrey Hitchings, jeffhitchings.jh@gmail.com

One of the Club’s members wrote us this note, “One of the main benefits of the Great Books discussion group is it’s inclusiveness. It is a place where I can hear the thoughts of people I might not otherwise connect with, which broadens my perspective and is fun. I also enjoy the general neutrality to the topics that come up for discussion. The topics are important and universal but disconnected from current events and current ‘wisdom.’ The people who participate and the structure of the program support independent thinking which is refreshing and stimulating. And some times we have very good deserts.” Here is their next volume for discussion:

Oedipus the King, by Sophocles, February 14, 6:00 p.m. Main Library ☐



ORDERLY TRANSITION WITNESSED AT INAUGURATION EVENT

By Jan Greene

Member, Friends of the Alameda Free Library Board

A SMALL, SOMEWHAT SUBDUED group gathered at the Main Library on January 20 to watch Donald J. Trump be inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States. By the time Trump was given the oath of office by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, 15 to 20 people had wandered in out of the rain to watch the NBC News feed from the nation's capital on two big screens in the library's Regina K. Stafford Community Meeting Room. Several even sported red, white and blue accessories to note the occasion.

The inauguration event was co-sponsored by the Friends of the Alameda Free Library and the League of Women Voters. The non-partisan League has sponsored viewing sessions for the past three swearing-in ceremonies, which are events that fit well with the organization's role of promoting participation in America's democracy without taking sides.

Some attendees said they came to drown their sorrows in donuts and coffee, and share the experience with other people as they contemplate what may be ahead with a Trump administration. "I'm really worried and anxious," said a woman named Marilyn sitting near the front with her friend Christine. "We didn't want to stay at home and watch this alone." At the same time, they both found it important to support the idea of democracy by watching the inauguration.

Both Marilyn and Christine said they were hoping to hear a message of unification when Trump gave his inauguration speech. "I'm taking my cue from President Obama," Marilyn said, remaining calm and hoping to hear words that would bring together an America splintered by a divisive election.

That wasn't quite what they got, as Trump chose to use the inaugural address to make a forceful case for the "forgotten" people who elected him as an anti-politician. He laid out an agenda to replace manufacturing jobs, shore up U.S. borders and put "America first." "We are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the people," Trump said.

There were a few gasps at particularly strongly worded passages during Trump's speech, but otherwise those gathered listened in sober silence during one of the more unusual transitions of power of America's history. The speech was unusually pointed, with barbs for many of the political establishment seated around Trump's podium—including four former U.S. presidents and their wives and congressional leadership from both parties.

Many attendees at the Alameda event, including those most unnerved by a real estate mogul becoming the most powerful elected leader on Earth, emphasized their support for democratic principles and the always awe-inspiring spectacle of witnessing a peaceful transfer of power in the world's most influential democracy.

"It was very somber," observed an attendee named Patricia. "I was hoping for a more unifying message from him, but it was consistent with what we heard during the campaign."

She said she had helped publicize the event and had heard back from a number of people that they were purposely withholding their support of the inauguration by not watching it. But she felt it important to support the idea of democracy by attending. "This is part of what President Obama has called 'the joyous work of citizenship,'" she said. □

Illustrations: Right: These and similar signs sprang up after November 8.
Below: A panel discussion on Muslims with a question-answer segment was sponsored by AAUW at the College of Alameda; the engrossed audience filled the room.



AMERICAN MUSLIMS: ISLAM 102

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Stafford Room, Main Library



Invited panelists include Muslim students, a "Meet a Muslim" program speaker, a Saint Mary's College Faculty member, and representatives of the Islamic Center of Alameda and the Council on American Islamic Relations. The question and answer session gives participants the chance to delve deeper into the teachings and practice of Islam.

Topics such as common misconceptions about American Muslims, cultural interpretations of the role of women in Muslim communities, the meaning of Sharia Law, how Muslim mosques can reach out to local communities will

be discussed, as will the role that interfaith and other groups can play in promoting post-election healing.

This library talk is jointly sponsored by the Friends of the Alameda Library, the League of Women Voters of Alameda, and AAUW (originally the Association of University Women). For information: AAUW President Penny Washbourn: alameda-ca@aauw.net 510-748-7455 **NOTE: Please RSVP to AmericanMuslimsIslam102.eventbrite.com** □

Discover And Go--Free Admission to Local Museums



YOUR TICKET TO TREATS AND TREASURES: Embark on an adventure with your library card as a ticket: it can get you into all manner of places, as near as Webster Street and as far as Ukiah or Santa Cruz. With your card at the ready, visit the City of Alameda website and click on the Library. Crawl all the way down to the bottom of the page and click on "Discover and Go." Information, passes, and discounts are offered free for dozens of places to enjoy in Northern California. A staggering range is offered: ships, art galleries, city and county history museums, gardens, vintage houses, animals both quick and dead, and for Snoopy lovers, the Charles Schultz venue in Santa Rosa.

Because hours and open days vary, the listings change from day to day. New sites are also added and some fade away, so approach the idea by anchoring yourself in spontaneity--like going to the Farmers Market without a plan or a list. See what is available and cook from that! ☐

A Stalwart Example!



SAVE \$40 ADMISSION AND "LIVE" IN HISTORY:

According to their website, "The Aircraft Carrier Hornet Foundation preserves and honors the legacy of USS *Hornet*, a National and State Historic Landmark, and its role in naval aviation history, the Apollo Program, and exploration of space. The USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum connects the greatest generation of Americans with future generations, educating and inspiring them to meet the future challenges they will face."

Take a step into both history and the future exploring what the Hornet Museum has to offer. With docent led and self-exploring tour options, surely something will attract and satisfy the entire family. Located at the former Naval Air Station, 707 W. Hornet Ave, Pier 3, 510.521.8448, Note: be sure to print out your Discover & Go pass to qualify for discount Hornet admission. ☐



FAL Smiles at AmazonSmile!

SUPPORT the Friends every time you shop on Amazon. Go to smile.amazon.com and select Friends of the Alameda Free Library Inc. FAL will receive 0.5% on each eligible purchase. This adds up when we all shop on AmazonSmile. ☐

MEET 2017 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FAL) OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT KAREN BUTTER

What are your earliest memories of reading and books? I remember my mother taking us to the library to choose books and then later walking to the neighborhood shopping center library by myself. With four children a year apart and then two more there wasn't a lot of time for reading but I do remember her reading Mother Goose, fairy tales and James Whitcomb Riley's children's poetry and stories – *Raggedy Man*, *Little Orphan Annie*, and the *Bear Story*.

Do you enjoy "actual" books? Ebooks? Audiobooks? I enjoy all three. Ebooks and audiobooks are so much easier to locate and return and I can easily take them where ever I go. On the other hand I enjoy the serendipity that comes in browsing library shelves and turning the pages.

What are you reading these days and why? I am currently listening to *Sisters in Law* for my monthly book club, about Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg and their paths to the Supreme Court. I just finished two books my book club will discuss in January: *Hillbilly Elegy* and *The Unwinding*.

You are hosting a literary dinner party. Which 4-6 authors (alive, or not or imaginary) would you invite? Given my interest in politics I would like to invite Barack and Michelle Obama, Clark Kerr, former president of the University of California, and Thomas Jefferson. I would host a catered dinner at my house served with outstanding local wines.

Tell us a bit about your personal involvement with the FAL, the Foundation, the book sales, the concerts . . . I have been a supporter of the Friends for a long time, served as Treasurer and worked on book sales. . . I have attended many of the Live@the Library events and am continually impressed with the outstanding artists we attract. Additionally, I served on the Alameda City Library Board, the Library Building Team to design the current library, and bond campaigns to secure funding for the library.

What are your hopes-fears about the future of reading of all kinds and the Alameda Free Library.

The Alameda Free Library is doing a fantastic job in responding to needs of the community with programs designed for all segments. It is continually introducing new programs to keep abreast of changing needs and opportunities. It is an exciting time for libraries and the Friends have a critical role in supporting the the Library through volunteers, financial contributions and activities that bring Alamedans to the Library. (Note: Thanks to the *New York Times* book review for these questions.)



Notes from Kris, Our Editor

Congratulations and thanks to FAL officers and Board for 2017: President: Karen Butter; Vice-President: Kumar Fpanse; Secretary: Karen Manuel; Treasurer: Bill Gibbs; Board members: Eileen Bitten, Luzanne Engh, Marlene Grcevich, Nancy Horton, Honora Murphy, Billy Reinschmiedt, Carole Robie, Eileen Savel, Cindy Silva, Jo Winzenread

Contributors to this issue: Thanks to Dawn Boyer, Luzanne Engh, Hallie Fields, Jeffrey Hutchins, Judith Lynch, and Penelope Washbourn.

We would like to hear from you: *The Anthemion* is published by The Friends of the Alameda Free Library, P. O. Box 1024, Alameda CA 94501 or visit us at friendسالamedafreelibrary.org. Our email is friendسالamedalibrary@gmail.com Have a story idea, a correction or an image to share? Our deadline for the March issue is February 25. Please email inquiries to judithlynch7@gmail.com.



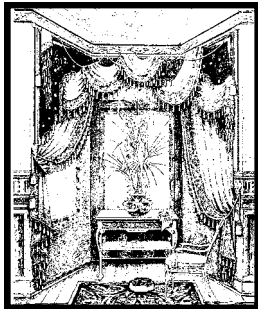
MISSION: Friends of the Alameda Free Library

✿ TO PROVIDE A VARIETY of ways to contribute to the on-going services and growth of the Alameda Free Library for the enjoyment and benefit of the entire community.

✿ TO ACT AS STEWARD for the library and its many services and programs through advocacy, volunteerism, and fund-raising to supplement public funding.



Friends of the Alameda Free Library
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☞ Tuesday, February 14, “**Great Books Club of Alameda,**” 6:00 p.m. Discussion of *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles, page 2.
 ☞ Wednesday, February 15, “**American Muslims: Islam 102: ,**” 6:30-8:00 p.m. Stafford Room; co-sponsored by FAL, AAUW, and the League of Women Voters of Alameda, page 3.
 ☞ Saturday, March 18, “**Made in Alameda,**” exhibit from Noon- 5:00 p.m. Stafford Room.
 ☞ Friday through Sunday May 5-7, “**Friends Book Sale**” Times vary as do admission fees, O’ Club, Alameda Point, former Naval Air Station. Details page 2.