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President's Message

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are moving into a new year. Looking back we have much to celebrate with our successful 50th anniversary year.

We shifted all book sales to the Main Library and held 3 very successful sales. Books for Friends (BFF) and the Café were very busy introducing many buyers to new products and BFF continued to attract new customers with its outstanding selection of used books.



The Friends @ Home events were very popular with 13 Zoom docent talks and 5 author talks adding the first two in-person docent talks since before the pandemic. More than 2,000 individuals registered for the events in 2024. A very impressive number!

We held our first 4 day book sale in October offering teachers an opportunity to buy a bag of books for \$5 on the first day. A good number of Alameda teachers took advantage of the special pricing and we thank them for their service teaching Alameda's next generation. The sale was a spectacular event and brought together many regular volunteers and familiar faces.

A special thanks to all our volunteers who were critical in making the sale a success. Books For Friends and the Café had outstanding sales as well and introduced many in the community to outstanding beverages, food and high quality used books. We plan to continue to offer the special event for teachers at future sales.

Our first used book and media sale of the year is scheduled in February and we will be sending out requests for volunteers shortly. As we begin a new year we continue to need volunteers who are critical to our ability to support the programs of the Alameda Free Library.

There are many opportunities to volunteer with activities and schedules tailored around our busy lives.

A special thanks to our retiring Board Members – Kumar Fanse, Karen Manuel and Eileen Savel. All have made major contributions to the success of FAL and we look forward to their more limited involvement in FAL activities. Finally, our Executive Director has announced her resignation. We are sending out the job description and encourage those interested to apply.

Warm regards,

Karen Butter
President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library

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

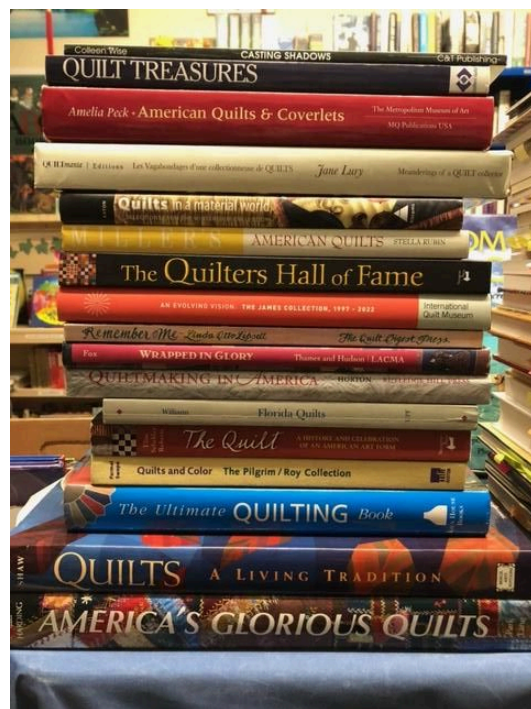
A Special Donation of Quilt Books

As we begin 2025, we're excited to share a glimpse of a remarkable donation recently received by Books for Friends: an extraordinary collection of quilting books! This generous contribution features titles celebrating the art, history, and craftsmanship of quilting from around the world.

From guides on pieced quilt patterns and rotary-cut techniques to rich historical narratives like *American Quilts* and *The American Quilt Story*, this collection is a treasure trove for quilting enthusiasts, historians, and crafters alike. It includes standout works like *Quilts and Color: The Pilgrim/Roy Collection*, *The Quilters Hall of Fame*, and *America's Glorious Quilts*.

Whether you're a seasoned quilter or simply appreciate the beauty and tradition of this timeless art, these books are sure to inspire. Visit Books for Friends to browse this collection and discover something special for yourself or the quilt-lover in your life.

Thank you for continuing to support our mission and helping us enhance the library's programs and resources. Every donation and purchase makes a difference!

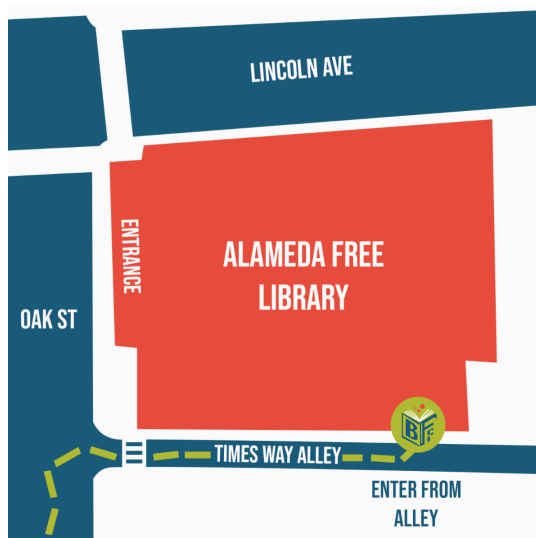


Schedule Your Book and Media Donation Appointment

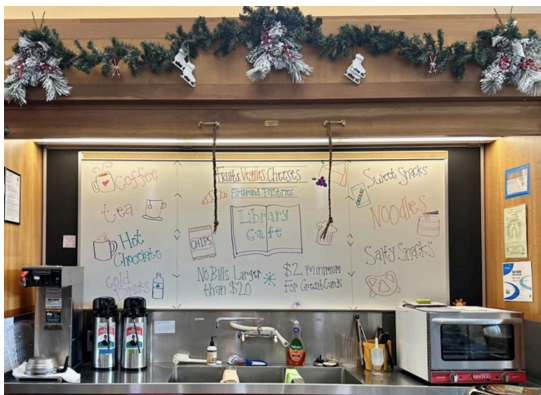
BFF Hours

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?



Winter Has Arrived!

Winter is officially here, bringing cold winds, rain, and even the possibility of a tornado! Despite the chilly weather, festive winter decorations are brightening our spirits as we embrace the first months of 2025.

The year-end holidays created a particularly joyful atmosphere, with children singing songs, decorating delicious treats, and cherishing time with friends and family. The library and the Library Café have been the perfect havens for staying cozy, enjoying a warm cup of coffee, hot chocolate, soothing noodle soups, or tea.



Exciting News from the Library Café

We're thrilled to introduce a featured café product each month, starting with Numi Organic Tea for January!

Numi was founded in 1999 in Oakland, California, by siblings Ahmed Rahim and Reem Hassani. Inspired by the steeped dried desert lime they enjoyed during their childhood in Baghdad, Iraq, they named their company after this

tea, "numi," which means "citrus" in Arabic. Their mission is to share the transformative, healing power of tea while fostering hospitality and community. Over the years, Numi has brought little-known herbs and teas to the United States and championed human rights and sustainability worldwide.

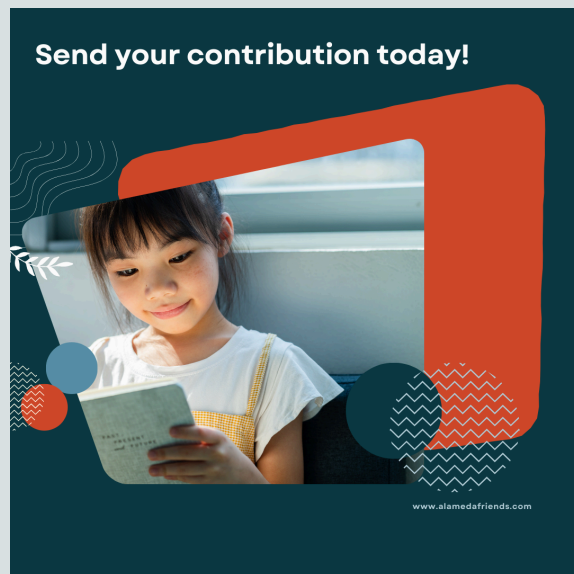
Did you know? Numi is an Alameda-based company, located right at Alameda Point!

New Drink Options Coming Soon

In addition to highlighting Numi Organic Tea, we'll be testing some new drink options in January. Be sure to check out the offerings in our beautiful new refrigerator!

Stay warm, stay dry, and we look forward to welcoming you soon. Thank you for visiting the Library Café—we appreciate your support!

Support the Friends!



As we welcome 2025, there's still time to support the Alameda Free Library through Friends of the Alameda Free Library's Annual Campaign! Your gift fuels engaging programs, expands book and eBook collections, and brings inspiring cultural events to life. Every contribution strengthens our library's role as a place for discovery, learning, and connection. Join us in making a lasting impact—donate today!

Donate Today!

Upcoming FAL Events

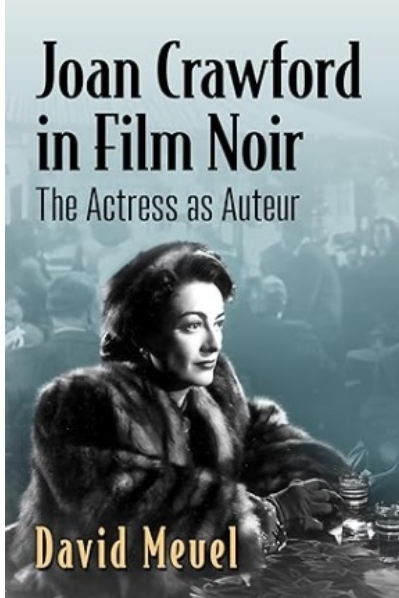
Author Talk: David Meuel

Zoom Event

Wed, Feb 5 @ 7:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Explore the world of Film Noir from the 1940s and 1950s through Joan Crawford's distinctive noir films, which redefined the genre with depth and her personal touch. Discover how noir's dark, brooding style influenced



American Westerns, introducing moral ambiguity, complex anti-heroes, and explicit violence. This stylistic shift laid the foundation for modern sci-fi, action, and acclaimed TV shows like *Deadwood* and *Breaking Bad*.

Author David Meuel, known for his film history books, has also published poetry, short stories, and numerous articles on diverse topics, from U.S. national parks to technology.

Kara Walker's Big Imagination
Zoom Art Docent Event
Wed, Feb 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
[Register here](#)



Discover MacArthur award-winning artist Kara Walker and her current SFMOMA installation, *Fortuna and the Immortality Garden (Machine)*, on view for free in the Roberts Family Gallery until Spring 2026. Inspired by medieval mechanical icons, dolls, Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, and set in a field of black obsidian, the work explores race, gender, and the human soul. Known for her iconic silhouettes, Walker has also created major public works like *A Subtlety* at Brooklyn's Domino Sugar Plant and *Fons Americanus* at London's Tate Modern, offering profound commentary on history and empire.

The program will be moderated by Avril Angevine, a frequent Alameda Library speaker, art lecturer, and guide at SFMOMA and the Oakland Museum of California.

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 your donations
to Friends of the Alameda Free Library**

FOR KIDS, TWEENS, TEENS and FAMILIES



**Snakes and
Amphibians of the
East Bay
Jan 22
3:00 PM
West End Library**

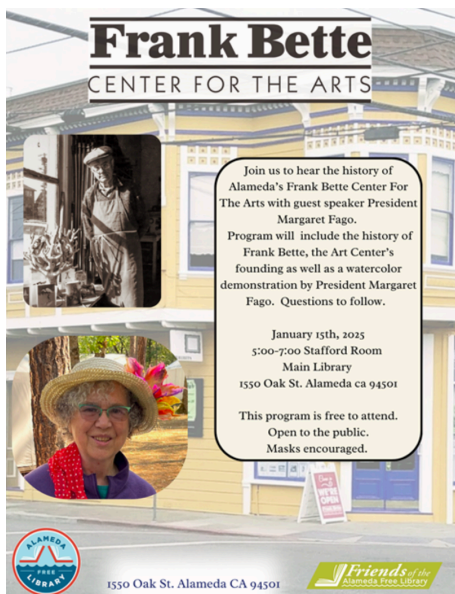
The West End Library is excited to host East Bay Regional Park Rangers (EBRP) who will be discussing snakes and amphibians of the East Bay. Come learn about these fascinating creatures. You might even meet one!



**Tween Crafternoon
Jan 24, 3:30 PM
Main Library**

Calling all Tweens (4th through 8th grade)! Join us for the first Tween Crafternoon of 2025 and make your very own mini zine. Friday, January 24 at 3:30-4:30pm. Materials provided, bring your creativity!

FOR ADULTS



**Frank Bette
Center for the Arts
Jan 15, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Main Library
Stafford Room**

Join us to hear the history of Alameda’s Frank Bette Center For The Arts with guest speaker President Margaret Fago.

Program will include the history of Frank Bette, the Art Center’s founding as well as a watercolor demonstration by President Margaret Fago. Questions to follow.



**Movie Night:
Showing Up
Jan 29, 5:30 PM
Main Library
Stafford Room**

Please join us for Showing Up, an A24 production (Rated R). The story follows Lizzy, an introverted and introspective sculptor, who works tirelessly to prepare a new collection for an upcoming gallery show. As she strives to invest her creative energy into her art, she must continually work to manage the complex dynamics of her eclectic, melodramatic inner circle of family and friends. Starring Michelle Williams, Hong Chau, Andre Benjamin (Andree 3000), Todd-O-Phonic Todd, and Lauren Lakis. Snacks will be provided!

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