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President's message by Karen Butter



With thanks to our supporters and music lovers, our first Live @ the Library concert was a remarkable success. The sold-out concert featured the outstanding jazz singer Jackie Ryan accompanied by the incredible jazz pianist Tamir Hendelman performing music about Love. The audience was captivated by the artistry of the pair and the quality of their performance. Attendees socialized before the concert and at intermission. Many took the opportunity to shop for books at BFF, which had special opening hours for concert

attendees. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next concert on March 25!

On February 14, the New York Times featured a charming article, *A Love Letter to Libraries*, which documented the changing roles of libraries and librarians in seven states. No longer represented by 'the quiet old lady whispering hush,' photos featured lively children catching bubbles, books being delivered to seniors, a group of teens playing guitars, a father reading *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* to his two children, a tool lending library and a bike repair clinic. The pictures presented not the libraries many of us remember from our childhood but an exciting future for a much revered institution.

"Libraries still offer many traditional services with some unfortunate restrictions...librarians still find time to match people with the books they need. These selections may be second-guessed by irate taxpayers who don't know the difference between F. Scott Fitzgerald and L. Ron Hubbard or don't understand that ideas and stories aren't contagious; the only disease they'll infect you with is empathy."

The story ends with heartfelt words from library lovers everywhere, giving library supporters the responsibility to ensure libraries' unencumbered future: "in a time rife with shadows... libraries are the beating hearts of our communities. What we borrow from them pales in comparison to what we keep. How often we pause to appreciate their bounty is up to us."

As Alamedans, we are so fortunate to have an outstanding library that continually provides new programs and services that meet the needs of our community.

Books For Friends

Books For Friends
Open Thursday - Saturday
12 - 4 p.m.

Quality books at great prices!

Books, videos, and CDs are curated by Books for Friends (BFF) manager Philip Barry. BFF is located in the Main Library across from Dewey's Friends Cafe.

Gift cards are also available for purchase.



Books For Friends | Featured Video



Meet FAL volunteers Marcie Soslau, Philip Barry, and Serena Hom!

Hear from BFF volunteers in this interview with Anne McKereghan.

Many thanks to our sponsors

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all our Live @ the Library sponsors.**

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Friends @ Home event | March 8

Designing Homes

Art Docent Event

March 8 @ 7 p.m.

Brimming with a dazzling array of vintage furnishings, textiles, wallpapers, ceramics, photographs and ephemera, this major exhibit focused on more than forty architects and designers who helped spark America's embrace of midcentury modernism. Join former Contemporary Jewish Museum docent Susan Light for a retrospective of this 2014 exhibit.

Learn more [here](#).
Register [here](#).



Mini Used Book Sale Friday and Saturday, March 17- 18



We'll have a large selection of quality books for all ages! This Mini Book Sale will be held on **March 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** each day. Children's books are 50 cents each, while all other books range from \$1 to \$3. The sale will be held in **the Stafford Room at the Main Library.**

The Cafe and Books for Friends will be open during the Mini Book Sale.

Our mini book sales will replace the traditional Big Book Sale at the O'Club this spring. Stay tuned for future dates.

Friends @ Home Event | March 22

Author Debbie Chinn

Dancing in Their Light

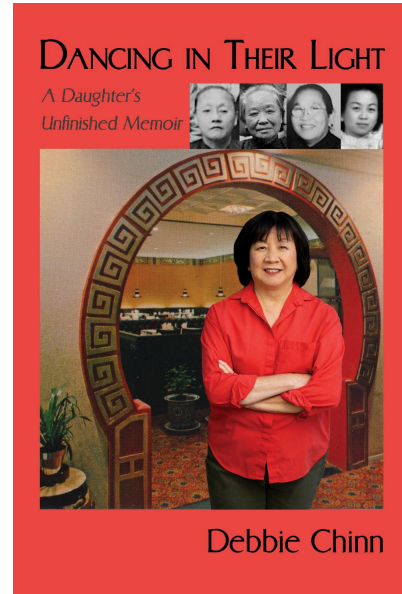
March 22 @ 7 p.m.

Debbie Chinn has had a remarkable career in the lively arts, but her family's history as immigrants from China is just as remarkable. Debbie is the executive director of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and a former managing director of California Shakespeare Theatre in Orinda, along with many other significant posts in a long career in arts administration.

About a decade ago, she started piecing together stories and memorabilia from her extended family, from their roots in China to their several paths of immigration to America. The primary purpose of this project was to preserve the information for the family's generations to come. Later on, however, in light of the 2016 Presidential Election and the subsequent rise of anti-Asian hatred in the U.S., Chinn decided to publish her family's story to highlight Chinese Americans' contributions to American society, economic success, and culture.

The result is *Dancing in Their Light: A Daughter's Unfinished Memoir*, published in 2022.

Learn more [here](#).
Register [here](#).



Live @ the Library | March 25 **SOLD OUT!**



March 25 @ 7 p.m.

Mimi Fox

Mimi Fox is an American jazz guitarist and educator known internationally for her work. She is the winner of six consecutive DownBeat International Critics Polls and has performed with many prominent guitarists, including Charlie Byrd, Stanley Jordan, and Charles Hunter. She also led the guitar department at the California Jazz

Conservatory. Mimi will be performing with the two other members of her all-star trio in a program that showcases her emotional depth and finesse.

Friends @ Home Event | April 5

Author Susan Straight

Mecca

April 5 @ 7 p.m.

From National Book Award finalist Susan Straight, *Mecca* is a stunning epic tracing the intertwined lives of native Californians fighting for life and land.

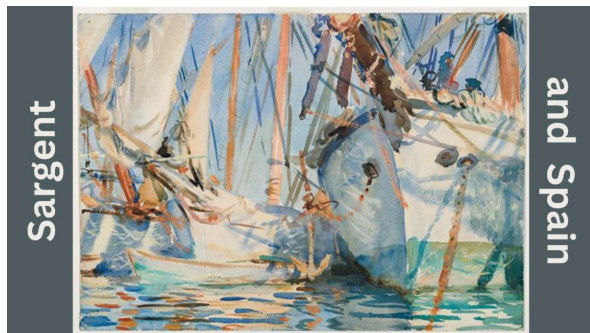


Johnny Frías has California in his blood. A descendant of the state's Indigenous people and Mexican settlers, he has Southern California's forgotten towns and canyons in his soul. He spends his days as a highway patrolman pulling over speeders, ignoring their racist insults, and pushing past the trauma of his rookie year. He killed a man assaulting a young woman named Bunny, who ran from the scene, leaving Johnny without a witness. But like the Santa Ana winds that every year bring the risk of fire, Johnny's moment of action twenty years ago sparked a slow-burning chain of connections that unites a vibrant, complex cast of characters in ways they never see coming.

In *Mecca*, Susan Straight crafts an unforgettable American epic, examining race, history, family, and destiny through the interlocking stories of a group of native Californians all gasping for air.

Learn more [here](#).
Register [here](#).

Friends @ Home Event | April 12



Sargent and Spain

Art Docent Event

April 12 @ 7 p.m.

American artist John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) is known as the society portrait painter of the Gilded Age. A lifelong expatriate,

Sargent made seven visits to Spain from 1879 to 1912, resulting in a remarkable body of work. This exhibition is the first to explore the influence of Spain on Sargent's work, and the Legion of Honor will be its exclusive West Coast stop. Sargent and Spain will present an array of the artist's dazzling oils, watercolors, and drawings, along with never-before-exhibited photographs showcasing Spain's people, architecture, and magnificent rural and urban landscapes. This talk will immerse you in the rich culture of Spain

and Sargent's vibrant depictions of the country's churches, coastlines, and dancers.

Luanne Andreotti, arts writer, editor, and docent at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, will lead us in a talk on the exhibition.

Learn more [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Live @ the Library | April 15 **SOLD OUT!**

Saturday April 15 @ 7 p.m.

The Peggy Lee Project with Suzanna Smith

Singer Suzanna Smith, along with her four-piece band led by pianist Lee Bloom, will be presenting the Peggy Lee Project, which celebrates the legacy of one of America's most iconic singer-songwriters. With a four-octave range and tremendous versatility, Suzanna has been recognized as a breakout in the indie music world by the International Radio Broadcasters. She captivates audiences with her delicate emotional style and her incredible vocal power and energy.



We need you!



Whether you'd like to volunteer from home or in person, we have many opportunities available for people with a variety of skills. We are in need of people interested in staffing Dewey's Friends Cafe, staffing Books for Friends, managing volunteers or working on the various book sale events, managing marketing campaigns and more. Please click [here to learn more](#).

Find us on YouTube



Miss a Friends @ Home event, or want to rewatch your favorites? Simply [check our website](#) or subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#) to view the recordings. We record as many events as possible, copyright permitting. Enjoy!

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