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Dear Friend,

Here's our August 2022 newsletter. Read about our latest news and programs below. Pease forward this email to your friends and invite them to join us!

-The FAL Board

Join Mailing List

President's message by Karen Butter

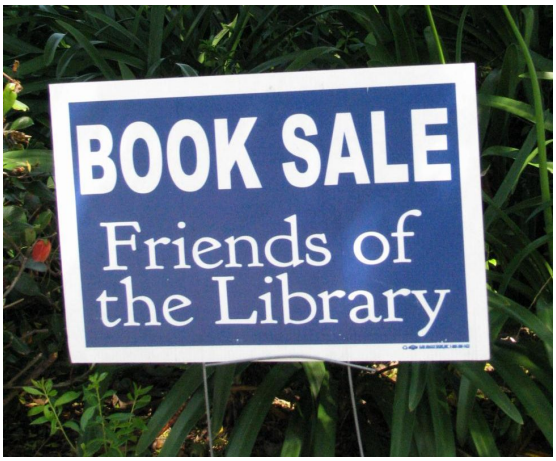
There was a terrific piece on CBS Sunday Morning – the 21st Century Public Library – about the exciting changes in public libraries throughout the country. One person referred to the library as the community living room and another said its purpose was the engagement of the public. The mayor of Austin, upon the opening of the new public library there, said the most interesting things people check out are seed packets. The Alameda Free Library also checks out seeds as well as garden tools. Our library is continuing to reinvent itself to serve the changing needs of our community. Check out the many new services!

The Friends of the Alameda Free Library is changing too. We offer amazing Friends @ Home art docent and author talks. We have multiple options to purchase used books including the Books for Friends store and one day pop-ups. The exciting news everyone is waiting to hear about is the return of the

traditional Used Book Sale at the O'Club. This popular event is coming this October 21 - 23, after an absence of three long years. We have had many, many questions about the Big Sale so we know the public is as excited as we are about its return. We have more than 1,000 boxes of books, so mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us and buy some great quality books at low prices.

In frequent talks with Alamedans, I've discovered that many people are not aware of our outstanding online author and docent talks. I encourage our readers to check out the schedule below or on our **website**, register to attend and invite friends and neighbors. There is no charge to attend and every one is fascinating and informative.

The Big Sale returns!



We are so happy to announce that our venerable and sorely missed Used Book Sale is returning this year. Mark your calendars:

October 21-23
at The O' Club
Alameda Point

Volunteers are needed for a number of jobs.
Sign-up here.
We are also looking for someone with marketing expertise/interest to help with the book sale.

We accept donations year-round. There may be times when we are temporarily unable to accept donations due to the high volume of books from our generous donors. We typically halt donations just before our O'Club Used Book Sales also.
Check here to see the most up-to-date status.

Books for Friends

Open Thursday - Saturday
Noon - 4 p.m.
Located across from Dewey's Friends Cafe

Books for Friends (BFF) is our used book shop in the main library. The books are in exceptional, almost-new condition. The selection of books is carefully curated by Philip Barry, the BFF manager.

We'd love it if every library patron visited BFF every time they visit the library. Not only can patrons find a great selection of well-priced books, but all purchases directly support the library.

FAL awarded ARPA cash grant

In response to economic, health, and safety impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local non-profit and business organizations, the County of Alameda has launched a new program, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Supervisorial District Community Needs Cash Aid Grants program. This new program will infuse much needed cash aid into the community and spur Alameda County's economic recovery.

FAL is the grateful recipient of a $20,000 grant to defray the operating losses caused by the pandemic from March 2020 to present.

Many thanks to Dave Brown, Alameda County Supervisor for District 3, and the board of supervisors who approved the grant at their recent meeting on July 19th.

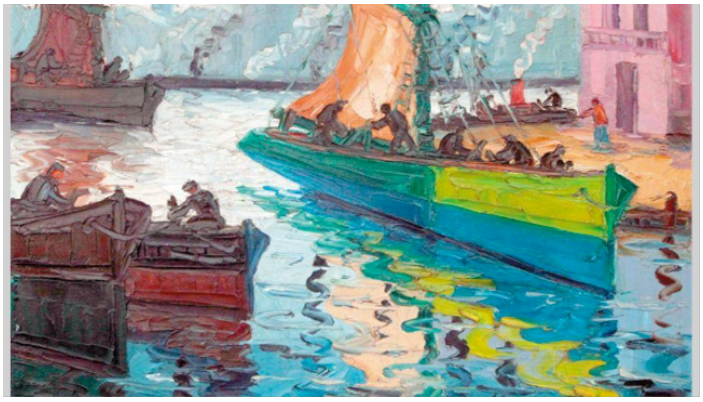
We need you!

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 quality 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.**



Buenos Aires: Tango & Impressionism

Art Docent Event

August 10 @ 7 p.m.

This presentation features the art of Benito Quinquela Martin who was a painter of his beloved port "La Boca." For him, color was life and his life was color. His paintings of port scenes show the activity, vigor and roughness of the daily port life. Benito Quinquela Martin is recognized as a great artist worldwide for his inherent talent and profound love of color and tango music.

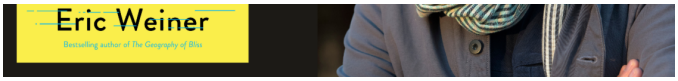
Our guide for this fascinating talk will be Phoenix Art Museum docent Isabel Ballerna, who recently presented a program on the relationship between Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Isabel is a native of Buenos Aires.

Find out more **here.**
Register **here.**

Author Eric Weiner

The Socrates Express

August 17 @ 5 p.m.



The New York Times bestselling author of *The Geography of Bliss* embarks on a rollicking intellectual journey, following in the footsteps of history's greatest thinkers and showing us how each - from Epicurus to Nietzsche, Thoreau to Gandhi - offers practical and spiritual lessons for today's unsettled times.

"We contemplate for the same reasons we travel: to see the world from a different perspective, to unearth hidden beauty and find new ways of being. We want to learn how to embrace wonder. Face regrets. Sustain hope."

Eric Weiner is an award-winning journalist, bestselling author, and speaker. Eric is a former foreign correspondent for NPR, and reporter for The New York Times. He is a regular contributor to The Washington Post, BBC Travel, and AFAR, among other publications. He lives in the Washington, D.C. area.

Find more information **here.**
Register **here.**

Ramses the Great

Art Docent Event

August 31 @ 7 p.m.

Ramses II, known as Ramses the Great, was the most celebrated and powerful pharaoh of the New Kingdom, which was Egypt's golden age. Believed to be a living god, Ramses ruled for 67 years, erecting enormous temples, obelisks, and statues while also expanding Egypt's empire. *Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharoahs* features one of the greatest collection of Egyptian artifacts ever to travel to the United States. This talk will explore Ramses' life and discuss the marvelous treasures in this exhibition, from the pharaoh's colossal royal sculpture to mummies and exquisite Egyptian jewelry.

We will be guided through this exhibit by one of our favorite art docents, Marsha Holm.

Find out more **here**.
Register **here**.

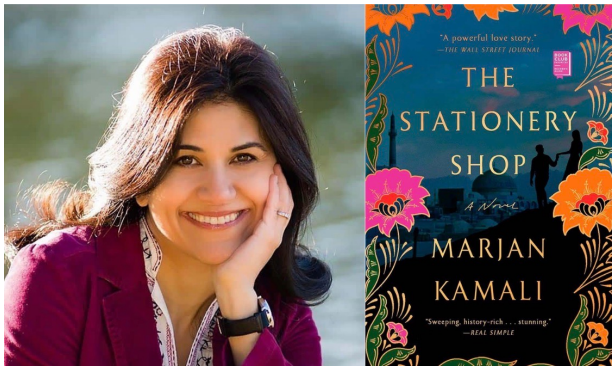
Faith Ringgold: American People

Art Docent Event

September 14 @ 7 p.m.

Throughout her long career, artist Faith Ringgold has drawn from personal and collective histories to document both her life and the struggle for justice and equity. The exhibition "Faith Ringgold: American People" at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco brings together fifty years of groundbreaking work, and is the most comprehensive exhibition of her art to date. From painting to experimental story quilts, this talk will show how Ringgold's artistic style evolved to bear witness to the complexity of the American experience. Long overdue, this retrospective provides a timely opportunity to engage with the art of an American icon.

Find more information **here**.
Register **here.**



Author Marjan Kamali

The Stationery Shop

September 19 @ 5 p.m.

Roya is a dreamy, idealistic teenager living in 1953 Tehran who, amidst the political upheaval of the time, finds a literary oasis in kindly Mr. Fakhri's neighborhood book and stationery shop. She always feels safe in his dusty store, overflowing with fountain pens, shiny ink bottles, and thick pads of soft writing paper.

When Mr. Fakhri, with a keen instinct for a budding romance, introduces Roya to his other favorite customer - handsome Bahman, who has a burning passion for justice and a love for Rumi's poetry - she loses her heart at once. And, as their romance blossoms, the modest little stationery shop remains

their favorite place in all of Tehran.

Marjan Kamali is the award-winning author of The Stationery Shop (Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster), a national bestseller, and Together Tea (EccoBooks/HarperCollins), a Massachusetts Book Award finalist. She is a 2022 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship.

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!

We need your support!

Making a donation is easy!

Just push the button below.

Remember, your donations are tax deductible!

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

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