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President's message by Karen Butter



Alameda Free Library Director Jane Chisaki will be retiring at the end of June.

Jane began her professional career at the San Francisco Public Library. In 1984, she accepted a job as a children's librarian at the Alameda Free Library. Through successive positions, she was appointed library director in 2006. Jane has had a strong influence over the library and its many projects. Not only did she contribute to the design of the main library, but she also obtained grants to recognize the contributions of Japanese Americans to Alameda's history, which funded Alameda's Japantown Tonarigumi Historic Marker project. Jane has been a strong supporter of our organization, the programs we support, the programs we produce and all our fundraising activities within the library.

We at FAL have greatly enjoyed working with Jane for all these years and thank her for her leadership, her knowledge, her support, and her guidance. We know that the members of the Alameda community join us in wishing Jane all the best in her retirement. We will miss her greatly, but hope to see her at future FAL events rested, relaxed and ready to volunteer.

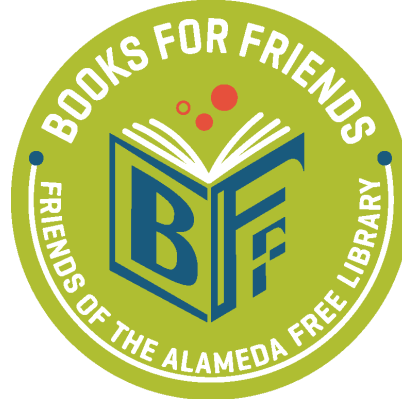
In her free time, Jane enjoys training Mr. Marvel, her young golden retriever; volunteering with both Mariner Scouts and Sea Scouts; and dragon boat racing. She is also a long-time season ticket holder for her beloved Warriors. It's clear Jane has many activities to keep her busy in her well-deserved retirement.

Books For Friends

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

Quality used 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. The books are well selected, in excellent condition, and sell for very reasonable prices.



Gift cards are also available for purchase.

Dewey's Friends Cafe - We need your input



We are working on a complete redesign of the cafe - everything from the name to food and drink offerings - and would love to hear your ideas! We will be sending out a survey soon. Please complete the survey as soon as possible. Your feedback will help us create a new cafe experience for you at the library.

FAL Spring Fundraiser

FAL's spring fundraising campaign is right around the corner! FAL holds fundraising appeals to support the Annual Fund twice a year during the spring and fall. These campaigns are the cornerstone of FAL's fundraising efforts and provide much-needed ongoing support for the library's services, facility improvements, adult and teen reading programs, and events such as the free Movie night!

Please consider making a donation (one time or monthly) by check or credit card and taking a look at our new Giving Circles.



FAL helps amplify the impact of your donation by working with many employee matching gift programs, including Disney, Chevron, and Google.

Giving is not just about making a donation. It's about making a difference.

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Please direct questions to [Kelly Ground](#), our Fund Development Manager.

Friends @ Home Virtual 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 Virtual Event | April 12



Sargent and Spain

Online 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.

The cafe will hold special hours during the performance, with sweet and savory treats, coffee, wine and other beverages available for purchase. BFF

will also be open for your shopping pleasure. Lastly, we'll be holding a raffle for a great prize!

Mini Used Book Sale Friday May 5 and Saturday May 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room



Find your next great read to enjoy during your spring vacation! This two-day event offers thousands of books from many genres at low prices.

Books For Friends and the cafe will be open for the May sale.

Our previous sale on March 17 and 18 was a big success. Buyers selected from a wide variety of used books in excellent condition. Proceeds from these sales go towards children's and adult library programs.

These events would not be possible without the support of our many hardworking volunteers. We thank all our volunteers for donating their time to make these events such a wonderful success. If you would like to volunteer, [sign up here](#).

Friends @ Home Virtual Event | May 17

Ansel Adams In Our Time

Online Art Docent Event

May 17 @ 7 p.m.

Featuring more than 100 of his most iconic images of Yosemite, San Francisco, and the American Southwest, the de Young Museum's exhibition Ansel Adams In Our Time looks back and forward in time by placing Adams' work in direct conversation with the 19th century photographers who influenced him, as well as contemporary artists who followed. This talk will trace Adams' career and share the stories behind some of his most distinctive photos. It will also explore Adams' ties to the Bay Area and his commitment to wilderness preservation, which continues to serve as an urgent call to protect our environment.



Our docent for this talk, Mike Madrid, has been a docent at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco since 2019 and previously presented the Obama Portraits.

Learn more [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Friends @ Home Virtual Event | May 24



Vermeer: The Magic, Mystery, and Mastery

Online Art Docent Event

May 24 @ 7 p.m.

Celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, which brings together an unprecedented 28 of Vermeer's 37 known works - even the artist himself never saw this many of his works together. Preview the exhibition and learn why Vermeer's magical works are so beloved. Little is known about his life, but much has been written about his style, his controversial method of painting, and what his works can tell us about life in 17th century Holland.

We will be guided in this exploration by one of our favorite docents, Avril Angevine.

Learn more [here](#).

Register [here](#).

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We need you!



We are a dedicated group of volunteers working to raise money for our wonderful library in a variety of ways. We are open to new ideas and new ways to raise funds. If you have some spare time, please consider volunteering with us. You can choose to volunteer from home or in person.

[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

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