

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



Dear Friend,

Welcome to our July newsletter. We have a lot of exciting programs and news to tell you about. Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter and please invite your friends to join us! They can sign up for our mailing list [here](#).

-The FAL Board

## President's message by Karen Butter



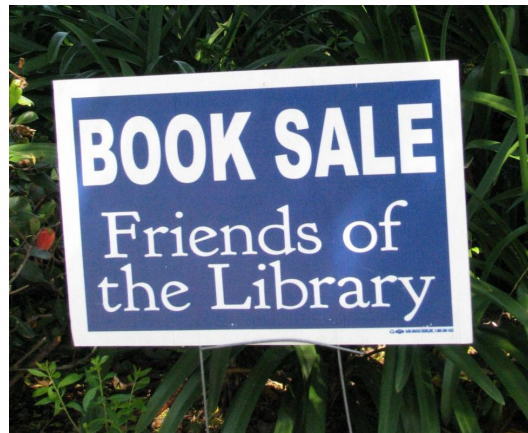
Congress is considering a number of infrastructure bills. One challenge is defining the term “infrastructure.” An excellent opinion piece in the New York Times by Eric Klinenberg talks about the need to include social infrastructure along with energy, transit, and health and communications. As he recounts, the New Deal funded construction of gathering places such as libraries, parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, gardens, etc. Many of the early social infrastructure projects are overrun and need updating and expansion. Alamedans understand this need as well with the inadequate size of the Bay Farm and West End branches. It is not possible to offer new and expanded library programs in the limited space. Friends of the Alameda Free Library will continue to look for opportunities to expand the branches. In the meantime, we all look forward to full re-opening of the Main Library and branches. They are cherished resources for all ages and information needs in our community.

The other infrastructure need is communications. Alameda’s communications

infrastructure is inadequate. There are parts of the island where reliable internet is not available, especially in communities with low-income residents, seniors and students. With the growing use of the internet to make appointments, read books, search for information, work from home, apply for jobs or benefits, reliable internet is a basic need. In this year's budget proposal the Library included a request for internet hotspot equipment that would be loaned to individuals. The request would serve as a temporary bridge until the City is able to establish internet service for all parts of the island. FAL will continue to lobby for funding of the internet hotspot equipment for the library.

## About the Book Sale

Many of you have been asking so here is the latest news about the book sale, which is our largest and most popular fundraiser. We are working hard to restart selling books. Our latest book sale manager took a full time paying position in her chosen profession and had to resign from the book sale. So we are taking this time to look at many possibilities. We are considering a number of book selling options, among them are online sales, a year round possibility, and restarting our traditional book sales. We are also looking at redesigning the management role into smaller components that are easier for volunteers to fulfill.

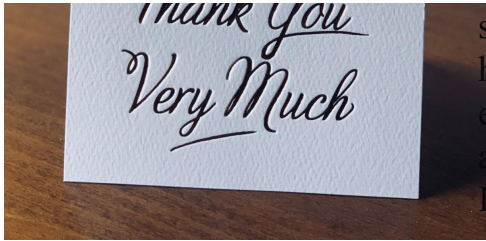


We are excited about these new opportunities and are searching for new volunteers who are interested in working on or leading these initiatives. If you are interested, know anyone who is interested, know anyone who would be good at this or might like to do this, please reach out to us and/or to them. Please email us [here](#).

## Thank you for giving!



We want to give a heartfelt thanks to those of you who have contributed to our



spring fundraising campaign. The pandemic has severely impacted our fundraising efforts. Your generous support is greatly appreciated, heartwarming and so important. It allows us to continue to support our wonderful library as it reopens to the

public.

## Consider selling on eBay for the Friends

eBay for Charity has partnered with the PayPal Giving Fund to make it easy for sellers to donate 10% to 100% of their item's final sale price to Friends of the Alameda Free Library. To donate some or all the proceeds of your eBay sales to Friends of the Alameda Free Library, [click here](#) to find out how.

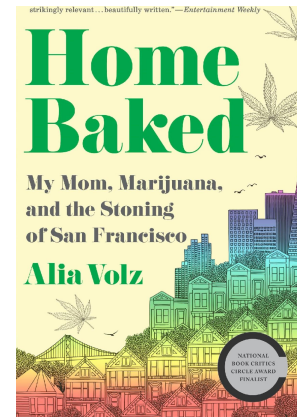


### From Sea to Shining Sea Art Docent Event July 14 @ 7 p.m.

Join us as we journey through the paintings of our 19th Century American artists, who depicted the country's spirit as defined by the landscape; from the first colonies along the Atlantic to the Ohio

River Valley, through the Louisiana Purchase and the Northwest Territory, from California Coasts to the Rio Grande, as America inched its way to complete the "footprint" of the continental United States. To learn more about this event or to register click [here](#).

**Alia Volz | Author  
Event  
Home Baked  
July 20 @ 7 p.m.**



Alia Volz's *Home Baked* tells the story of the author's family's rewarding sideline during the 1970s and '80s, delivering roughly 10,000 cannabis-powered brownies a month—Sticky Fingers Brownies, for those who might remember—to customers around the Bay Area, including those suffering through the early days of the AIDS crisis. To learn more about this event or to register click [here](#).



**Wangechi Mutu: I Am  
Speaking, Are You  
Listening?  
Art Docent Event  
August 16 @ 7 p.m.**

This talk will introduce you to Wangechi Mutu and her art, which includes bold sculptures of powerful female characters and fantastical hybrid beings made from bronze, branches,

bone, and gemstones. Don't miss this thought-provoking presentation by docent Sharon Walton about a profound and deeply moving art experience. To learn more about this event or to register click [here](#).

**We need your support!**

Making a donation is easy, just push the button below.

Remember, your donations are tax deductible!

**Donate Now**

Friends of the Alameda Free Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Tax ID 23-7437087



**Visit our Website**