

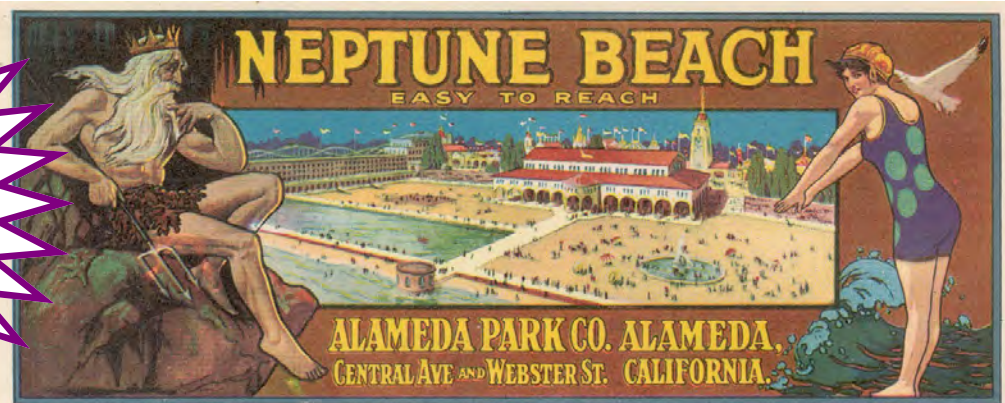
Volume 43 Number 3

March 2017

Kris Matarrese, Editor

**“Made in Alameda:
A Local Showcase”**

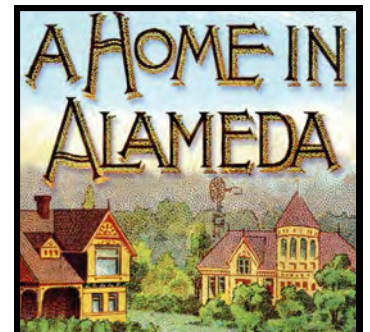
Exhibit Debuts
Saturday March 18
Main Library



TELEPHONE
ALAMEDA 3251

ALAMEDA HAS A PROUD HISTORY of offering a sympathetic home to inventors and innovators; examples from yesteryear are Skippy peanut butter, the popsicle, the snow-cone, and the wonderland known as Neptune Beach. More recent representatives: *The Alameda Sun*, a devotedly local newspaper that refuses to quit, and prolific writer Woody Minor whose books, talks, walks, and newspaper articles illuminate the complex history, culture, and architecture of this fascinating island that began life as a peninsula yoked to Oakland.

In this spirit of welcome to the new, the whimsical, the practical, and the outré, the Friends of the Library (FAL) is sponsoring the inaugural “Made in Alameda” juried exhibit. According to Eva, Supervising Librarian, Children's Services, “We received applications from authors, artists, inventors, and artisans. The response from local creators has been enthusiastic, and we’re looking forward to celebrating Alameda’s creativity and ingenuity through workshops, demonstrations, author talks, and exhibits.” □





“Our positive resolution reaffirms the City of Alameda’s commitment to LGBTQ rights, religious freedoms, and racial, social, and economic justice and our commitment to the values of dignity, inclusivity, and respect for all.”
City Council resolution, January 26, 2017

SPILOVER CROWD THRONGS QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

IN A SPIRIT OF RESPECTFUL INQUIRY in keeping with the City Council resolution above, more than 150 people attended a panel at the Main Library where they heard from and questioned a panel on the topic of “American Muslims: Islam 102.” This session, the third such in the past year, was co-sponsored by AAUW, the Friends of the Library (FAL), and the League of Women Voters; it was conducted in a civilized manner with participants jotting questions on notecards for moderators to read. This story was compiled from a report by Penelope Washbourn, AAUW President (with microphone below), participant and panelists comments, and two excellent articles by Janet Levaux of the Alameda Journal February 10 and 24. FAL board member Billy Reinschmiedt supplied the images.

Two earlier sessions, one at Alameda High School and another at the College of Alameda, were also well attended, and panel members were plied with many questions, as they were at the library. In addition to the tenets of Muslim belief, inquiry topics ranged from Islam as a religion of peace and common misunderstandings about Islamic teachings and practices. Audience members also asked about the effects of travel bans and the alarming increase in anti Muslim



sentiments expressed by graffiti and defacing of mosques. After a full round of questions, responses, and discussion, attendees were offered reading material, copies of the Quran, and other resources supplied by co-sponsors. They were also invited to the regular family nights complete with “spicy food from many countries,” according to Imam Shaik, “Come and ask more questions; we will be happy to answer them.” The evenings take place the first Saturday of each month in the Islamic Center of Alameda, Santa Clara at 9th Street.

“We are all united by our humanity.”

Jehan Hakim,
“Meet a Muslim”



Stafford Room Filled by Audience Engaging With Panel During “Islam 102: A Dialogue”

In Their Own Words

Jehan Hakim, Meet a Muslim organization, a member of the Interfaith Council of Alameda County:

Studies have shown a little under fifty percent of all Americans haven't ever met a Muslim. The aim of our group is to meet folks and help them understand our lifestyle, and fill the gaps in the information the media prints or broadcasts about our faith. “Meet a Muslim” began about a year ago after the San Bernardino tragedy. Moina Shaiq decided to host an open Q&A session. I joined her, and we have visited churches and coffee shops throughout the Bay Area. Moina has even gone out of state to hold these meetings! We hope to put a human face and narrative to what is being discussed about us, by people who themselves don't know Muslims. We are all united by our humanity. If we can channel that intrinsic inner characteristic humans possess (LOVE), we can come to know each other and maybe also love each other.

Sohaib Jalal, student of religious studies and politics and video producer, College of Alameda: People should not believe what they hear or read about Islam in media. If they are concerned about truth they should read Quran and see for themselves that Islam is not promoting violence and is completely against terrorism. Islam is 1400 years old, and terrorism has just started now, because of politics. Islam has nothing to do with ISIS--0.006% of terrorists cannot possibly represent 1.8 billion Muslims. Islam is a religion of peace, and people are starving for truth. Islam is a true and a monotheistic religion; it's a way of living life. Islam opposes racism, injustice, bigotry, and ignorance. That's why it's the fastest-growing religion in the world.

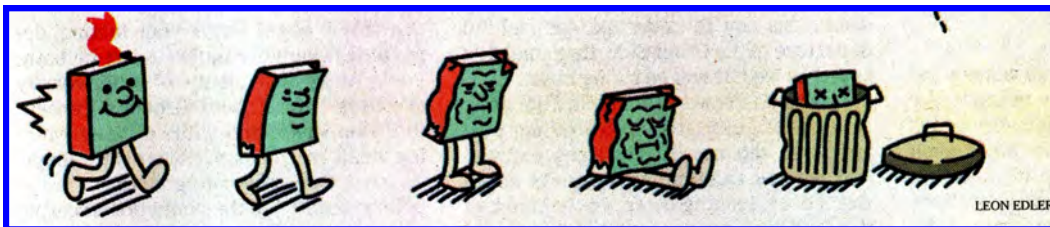
Ariff Shaik, Imam, Islamic Center of Alameda: Thank you for reaching out to us. On behalf of the Muslim community we appreciate your three groups planning and organizing this successful event. There are difficult times when people want to come closer and share their feeling. They are eager to hear from us directly and get answers to their questions.

Sameena Usman: Council on Islamic-American Relations: Fostering fear and hatred has led to anti-Sharia legislation passed in a number of states and the most recent Executive Orders, leaving damaging effects on millions of American Muslims. This misinformation has left many confused about what Islam is about, and people are interested in learning more. People recognize the injustice of targeting a religion or specific peoples as antithetical to the values laid out in our Constitution. I applaud the organizers for putting on this event, and the attendees for coming to learn and ask questions. This is a step toward breaking down barriers and replacing them with bridges. ☐

Panel Members (from the top)

Sameena Usman, Council on American Islamic Relations; Sohaib Jalal, student, College of Alameda; Jehan Hakim, Meet a Muslim, Interfaith Council of Alameda County; Mindy Thomas, Professor, St. Mary's College; Ariff Shaik, Imam, Islamic Center of Alameda





The Demise
of Reading?
Not in Alameda!

Welcome to Book Club Corner

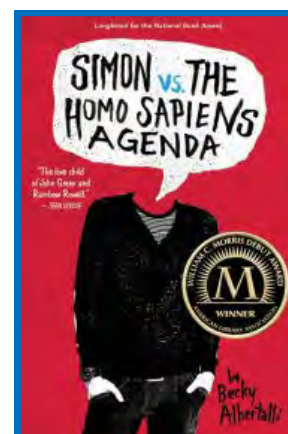
NOTE: This issue we feature three clubs whose members meet in the library to explore books in all forms and formats.

THE ALAMEDA LIBRARY BOOK CLUB: Co-Founder Pam Chun Joyce offered some history: In the summer of 2001, four book lovers met in the temporary Main Library at Alameda High with an idea to start a book club spurred in part by our delight in literature, art, and movies. Sixteen years later, we're still reading, agreeing, disagreeing good-naturedly, and laughing over more than books. Our monthly choices are eclectic, both fiction and non-fiction, including best sellers, award winners, critically acclaimed books, and members' little-known favorites. We meet the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library." March 13, 2017 they will discuss *Euphoria*, Lily King's bestselling novel about three young, gifted anthropologists of the 1930's caught in a passionate love triangle that threatens their bonds, their careers, and their lives. Inspired by events in the life of revolutionary anthropologist Margaret Mead," according to the *Boston Globe*. Right:: Margaret Mead depicted on a stamp issued in her honor.



THE ALAMEDA GREAT BOOKS CLUB: The upcoming March discussion, *On Dreams* by Sigmund Freud, explores the significance and meaning of dreams. This is in the fifth series of the Great Books Reading and Discussion Program and can be ordered at greatbooks.org. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Main Library, and pre-registration is not required. Our March 14 discussion starts at 6 p.m.; new members and perspectives are always appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Jeff Hitchings, at jeffhitchings.jh@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Meet Up.

THE TEEN BOOK CLUB: We meet the first Wednesday of every month from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Stafford Room of the Main Library. Teens ages 13 to 18 are invited to join as we decide what to read, eat snacks, and talk about books. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 5 at 4 p.m. We will discuss *Simon Vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli. In May we will discuss *Everything Everything* by Nicola Yoon and go to the movies together to see the film based on the book. Registered teen book club members get free copies of chosen books, thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Alameda Free Library.



SECRETARY KAREN MANUEL



What are your earliest memories of reading and books? I remember my mother reading books to me at bedtime. I also remember getting my first card at our local library, a Mission style building with beautiful wood and so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Very impressive to me. In college I worked in the campus library. I would find myself in the shelves discovering books I hadn't imagined existed and would spend hours there reading and exploring.

Do you enjoy "actual" books? Ebooks? Both. I like Ebooks because I can carry them around with me and read when I have a few minutes, including on my phone when I didn't bring my "virtual" book. I also like reading in bed, and Ebooks don't rely on a lamp to illuminate the text. But I still like to see a book's cover and turn the pages and see how far I am in a book. Ebooks don't display pictures very well, so "actual" books are better for that too.

What are you reading these days? My book club alternates between fiction and non-fiction. That has been fun, and some books span both worlds. I love the conversations with my book club friends about what we are reading.

You are hosting a literary dinner party in your favorite Alameda restaurant. Which four to six authors (alive, or not, or imaginary) would you invite? Eleanor Roosevelt, Alice Waters, Lucia Berlin, Mark Twain, Gore Vidal, and Theodor Seuss Geisel. Just imagine the great conversations we could have! Where? Probably Trabocco, because it is light and open and has great food.

Tell us about your personal involvement with the FAL and the Foundation. I joined the Free Library Foundation Board at the urging of a friend. Since joining I have volunteered at book sales and concerts as well as individual events. I also worked on the team that merged the Foundation and the Friends just last year.

What are your hopes for the future of the Alameda Free Library? Our library is much more than a depository for books and ideas. It is a vibrant, living community center. My hope is that more people will discover our library, that the City increases its bare-bones funding and that more people volunteer to help the library serve our community. □

**Notes from Kris,
Our Editor**

*** CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:**

Thanks to Jeffrey Hitchings, Hallie Fields, Nancy Hird, Janet Levaux of the *Alameda Journal*, Judith Lynch, Karen Manuel, Billy Reinschmiedt, 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.

*** VISIT US AT**

friendsalamedafreelibrary.org. Our email is friendsalamedalibrary@gmail.com Have a story idea, a correction or an image to share? Our deadline for the April issue is March 23. Please email stories, inquiries and images to us —judithlynch7@gmail.com. Thank you! □



Libraries Outside: On the Bay!

Learn about sailing at a free "Community Day" Saturday May 20, hosted by the local nonprofit Alameda Community Sailing Center (ACSC). Details to follow in future FAL issues but do not wait! They are already taking registrations for their five summer "Sail Camp" two-week sessions, ideal for teaching students (ages 7-18) boat lore, boat safety, boat rigging, boat navigation, and more. Learn more at their website (works best if you spell it out). □



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
P.O. Box 1024
Alameda, CA 94501
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Inside this Issue

American Muslims Panel	2
Book Club Corner	4
Editor's Notes	5
FAL Mission	5
In Their Own Words	3
Libraries Outside Alert	5
Made in Alameda Show.	1
Meet FAL Secretary	5



- ☞ Monday, March 13, 6:30 p.m., Main Library, **Library Book Club** to discuss *Euphoria* see page 4
- ☞ Tuesday March 14, 6:00 p.m., Main Library, **Alameda Great Books Club** to discuss *Dreams*, see page 4
- ☞ Saturday March 18, noon-5 p.m. Stafford Room, **"Made in Alameda: A Local Showcase,"** see p. 1
- ☞ Wednesday April 5, 4:00 p.m. **Teen Book Club** to discuss *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, see page 4