Friends of the Alameda Free Library

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President's message by Karen Butter

Jane Chisaki has retired as Library Director (see article below). She has been a dear friend to us at FAL, and we are sad to see her go.

The majority of Jane's long career took place here in Alameda. After receiving her master's degree, Jane's focus was children's librarianship. Following her first job in San Francisco, she quickly jumped across the bay to the Alameda Free Library. Many Alamedans recall her outstanding programs from when she served as Children's Librarian. In 1998, she directed the move of the Main Library from Carnegie to a temporary space in Historic Alameda High School. She also served on the Library Building Team to design the current library. As the new Main Library opened in 2006, she was appointed Library Director and oversaw renovations of the Bay Farm and West End Branches. Capping her career was a project very personal to her: the "Alameda Japanese American History" project. This multi-year project includes the current exhibit in the Library, "Overflowing with Hope: The Hidden History of Japanese Americans in Alameda," as well as the Alameda Tonarigumi Historic Japantown markers. FAL sends Jane best wishes in retirement, and we look forward to seeing her as an FAL volunteer.

We invite everyone to visit FAL's booth at the Downtown Alameda Art and Wine Faire on Park Street from July 29 to 30. We'll be joined in the booth by staff from the Alameda Free Library and look forward to meeting Faire attendees, answering questions and distributing information about upcoming events. Stop by and say hello!

Library Director Jane Chisaki retires

At the Alameda City Council meeting on June 20, Jane Chisaki was honored via proclamation for her 39 years of service. Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft proclaimed June 30 as **Jane Chisaki Day** in the City of Alameda.

Jane received a framed, signed copy of the proclamation, which highlighted many of the major accomplishments she ushered in during her long tenure with the library. These include Jane's start date of January 3, 1984; the launching of the first library website; the opening of the new Main Library; increasing annual visits to the library from 100,000 to 800,000; revival of the Alameda Poet Laureate program; the launch of the free mobile hotspot program; and the administering of Tonarigumi, Alameda's Lost Japantown. As Jane made her way to the podium to thank and address the Council, she was met by cheers from everyone in attendance as thanks for her wonderful service.

Books For Friends

Books For Friends recently received two noteworthy donations. One is an extensive collection of works in the area of spirituality, philosophy and religion from the library of the late Professor Jacob Needleman. He was the longtime head of the philosophy department at SF State and authored numerous volumes on the spiritual quest of our times. We are featuring several of the titles from his library at our shop right now. We will add more as we have room for them.

The other noteworthy arrival is a large selection (about 30 or 40 boxes) of *Life* magazines in a library bound format spanning the decades from the late 1930s up into the 1970s. These won't be on general display until our big sale at the Officer's Club in October, but we do have a small sampling of volumes at Books For Friends if you are curious. They make for wonderful birthday presents and are a great source of material for those seeking vintage imagery for framing or creating collages. And, of course, they are little time capsules from our shared past.

We accept book donations by appointment on Sundays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Please see our **website** for appointment scheduling instructions.

BFF is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m. Come for quality used books in all genres at affordable prices.

Shop local! All proceeds go towards the Alameda Free Library, and all of our workers are volunteers.

Dewey's Friends Cafe

One of the most unique aspects of the library cafe is its volunteers. Alameda Free Library's cafe is one of the only library cafes in the Bay Area that is exclusively volunteer-run. Pictured on the left is Judy Ecker, one of our highly valued volunteers. Judy is on the Cafe Committee, serves as the cafe's buyer, and has a regular Thursday afternoon shift with her husband, Roger.

We'll be increasing the cafe's hours this fall, so we are looking for more volunteers who can work at least two 4-hour shifts per month. Additionally, we will be offering a new and expanded menu, which we anticipate will bring in many more patrons. If you are interested in volunteering at the cafe, please **contact us**. THANK YOU in advance!

Coming events!

Friends @ Home Event | July 12

Layers of Color: Unfolding the Beauty of Woodblock Prints

Online Art Docent Event

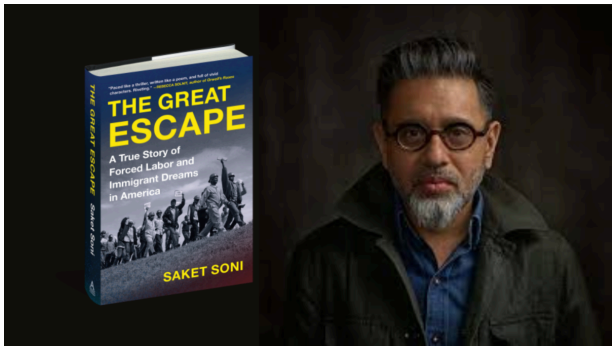
July 12 @ 7 p.m.

Japanese art is known for the beauty and variety of its woodblock prints. Not only did woodblock printing make art more accessible to a wider audience, but its techniques and characteristics have influenced other art forms, including Impressionism. As woodblock printing evolved over the years, it has served multiple purposes, including advertising posters, printed books, and promoting fashion icons.

Join Asian Art Museum docent Jim Brown on a journey through the history of this fascinating art form.

Find more information and register **here.**

Friends @ Home Event | July 19



Author Saket Soni

The Great Escape

Online Author Talk

July 19 @ 7 p.m.

In late 2006, Saket Soni, a twenty-eight-year-old Indian-born community organizer, received an anonymous phone call from an Indian migrant worker in Mississippi. The worker was one of five hundred men trapped in squalid Gulf Coast "man camps," surrounded by barbed wire, watched by guards, crammed into cold trailers with putrid toilets, and forced to eat moldy bread and frozen rice. Recruiters had promised them good jobs and green cards. The men had scraped up $20,000 each for this "opportunity" to rebuild hurricane-wrecked oil rigs, leaving their families in impossible debt. This is the story of their determination to win their dignity and keep their promises to their families.

Find more information and register **here.**

Friends @ Home Event | July 26

The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England

Online Art Docent Event

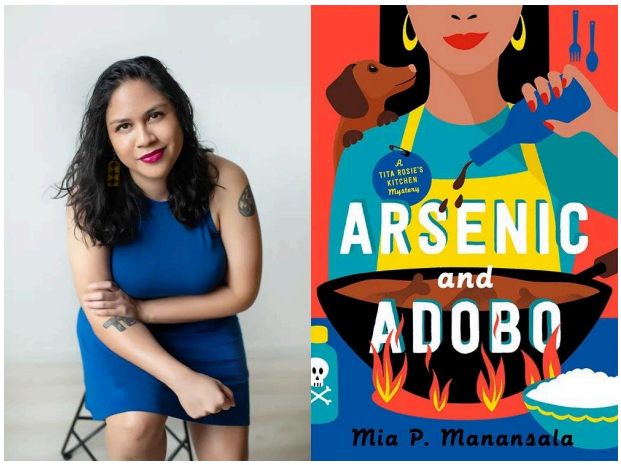
July 26 @ 7 p.m.

From Henry VIII to Elizabeth I, the monarchs of England's Tudor Dynasty have captured the public imagination for 500 years. "The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England" is the first major American exhibition of Tudor portraiture and decorative arts, and the Legion of Honor is the only West Coast museum to showcase these masterworks. Featuring paintings, sculptures, tapestries, and stained glass by some of the finest European craftspeople of the sixteenth century, this talk will take you back to the lavish court of the Tudors and show how the arts flourished under their patronage.

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn how the Tudors reshaped the royal image in England during a turning point in world history.

Find more information and register **here**.

Friends @ Home Event | July 27



Author Mia P. Manansala

Arsenic and Adobo

Online Author Talk

July 27 @ 7 p.m.

When Lila Macapagal moves back home to recover from a horrible breakup, her life seems to be following all the typical rom-com tropes. She’s tasked with saving her Tita Rosie’s failing restaurant, and she has to deal with a group of matchmaking aunties who shower her with love and judgment. But when a notoriously nasty food critic (who happens to be her ex-boyfriend) drops dead moments after a confrontation with Lila, her life quickly swerves from a Nora Ephron romp to an Agatha Christie case.

Find more information and register **here.**

Friends @ Home Event | August 16

What’s So Interesting about Houses and Cars? The Art of Robert Bechtle

Online Art Docent Event

August 16 @ 7 p.m.

Painter Robert Bechtle grew up in Alameda, where he began producing highly realistic paintings of houses and cars in the early 1960s. His works depict real Bay Area neighborhoods, and locals will have fun speculating where they are taken from. These images evoke a wide array of responses, prompting us to consider our own histories with these places and the unseen people connected to them.

Find more information and register **here.**

Looking for local volunteer opportunities?

We Need You!

Whether you can volunteer from home or in person, we'd love for you to join our team! We are a dedicated group of volunteers working to raise money for our wonderful library in a variety of ways. We are open to fresh ideas and new ways to raise funds.

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!

We need your support!

Please forward this email to your friends and invite them to join us.

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