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President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of 2024, it's a perfect time to reflect on the amazing support that has helped the Alameda Free Library thrive this year. Thanks to your commitment, Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL) has been able to fund a wide range of programs reaching every part of our community. From lively art docent talks to our record-breaking Summer Reading Program, we've seen how FAL's work enriches lives in Alameda.



A special thank you goes out to the dedicated volunteers who made our October Book Sale such a success. With their hard work, we raised significant funds that will help support our library's many programs. Events like these showcase the spirit of our community and the commitment of those who give their time and energy to help the library.

Looking ahead, we're excited to expand our support for the library in even more impactful ways. In 2025, FAL aims to increase access to children's books and eBooks, celebrate diverse cultures through our Friends @ Home Program, and bring back fun events like the Live @ the Library concert series. With your continued support, we can keep making the library a place of learning, inspiration, and connection for everyone.

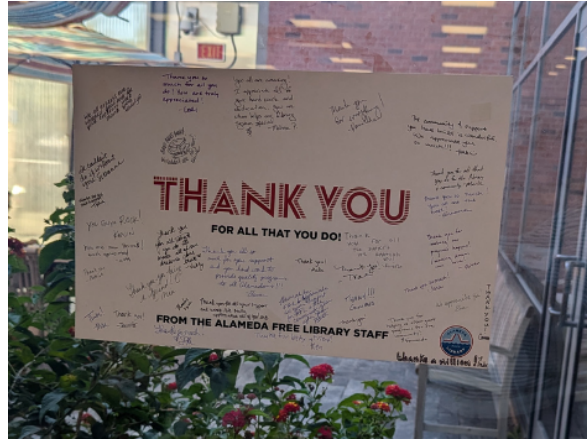
As we launch our year-end fundraising campaign, I invite you to consider making a gift to FAL. Every donation, big or small, is an investment in our library's future and our community's well-being. Thank you for being such an essential part of this journey.

Warm regards,

Karen Butter
President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library

Celebrating National Friends of the Library Week!

In October, we celebrated National Friends of the Library Week—a time to honor the support and dedication of those who help our library thrive. As part of the celebration, the staff of the Alameda Free Library presented FAL with this heartfelt card filled with gratitude and appreciation. Each note is a testament to the invaluable contributions made by our Friends, including YOU!



Your support enables us to bring more programs, resources, and community experiences to Alameda. Whether you're a volunteer, donor, or advocate, you're an essential part of the library's success. Thank you for all that you do to make the library a place of learning, inspiration, and discovery for everyone.

Together, we are building a stronger community, one page at a time. Thank you for being a Friend!

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

Thank you for your generous support throughout the year! With the holiday season approaching, we want to inform you of a few important updates to our donation schedule.

If you're hoping to make a donation for a 2024 tax deduction, please plan to schedule your donation appointment in November. We anticipate high demand, so early scheduling is encouraged.



Donation Pause Dates

Please note that we will not be accepting donations on the following dates:

- December 1, 2024
- December 15, 2024
- December 22, 2024
- December 29, 2024

For all other dates, donations are accepted by appointment only to help us manage the volume. Please visit our website to schedule a convenient drop-off time.

Donation Guidelines

Your contributions directly support Friends of the Alameda Free Library's work to enhancing our library's programs and resources. Our all-volunteer team works diligently to process donations, which makes scheduled drop-offs essential to keeping everything running smoothly.

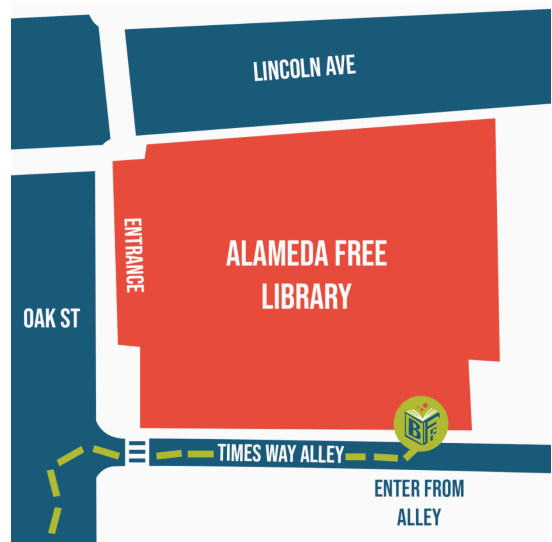
We accept a variety of items, including fiction (mystery, science fiction, contemporary), cookbooks, art, children's and teen/tween books, graphic novels, CDs, DVDs, etc. However, we cannot accept items in poor condition, outdated reference materials, cassette or VHS tapes.

Schedule Your Book and Media Donation Appointment

BFF Hours

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Entrance from inside the Main Library is down the hall across from the Cafe. The outside entrance is on Times Way Alley (see the map).



What's Happening in the Library Cafe?



Fall at the Library Cafe!

The autumn season has transformed the Library Cafe! With cozy decorations and a chill in the air, it's the perfect spot to warm up with a cup of Mr. Espresso coffee, Numi Organic Tea, hot chocolate, or a steaming bowl of hot noodle soup. Pair it with a delicious Firebrand pastry or cookie, and enjoy the season's ambiance.

Exercise Your Right to Vote

Remember to make your voice heard in the upcoming election on November 5th! The library offers voter forms and guides in multiple languages to help you make informed choices. Your vote matters!

Thanksgiving Holiday Closure

Holiday Closure

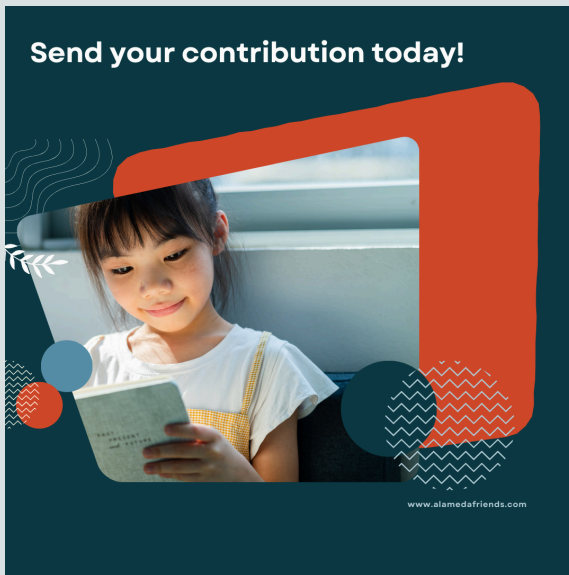
Please note that the Library Cafe will be closed over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. We look forward to welcoming you back in December. Wishing everyone a warm and happy Thanksgiving!

**Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. every day, except Wednesday
12 p.m. - 4 p.m. on Wednesday
We can't wait to welcome you.**

Thank you for supporting the Library Cafe. We look forward to seeing you!



A Message to Our Supporters as 2024 Ends



As we approach the end of the year, we're reflecting on the incredible support that has helped the Alameda Free Library thrive as a vital community hub.

This year, FAL has funded diverse programs that reached all corners of our community. Highlights include our in-person and digital events with authors and docents, the return of art docent events, and our steadfast support of the Summer Reading Program, which

saw record participation!

With your support, FAL can continue to bring enriching experiences to Alameda. But our work is far from over. This coming year, we're excited to support:

- **Expanding Access to Books and eBooks:** We aim to increase our collection, especially for our youngest readers.
- **Celebrating Diverse Cultures:** Through events like the returning Live @ the Library concert series and artist-centered programs, we continue to celebrate the arts and inclusivity in Alameda.
- **Enhancing Programs and Events for All Ages:** From storytimes to author talks, FAL ensures the library remains a place of learning and connection.

Your Role in This Journey

As we kick off our year-end fundraising campaign, we invite you to contribute to this mission. Every gift, whether large or small, is an investment in our community's future. You can donate using the form [here](#) or

by visiting our website. Together, we can keep our library vibrant and inclusive.

Thank you for helping us ensure that the Alameda Free Library continues to be the heart of our community!

[Donate Today!](#)

FAL Celebrates Book Sale Success

The October Book Sale was a tremendous success, bringing in a grand total of **\$7,790** over four days. Hosted by FAL and our

The FAL Book Sale team, this event once again demonstrated the community's love for books and support for our library.

Held from October 23-26, the sale featured over 300 boxes of books brought in from our warehouse, with 230 boxes sold, donated, or rehomed.

While most books found new homes, 70 boxes were returned to the warehouse, and 14 boxes were sent to Better World Books for reuse—a wonderful way to give our unsold books a second life.

A special highlight was the sale of several book sets, including collections ranging from 8 to 54 volumes each, and 26 boxes of vintage Life and Look Magazine bound editions, which sparked nostalgia and curiosity among buyers.

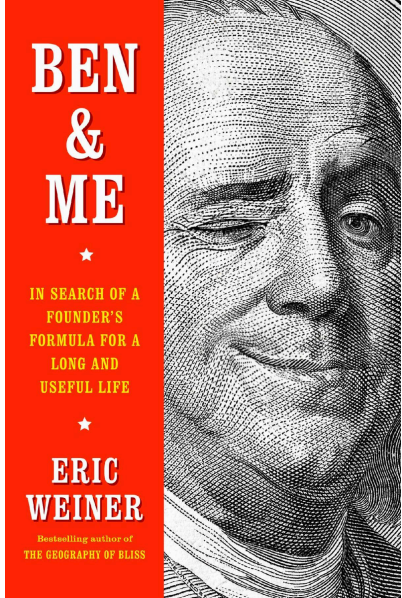
This sale would not have been possible without the dedication of over 40 volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it happen. We rely on volunteers throughout the year to receive, sort, and move books, with four volunteer sessions each month in our warehouse and a variety of roles to fill during each sale. If you're looking for a way to support the library and be part of a fantastic community, [consider joining us as a volunteer!](#)

Thank you to everyone who supported the October Book Sale! Mark your calendars for our next book sale, scheduled for January 30 - February 1.



Upcoming FAL Events

Author Talk: Eric Weiner



Zoom Event

Wednesday, Nov 6 @ 7:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

FAL is excited to welcome back New York Times bestselling author and journalist Eric Weiner, known for his thought-provoking works such as *The Geography of Bliss* and *The Socrates Express*. Eric will discuss his latest book, *Ben & Me*, where he explores an extraordinary journey through the life and wisdom of Benjamin Franklin, uncovering timeless lessons for today's world.

This engaging talk promises a mix of humor, insight, and inspiration, as Eric delves into his experiences as a writer and his unique approach to storytelling. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from one of today's most captivating nonfiction authors.

Breaking the Stereotypes: The Quest for a More Honest and Dynamic Representation of Indigenous Americans in Art

Zoom Art Docent Event
Wed, Nov 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

In art, Native Americans have been the subject of stereotypes in how they should be depicted. Some of the stereotypes imposed by non-Native Americans may be more familiar to us. But there are also stereotypes imposed on Native Americans by themselves. We will examine together some of the attempts to break these stereotypes in art and achieve more personal and truthful depictions.



Presented by Docent David Buck of the Phoenix Art Museum.

In Person Author Program:
Iris Jamahl Dunkle
Riding Like the Wind

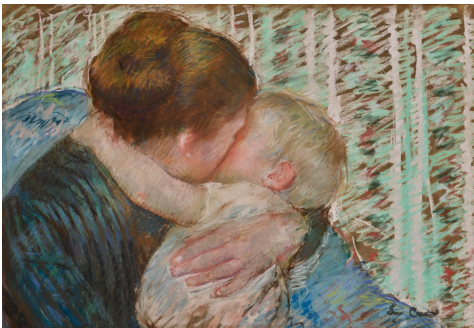


**Sunday, Dec 1 @ 2:00 p.m.
Main Library, Stafford Room**

Meet Iris Jamahl Dunkle, author of *Riding Like the Wind: The Life of Sanora Babb*, for a conversation and book signing.

Riding Like the Wind traces Babb's journey from a hardscrabble childhood in Colorado to her influential years in California, where she befriended literary icons like Ray Bradbury and Ralph Ellison, and was later blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Her work documenting migrant farmworkers informed John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, and her legacy endures in Ken Burns's *The Dust Bowl* and Kristin Hannah's *The Four Winds*.

Dunkle is an Emerita Poet Laureate of Sonoma County, faculty at UC Davis, and the author of several acclaimed works. Her writing revives forgotten women's voices, including in her recent poetry collection, *West : Fire : Archive*.



**Mary Cassatt
Author Art Docent Event
Wednesday, Dec 11 @ 7:00
p.m.
[Register Here](#)**

Mary Cassatt (1844–1926) was among the leading figures of the French

Impressionist movement and the most celebrated woman artist of her era. Too often dismissed as a sentimental painter of mothers and children, Cassatt was in fact a bold modernist pioneer and an aesthetically radical painter, pastelist, and printmaker. Her work in every medium is characterized by ceaseless experimentation and change.

Smuggling a radical aesthetic program under cover of acceptably “feminine” subject matter, Cassatt produced images of “women’s work” that also testify to the work of the woman who made them. *Mary Cassatt at Work* delves into the artist’s materials and processes, exploring the daring, iterative methods she used to give form to her ideas.

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.

FOR KIDS, TWEENS, TEENS and FAMILIES



**Police Storytime
Nov 4 and Nov 14
10:30 AM**

Bay Farm Island Library

Join Alameda Police officers for an engaging storytime event at Bay Farm Island Library. This family-friendly session offers children a chance to connect with local police officers through stories and interactive fun.



**Firefighter Storytime
Nov 26, 10:30 AM
West End Library**

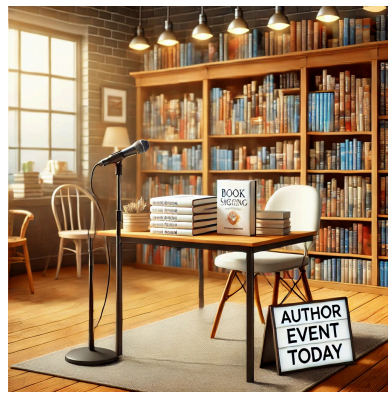
The Alameda Free Library's West End branch is hosting a special firefighter-themed storytime event featuring a member of the Alameda Fire Department. The event is scheduled for November 26 at 10:30 a.m. and aims to engage children with stories read by a real firefighter.

FOR ADULTS



Blood Drive
Nov 12, 12:00 - 5:00 PM
Alameda Free Library
1550 Oak St
Stafford Room

The Alameda Free Library is hosting a blood drive. To participate, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code ALAMEDALIBRARY to schedule an appointment.



Author Talk:
Stan Bunger
Nov 16, 3:00 - 4:30 PM
Alameda Free Library
1550 Oak St
Stafford Room

Join us in the Stafford Meeting Room for a discussion of Stan's latest book, *Mornings with Madden*, and grab a signed copy to take home with you! No registration required--see you there!

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