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Dear Friend,

Welcome to our November newsletter, our last for 2021. 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



As this is the last newsletter for 2021, I want to look back on the past year and give a sneak peek at 2022. Without the ability to hold in-person events, we organized very successful Friends @ Home art docent and author talks. Over the past 18 months, 5,180 people registered for the events with 3,500 actually attending. For a very small organization, this is a remarkable number and attests to top notch productions by dedicated, creative volunteers. In May 2020, we had no experience producing online events but the Friends @ Home team jumped in with both feet and learned all about zooming. For the near future we will continue with virtual Friends @ Home programs.

Our last large used book sale was October 2019 and it was very successful. We were planning the Spring 2020 sale when all in-person events were cancelled. We shifted to selling a limited number of used books online, which served as a stepping stone for our 2022 plans. We are now in early planning stages for our large used book sale at the O'Club in the Fall of 2022 (and

have an opening for a manager for that event.) In January, library visitors will find a used bookstore across from Dewey's Café. We are all very excited about a year-round physical bookstore. This will allow us to reduce our substantial inventory and accept limited donations.

The success of these programs and events is a tribute to the commitment of FAL Board members and volunteers and to the support of our outstanding Library Director, Jane Chisaki. Someone sent me a quote (attributed to Socrates) that captures the spirit of our organization: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new." We continue to look for the new in 2022 and I hope to see all our supporters as we hold in-person events.

Used book store coming soon

We will be opening a small used book store in the library near Dewey's Cafe. We are planning a soft opening sometime in January 2022. Updates will be made on our website and in the January newsletter. Stay tuned!

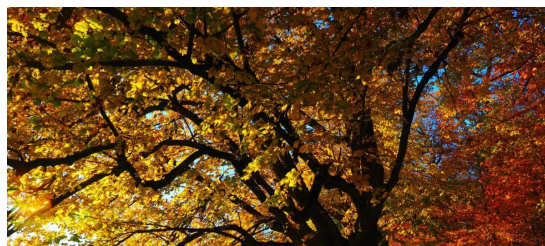
We are in need of a number of volunteers for various book sale related jobs. If you have an interest in volunteering and would like to find out more about the jobs available, please email volunteer@alamedafriends.com

Many of you will be happy to hear that we hope to begin accepting book donations again in January.

We will have more information about book donations in our January newsletter. In the meantime, please do not leave donations at the library. The library does not have the staff nor the capacity to accept used book donations.



Fall Appeal Underway





The Annual Appeal is the lifeblood for FAL and enables us to continue to support the programs and services of the Alameda Free Library that you have come to know and love.

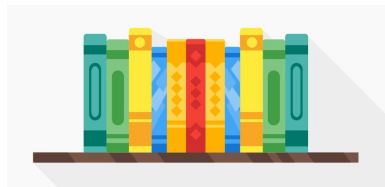
This year has been hard. And it *still* is hard. Because of your support, the Alameda Free Library has weathered an extraordinary year. But we still need your help. Please consider a gift to the Annual Fund today.

As a reminder, the *Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020* extends the tax deduction allowances from the *Cares Act* for 2021. It is up to \$300 per individual or \$600 for joint filers not itemizing and up to 100% AGI for those who do itemize for 2021. (More information at www.irs.gov)

Your donation makes the difference between a good library and a great one.
Thank You!

Annual Fund

Thank you for Books Inc. Fundraiser



FAL's Fundraiser November 1st was a big success. With the stellar staff at Books Inc. and the many Alamedans who braved the rainy weather to support FAL, AUSD school libraries (over 85% of the books reserved for school libraries were sold), the Alameda Free Library, and a good local business, how could it not be? A huge *thank you* goes to Books Inc., Anthony Ramirez and his amazing staff, and to so many generous Alameda residents, all of whom contributed so much to this fundraiser success. We at FAL are grateful to you all.

Happy Holidays

Friends of the Alameda Free Library thank our



many volunteers and supporters for your time and generous donations throughout the year, helping us keep our mission to support the Alameda Free Library. Our mission continues, and we hope you will all continue with us. Our next newsletter will come out January 2022. Happy holidays to all.



American Abstractionism at Midcentury

An Art Docent Event

November 10 @ 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.](#)



Lauren Gunderson, Playwright, In Conversation with Mary Ellen Hunt

December 13 @ 7 p.m.

Lauren Gunderson has been one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015, topping the list twice including 2019/20. She is a two-time winner of the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for *I and You* and *The Book of Will*. Her newest play “Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley” co-written with Margot Melcon premieres this November at Marin Theatre Company. MarinTheatre.org



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

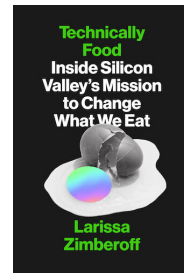


Larissa Zimmerhoff/Author

Technically Food

January 19 @ 7 p.m.

TECHNICALLY FOOD: Inside Silicon Valley's Mission to Change What We Eat by investigative reporter Larissa Zimmerhoff is the first comprehensive survey of the food companies at the forefront of this booming business.



More information and registration

coming soon.

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.
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