

Volume 42 Number 7 July 2017 Kris Matarrese, Editor

Ruth Belikove: We Cherish Her Spirit

Thank You and Goodbye

FOR SOMEONE WHO lived in Alameda for a handful of years, Ruth Belikove was a highly productive and inventive woman who enlivened and enriched our community. She died recently at 94 and will be missed for many reasons. She founded and was a continuing inspiration for the Live@theLibrary concerts, a critical element of Friends fundraising since 2008. Ruth loved music, especially jazz, and she invited this lively culture to Alameda where it thrives, testimony to her foresight. She was devoted to art education; her extensive personal collection abounded in early American art and artifacts. Heeding this strong interest, she also helped found the Library Art Committee.

Here are just a few tributes to an outstanding person; for a more extensive glimpse into her varied and intense life, see the note at the end of the story. According to her friend and jazz sidekick Eileen Savel, "The concert series was the fruit of Ruth's passion for live music," she told us in the July 2016 FAL newsletter, available on line. "Her intention was to bring art and culture to Alameda. The new Main had just opened, and we wanted to show it off and attract new patrons and supporters.

"As a former librarian, Ruth was particularly devoted to the Alameda Free Library. She enjoyed bringing art and live music for library patrons to experience."

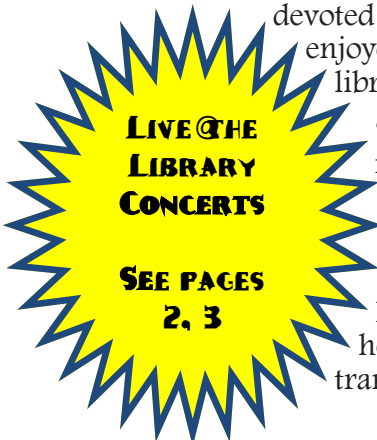


Ruth with bass player John Wiitala, a Live@theLibrary artist who teaches at the Jazz Conservancy in Berkeley.

"Ruth lived a wonderful rich and full life. She enjoyed almost every minute. Just a few weeks ago, she was at a concert, looking beautiful and enjoying the music."

Eileen Bitten

"Ruth came up with idea of a volunteer Art Committee for the library. She was the founding member and participated in every meeting. When it became difficult for her to get around, we met at Cardinal Point where she lived. Many times she used her own money to pay any fees to exhibit artists from out of state. She underwrote transportation, shipping, and living expenses." *Kumar Fause* (continued on page 2)





(Continued from page 1)

“I worked with Ruth for eight years on the Live@theLibrary concert committee. She was passionate about art and music, especially jazz, and was the inspiration for this annual concert series. Ruth was determined to share her passions with our Alameda community. As co-producer, Ruth spent each year attending many Bay Area music events, completely engaged in the music and the musicians, and, often, dancing in the aisle. Ruth’s spirit and passion will persist in each Live@theLibrary concert.” *Luzanne Engh* □

NOTES: (a) Tributes to Ruth are still coming in and will be continued in the next issue. (b) The Alameda Sun published an obituary composed and compiled by Ruth’s family, according to her daughter, Alameda resident Roseanne Talcott. Please see the Sun, June 8, 2017.


ENJOY JAZZ? LOOKING FOR A WAY to support our library and work among enthusiastic volunteers? Friends of the Library needs a ticket manager for our highly successful Live@theLibrary series, now in its ninth year. Thanks to their passion for live music, devoted volunteers have enticed jazz artists of local, regional, and national renown to perform here. See page 1 for information about the founding of the program; see page 3 for the 2017 talent roster.



The FAL volunteer ticket manager will oversee ticket sales and perform other services from mid-July to mid-December 2017. Concerts are booked September 16, October 28, and December 2. The job includes: ordering and distributing tickets; website postings; using Excel to track sales; handling proceeds; collecting tickets at the concerts, reporting sales progress, and producing a final report. Interested? To volunteer, or for more information, contact Luzanne Engh, 510.325.5776, luzengh@comcast.net. □

**Degas,
Impressionism,
and the Paris
Millinery Trade**

Enjoy an art docent talk, Monday, July 17, 6:30 p.m. Stafford Room, Main Library. Presented by docent Marsha Lock of the Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museums, San Francisco.




“**A LOOK AT HOW** high fashion hats made their mark in the late 1880s,” according to Tony Bravo, *San Francisco Chronicle*. This exhibit graces the Legion of Honor until September 24. It offers a heady combination with 40 pieces from Degas, Renoir, Manet, Toulouse-Lautrec and other luminaries of the brush and canvas. Vintage works on display from milliners are from the studios of Viot, Lanvin and more. □

FAL Events Past & Prologue

FRIENDS OF THE Alameda Free Library (FAL) has underwritten many library events and programs. Book sales have spanned more than four decades, and high-roller musical entertainments, grouped under the slogan Live@theLibrary, have brought in peak revenues for almost ten years. FAL generosity is frequent and often unmentioned on posters or in publicity. Some FAL contributions are tangible such as furniture and equipment. Unheralded smaller gifts abound, such as snacks, art supplies, summer reading books and more . . . Here are some recent past and upcoming future FAL endeavors. ☐

Family Fun at Family Fun Day

FRIENDS HOSTED an information table at Family Fun Day at the Main Library. In addition to crafts and a movie, kids, teens, and adults could sign up for Summer Reading. Friends gave away 125 backpacks, encouraged participants to volunteer, and increased the roster of email sign-ups. ☐



Banned Books: Who is Next?



FOR YEARS SEPTEMBER has been both a celebration and a defense of books. Early in the month marks International Literacy Day; at the end, an entire week is devoted to reading aloud forbidden volumes. Our library patrons take part by reading excerpts from books currently under siege; watch the library and FAL websites and newsletters for ways to take part. According to former Alameda Poet Laureate Julia Park Tracy, "Ideas you disagree with won't hurt you; in fact they may inform and strengthen you." In a story published in the *Alameda Sun*, she mentioned some obvious shunned ones, such as Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, along with head-scratchers such as *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. ☐

FAL Alert! Immigration Nation: Challenge for All Americans, September 27

GIVEN THE SUCCESS, crowds, and acclimation that greeted the Muslim Panel in February, FAL has again partnered with AAUW and the League of Women Voters. Speakers and audience inquiries will explore an issue that affects most people, as virtually all of us are descendants of immigrants from somewhere. This event is Wednesday, September 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Stafford Room of the Main Library. In addition to adding the event to your calendar, you need to register so we can accommodate everyone in some degree of comfort. More information about registration, panelists, and topics will be forthcoming; watch FAL news, social media, and sponsor websites. ☐



Ready, Set, Go. . . Live@theLibrary 2017 Concerts

- **September 16: Singer Kenny Washington and Guitarist Jeff Massanari.** The *San Francisco Chronicle* dubbed *Kenny Washington* "the Superman of the Bay Area jazz scene." He just returned from playing Lincoln Center, New York. His fans include Wynton Marsalis. *Jeff Massanari* is one of the most in-demand jazz guitarists and has performed at Yoshi's, the Monterey Jazz Festival, and Davies Symphony Hall, as well as internationally.
- **October 28 "Maurice Ravel to Bill Evans: The Piano Trio in the 20th Century".** The Alden Trio features Jon Lee on piano, violinist Yuri Kye, and Brady Anderson on cello playing classical music to compare and contrast to the Adam Shulman Trio with pianist Adam Shulman, Erik Markowitz on bass, and Smith Dobson on drums playing Bill Evans. This show always gets a standing ovation!
- **December 2: Suzanna Smith sings songs of Peggy Lee.** The Suzanna Smith Quartet featuring music director Lee Bloom on piano. "Fever," is an evening of Peggy Lee's most treasured hits. "Smith sounds like Lee, slightly breathy and warmly sensual with a hint of huskiness," according to Christopher Loudon, *Jazz Times* ☐



Book Club Corner



Ⓢ **Alameda Great Books, on break until September**, contact Jeff, jeffhitchings.jh@gmail.com.
Early alert for the first fall session: Gustave Flaubert's *A Simple Heart*.

Ⓢ **Alameda Library Book Club, 6:30 p.m., 2nd Monday**, contact Pam J, pamchung@aol.com.

July 10, 2017: In 1928, before everyone else was talking about gender-bending and way before the terrific movie with Tilda Swinton, Virginia Woolf wrote *Orlando*. Her comic masterpiece was a fanciful love letter to Vita Sackville-West, disguised as a biography. Orlando enters the book as an Elizabethan nobleman and leaves the book three centuries and one change of gender later as a liberated woman of the 1920s. Along the way this most rambunctious of Woolf's characters engages in sword fights, trades barbs with 18th century wits, has a baby, and drives a car.

Ⓢ **A Cup of Coffee and a Good Book, 1:15 p.m., 3rd Wednesday**, Islandia Clubhouse, 1138 Island Drive, contact Bay Farm Island library, 747.7787.

We Need You!

EVER THOUGHT OF giving Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL) a hand? The Library serves thousands of patrons every year. In addition to being a prime source of practically unlimited free reading materials, the Library teaches computer classes, tutors adults in its literacy program, organizes book clubs for all ages, and offers summer reading programs for kids, teens, and adults. The staff works hard to make all of these programs happen, but they also rely on strong teams of volunteers.

Opportunities to Volunteer

★ **Dewey's Café:** Like to interact with Café patrons? Sell and serve coffee and pastries; sell tickets to Live@theLibrary? We'll put you in touch with Beth Sibley and Ann North.

★ **Book Sales:** Love to be around books? Sort, evaluate, and price donated materials year 'round; set up, sell, and clean up at the Fall and Spring Book Sales. We'll connect you with Carole Robie.

★ **Communications:** Good at web design, and writing; have design skills? The Communications Committee could benefit from your help. We'll send your information to Karen Manuel.

★ **Revenue Generating:** Have a knack for fund-raising? Help this committee provide ongoing programmatic support to the Library. Nancy Horton will respond to you directly.

★ **Volunteer Art Committee:** Want to help schedule docents from Bay Area museums? We will acquaint you with Kumar Fansa, long a member of this group.

Note: Questions? Please inquire at friendسالamedalibrary@gmail.com. ☐

Libraries Outside

THESE INFORMATIVE and sometimes strenuous ventures in Bay Area parks and jaunts through local history are the brainchild of Alameda Free Library staff. They have devised a friendly way to experience the out of doors. Here is a recent outing that combined walking and sailing, cosponsored by the Alameda Community Sailing Center. Check their website for information about sailing seminars for both young adults and older ones. ☐



Left: Libraries Outside family ready to sail.
Right: Library staff Cosette Ratcliff
Bottom: Launching ACSC vessels



A TANTALIZING VIEW OF LIBRARIES OUTSIDE VARIETY!

- ◆ Saturday July 1, **Shoreline at Park Ave**
- ◆ Saturday July 15, **Mountain View Cemetery**
- ◆ Please check the Library website for information and possibilities.

MEET 2017 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FAL) BOARD MEMBER LUZANNE ENGH

What are your earliest connections to libraries? My appreciation for libraries began in junior high school when I joined the Library Club. As club members we read and reported on all new books before they were put into circulation. Ariel Day was the school librarian. From her I learned basic library skills, the Dewey Decimal system, how to shelve and catalog (card catalog!) books, and take end-of-year inventory. Library Club members sat at the small “circulation desk” and checked (hand stamped!) books in and out for our classmates. These basic skills served me well through high school and college and grounded my appreciation for community libraries.

Do you enjoy “actual” books? Ebooks? I read both “book-books” and ebooks. My preference is for actual books, but there are advantages (travel, nighttime reading,) to ebooks.

What are you reading these days? Generally I read fiction but recently I’ve read two non-fiction books to learn more about our national community: *Hillbilly Elegy* by James D. Vance and *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie R. Hochschild. I recommend both of them.

Tell us a bit about your personal involvement with the Friends. I was a member of the Foundation Board for ten years when I served as treasurer, vice-president, and president. I co-chaired the Merger Committee and was as the first president of our merged Friends organization. I continue to serve on the Friends board, on the Live@theLibrary concert committee and have volunteered at book sales and the Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

What are your hopes-fears about the Friends and the Alameda Free Library? The Friends board and volunteers work diligently to raise funds to support library programming, technology, and the longer-term needs of all three branches. We couldn’t provide this support without the dedicated work of our volunteers. I hope other Alamedans will join us. We have volunteer possibilities for one-time jobs and for commitments on a regular basis. Our current needs are for Café workers and book sorters. Contact us at friendsalamedalibrary@gmail.com. NOTE: See page 4 for a list of volunteer possibilities. □



DON'T MISS OUT on (FAL) Friends of the Library events, alerts, and news. Send your email to friendsalamedalibrary@gmail.com.



HIGHLY ACCLAIMED attorney Ben Reyes has succeeded at a number of legal, administrative, and municipal jobs over many years practicing in the East Bay. Recently California Governor Jerry Brown elevated him to the Contra Costa County Superior Court, and FAL would like to congratulate and thank him for his devoted work on our behalf. As a former FAL member, he provided significant pro-bono (free) legal work for us. Best wishes in your new position! □



Notes from Editor Kris

Mission: Friends of the Alameda Free Library

Contributors to this issue: Thanks to Luzanne Engh, Hallie Field, Nancy Horton, Kumar Fansé, Judith Lynch, Karen Manuel, and Billy Reinschmiedt.

We would like to hear from you: *The Anthemion* is published by The Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL). Have a story idea, a correction, or an image to share? Our deadline for the August issue is July 23. Please email inquiries to judithlynch7@gmail.com.

To start or stop delivery of this newsletter, please send an email to friendsalamedalibrary@gmail.com and allow two months for completion. □

✳️ **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. □

✳️ 2017 FAL officers and Board Members

President: Karen Butter; Vice President: Kumar Fansé; Secretary: Karen Manuel; Treasurer: Bill Gibbs; Board members: Eileen Bitten, Luzanne Engh, Marlene Greovich, Nancy Horton, Honora Murphy, Billy Reinschmiedt, Carole Robie, Eileen Savel, Cindy Silva, and Jo Winzenread. The Board meets the fourth Monday of each month except December, at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Room, Main Library. The public is welcome. □



Friends of the Alameda Free Library
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 Alameda, CA 94501
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