Friends of the Alameda Free Library

DONATE | VOLUNTEER | EVENTS

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Nearly 70 dedicated volunteers contributed 320 hours to one of our best and most successful used book sales. At the May sale, FAL sold over 230 boxes that included more than 2,500 books and 194 bags (including a new set of Agatha Christie novels). Over at Books For Friends (BFF), FAL sold 775 books/DVDs/CDs. To process payments, 20 cashiers volunteered more than 85 hours. We were delighted with the increase in the number of teachers who bought books during the special Wednesday deal. A special thank you to Billie Reinschmiedt, Joanne Schneider and Marcie Johnson for managing the event. Compliments also go to our Friends Cafe volunteers who provided delicious treats and drinks throughout the sale. Mark your calendars for the next one, October 15 – 18. Thank you to all who joined us for the successful book sale.

On Saturday, June 7th from 2-4pm, there will be a Sound & Vision Concert Series event at the Bay Farm Island Library. This outdoor concert is a celebration of the native plant garden that has been lovingly installed at the Bay Farm Library by our exceptional library community. I've mentioned this wonderful effort in past newsletters and FAL is thrilled to see it come to fruition. Please see details below in the "Alameda Free Events Sponsored by FAL" section.

Again this year, FAL will have an entry in Alameda's famous July 4th parade to recognize the country's struggles and sacrifices in pursuit of freedom, the importance of libraries in our communities and FAL's support for the Alameda Library. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help decorate the truck and walk in the parade. If you can't walk the entire 3 miles, you may join us when and where you can. Walkers receive many shout outs and claps along the way. For details to participate, email us at **info@alamedafriends.com**.

Warm regards,

Karen Butter

President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library

Highlights from the 4th annual Día de los Niños program!

Apr 19, 2025

The Friends of the Alameda Library was proud to sponsor again the library's annual Día de los Niños program, which featured an amazing puppet show by Puppet Art Theater Co., a bilingual performance by Cascade de Flores and fresh churros!

This year's program was a major success with about 230 attendees and everyone who wanted a churro was able to get at least one or two! Alameda Family Services provided free health and development screening services for children. The photobooth was also a big hit, capturing over 200 photos.

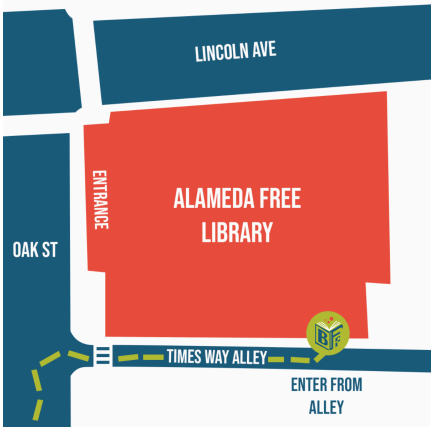
Books For Friends (BFF)

Alameda's Curated Bookshop

BFF Hours
Thu - Sat, 12 - 4 PM
NEW: Wed, 12 - 6 PM
Main Library

BFF is now open on **Wednesdays from 12 to 6pm**!

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



What's Happening in the Friends Cafe?

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

We're delighted to introduce Craft-Chocolates, a beloved local Alameda business now featured at the Friends Cafe!

Craft-Chocolates is known for its small-batch, hand-crafted confections made with ethically sourced ingredients and an unwavering commitment to quality. From silky-smooth truffles to rich, bold, dark chocolate bars, each bite is a celebration of artisan craftsmanship.

Supporting local makers has always been close to our hearts and we're proud to spotlight a business that shares our community values and passion for excellence.

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

Upcoming FAL Events

Art Docent: The World of Ruth Asawa
Virtual Event (Zoom)
Wed, Jun 18 @ 7 PM

Ruth Asawa is best known for intricate wire sculptures, based on sinuous organic forms. Originally derided as craft objects, her nest-like works of

wire, brass and stone are now included in major museum collections. Asawa's longtime San Francisco home and garden inspired a creative universe that included far more than her famous sculptures—it informed drawings, prints, paintings and design objects, plus her many public commissions. SFMOMA is featuring the first major international retrospective of her awe-inspiring work, now through September 2.

Webinar Link Here

WANTED: Friends @ Home Coordinator

The Alameda community and beyond regularly attend the Friends @ Home Docent talks. FAL sponsors at least one free docent talk per month, primarily via Zoom. To continue these engaging talks, FAL needs someone to manage the events. Karen Manuel has done an outstanding job coordinating the presentations - initially with David Beall and later by herself for the past few years. Since the program's inception, Kumar Fanse has found docents and provided background materials.

The coordinator is responsible for:

- Producing the presentation on Zoom
- Working with docents to ensure they're comfortable with the webinar format and slide sharing
- Offering presentation tips
- Finding a moderator
- Running the live performance with an assistant

FAL will provide training. **Contact Karen Butter** to discuss the responsibilities.

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

Sound & Vision: Eli Utne and Friends!

Jun 7, 2 - 4 PM

Bay Farm Island Library

Join us for the second installment of our Sound & Vision Concert Series – this time at the Bay Farm Island Library! Enjoy live ambient music, take a tour of our new native plant garden and participate in a land restoration activity! Activities are designed for the whole family, from seed bombs to daisy chains. This program is entirely outdoors, traveling from the amphitheater to the garden and back again, so please dress for a day in the sun.

Our featured artist this month is local musician Eli Utne who will be setting the mood for the season with live ambient music & mixes. Eli also heads an organization called Learning By Hand which focuses on practical, nature-based skill-building for all ages.

Puppet Art Theatre in Tommy's Space Adventure

Jun 28, 3 - 4 PM

West End Library

The West End Library will be hosting Puppet Art Theatre with their adventurous and hilarious puppet show entitled: Tommy's Space Adventure. The puppet show will be on Saturday, June 28 and will begin promptly at 3 pm.

It is best enjoyed by children 3 years and up and their families.

FOR ADULTS

Film Screening: Story of the Cup

Jun 11, 6 - 7 PM

Main Library

Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA) and OKAPI Reusables cordially invite you to the documentary film screening of Story of the Cup. Stay after for a discussion with the director of the film, Jessica Jane Robinson, and learn more about CASA and OKAPI Reusables.

Filmed in Alameda, Story of the Cup exposes the lifecycle of single-use cups and their detrimental impacts on the environment. The documentary closes with a community call to action and offers an alternative to disposable cups as a solution.

This program will be held in the Stafford Room, starting at 6:00 PM.

Theater Performance: The Bumpy Road Less Traveled

Jun 17, 6 PM

Main Library

Award-winning dramatic artist Anthony Michael Jefferson ("AJ") will perform his one-man show, chronicling his journey from a cell in Soledad State Prison to a new life as a Bay Area chef.
AJ is a returned citizen, paroled from Soledad in 2015, after 23 years inside the California State Prison. An actor and writer, AJ has participated in Theatre Workers Project (TWP) programs since 2021. He was a featured lead actor in TWP's Further Shores, a filmed performance collage created during the pandemic, which was inspired by a poem he wrote. AJ was also a lead actor in The Box, a dynamic traveling legislative theatre production about solitary confinement, which toured the United States in 2022. While inside, AJ assisted ESL students with forms, facilitated NA and AA, supported pre-parole groups, and taught

creative writing workshops. Upon his parole, AJ enrolled in the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu, where he graduated with honors.

Support the Friends of the Alameda Free Library

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!

Website **Facebook** **Instagram** **YouTube**

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