



[DONATE
to FAL](#)

[JOIN
MAILING LIST](#)

[VOLUNTEER
WITH US](#)

[UPCOMING
EVENTS](#)

[WATCH PAST
EVENTS](#)

President's Message by Karen Butter

Dear Supporters,

I'm thrilled to share some highlights from our recent activities and achievements!

Summer Reading Challenge

For the first time, Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL) offered a book prize as part of the Library's Summer Reading Challenge. Many readers chose coupons for the **Books For Friends (BFF) store** operated by FAL and enjoyed shopping at our store, with many becoming first-time buyers. The Library reported a record number of Alamedans of all ages participating in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. The demand for Tucker's Ice Cream coupons was so high that FAL increased the number to ensure everyone could enjoy a sweet treat.



Library Café Celebrates the Paris Olympics

Our Library Café volunteers have decorated the café to mark this exciting event. Stop by for a drink and a treat and enjoy the charming Olympic-themed decor.

4th of July Parade

We had a fantastic time participating in the 4th of July parade! Special thanks to Billy Reinschmidt for allowing us to decorate his truck and to Stephen Johnson for designing the frame to display our banners and book covers. Our new Executive Director, Beth Quirarte, was a crowd favorite dressed as Uncle Sam, and Linda Williams proudly carried a sign reading "Ban Hate Not Books." We distributed over 3,000 bookmarks and BOGO coupons for BFF. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success!



Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Get Ready for August and the Olympics at the Library Café!

The Library Café is all set for August and the excitement of the Olympics! Our decorations are up, and Uncle Sam is still hanging around, cheering on all the fabulous US athletes. Go Team USA!

To complement these exciting events, we're introducing several new drink and food options to keep our would-be athletes refreshed and energized. Enjoy the invigorating taste of Gatorade Fierce, the refreshing fizz of CELSIUS energy drinks, the crispness of Kirkland Signature Italian Sparkling Mineral Water, and the satisfying protein boost from Chomps beef jerky sticks.

Whether you're catching up on the latest Olympic highlights or just stopping by for a break, the Library Café has something for everyone.



Come in, soak up the festive atmosphere, and try our new offerings.

Let's celebrate the spirit of the Olympics together!



Exciting Updates from Books For Friends (BFF) Your Community's Curated Bookshop

Conveniently located in the Main Library, just down the hall from the Café, BFF is your go-to spot for finding incredible books at unbeatable prices.

New Arrivals and Special Collections

This month, we're excited to spotlight some fantastic additions to our shelves, especially in our cookbook and children's book sections! If you're a foodie looking to try new recipes or a parent in search of great reads for your kids, BFF has you covered. Our curated collection of cookbooks offers something for everyone, from beginners to seasoned chefs, all at bargain prices. For our younger readers, we've stocked up on a fresh batch of children's books that are perfect for story time or independent reading. Come in and explore these high-quality books—you never know what treasures you might find!



Volunteer Spotlight

We're immensely grateful to our dedicated volunteers, who make BFF a vibrant and welcoming place. This month, we're shining a spotlight on our amazing team and their incredible contributions. Their hard work and passion for books keep BFF running smoothly and make it a beloved resource to our community. If you see them around, be sure to thank them for their service!

Call for Volunteers

We're always on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to help staff the bookshop, especially on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m. Volunteering at BFF is a rewarding way to give back, meet fellow book lovers, and support the Friends of the Alameda Free Library. Interested? Swing by the shop during regular hours or [sign up here](#).

BFF Bookshop Hours:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday | Noon to 4 p.m.
Main Library (down the hall from the Café)

Book Donations By Appointment

We accept used book donations **by appointment** on Sundays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. If you have books to donate, we'd love to give them a new home on our shelves! Please remember not to leave books by the door outside of these hours, as we're unable to properly care for them until our volunteers are available. If you need to donate books immediately and can't make an appointment, both Goodwill and Salvation Army accept book donations on a rolling basis. Your donations help keep our shelves stocked with amazing reads and support library programs that benefit everyone. Please schedule your donation appointment and review the donation guidelines [here](#).

Remembering Cliff Poche: A Celebration of a Life Well-Lived



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Cliff, a beloved friend and dedicated staff member of the Alameda Free Library. Cliff's life was a testament to his devotion, compassion, and infectious joy, which touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Cliff was known for his fun-loving spirit, loyalty, and remarkable talents. His interests ranged widely, from writing stories and enjoying music to indulging in movies, cartoons, and wrestling. He shared a unique bond with his brother Rich, working together on numerous projects as an actor, cameraman, and stagehand. Their collaboration was a source of joy and creativity, allowing them to meet wonderful people and create lasting memories.

For 15 years, Cliff was a cherished member of the Alameda Free Library team, most recently serving in the circulation department. His passion for his work was evident in the way he spoke fondly of his supervisor and colleagues, whom he held in high regard. Cliff's dedication and enthusiasm made a lasting impact on his workplace.

Cliff's love for movies and acting was unparalleled. He had a meticulously organized collection of DVDs and possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of films. His passion for performing began in school plays and continued into community theater and short films, where he often portrayed villains with remarkable skill. His captivating performances garnered significant attention, with one of his films receiving over 250,000 views on YouTube.

In addition to his talents in acting, Cliff was also a karaoke enthusiast known for his impressive singing abilities. He had a deep love for his pets and shared many joyful moments with his mother, engaging in activities like painting and shopping together. His presence brought immense joy and laughter to those around him, and he was a pillar of support for his family.

In honor of Cliff's memory, the City of Alameda lowered its flag at City Hall, a testament to the impact he had on his community and the high regard in which he was held.

Donate to Friends of the Alameda Free Library Today!



A donation today will help keep the Library full of the books, music, films, and activities we all need and enjoy.

[Click here to contribute!](#)

Have you already donated to our Spring Campaign? FAL and your fellow library fans thank you!

Fratello Marionettes Bring Joy to the West End Branch



This July, the West End branch of the Alameda Free Library was buzzing with excitement as the Fratello Marionettes put on a fantastic show for kids and adults alike.

Brought to life by talented puppeteers, the marionettes danced and told stories that had everyone smiling and laughing. It was clear that both the young and the young-at-heart were completely captivated.

But the fun didn't stop there! After the show, the puppeteers invited the kids to check out the marionettes up close. The little ones were thrilled to see how the puppets worked, asking questions and interacting with the marionettes. It was a hands-on experience that made the day even more special.

The Fratello Marionettes brought so much joy to our community, and we're already looking forward to their next visit. It was a day full of smiles, wonder, and a whole lot of fun at the Library!



Welcome to Our New Board Member: Josh Kuroda

We are excited to welcome Josh Kuroda to the board of Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL). Born and raised in Honolulu, HI, Josh has been a resident of Alameda for the past four years. With a background in software engineering and product management, he is currently building products at GreatSchools.org, a nonprofit based in Oakland, CA.



Josh is passionate about the community enrichment, lifelong learning, and economic empowerment opportunities that the Library provides. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our board.

In his free time, Josh enjoys roller skating with his daughter and partner throughout the East Bay. You can also find him birding, printmaking, or playing board games with friends. When he's not engaged in these activities, he loves relaxing with his cat, Goose.

Please join us in welcoming Josh Kuroda to the Friends of the Alameda Free Library board. We look forward to his contributions and the fresh perspective he will bring to our organization.

Welcome to FAL's New Executive Director: Beth Quirarte



We are thrilled to introduce Beth Quirarte as the new Executive Director of Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL). Beth brings vast experience and a deep commitment to community and empowerment to her new role.

Beth has spent her career in the nonprofit sector, supporting institutions that make our communities vibrant while championing marginalized populations. In her most recent position, she successfully raised funds to open four new shelters for survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. Her longstanding commitment to youth and community empowerment is evident in all her endeavors.

Having lived in Alameda for over ten years, Beth and her family are deeply rooted in the community. Her son attends school in the Alameda Unified School District, and Beth is excited to give back to a community that has provided so much support and warmth to her family.

You might spot Beth walking her two dogs near Lincoln Park or enjoying her new hobby as a beginning runner. An avid reader, she mostly delves into nonfiction books, continually seeking to expand her knowledge and understanding.

Beth's vision for FAL is to increase community engagement and awareness of the incredible resources the Library offers. "I want to continue promoting FAL within the community so that everyone can discover the wonderful resources provided by FAL, from our cultural programming to our amazing used bookstore and our warm and welcoming cafe," she says. Beth also recognizes the challenges libraries face nationwide and is proud to celebrate the strength of our local library system.

Beth extends her heartfelt thanks to the community for making FAL a success, particularly through increased donations and interest in events as we recover from the impact of COVID-19. She encourages everyone to reach out to info@alamedafriends.com or visit [our website](#) to learn how to volunteer, donate, or attend one of our events.

Join us in welcoming Beth Quirarte to Friends of the Alameda Free Library. We look forward to the exciting future ahead under her leadership!

Upcoming FAL Events

Africa Meets the West
Zoom Art Docent Event
August 14 @ 7:00 p.m.
[Register here](#)



Gain insights into some of the many cultures and traditions that make up the vast and diverse continent of Africa, many of which are unfamiliar to the Western world. See how African art portrays their culture and traditions and creates a meaningful interpretation and explanation of Africa today, including its ongoing connection to the West.

Presented by Master Docent Ingrid Wood of the Phoenix Art Museum.

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.

FOR KIDS, TWEENS, TEENS and FAMILIES



Teen Book Club

August 7, 4:00 - 4:40 p.m.
Alameda Free Library
Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

Teens, join our book club! Each month, members get to choose the book we read. While supplies last, free copies are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. To join, please register [here](#). We will meet in



Teen Dungeons & Dragons

August 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Alameda Free Library
Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

Teens, are you looking for an incredible adventure? Look no further than Dungeons & Dragons (D&D)! Create your own character and embark on an epic journey with fellow adventurers.

the [Stafford Room](#) at the Main Library.

This event is made possible by Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

No experience needed. Character sheets, dice, and rules explanations provided. Register [here](#) to join.

FOR ADULTS



Author Talk: Brian Copeland
August 10, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Alameda Free Library
Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

Join us for an Author Talk and book signing with Brian Copeland! Alameda author Janet Dawson will interview local author, actor, comedian, and playwright Brian Copeland. Brian's new book, *Outraged*, was released in April 2024.

This event is made possible by your gifts to FAL.



August Movie Night: *Fremont*
August 28, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alameda Free Library
Main Branch, 1550 Oak St.

Formerly a translator for the U.S. military, Donya works at a Chinese fortune cookie factory and is struggling to put her life back in order. In a moment of sudden revelation, she decides to send out a special message in a cookie.

Unrated. Snacks provided. Masks recommended.

Get the latest on FAL news and events!



Visit our website

<https://alamedafriends.com/>

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsalamedafreelibrary>



Follow us on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/friendsofthealamedafreelibrary/>



Subscribe to our YouTube channel

<https://bit.ly/FriendVideos>

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!