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## President's message by Karen Butter



Our 50th anniversary events are underway! Community members and FAL volunteers greatly enjoyed the library's Lunar New Year celebration, where families received special favors and indulged in treats and crafts in the specially decorated Stafford Room and the Friends Café. Read more about the LNY celebration below.

If you're looking for film recommendations, I highly recommend the short documentary "The ABCs of Book Banning," which is nominated for an Academy Award. In the film, children and young adults express their desire and need for books on LGBTQ identities, race issues, the reality of war and the realities of growing up. The short film is available on the Kanopy app and on Paramount+.

On a more somber note, I am heartbroken about the death of Honora Murphy, who fought for a new Alameda library for more than thirty-five years. She worked tirelessly on the Measure O campaign, her third library bond campaign. Honora also served as a member of the new library building team and as the first manager of the library café.

Honora, Alameda extends its greatest and sincerest thanks.

## Remembering Honora Murphy

FAL members are deeply saddened by the recent loss of one of our amazing founders, Honora Murphy, who passed away at the age of 95 on February 16, 2024. Honora built a legacy for Alameda that is unmatched.

For years, Honora fought for a new library. One of her children could not walk up the steps of the Carnegie branch. Honora wanted to see him walk into a library that had the correct accommodations. She led several library bond campaigns and worked on the successful Measure O campaign, which led to the construction of our beautiful Main Library on Oak Street.

Honora worked tirelessly to improve our lives. As a mother of fourteen children, she focused much of her work on children's welfare. She led efforts for education, libraries, disability advocacy and civic involvement in Alameda for fifty years. In 2016, the Alameda City Council honored her with its Lifetime Achievement Award. As former FAL President Luzanne Engh noted, Honora was a "remarkable woman, wife, mother, nurse, community leader, as well as FAL founder and advocate."



*Honora (black jacket with red sweater in front row, center) with Jane Chisaki, former Library Director, members of the Brown Baggers and members of Friends of the Alameda Free Library on the 10th anniversary of the opening of the new main branch.*

Honora was a founding member of the Friends of the Alameda Free Library Board and served as one of its first presidents. She was a founder of the Alameda League of Women Voters and the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families. She served on the board of the Phillips Academy for more than twenty years and as PTA Council President. She proudly noted that she never missed a school board meeting during its first seven years.

Celebrations of Honora over the years:

*"Honora is one of the most extraordinary women I have known – she brings enthusiasm and smart thinking to everything she works on." – Former Supervisor Wilma Chan*

*"She lived a rich, full life, and led the way to local change with her actions in the school district and through Friends of the Library. Her example and*

*leadership have enriched all our lives. I feel fortunate to have known her and worked with her.*" – Karen Roemer, former FAL Board Member

*"Honora was an amazing woman who led the way for so many women who became leaders in a variety of ways in Alameda. Her sense of humor, energy, can-do attitude and inclusiveness made her a natural leader. It is a sad time for all who knew her."* – Carole Robie, former Alameda school principal

*"She was a great mentor, friend and partner in mischief."* – Kate Quick, long-time Alamedan and mischief partner

Honora Murphy leaves an impressive legacy for all of Alameda.

For those who wish to celebrate her, the family is requesting donations to FAL in memory of Honora and her extraordinary work for the Alameda Free Library. You can [donate here](#) or scan the QR code below.



## Join our Spring Used Book Sale

**March 15 - 16**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Alameda Main Library**  
**1550 Oak Street, Stafford Room**

FAL is holding its first large book sale of 2024 later this month! Don't miss out on wonderful selections in popular genres, all at bargain prices. Both the Friends Café and Books for Friends will be open during the sale.



We are seeking volunteers who can help out before, during, and after the sale! If you are interested in volunteering, please [click here](#).

## Meet up with friends at the Friends Café

February was a busy month! For Puzzle Day, café staff set up a table with various puzzles for patrons to solve. (The lollipop puzzle was quite popular!) For Lunar New Year, the team offered fortune cookies, chocolate wafers, dragon decorations and lucky money envelopes, which were scattered on the tables for anyone to keep.



The Friends Café is seeing more and more groups use this space for their activities. Recently, one of the Alameda knitting groups shared their beautiful work with café patrons. If you are a group member or leader, we encourage you to use this space for your meetups.

We can even reserve a table (or several) for you — just let us know in advance!



FAL has begun redesigning our café shelves to provide more storage and display space. Our new look will debut in March. Firebrand pastries have become so popular that we will be offering them on all days we're open, as well as new Asian and Latin American snacks.

## BOGO at BFF during the Used Book Sale

March 17 is Books For Friends' two-year anniversary! BFF will be open during the Used Book Sale on March 15-16 and holding a BOGO (buy one, get one free, of equal or lesser value) sale in honor of its anniversary. For a \$10 donation, you can also get a sturdy, stylish tote bag to carry your books home.

### **BFF Hours**

Thursday Noon to 4 p.m.

Friday Noon to 4 p.m.

Saturday Noon to 4 p.m.



In March, BFF will have displays for Women's History Month and Irish-American Heritage Month. Come by and check them out!

We accept used book donations by appointment on Sundays from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Please find donation and scheduling instructions [here](#).

**Shop local! 100% of all proceeds benefit the Alameda Free Library.**

## Lunar New Year Festivities



FAL partnered with the library to celebrate the Year of the Dragon on February 10! We set up a table at the front of the Main Library, where we greeted arrivals with squeeze balls, coloring books and information about FAL.

Children listened with rapt attention as author Kuang Lee read his book *Mei and the Monkey King* at a special story time event, then participated in a music and crafts program, where they made red envelopes and created colorful dragon puppets. There was no shortage of excitement and festivities that day at the library!



## Supper & Support

The next Supper & Support session will be held at the Main Library on Sunday, March 17. This program connects unhoused and low/medium-income people with city and county resources. January's session focused on housing and February offered information on emergency food resources. Visitors included the Alameda Food Bank, All Good Living Foundation, and Dine and Connect.

The March session will focus on social services, with guests from Village of Love. We will also be providing free laundry services in the parking lot. Please join us if this program is relevant to you or someone you know.

# SUPPER & SUPPORT

**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.

**Sunday  
March 17th  
1-3 PM**

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

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.

## Volunteer with us!

FAL is looking for volunteers and leaders in a number of areas that support our library. We are a 50-year-old organization with exciting volunteer and board opportunities to help expand the library’s outreach into the Alameda community, including a branch at Alameda Point. We are especially interested in individuals with the following backgrounds/interests:

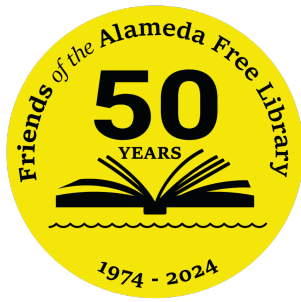


- Event Planning
- Social Media
- Accounting and Financial Management
- Marketing
- Friends Café or BFF (Books for Friends)
- Used Book Sales

Sign up to join us [here!](#)

## All-New Giving Tier Benefits!

Help us celebrate FAL’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



In recognition of FAL's 50 years of service to the Alameda Free Library, there are special Giving Tier benefits designed to bring you closer to the library.

Click [here](#) to learn more and donate.

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**A correction:**

*In the February newsletter, we introduced Kathleen Kearney as a past City of Alameda Library Director. Kathleen is a past City of Alameda Library Board Member.*

## Coming events!

### Online Art Docent Event | March 6

#### Facing Mecca: Reflections of Islam in Art

March 6 at 7 p.m.

Islam has inspired a variety of sacred art, but its influence extends far beyond religious objects into the secular and cultural realms. Come and be fascinated by the complexity and breadth of Islamic inspired art.



Steve Zilles has been a docent at the Asian Art Museum since 2014 and a storyteller since 2009. He has long been interested in Asian art and has traveled extensively through West, Central, South, Southeast and East Asia. A computer scientist by profession, he was involved in the development of standards for the World Wide Web for twenty years: the languages people use to prepare their web pages for display on their computer or phone.

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



## Online Author Event | March 20



**Author Patricia Bracewell**

***The Steel Beneath the Silk***

**March 20 at 7 p.m.**

*The Steel Beneath the Silk* is the breathtaking conclusion to Bracewell's Emma of Normandy Trilogy. Brimming with treachery, heartache, tenderness and passion, this saga follows English queen Emma, who confronts ambitious and traitorous councilors, invading armies and the Danish king's power-hungry concubine.

In the year 1012, England's Norman-born Queen Emma has been ten years wed to an aging, ruthless, haunted King Æthelred. The marriage is a bitterly unhappy one, with a queen who seeks to create her own sphere of influence within the court and a suspicious king who eyes her efforts with hostility and resentment.

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



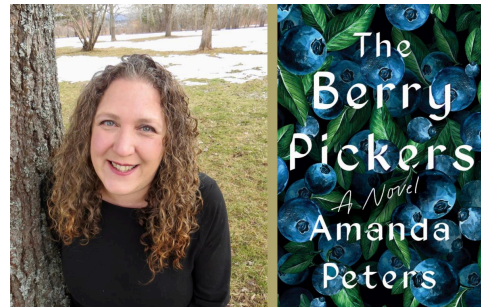
## Online Author Event | April 3

**Author Amanda Peters**

***The Berry Pickers***

**April 3 at 5 p.m.**

July 1962. A Mi'kmaq family from Nova Scotia arrives in Maine to pick blueberries for the summer. Weeks later, four-year-old Ruthie, the family's youngest child, vanishes. She is last seen by her six-year-old brother, Joe, who will remain distraught by his sister's disappearance for years to come.



In Maine, a young girl named Norma grows up as the only child of an affluent family. Her father is emotionally distant, and her mother frustratingly overprotective. Norma is often troubled by recurring dreams and visions that seem more like memories than imagination. As she grows older, Norma slowly comes to realize there is something her parents aren't telling her. Unwilling to abandon her intuition, she will spend decades trying to uncover this family secret.

Amanda Peters is a writer of Mi'kmaq and settler ancestry. Her debut novel, *The Berry Pickers*, won the 2024 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and the 2023 Barnes & Noble Discover Prize. It was shortlisted for the Barnes & Noble Book of the Year and the Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

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



## Online Art Docent Event | April 17



### The Art of Volume - Fernando Botero

April 17 at 7 p.m.

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.



## 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!



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