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President's message by Karen Butter



We had a wonderful time talking to everyone who visited our booth at the Alameda Art & Wine Faire in July. We enjoyed sharing about Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL) programs, answering questions, enlisting volunteers and giving out coupons for the Library Friends Cafe and Books For Friends (BFF). Thank you to the many volunteers and board members who staffed the booth during this

two-day event!

We are excited about two new and upcoming FAL projects. The Library Friends Cafe is now open six days a week with an updated menu (more details in this newsletter). You can sample the new pastries at our October Book Sale, which will be held October 26 to 28 in the Stafford Room at the Main Library. Thanks to donations from our wonderful community, the Book Sale will feature a wide selection of subjects, including high-quality children's books and many new releases. Please join us!

Alamedans may be interested in viewing the recording of the August docent talk about photorealist painter Robert Bechtle, which is available on our [YouTube Channel](#). The talk featured Bechtle's paintings of Alameda houses in the 1970s, many with cars of the era. One of his more well-known paintings, Alameda Gran Torino, depicts a Ford station wagon parked in the driveway of a suburban home. As you watch, see if you can identify the location of each painting!

Lastly, we give our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the Spring Appeal and helped us exceed our goal. Your support makes it possible to continue the fantastic programming at the Alameda Free Library. The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages reading for all ages, had the largest participation since 2016. FAL shared sponsorship with Tucker's Ice Cream and Subpar Miniature Golf.

Used Book Sale!



The October Book Sale has moved from the O'Club to the Main Library at 1550 Oak Street in Alameda.

Mark your calendars and save the dates!

Thursday, October 26, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, October 27, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Choose from thousands of bargain-priced, quality used books in a variety of genres. Our **Library Friends Cafe** will be open during the sale, with delicious new food and drink options. You can also check out our permanent used book store, **Books for Friends**, right next to the cafe.

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Used Book Sale. Please sign up [here](#) if you would like to help us out. Thank you!

See you there!

Now serving Firebrand pastries at the Cafe



As of August 14, we have expanded our menu with pastries from **Firebrand Artisan Breads**, and we are pleased to announce that everyone has been delighted with the delicious new treats so far. We now have **Ham and Cheese Croissants, Chocolate Croissants, Blueberry Scones, Blackberry Danishes, and Chocolate Chip Cookies**. We plan to periodically rotate pastries, so be on the lookout for new items. For those seeking lighter choices, we also have **apples, Cuties, hummus, guacamole, and baby carrots**.

The cafe is a wonderful place to relax, read, work, or play a game while enjoying a refreshing beverage and tasty treat. Come be a part of your library cafe community!

New Cafe hours | Volunteers needed

In addition to a new and improved menu, we have expanded our hours and need more volunteers to help out at the cafe. Please [click here](#) if you are interested in volunteering with us.
THANK YOU!

Cafe hours

Monday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday Noon - 4 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday Closed



Books For Friends



Are you looking for a good mystery?
Books on California history?
Memoirs?
Vintage books?
CDs and DVDs?

Stop by **Books For Friends**, the FAL-operated used book store in the Main Library! Browse our carefully curated selection of bargain-priced books in excellent condition.

Bring the kids, too! We have a wonderful, diverse collection of children's books, most of which sell for \$1 or \$2 apiece.

BFF Hours

Thursday Noon to 4 p.m.

Friday Noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday Noon to 4 p.m.

- We accept book donations by appointment on Sundays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Please find donation and scheduling instructions [here](#).
- All of our workers are volunteers. If you are looking for a fun place to volunteer, please consider BFF! More volunteers will allow us to expand our hours of operation. Click [here](#) to sign up!

Help us rename Dewey's Friends Cafe

Please support an important initiative to rename "Dewey's Friends Cafe" at the Main Library. The original name was chosen to honor Melvil Dewey, inventor of the Dewey Decimal System; however, records reveal that Dewey was racist, anti-Semitic and abusive to women. To learn more about Dewey's transgressions, read [this article](#) about the American



Library Association's decision to strip his name from their prestigious annual award for creative leadership.

To support this renaming initiative, please [sign the petition](#).
We just need a few more signatures!

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Hats off to
reading.



Get your card today!

PRESS HERE

Let Kids Read!



The American Library Association (ALA) reports that there was "a record number of demands to censor library books and materials in 2022." Banned Books Week, an

annual event that "celebrates the freedom to read," will be taking place from October 1 to 7 this year. Learn more on the ALA's [website](#).

In addition to the ALA, publishers, politicians, librarians and teachers are fighting against current efforts to restrict reading. In Illinois, it is now [against the law](#) to ban books. Penguin Random House's resource site "[Let Kids Read](#)" contains information on what PRH is doing, and what others can do, to resist the banning of books. For more information about this issue, we encourage you to visit these and other sites about the freedom to read.

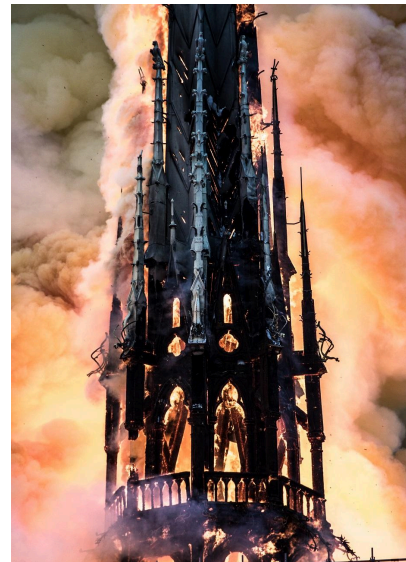
Coming events!

Online Art Docent Event | September 13

Notre Dame Revisited

September 13 @ 7 p.m.

The April 2019 fire at Notre Dame Cathedral reignited worldwide passion for the building, which was already iconic for both its spiritual and artistic importance. Beginning in the early middle ages, the Church built cathedrals to tell stories to an audience that was frequently illiterate. During the Gothic period, this resulted in massive buildings and a rich display of objects at Notre-Dame de Paris and many other medieval religious sites. This virtual event will examine the architecture and art characteristic of these sites, as well as how fires (and restorations) have affected cathedrals over the centuries. Phoenix Art Museum Master Docent Cathie Rubins will guide us in this discussion.

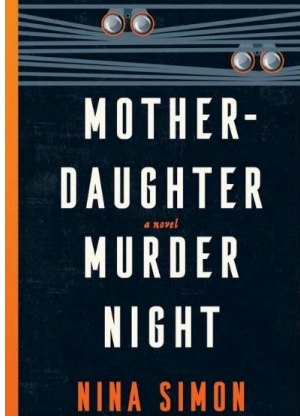


To learn more and register, [click here](#).

Online Author Event | September 20

Author Nina Simon

Mother-Daughter Murder Night



September 20 @ 7 p.m.

High-powered businesswoman Lana Rubicon has a lot to be proud of: her keen intelligence, impeccable taste, and the L.A. real estate empire she's built. But when she finds herself trapped 300 miles north of the

city, convalescing in a sleepy coastal town with her adult daughter Beth and teenage granddaughter Jack, Lana is stuck counting otters instead of square footage and hoping that boredom won't kill her before the cancer does. Then Jack — tiny in stature but fiercely independent — happens upon a dead body while kayaking. She quickly becomes a suspect in the homicide investigation, and the Rubicon women are thrown into chaos.

To learn more and register, [click here](#).

Online Art Docent Event | October 18

Fashion Statement
How Couture Reflected
Culture 1960-2010

October 18 @ 7 p.m.

How does fashion reflect the changing times? Take a journey through the decades by looking at the some of the top fashion designers in the world, all of which are found in the extensive fashion collection of Phoenix Art Museum. From the classic suits of Coco Chanel to the rule-breaking designs of Alexander McQueen, Phoenix Art Museum Docent Susan Marie will have you diving deep into the closets of your mind to relive your past.



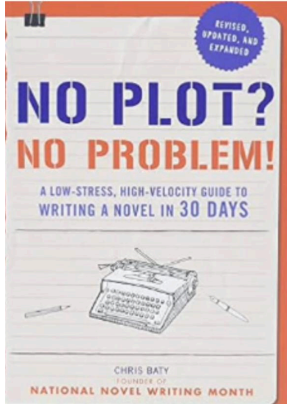
More information coming soon.

Online Author Event | October 25

Author Chris Baty

No Plot? No Problem!

October 25 @ 7 p.m.



FAL is thrilled to present a conversation with Chris Baty, author and founder of National Novel Writing Month (known colloquially as NaNoWriMo)!

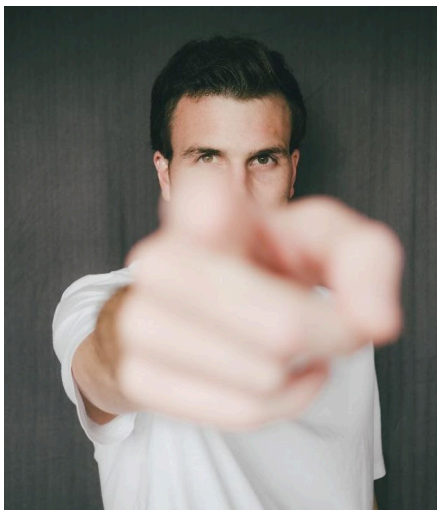
Alameda resident Chris Baty founded [National Novel Writing](#)

[Month](#) by accident in 1999. Since then, NaNoWriMo has grown from a gathering of 21 friends into an international event with more than 300,000 participants in 90 countries. Chris stepped down from leading NaNoWriMo in 2013, but now serves as NaNoWriMo's Board Member Emeritus and uses his expertise to oversee the UX writing team at Figma. He's the author of [No Plot? No Problem!](#) and a co-author of [Ready, Set, Novel!](#), a writer's block-busting workbook.

Chris will be joined by TC Curry, a past contest winner.

More information coming soon.

Looking for local volunteer opportunities?



We Need You!

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

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Find us on YouTube



Did you 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!

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Remember, your donations are tax deductible!



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