

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



Dear Friend,

Welcome to our September 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



The LA Times recounts the vision of Katia Padilla who grew up in Mexico and loved to read, but books were too expensive. She dreamed, “I had a library all for myself.” She now lives in Chula Vista and has placed two little free libraries in front of her house. She would like to see little free libraries on every block and especially in low income areas.

One count of Alameda's little libraries finds at least 63 on the island. More citizens are installing them in their front yards all the time. A special thanks to Bike Walk Alameda for the bike tour and [map of the little free libraries](#).

Earlier this year the FAL Board took on the project to repair and restock the seven little free libraries in Alameda city parks. They were in various stages of disrepair and in some cases were not water tight, potentially allowing damage to the contents.

One of my siblings was evacuated due to the Caldor fire, so I avidly follow news stories. One report from the town of Grizzly Flats notes that a church was left standing and “Two Little Free Library kiosks near the road were untouched, the books inside them intact.”

Finally, we are all looking forward to the return of regular hours for the Alameda Free Library this month. A comment from Patti Brennan, Director of the National Library of Medicine, reflects on the feeling of many, "Of all the wonderful signs and sounds heralding a change in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, none is more welcome than the news that public libraries are reopening." I hope to see many of you enjoying the services, resources and programs again in our outstanding Alameda Free Library!

All Alameda libraries fully open September 7

The grand reopening of all Alameda libraries is coming September 7. Masks will be required, but the libraries will return to their pre-pandemic hours. See the [Alameda Free Library website](#) for the times of all three branches: the Main Branch, West End Branch, and Bay Farm Island Branch.



Librarians thank FAL for support



Alameda Free Library's 2021 Summer Reading Challenge went really well. We knew it would be an interesting year, but even with all the ups and downs, over 2,300 kids, teens, and adults joined us for a summer full of reading, virtual programs, story times,

and more.

"We couldn't have had this level of success without the help and generosity of the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. We wouldn't have special programming at the library at all without their support."

Eva Volin, Children's Services Librarian
Kat Kong, Teen Services Librarian
Sierra Campagna, Adult Services Librarian

FAL maintaining the City's free little libraries

If you have noticed that the City's little libraries look much improved and the contents regularly restocked, you are correct. Thanks to the efforts of FAL volunteer



Stephen Johnson, all the city's little libraries have been repaired and refurbished to make them water tight and pleasant to use. FAL board member Billy Reinschmidt is restocking the city's little libraries on a regular basis with books donated to our book sales.



The city's Little Libraries are at the following locations: Lincoln Park, Chochenyo Park, ARPD Office, McKinley Park, Littlejohn Park, Washington Park, and Longfellow Park. Check out the little libraries and find some great books.

In memory of Shirley and Harold Gow



FAL President Karen Butter met recently with Gayle Gow to show her the plaque that will be placed on the donor wall of the main library in memory of her parents.

The Gows moved to Alameda in 1965. Gayle's mother Shirley was a poet, was active in the Kiwanis Club, loved bridge, and reading. Her father Harold ran a business and loved to

read biographies.

The Gows were long time supporters of the library and contributed to the installation of the elevator in the main library.

Celebration of life for Lynda Graham

Lynda Graham, who died in April of this year, was a longtime and valued volunteer with the Friends of the Alameda Free Library's used book sale team. Her expertise and presence are sorely missed. FAL has made a contribution in her name to the Alameda Free Library for DVD and media purchases. A Celebration of Life for Lynda will be held on Saturday, September 18. For more



information, see her daughter's announcement on [Facebook](#).



Judy Chicago: A Retrospective

Art Docent Event

September 13 @ 7 p.m.

[Find out more and register here.](#)



Hung Liu: Golden Gate

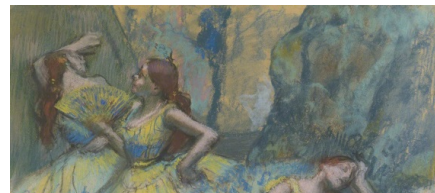
Art Docent Event

October 13 @ 7 p.m.

[Find out more and register here.](#)

It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent death of Hung Liu. You may read [her obituary here](#).

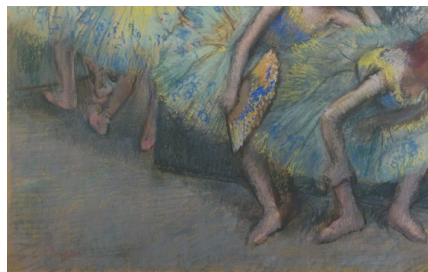
Color Into Line: Pastels from the Renaissance to the Present



Art Docent Event

October 27 @ 7 p.m.

[Find out more and register here.](#)



Carol Edgarian/Author

Vera

November 17 @ 7 p.m.

New York Times bestselling author Carol Edgarian delivers a grand adventure set in 1906 San Francisco—a city leveled by quake and fire, greed and corruption. [Find out more information and register here.](#)



Find us on YouTube

While copyright issues keep us from recording many of the art docent programs, we record most of our author talks. If you aren't able to attend our Friends @ Home events in real time, you may be able to enjoy them at a later date. Recordings are posted within a few days of each event. [Check our website](#) for the past events we have recorded or go to YouTube.com and subscribe to our [Friends of the Alameda Free Library channel](#). Enjoy!

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