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EVENTS

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EVENTS

President's message by Karen Butter



We are excited to welcome the new Library Director, Michael Eitner, who comes to Alameda from his position as Assistant Director at the Solano County Library. We look forward to working with Michael to support and advocate for our library's many wonderful programs.

In April, FAL partnered with Librarian Rosemary Van Lare on a successful Adopt-a-Pet event at the Bay Farm Island Branch. A full cartooning workshop taught artists of all ages how to draw pets (I heard one participant ask how to draw a dragon, which I guess could be considered a pet). See more about this exciting day below!

For the library's Summer Reading Program, teens and adults may select a coupon for a free book from BFF (our Books for Friends bookstore, located near Friends Café in the Main Branch.) In June, we'll support another Bay Farm Island Branch event featuring the East Bay Vivarium, and in July, we will support the Fratello Marionettes at the West End Branch. These and many other outstanding library programs are all made possible by our supporters. Our Spring Appeal for our 50th Anniversary is underway, and we encourage everyone to consider making a donation.

As advocates for Alameda libraries, we are following AB 1825, the [California Freedom to Read Act](#), which would prohibit libraries from excluding materials based on topics, views, or opinions expressed in the materials. Basically, it's a ban on book bans. [Many other states](#) are working on similar legislation — among them Minnesota, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, Vermont, Colorado, and Kansas — to fight the rising tide of censorship, which, unfortunately, is attempted here in California as well. AB 1825 has sailed through the first few legislative committees, and we will continue to update you all on its progress.

FAL remembers Leslie Jean Gleason-Hawksbee

FAL was greatly saddened to hear that Leslie Jean Gleason-Hawksbee passed away on June 23, 2023, at the age of 99. She was a dedicated volunteer at Friends Café for almost twenty years, from its opening in 2006 until 2019, when, at the age of 95, her

driver's license expired. After nine months away, Leslie missed the bustle of café life and decided to return, greeting customers, serving coffee and pastries, visiting fellow volunteers and discovering new books.

A lifelong avid reader, Leslie always borrowed the maximum six books from her public library as a child. She would read in an alcove on the top floor of her grandparents' house in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. She loved novels, biographies, and books about opera, history, and Queen Victoria. FAL is incredibly grateful for her long service and sends condolences to the family. We will truly miss her.



Adopt-a-Pet Day a barking success

FAL was delighted to support Adopt-a-Pet Day on April 6, which the Bay Farm Island Branch produced in partnership with Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS).

Artist Brian Kolm led a fantastic Cartooning Workshop. He was pleasantly surprised by the participants' enthusiastic engagement and remarkable skill at drawing cartoon dogs and cats! He hopes to return for another workshop, possibly cartooning other animals. Let the library know if you'd be interested in joining!

We had tons of giveaways for library patrons: notebooks, stickers, coupons for a free beverage at Friends Café, and even stress balls, which may or may not have doubled as dog toys. And of course, there were several pet adoption successes: five kittens found their forever homes, one puppy has very interested adopters who put in an application, and another puppy found a foster family.

If you'd like to open your home to a fuzzy new friend, please visit Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter and apply!



Día de los Niños: music & magic!

The Alameda Free Library celebrated its third annual Día de los Niños (Day of the Children) program on Saturday, April 27 at the Main Branch. Día de los Niños celebrates children and the wonders of childhood while motivating them and their families to be lifelong readers.

The lively celebration was filled with activities and special performances, beginning with an interactive bilingual musical presentation by Chilean singer Mariela Herrera of Mariela's Music Time. Children and their families then worked together on a Bolivian paper weaving craft led by Pam Chang from the Alameda Education Foundation. Afterwards, we were all left awestruck by Magical Mark's magic show. The day ended with free photo booth pictures, balloon twisting with Mr. SHAP, and yummy fresh churros, courtesy of Churros Mexicanos.

The event was co-sponsored by Friends of the Alameda Free Library and First 5 Alameda County. We'd like to thank Help Me Grow, Alameda Family Services, and MOCHA for their contribution of services and information to all of those in attendance. Huge thanks also to the library staff who produced the event.



Star Wars Day: the Empire strikes a pose!

The Force was strong with the Main Branch on May 4! Star Wars fans of all ages enjoyed a day of games, Cantina trivia (do you know the name of the Cantina band?), outer space story time, and of course, a chance to stand lightsaber-to-lightsaber with the Empire in all its nefarious forms, thanks to a visit from the 501st Legion. Fans took part in a costume contest and a session of galactic yoga, and everyone did in fact do some yoga, because as all true fans know, "there is no try."

(The name of the Cantina band is Figrin D'an and the Modal Nodes — now you know!)



Enjoy the May sunshine at Friends Café



April was a busy month, with blustery weather perfect for our fun kite decorations. May's sunny days should see plenty of folks visiting our outdoor patio for relaxation and vitamin D.

The long-awaited remodel is finally complete! Thanks to Judy and Roger Ecker, we now have beautiful shelving and storage areas for our snacks and treats. Huge thanks to the Eckers for their persistence and vision. Drop by to check out the new displays and pick out a tasty snack!

We were pleased to see another visit from the knitting club, who will be holding their meetings on the first and third Saturdays of every month from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

at Friends Café. We will have a designated area set up for them.

Whether you're an experienced knitter or new to the craft, come hang out and see the amazing projects! All skill levels are welcome.



Books for Friends

We have remodeled eighteen of our shelves to expand our cookbook and spirituality and philosophy sections. New books in all sections are also on display. Check out the curated selection and take advantage of the BOGO offer through the end of May!



BFF Hours:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Noon to 4 p.m.

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

Our Spring Appeal is blooming!

FAL's 50th Anniversary Spring Appeal has launched, and we are well on our way to meeting our goal! Many of you stepped up to donate and are enjoying our 50th Anniversary Giving Tier perks: Books for Friends discounts, free drinks and treats from Friends Café, and so much more — our special way of thanking you! Have you donated yet? [Click here](#) or scan the QR code below to support our Alameda library.

Did you know that matching gifts can help you get even more Giving Tier perks? If your employer matches gifts, your donation to FAL can be doubled or tripled. Many organizations also match volunteer hours!

How do matching gifts work?

- The first step is always your initial donation. There can be no matching gift without an initial gift to match!
- Employee submits matching gift request.
- Employer checks donation eligibility.

- Employer verifies donation.
- The organization collects the matching gift.

What can you do next?

Not sure if your employer has a matching gift program? Check with your human resources director. You can also download a list of Bay Area companies with matching gift programs [here](#).

Questions? Please contact Kelly Ground, our Fund Development Manager, at donate@alamedafriends.com or (510) 210-3737.



Love for the library :)

We love seeing positivity for public libraries on social media! If you find a good one, send it to us at info@alamedafriends.com. We may feature it in a future newsletter!



Upcoming FAL events

Online Art Docent Event | May 15

**Rembrandt van Rijn:
The Man and His Art
May 15, 7 p.m.**

Rembrandt van Rijn lived in the Golden Age of Dutch art, and 400 years later, we are still captivated by his paintings and etchings. You might expect that Rembrandt would

have been universally beloved in his lifetime, just as he is now, but the reality was quite different. Listen and learn from Rembrandt's successes and challenges as he reigned over and rebelled against the conventions of 17th century art.



Guiding us through this fascinating story is Marsha Holm, who has been a docent with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF) since 1979. In addition to giving tours and lectures in all areas of the museums' collections, from Africa to the Pacific Islands and from the Americas to Europe, she has served in several administrative capacities, including new and continuing education for FAMSF docents. She has also assisted in training docents at the Blackhawk Museum, the Oakland Museum of California, and the San Jose Museum of Art.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code below to register.



In-person Art Docent Event | May 22



**Rembrandt van Rijn:
The Man and His Art
May 22, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Alameda Free Library, Stafford Room
1550 Oak Street, Alameda

We are pleased to offer this docent talk at the Main Branch for those who wish to experience this event in person. Marsha Holm will be our docent for the evening. The program runs from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., leaving time for questions before the library closes at 8 p.m. For more information, please see the description of the online event above. We look forward to seeing you at the Main Branch! No pre-registration is necessary for the in-person event.

Irving Penn
20th Century Photography
June 12, 7 p.m.

With a career spanning seven decades, Irving Penn was one of the 20th century's most preeminent photographers. Penn is best known for his work at *Vogue*, where he revolutionized fashion photography by emphasizing each model's character through expressions and gestures.



Penn's penetrating portraits reveal his talent for observing human attitude, while his graphic intelligence and ability to shape volumes with light are evident in his studies of nudes and in still lifes, a genre he favored throughout his career. Included in the current de Young exhibition (running through July 21) is a special section of photographs from San Francisco's 1967 Summer of Love, featuring Haight-Ashbury hippies and legendary local rock bands.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code below to register.



Alameda Free Library events

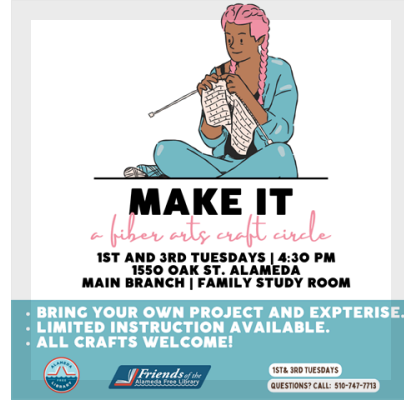
Sponsored by FAL

All events are free and open to the public. Visit www.alamedafree.org for the full events calendar or call the library at 510-747-7777 for more information. These events are made possible by the sponsorship of Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

Make It: A Fiber Arts Craft Circle
May 7 and May 21, 4:30 p.m.

Alameda Free Library
Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

Calling all knitters, crocheters, embroidery enthusiasts, and fiber artists! Join us in the Family Study Room at the Main Branch for a fiber arts craft circle. Please bring your own project, materials, and expertise. Limited instruction available.



Sensory-Friendly Family Movie Matinee

May 12, 2 p.m.

Alameda Free Library

Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

These family movie screenings aim to create a sensory-friendly environment by keeping half the room lights on, lowering the volume, turning on movie captions, offering fidget toys to use during the movie, and providing open seating with wobble cushions so kids have room to move around.

Audience members are welcome to bring food, blankets, and pillows.

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

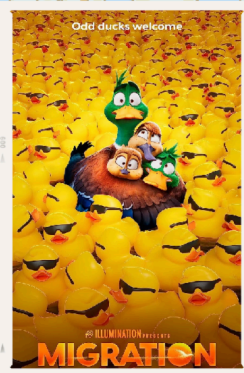


See upcoming dates and title selections for May, June, July and September in the poster below. (No matinee in August.)

FAMILY MOVIE MATINEE

Main Library | Stafford Room | 2 PM

MAY 12



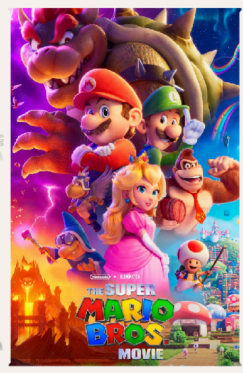
JUNE 9



JULY 14



SEPTEMBER 8



FREE
SNACKS!



Friends of the
Alameda Free Library



Supper & Support

May 19, 1-3 p.m.

Alameda Free Library
Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

May's Supper & Support session will focus on services available to seniors, but all ages are welcome to attend.

What is Supper & Support?

Supper & Support is designed to link existing resources to the people who need them. Since January 2024, the Alameda Free Library has collaborated with the Housing and Human Services Division of the City Manager's Office to bring this program to the Main Branch every third Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

At each Supper & Support session, attendees share a free hot meal and shop for clothing and other hygiene essentials at the library's open closet. FAL has contributed to the program by providing financial support and volunteers. The Alameda Free Library has applied for a California State Library Services and Technology Act Community Impact grant to fully fund the program for fiscal year 2024-25.



Please join us on Sunday, May 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Stafford Room of the Main Branch to hear about services available for seniors. Details in the poster below. June's session will focus on mental health services.



SUPPER & SUPPORT

FREE

Come enjoy a free, hot meal at the library!

Meet service providers sharing information about services available to seniors. Confirmed guests include: Mastick Senior Center, Center for Elder Independence; 211 Eden I/R; Cal Fresh; and FAAS. Additional resources will also be available for those interested.

 **Sunday
May 19th
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 for more information. Sponsored by the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. Contact the Library for any questions at: 510-747-7777.

MOCHA at the Library! Various dates All branches

Teaching artists from the Museum of Children's Art will be holding art workshops for children at all three library branches through July.

Registration is required.

Call 510-747-7705 or email childref@alamedaca.gov to learn more or register.

All events are from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Main Branch, Oak Street



Arts & Crafts

The Friends of the Alameda Free Library presents

MOCHA Museum of Children's Art

Sessions available at all 3 Branches.
See below for dates and locations.

Space is limited and registration is required.
For more information and to register call 510-747-7705 or email childref@alamedaca.gov

Sat. May 25
Tues. June 11
Wed. July 3
Thurs. July 11
Fri. July 26
Mon. July 29

Bay Farm Island Branch

Sat. June 8
Sat. June 22

West End Branch

Thurs. June 27
Thurs. July 18

More information [here](#).

A Novel Idea Book Club

May 28, 5:30 p.m.

Alameda Free Library
Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

May's book is *Notes on Her Color* by Jennifer Neal: "Florida kitsch swirls together with magical realism in this glittering debut novel about a young Black and Indigenous woman who learns to change the color of her skin...[the story of] a young woman looking for a world beyond her family's carefully-coded existence, *Notes on Her Color* is a lushly written and haunting tale that shows how love, in its best sense, can be a liberating force from destructive origins." [Read a free excerpt on LitHub!](#)



Important schedule change! A Novel Idea will now be held on *the last Tuesday of every month*. See the poster below for upcoming book club picks. Copies are available to borrow through the library, plus a few free copies as well! Ask at the front desk.

Limited copies are available at the Reference Desk at the Main Library. Also available for loan from the Library and Link.

FORTHCOMING SELECTIONS



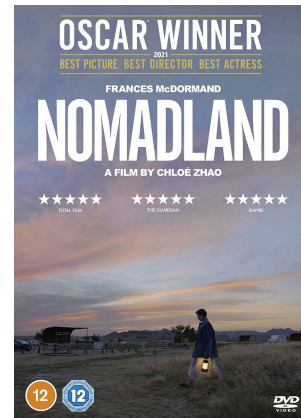






All events are free and open to the public. Check the library website: www.alamedafree.org for more information. Sponsored by the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. Contact the Library for any questions at: 510-747-7777.

May Movie Night
May 29, 5:30 p.m.
 Alameda Free Library
 Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.



In 2021, *Nomadland* won the Academy Award for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actress, among others. According to its glowing review on RogerEbert.com, Fern (Frances McDormand) "is the unforgettable center of Chloé Zhao's masterful *Nomadland*, a movie that finds poetry in the story of a seemingly average woman. It is a gorgeous film that's alternately dreamlike in the way it captures the beauty of this country and grounded in its story about the kind of person we don't usually see in movies. I love everything about it."

Join the screening at the Main Branch on May 29! (This film is rated R.)

Volunteer with us!

FAL is looking for volunteers and leaders in a number of areas. We are a 50-year-old organization with exciting volunteer and board opportunities to help expand the library's outreach into the Alameda community. Sign up [here!](#)



We are especially interested in individuals with the following backgrounds/interests:

- Event Planning
- Social Media
- Accounting and Financial Management
- Marketing
- Retail, bookselling, or café skills

Get the latest on FAL news and events!



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