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President's message by Karen Butter



This is the last newsletter for 2023, so I want to express a very special thank you to our outstanding volunteers. The heart of our organization, FAL volunteers have contributed untold hours staffing the cafe, BFF, and the Used Book Sale; sorting book donations; and assisting with Live @ the Library concerts. Many of our operations have planned reduced hours over the upcoming holidays, which will give our volunteers a well-earned break!

By the time this newsletter is mailed, we will have completed our Fall Used Book Sale. For those who missed the sale or need to purchase holiday gifts, BFF offers gift cards and two Buy-One-Get-One Saturdays. The selections are fantastic, and the prices can't be beat. We are still looking for volunteers to staff BFF, so if you have a few hours a week to spare, please consider joining the BFF team.

Before the end of the year, I want to remind our readers of our Fall Annual Fund campaign to support the work of the Alameda Free Library. Donors also have an opportunity to join our Giving Circles, which offer additional benefits.

We wish all in our community safe and joyous holidays!

Launched: FAL's fall fundraising appeal

The giving season is here, and FAL has launched its year-end Annual Fund campaign!

There are many ways to contribute to the Fall Annual Fund. We welcome donations of cash, check, credit card, Donor Advised Funds, stocks, and volunteer time. Any amount helps, and all donations will benefit the Alameda Free Library.



Donate [here](#), or scan the QR code below.



Looking for even more ways to support your local library?

[Nextdoor: Sell for Good](#)

Having a yard sale? Selling online via Nextdoor? Consider designating a % of your sale as a donation to the Friends.

[eBay for Charity](#)

Items that benefit charity tend to sell faster, even at a premium price. Donate 10% or more, and your item will feature an attention-grabbing charity ribbon and may even be listed in the Charity Shop. You'll reduce your seller fees and enjoy tax savings.

[PayPal Giving Fund](#)

PayPal helps people support their favorite charities online.

[Facebook Fundraisers](#)

Birthday or anniversary coming up? Designate Friends of the Alameda Free Library as your charity of choice to request donations in lieu of gifts.

[Annual Fund Giving Circles](#)

Join FAL's Giving Circles for advance notice of special events, sales, and other perks. The Giving Circles are a small token of our thanks for all you do to support the Alameda Free Library.

Donate by Check

Mail a check to:

Friends of the Alameda Free Library
P.O. Box 1024
Alameda CA 94501

Employee Giving Programs

FAL participates in many employers' giving programs, including Google, Chevron, Adobe, Apple, Disney, Blue Shield, and Abbott Labs. Many of these programs also match donations to your volunteer time! Contact your HR representative to direct your donation to FAL's Annual Fund.

Have any questions or know of a philanthropic program not listed here?

Please contact [Kelly Ground](#), Fund Development Manager for assistance with gift giving.

Successful Used Book Sale!



We had a very successful 3-day Used Book Sale at the Main Library in late October. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our sale! All proceeds went toward the library programs at all three branches in Alameda, and our patrons went home with some wonderful books.

The book sale was complemented by special hours at Books For Friends (BFF), as well as food and beverage sales at the Library Friends Cafe.

Please mark your calendar for our next Used Book Sale on **March 14-16, 2024**.

We sincerely thank our amazing volunteers for their hours of work before, during and after the sale. Our success wouldn't have been possible without all of you.

We always welcome new volunteers to our book sale team. Visit our [website](#) to join!

Celebrate Fall at the Library Friends Cafe

It's unanimous! Firebrand pastries are a hit...especially now that they can be warmed. YUM! The Pain au Chocolate and Ham and Cheese Croissants are our most popular pastries, followed closely by the Almond Croissants, Morning Buns and Chocolate Chip Cookies. Stop by the Main Library to try them for yourself!



In addition, we now have a new dark roast coffee blend, which, according to the Suggestion Box feedback, is excellent! What better mid-AM/PM snack to indulge in than a fabulous cup of coffee and a warm pastry?

We appreciate everyone who has filled out a comment card for the Cafe Suggestion Box. We love reading all of your input! Please keep sharing your ideas on how we might enhance your experience at the Cafe.

Of course, all of this is possible due to the stellar service of our volunteer team. We are so blessed to have such a dedicated, caring and friendly group of volunteers. Thank you all!

Books For Friends



Stop by Books for Friends (BFF), our used book store in the Main Library! Browse our carefully curated selection of bargain-priced books in excellent condition.

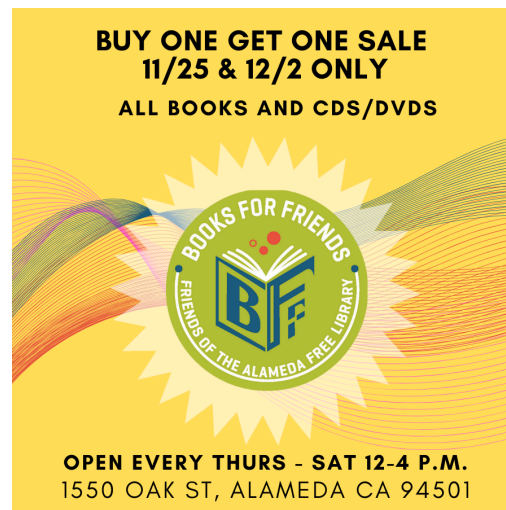
BFF Hours

Thursday Noon to 4 p.m.

Friday Noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday Noon to 4 p.m.

Books for Friends will run a BOGO (buy one, get one free) sale on two consecutive Saturdays to prepare for the holiday season. Come in on **November 25** and **December 2** and treat yourself to a book while shopping for a loved one. Gift cards are always available at Books for Friends and make the perfect holiday present for the book lover in your life!



- 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!

Shop local! All proceeds benefit the Alameda Free Library.

Giving Thanks

The FAL Board members give their heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers supporting our ongoing fundraising efforts, especially those who give their time and energy to the Library Friends Cafe, Books for Friends, Used Book

Sales and Live @ the Library concerts. We also thank those who serve on our various committees and those who help produce our Friends @ Home series of author and art docent talks.

Thank you also to our generous donors and our many patrons who purchase food and drinks from our cafe and shop at Books for Friends. 100% of all proceeds from sales go toward the Alameda Free Library's programs.



Finally, we thank the staff members of our library, who provide excellent service to our community and are always willing to go the extra mile to help out the Friends.

Coming events!

Online Author Event | November 8



Author Philipp Schott
***Fifty-Four Pigs* and**
Six Ostriches
November 8 @ 7 p.m.

Fifty-Four Pigs and *Six Ostriches* are the first and second books of Philipp Schott's mystery series featuring Dr. Peter Bannerman, a veterinarian in a small town on Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. Peter is an amiable, introverted, tea-drinking, obsessive vet who converses more with his dog, Pippin, than anyone else. When Peter's friend Tom Pearson's swine barn explodes, 54 pigs and one human die. Tom, who's suspected of setting the fire that caused the explosion, has disappeared.

These mystery novels beautifully describe a very appealing character and give a brilliant introduction to the Canadian plains landscape. Both are real page-turners to boot!

The author, Philipp Schott, is a veterinarian in Winnipeg. In addition to the Dr. Bannerman novels, he is the author of three non-fiction collections of stories and essays about his 30 years of veterinary practice.

To learn more and register, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.

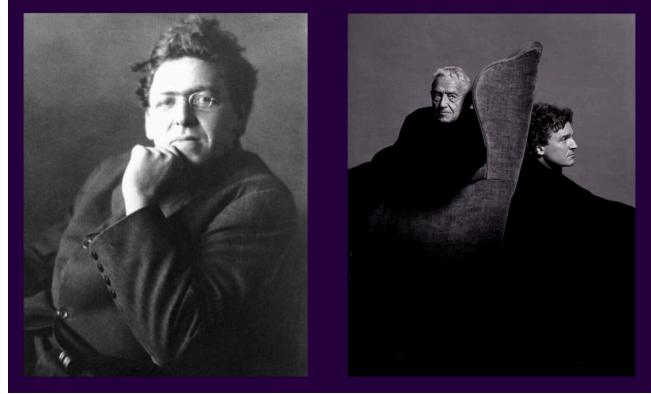


Online Art Docent Event | November 15

Wyeth's World: Three Generations of American Artists

November 15 @ 7 p.m.

Take a strange and wondrous journey through three generations of the Wyeth family, with particular focus on the works of N.C. Wyeth, Andrew Wyeth, and Jamie Wyeth.



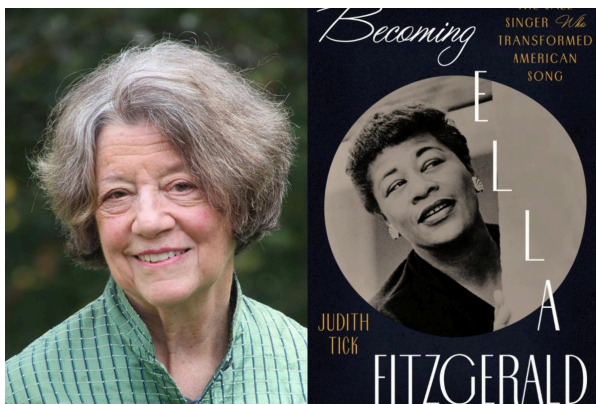
This talk will compare and contrast the artists' styles and reveal the common bonds shared among the three generations, which are reflected in the art they created through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Janine Loiselle-Newbern, a Docent with the Phoenix Art Museum, will present this fascinating picture of an American family of artists.

To learn more and register, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.



Online Author Event | December 5



Author Judith Tick

***Becoming Ella Fitzgerald:
The Jazz Singer Who
Transformed American
Song***

December 5 @ 7 p.m.

*Becoming Ella Fitzgerald: The
Jazz Singer Who Transformed*

American Song is a landmark biography about Ella Fitzgerald, a major American artist and modernist innovator.

Ella Fitzgerald (1917–1996) possessed one of the twentieth century's most astonishing voices. In this first major biography since Fitzgerald's death, music historian Judith Tick draws on deep archival research, family interviews, and newly available recordings and concert footage to show how Fitzgerald fused a Black vocal aesthetic with mainstream popular repertoire to revolutionize American music.

Judith Tick is professor emerita of music history at Northeastern University. She has published award-winning books and articles about American music and women's history in music, including *Ruth Crawford Seeger: A Composer's Search for Music*.

To learn more and register, [click here](#) or scan the QR code below.



Looking for local volunteer opportunities?

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!

Making a donation is easy!

Just click the button below.

Remember, your donations are tax deductible!



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