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Dear Friend,

Welcome to our March 2022 newsletter. We have 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



Fingers crossed for our grand opening of the Books for Friends store this month! We think we will meet this date now that COVID cases are low in our community and we have worked out the kinks in opening a new operation. The book sale team has put in many long hours planning, moving books, setting up shelving and, in general, working out all the details for the opening. A big thank you to the many volunteers who are part of the team. You can find details about the opening later in the newsletter.

We were excited to reopen Dewey's Friends Cafe on Valentine's Day. There is a limited menu and all food must be eaten on the adjacent patio. Please stop by if you are in the area to say Hi and welcome the cafe volunteers back. The cafe team has also devoted many hours to ensuring a successful reopening and we are very grateful to them for their great work.

I ran across a very useful guide, "Secrets of the Library" by Alexa Diaz. She

lists six secrets although only five apply to Alameda.

1. Get a Library Card
2. Explore the Stacks
3. Trust the Experts (librarians are a tremendous resource to assist its use)
4. Say the Magic Words 'I'd like a Hold, please'
5. Think Outside the Books (the library is much more than just books)

While the article includes Conquer Your Fear of Fines, we are delighted that our library no longer issues late fees. The library may appear overwhelming but these suggestions will help you to navigate this tremendous community resource.

Finally, I want to extend a very warm welcome to two new FAL Board Members - Cindy Silva and Susan Schonberg. Both are very excited to join the board and have already made significant contributions to the book sale team. We have more information about them later in the newsletter. I also want to thank Jo Winzenread who is leaving the board after many dedicated years to FAL. She will be missed. Jo says it is OK to call, we have her number!

BIG news from the book sale committee

Books for Friends (BFF):

We are very excited about our new used book sale space, Books for Friends. It will open **Thursday, March 17th, at noon**, and will be open **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 12-4 p.m.** You can find BFF in the former donation room at the main library just across and down the hall from Dewey's Friends Cafe. Our committee members have a curated selection of used books in excellent condition that we know you will like.



And speaking of used book donations: FAL is happy to announce that book donations are now being accepted, by appointment only. We accept donated books, DVDs, and CDs to help raise funds for Alameda's libraries. Your donations are necessary and appreciated.

Please DO NOT leave your donations at the library without an appointment. The library does not have the staff to support the collection or sorting of donations.

To donate, call (510) 747-7737 or send an email to booksale@alamedafriends.com to schedule an appointment for your donation. Please visit our [website](#) for further information about donating books and other media.

Mark your calendars for our Pop-Up Used Book Sale:

Join us for our first Pop-Up Book Sale on **March 12, 12 - 4 p.m.** featuring mysteries, sci-fi, adventure and fantasy novels. The sale will be held in the Stafford Room at the main branch library at 1550 Oak St. in Alameda. See you there.

Watch for more Pop-Up sale dates coming soon.

Finally, coming this fall, our traditional Used Book Sale

We are looking forward to the return to our semi-annual Used Book Sale this **October 21, 22, and 23** at the O'Club at Alameda Point. We wait to see you all at this venerable event.

Many, many thanks go to our very hardworking used book sale team from all of us at FAL. We appreciate all you are doing.

Dewey's Friends Cafe is now open



Dewey's Friends Cafe at the main branch of Alameda Free Library is now open five days a week, **Monday through Friday from 12 - 4 pm.** Our friendly FAL volunteers are happy to serve up drinks and snacks. Please enjoy your food and drinks on the patio behind the cafe.

FAL Board welcomes two new members

The FAL Board is very pleased to welcome Cindy Silva and Susan Schonberg to our board. They each bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to share and each has already put in many hours working as part of the used book sale committee.

Cindy Silva has a long history with FAL, serving as the Friends Board President for several years and volunteering for more than 20 years to support the work of the Friends. You'll recognize Cindy from the check-out table of our used book sales in years past. She recently served on the City of Alameda Library Board and is an active volunteer and member of AAUW, League of Women Voters, and Girls Inc. She has 48 years of experience in banking operations, sales and finance. Cindy has recently taken on the co-chair responsibilities for our book sale, as we plan the return to our traditional Used Book Sale this coming October. We are delighted that Cindy has chosen to join the board again.



Susan Schonberg has served on a variety of corporate and non-profit boards, including Clorox Gift Campaign (President), East Oakland Youth Development Center (Investment Analyst), Basic Vegetable (Financial Analyst/Logistics Director), and Clorox (Investor Relations Analyst). She has a strong background in finance, logistics and fundraising. She is also a published author. Susan shares, "I want to give back to the community, especially to an organization that has given so much to me and my family personally over the years." We welcome Susan to our board.

Call for volunteers





We have many volunteer opportunities available to you. Whether you want to volunteer from home or come to us, we have abundant need for people with a variety of skills. We are in need of people interested in managing the **Communications Committee**, staffing **Dewey's Friends Cafe**, or working on the various **book sale events**. Please click [here to learn more](#).

Call for board members



Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL) is accepting applications from members of the Alameda community who would like to serve on our board of directors. We are looking for applicants who reflect the diversity of the Alameda community and would like to enhance their leadership skills while advocating for a strong, vibrant library. To apply, please send a letter of interest to volunteer@alamedafriends.com. Please indicate why you are interested in serving on the board and how your background and expertise could support the board.

FAL is a nonprofit organization that contributes to the ongoing services and growth of the Alameda Free Library and supports its services and programs through advocacy, volunteerism, and fundraising to supplement public funding. To learn more, visit our website at <https://alamedafriends.com>.



Alice Neel

Art Docent Event

March 9 @ 7 p.m.

Join us for a talk on the first comprehensive West Coast museum survey of the work of American artist Alice Neel (1900–1984). This retrospective, featuring paintings, drawings, watercolors, and film, marks Neel as one of the century's most radical painters, a champion of social justice whose commitment to humanist principles inspired her life and art.



Our exploration will be led by docent Maureen O'Brien, who received both her B. A. in Art History and her Master's Degree in the Humanities with an Emphasis in Art History from Dominican University of California in San Rafael.

Find more information [here](#).

Register [here](#).

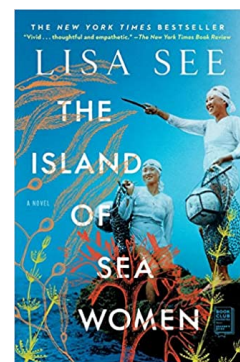


Lisa See Author

The Island of Sea Women

March 16 @ 7 p.m.

A vivid and thoughtful novel about two girls who join the other women in their community as sea



divers. They have many adventures and experience some dangers as well. The novel follows them throughout their lives which go in different directions.

Find more information [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Guo Pei: Couture Fantasy

Art Docent Event

April 13 @ 7 p.m.

Join us for a look at the extraordinary designs of Guo Pei, hailed as China's first couturier, in an exhibition that includes more than 60 works from the past two decades, highlighting her most important collections shown on Beijing and Paris runways. Through exquisite craftsmanship, lavish embroidery, and unconventional dressmaking techniques, Guo Pei creates a fantasy that fuses the influences of China's imperial past, export art, European architecture, international theater, and the botanical world.



Find more information [here](#).

Register [here](#).



Sarah Penner

Author

The Lost Apothecary

April 20 @ 7 p.m.

Sarah Penner is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of *The Lost Apothecary* which will be translated into forty languages worldwide and is set to be turned into a drama series by Fox.

In her addictive and spectacularly imagined debut, Sarah Penner tells us of an eighteenth century female apothecary who secretly dispenses poisons to liberate women from the men who have wronged them—setting three lives across centuries on a dangerous collision course.

Find more information [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Find us on YouTube



We record as many events as possible, copyright permitting. If you have missed a Friends @ Home event, you may be able to find a recording online. [Check our website](#) or go to YouTube.com and subscribe to our [Friends of the Alameda Free Library channel](#). Enjoy!

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