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## President's message by Karen Butter



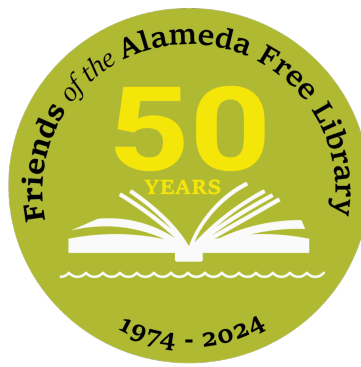
The Friends of the Alameda Free Library Board and its many volunteers have exciting programs planned for 2024. On the weeks we have events, online newsletter readers will receive updates on Monday mornings. I find these to be great reminders of events I've registered (or re-registered!) for. Even if I'm unsure about an event, I never regret signing up. Any of these events is time well spent, as I always gain new insights from these talks.

FAL is planning a series of events throughout 2024 to celebrate our 50th anniversary. A fall gala will be held to raise funds for special areas of the library. We'll release more details as events are finalized. (Our first fundraiser, the Used Book Sale, was held at a school auditorium in 1974. I suspect some of our community members may recall buying books or volunteering at this sale.) We look forward to celebrating all year with the FAL community!

I recently read about a documentary on the curation of the recent Vermeer exhibit in Amsterdam (Friends @ Home Docent viewers may remember a talk we hosted on the exhibit last year). I couldn't find the documentary online, so I decided to check the library. I finally found it on the Kanopy app: *Close to Vermeer*. To those unfamiliar with the app, Kanopy is a video streaming service with movies, documentaries, animated films, classic cinema and more — and it's free to everyone with an Alameda Free Library card! You can find films by Stanley Kubrick, recent movie releases, Sundance Film Festival entries, episodes from *The Saint*, and children's programming. Sign up using your library card to start watching!

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**Celebrating 50 years!**



In 1974, the honorable women of the Brown Baggers Club, Kate Quick, Honora Murphy, Barbara Kahn, Lois Hanna, Donna Vaughn, Alice Huie, Ann Muir, and Eleanor Stallman founded the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. Alongside fellow library lovers, they began building a new, modern library to replace the Carnegie Building on Oak & Santa Clara Streets. It took years of dedicated work and the infusion of California state grant money to see the completion of the Main Library in 2006.

Since its founding, FAL has grown in its mission to support and advocate for the success of Alameda's libraries. We annually fund the library's public programs and services and host FAL's ever-popular Used Book Sales. Our book sale team opened a bookstore, Books for Friends (BFF), in the Main Library, which sells high-quality used books for very reasonable prices. Next to BFF is the Friends Café, which our volunteers have run since 2006. The team has done a wonderful job of updating and expanding our café offerings.

We would love for you to join our upcoming events to celebrate FAL's golden anniversary and continue supporting our Alameda libraries so that they may thrive for another fifty years. Stay tuned for more information!

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## Enjoy February treats at the Friends Café



The Friends Café will be celebrating Lunar New Year with dragons and festive treats! Be sure to stop by throughout the month, but especially on February 10 for the LNY program, and on Valentine's Day for heart-shaped Ghirardelli chocolates to give to that special someone.

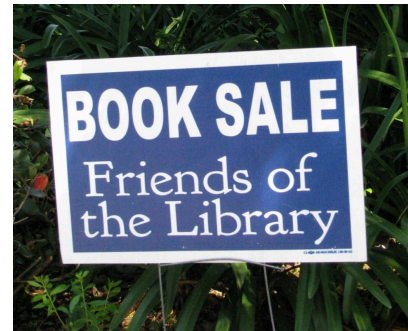
The Café is introducing new Firebrand pastries, including a pear Danish and giant pretzel. We will also be testing several new hot options during these cold winter months. Come try them and let us know what you think. We love feedback!

Thanks to everyone's input about an espresso machine, we'll be offering delicious new espresso drinks sometime in the spring. In the meantime, come in for a sweet treat and a delicious cup of dark roast coffee from Mr. Espresso.

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## 2024 Used Book Sales

Announcing our 2024 Used Book Sales! With fantastic selections in all genres, including fiction, biography, children's books, CDs, DVDs, cookbooks, and more, you won't want to miss our ever-popular sales. Mark your calendars for the following dates:



- **March 15-16**
- **June 21-22**
- **October 23 (evening) + October 24-26**

**All sales will take place in the Stafford Room** in the Main Library. Browse our book selection, get a drink and a snack in the Café, then take a break and peruse your finds in the courtyard.

We need volunteers! If you have volunteered in the past, you will receive a sign-up email soon for the March Book Sale. If you'd like to be a volunteer, please click [here](#), and we'll be in touch!

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## New program: Supper & Support



The Alameda Free Library had a very successful session of Supper & Support in January, with nearly seventy people in attendance. Supper & Support is a new monthly event "aimed at connecting people with resources. Organizers provided a free warm meal, cold weather clothing" and "a table stocked with essentials and personal care items." The program is sponsored in part by FAL.

Supper & Support will run on the third Sunday of every month through June 2024, with each session highlighting a new topic. The next session on February 18 will focus on emergency food resources. Local service providers will be present to share information and take questions. If this topic is of interest to you, please join and enjoy a hot meal on us.

# SUPPER & SUPPORT



**FREE**


 **Sunday  
February 18th  
1-3 PM**

**Stafford Room  
Alameda Free Library  
1550 Oak St.** 

**Come enjoy a free, hot meal at the library!**

Meet service providers sharing information on emergency food resources in the city and county.

Additional resources will also be available for those interested.





All events are free and open to the public. Check the library website: [www.alamedafree.org](http://www.alamedafree.org) for more information. Sponsored by the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. Contact the Library for any questions at: 510-747-7777.

## Books for Friends continues to grow



The FAL-run bookstore, Books for Friends (BFF), recently had its first-ever \$1000+ day in book sales!

BFF will be celebrating two years of operation this coming March. It offers first-rate books at excellent prices. Keep an eye out for special BOGO offers at BFF during the year.

BFF is 100% volunteer-staffed, with all proceeds directly benefiting our city libraries. We are looking to expand our hours and need new volunteers to help us do so. Come join our wonderful team by signing up [here](#)!

### **BFF Hours**

Thursday Noon to 4 p.m.

Friday Noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday Noon to 4 p.m.

We accept used book donations by appointment on Sundays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Please find donation and scheduling instructions [here](#).

**Shop local! All proceeds benefit the Alameda Free Library.**

## Author sighting!



On September 20, 2023, FAL hosted an author talk by Nina Simon about her debut novel, *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*. Karen Manuel and Karen Roemer caught up with Nina at her recent event at the Alameda Books Inc.! It was a thrill to meet her in person and hear the stories behind the book and Nina's publishing journey. You can view her talk with FAL's Friends @ Home [here](#).

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## Magazine Swap

The magazine swap has been available for many years, but FAL recently funded the purchase of a magazine rack (adjacent to the cafe) to replace the plastic crate we'd been using previously. Please stop by to donate your old magazines and pick up a few new great reads!



## Little Libraries in Alameda



Several of the Little Libraries in Alameda are city-owned and maintained by FAL volunteers. Billy Reinschmiedt regularly replenishes the ones dotted around Alameda with our stock of donated books. Cynthia Silva does the same for the Little Libraries at Independence Plaza. She also launched the Little Libraries Project at Senior Housing, which is now celebrating its first anniversary!

Featured in the photo is resident and past City of Alameda Library Director Kathleen Kearney, who, along with fellow resident Pierrette

Moore, has volunteered to maintain six libraries in the four resident Independent Plaza buildings. We thank Kathleen and Pierrette for their work in making the lounge areas inviting places to read, and we thank both Bill

Reinschmiedt and Cynthia Silva for keeping the Little Libraries in Alameda well-stocked.

## Coming events!

### Online Art Docent Event | February 7

#### Yayoi Kusama: The Princess of Polka Dots

February 7 @ 7 pm

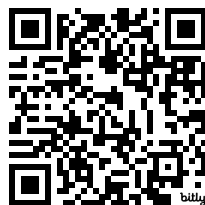


Yayoi Kusama has been called the most important living Japanese artist, the world's best-selling female artist, the world's most successful living artist, and "the princess of polka dots." For seven decades, Kusama has explored infinity in a variety of media: paintings, mixed media artwork, mirror rooms, and sculptures, including her celebrated polka dot-covered pumpkins. She says, "A polka-dot has the form of the sun, which is a symbol of the energy of the whole world and our living lifework."

Take a trip around the world with Kusama, stopping at her installations on the Japanese art island Naoshima, the Kusama museum in Tokyo, Grand Central Station in New York, and ending with her first infinity room in Northern California, *Dreaming of Earth's Sphericity, I Would Offer My Love*, at SFMOMA through September 2024.

This program will be presented by Avril Angevine. She is a professor of English and Humanities at local colleges, a life long art lover and SFMOMA-trained docent as of 2010. She guides the public through art exhibits at SFMOMA and the Oakland Museum of California. Avril is a frequent and cherished art docent presenter for Friends of the Alameda Free Library and other libraries and organizations.

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



### Online Art Docent Event | April 17

Fernando Botero:



## The Art of Volume

April 17 @ 7 pm

Fernando Botero's unique style is instantly recognizable. His subjects exist in a universe populated by exaggerated, seemingly larger-than-life beings, at once both solid and voluptuous. His figures echo Pre-Columbian, Classical Spanish, and Spanish Colonial Art. His work is an assault on what is held to be timeless canons of beauty and ideal proportions. Botero said, "My painting has two main sources. On one hand, they are my views on aesthetics, and on the other, the Latin American world where I grew up. I also think sensuality plays a great role."

A native of Buenos Aires, Isabel Ballerna has been a docent at the Phoenix Art Museum since 2014. She holds a BA in art and is an artist and interior designer. Her works have been featured in art galleries and numerous publications, including *Artists of the Rockies*. Isabel is also an avid horse rider and competitor in dressage.

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



## Looking for local volunteer opportunities?

Whether you'd 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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Friends of the Alameda Free Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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