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President's Message

Dear Friends,

We are all devastated by the wildfires in Southern California. For many it recalls the destruction in the Bay Area and Northern California and all the lives, memories and structures that were lost. In Southern California we know the Los Angeles Public Library's Palisades Branch Library was destroyed and there could be damage to other libraries.



For many, libraries are an essential part of their communities and serve vital roles in emergencies. FEMA is using libraries in Southern California to answer residents' questions, help them apply for disaster relief, serve as temporary shelters and hand out supplies to residents. **FAL** will donate funds to the [Palisades branch recovery fund](#) to assist with the recovery. In addition to financial donations, the American Library Association suggests that individuals **volunteer** to support their library and **advocate** for policies and funding that ensure libraries can continue their critical work during and after disasters.

FAL's first book sale of 2025 is February's biggest event. We expect to have 8 - 10,000 books across all subject categories. Additionally, Books For Friends (BFF), located just across from the Friends Cafe, is sponsoring a BOGO (buy one, get one) sale, offering outstanding selections of high quality used books, and the Cafe will feature its great pastries and snacks so stop by after the book sale.


A big thank you to our donors – this year the FAL Board approved a record grant to the Alameda Free Library due in large part to the generosity of donors. The Library will use the funds to offer exciting programs for all ages. Watch the [Alameda Free Library website](#) and email updates to keep current on upcoming activities. I can't wait to see the programs the library staff will develop this year!

Warm regards,

Karen Butter


Shop & Volunteer at the Used Book Sale!


Feb 5 - 8, 2025


USED BOOK SALE
February 5-8, 2025

Feb 5 (Wed)*: 3 - 7pm
**Open to all; Teacher's special \$5/bag*
Feb 6 - 8 (Thu - Sat): 10am - 4pm

Alameda Main Library
1550 Oak St. (Stafford Room)
Alameda, CA 94501

 *Books For Friends will have a BOGO offer!*
(same date/times above)

alamedafriends.com 

Our first **Used Book Sale of 2025** is **February 5-8** at the Alameda Main Library, featuring **over 10,000 books** at unbeatable prices! This is a great chance to stock up on books for all ages and interests – plus, on Wednesday, February 5, from 3-7 PM, FAL is offering a **special discount for teachers: to fill a bag for just \$5!**

Sale Hours & Details

- **February 5 (Wed):** 3-7 PM – open to all; however, teachers can fill a bag for \$5!
- **February 6-8 (Thu-Sat):** 10 AM - 4 PM
- **Location:** Stafford Room, Alameda Main Library (near the Friends Café)

We Need Volunteers!

The Friends **rely on volunteers** to help make our book sales a success. Whether you're available for a few hours or the whole event, we'd love your help. If you haven't volunteered with us before, **start by filling out a volunteer profile** here:

[Sign up to volunteer](#)

Donate Your Gently Used Books

Both our Used Book Sales and Books for Friends (BFF) bookstore depend on book donations. If you have books you'd like to donate, you can make an appointment here:

[Book donation info](#)

Come shop, volunteer, or donate—**every book sold helps support library programs!** See you at the sale.

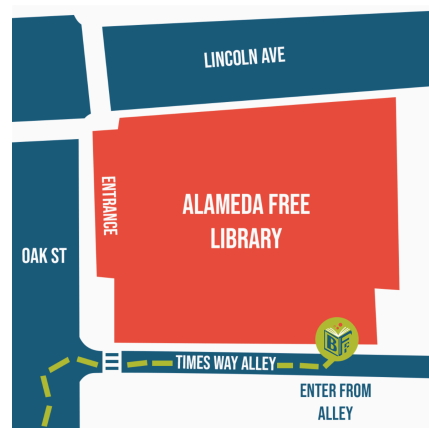
Books For Friends (BFF) Alameda's Curated Bookshop

BFF Hours

Thu - Sat, 12 - 4 PM

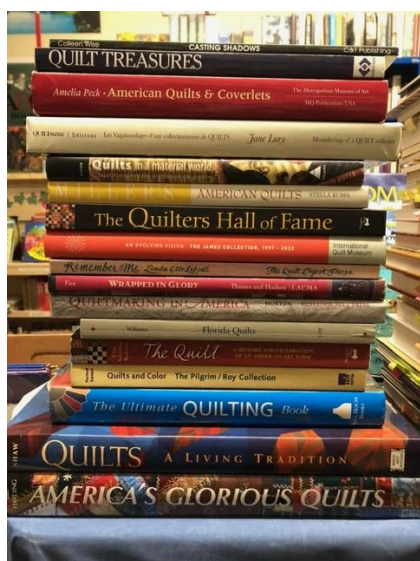
Main Library

Stop by and check out our special selection of books at great prices! Enter from inside the library via the Friends Cafe or use the outside entrance on Times Way Alley:



A Special Donation of Quilt Books

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.

Make a Book or Media Donation Appointment

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!

What's Happening in the Friends Cafe?

Cafe Hours

10 AM - 4 PM every day
(except Weds: 12 - 4 PM)
Main Library

The February chill is here, and there's no better way to warm up than with a hot drink and a hearty bite from the [Friends Cafe](#).



Product Highlight: **Breakfast Burritos**

You asked for more substantial food options, and we listened! This month, we're introducing **Breakfast Burritos**—a satisfying combination of **egg, pork sausage, and two kinds of cheese, all wrapped in a warm flour tortilla.**

Of course, we'll still have your favorite **Firebrand pastries**, and we're adding **new muffins** to the lineup as well.

Stay tuned for even more additions in the coming months. **AriZona Tea** is on the horizon—just in time for when the weather starts to warm up.

Thank you for stopping by the Friends Cafe. Your support helps keep our library thriving!

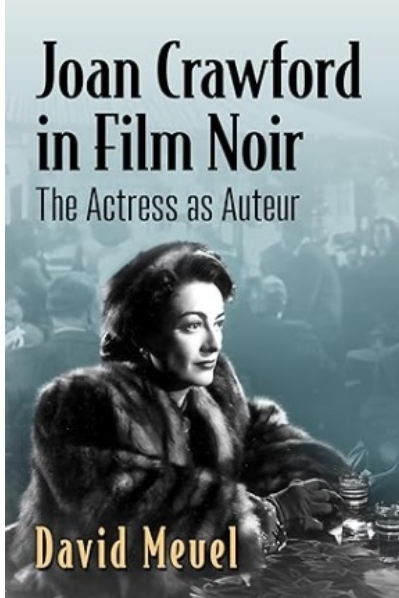
Upcoming FAL Events

[Author Talk: David Meuel](#)

Virtual Event (Zoom)

Wed, Feb 5 @ 7 PM

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.

[Art Docent: Kara Walker's Big Imagination](#)

Virtual Event (Zoom)
Wed, Feb 12 @ 7 PM

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. Check out the full [events calendar here](#) or call the Library at 510-747-7777 for more information.

These events are made possible due to your donations to the Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

FOR KIDS, TWEENS, TEENS & FAMILIES



Dungeons & Dragons

Feb 3, 10
6 - 7:30 PM
Main Library

Teens*, are you looking for an incredible adventure? Well, look no further than Dungeons and Dragons (D&D)! Create your own character and join the Guild with other adventurers to embark on an epic journey.

No experience needed.
Character sheets, dice, and rules explanations provided.

*This program is for teens in the 7th -12th grade.



BFI Storytime & Craft

Feb 25, 10:30 AM
Bay Farm Library

Join us for a special family storytime highlighting the art and words of Ashley Bryan in celebration of Black History Month.

Stay for a collage craft and/or pick up a take and make kit to create a beautiful blackbird at home.

FOR ADULTS



Oakland Interfaith
Gospel Choir
Feb 15, 2 - 4 PM
Main Library



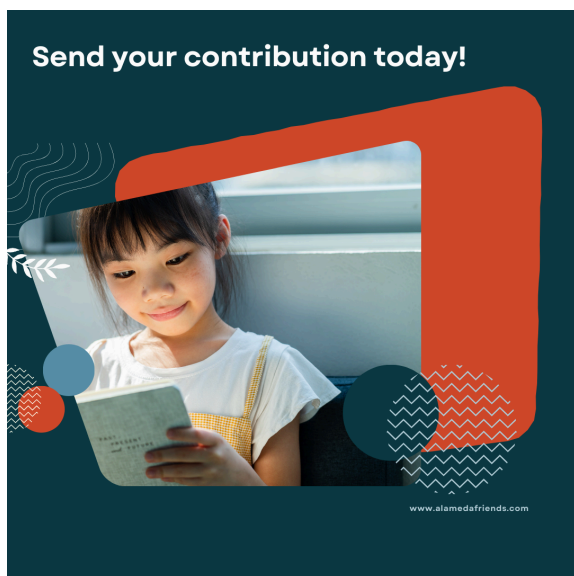
Movie Screening:
"Strange Fruit"
Feb 25, 6 - 7:30 PM
Main Library

In honor of Black History Month, we will host a screening and discussion of the

Join us for an afternoon of song with with the Grammy-winning Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, a local 501(c)(3) performing arts organization whose mission is to "to inspire joy and unity among all people through Black Gospel and Spiritual Music traditions."

acclaimed documentary film "Strange Fruit: The Biography of a Song" about jazz singer Billie Holiday's haunting hit of the same name.

Support the Friends of the Alameda Free Library



As we welcome 2025, we encourage you to support the Alameda Free Library through Friends of the Alameda Free Library's Annual Campaign! Your monetary gift fuels engaging programs, expands book and eBook collections and brings inspiring cultural events to the community. 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!](#)

Stay up to date with the Friends!

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

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