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Dear Friend,

Welcome to our May 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



We are witnessing censorship in many parts of the country. In Llano County, Texas elected officials removed books because they disagreed with the ideas, closed library board meetings to the public and dissolved the library board, replacing them with political appointees and fired the librarian. I am grateful that our community values diversity of thought and opposes censorship. In Llano County an activist group that includes a board member of the library's foundation filed a lawsuit alleging the county violated their constitutional rights by removing award winning books, including Maurice Sendak's classic "In the Night Kitchen" and "Caste: The Origins of our Discontent" by Isabelle Wilkerson. According to the American Library Association, there were 729 challenges to library materials in 2021 and it expects an increase this year.

Libraries provide incredible services to our communities. April 3-9 was National Library Week and the theme was "Connect with Your Library," connecting technologies, communities, resources, programs and ideas.

Friends of the Alameda Free Library recognized the library staff with a lunch to thank them for outstanding service and programs to the Alameda community especially in the face of many challenges from the pandemic. I am very excited about two new 'connection' programs sponsored by our library. Last year, FAL wrote a letter of support to the city council to fund Wi-Fi hotspots - internet access points that connect multiple devices. The program is now operational and community members can checkout a hotspot with their library card. Another fantastic new program connects the community to the outdoors. library card holders can check out a free vehicle day-use entry to over 200 participating State Parks.

FAL is holding our second Pop-Up Book Sale on May 7 with a special selection of books for Mother's Day. Plan to attend and buy a gift for Mom. Shopping is also available that day at Books for Friends, just across the hall from the Stafford Room. All sale proceeds support programs for the Alameda Free Library.



This sale is in honor of Mother's Day, you will find very reasonably priced children's books, crafts/hobbies, gardening, cookbooks, and more. During the last 30 minutes of the sale, you may purchase a grocery bag filled with books and media of your choice for \$5. Pop-Up Book Sales are held in the Stafford Room at the main library. Books For Friends and Dewey's Friends Cafe will be open during the Pop-Up Sale.

Mark your calendars

Our next Pop-Up Sale will be **Saturday, June 25, 12 - 4 p.m.**

Pride Day is the focus of this sale, we will have LGBTQ+ content. The sale

is dedicated to Lawrence Reh, a gay faith leader whose estate donated 70 boxes of books to FAL.

Books for Friends is now open

Open hours

Thursday 12 - 4 p.m.

Friday 12 - 4 p.m.

Saturday 12 - 4 p.m.

Our new, used book selling space is across from Dewey's Friends Cafe in the main library on Oak Street. We have carefully selected great quality used books in many genres for your shopping pleasure. Prices are very reasonable. Credit cards are accepted.



We are accepting book donations!

We are happy to announce that book donations are now being accepted, **by appointment only**. We accept used books, DVDs, and CDs to help raise funds for Alameda's libraries. Your donations are necessary, appreciated, and tax deductible.

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 schedule an appointment, please fill out this [form](#) and a volunteer will contact you to schedule a pick-up or drop-off. If you have any trouble filling out the form, please email booksale@alamedafriends.com or call (510) 747-7737 and leave a message. Visit our [website](#) for further information about donating books and other media.

Thank you for thinking of and supporting FAL.

Visit Dewey's Friends Cafe



Dewey's Friends Cafe is open **Monday - Friday from 12 - 4 pm.** The cafe will also be open during our Pop-Up Sales.

The tables and chairs are returning to the cafe, so you may choose indoor or outdoor seating while you enjoy your food and drinks.

Spring Annual Fund Campaign

A treasure like the Alameda Free Library does not happen by accident - it's made possible by people like you. Your support allows our library to provide the very best in books, music, movies and technology - and grow its collections and programs in exciting ways. Spring is here and Friends of the Alameda Free Library is excited to announce the return of many of our beloved programs you've been patiently waiting for and some new and exciting additions. Friends @ Home continues to offer amazing online art docent and author presentations for all generations. Dewey's Cafe has reopened in the library, and the traditional FAL Used Book Sale at the O'Club is scheduled to return in October. Books for Friends is our new used book selling space at the main library.

We hope you will consider a generous gift to the Spring Annual Fund Campaign. This fund provides ongoing support for the many programs and services of the Alameda Free Library, including the annual Summer Reading Program for all ages. Make a gift to the Spring Annual Fund Campaign today by visiting our [website here](#).

We need you!



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 our



Communications Committee, staffing Dewey's Friends Cafe, staffing Books for Friends, or working on the various book sale events. Please click [here to learn](#)

[more.](#)

URGENT NEED FOR BOOK MOVERS

Do you have a truck or larger SUV and two or more hours a week to help out the Book Sale Committee? We are a dedicated group of FAL volunteers tasked with all the behind the scenes work to support selling donated books. Our past sales events are an Alameda tradition that help circulate low cost books within our community. If you are able and willing to help with picking up donations and/or moving boxes on a regular ongoing basis, please reach out to us via our [website](#).

Call for boardmembers



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>.



California Ceramic Tradition

Art Docent Event

May 11 @ 7 p.m.

Learn about some of the state's most interesting clay crafters, from studios in Berkeley, on Catalina Island, and in Southern California — familiar names like Arequipa, California Faience, Bauer, Metlox, and fascinating individuals like Marguerite Wildenhain, Jade Snow Wong, and Edith Heath.

Find more information [here](#).
Register [here](#).



Gail Tsukiyama

Author

The Color of Air

May 16 @ 5 p.m.

National bestselling author Gail Tsukiyama's latest book *The Color of*

Air is a gorgeous and evocative historical novel about a Japanese-American

family set against the backdrop of Hawaii's sugar plantations.

Gail Tsukiyama was born in San Francisco to a Chinese mother from Hong Kong and a Japanese father from Hawaii. She is the bestselling author of *Women of the Silk* and *The Samurai's Garden*, as well as the recipient of the Academy of American Poets Award and the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Literary Award.

Find more information [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Behind the Scenes at Bouquets to Arts

Art Docent Event

June 1 @ 7 p.m.



Have you ever wondered how Bouquets to Art started and became one of the most popular events at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco? Have you ever marveled at the floral designs and the floral artists who created them, and admired the materials used? This talk will reveal what goes on behind-the-scenes to make this highly successful event happen each year. The speaker will show works of art in the museum's collection and explain how floral artists have interpreted them in their designs. Now, in its 38th year, find out what's in store for Bouquets to Art 2022!

Find out more [here](#).

Register [here](#).



Story of a Great Love: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo

Art Docent Event

June 8 @ 7 p.m.

Join us as we welcome Phoenix Art Museum docent Isabel

Ballerna for an exploration of two towering figures of 20th Century art, Frida

Kahlo and Diego Rivera.

The two iconic artists each possessed boundless talent bolstered by an unbending will! As partners they possessed each other with a ferocious love, intense and complicated. But beyond their mutual love was a more profound and intrinsic love: that for their country of birth Mexico.

Find out more [here](#).

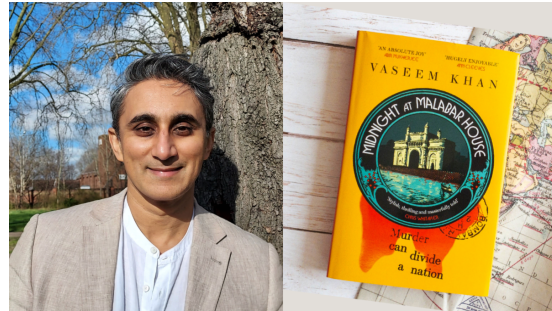
Register [here](#).

Vaseem Khan

Author

June 15 @ 7 p.m.

Bestselling crime fiction author Vaseem Khan takes us on an exhilarating journey from the last days of the Raj to the heart of modern India. Vaseem's Malabar House series is set in 1950s Bombay. This was just a few years after Indian independence, the assassination of Gandhi, and the horrors of Partition, which events Mr. Khan will examine in this illuminating talk. He will also reveal Dante's unique connection to the city of Bombay.



The first book in the series, *Midnight at Malabar House*, won the United Kingdom's Crime Writers Association Historical Dagger award for 2021.

Find out more [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!

We need your support!

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