Friends of the Alameda Free Library

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

The Alameda Free Library's 2025 Summer Reading Program is open for all-age participation until July 31. Thanks to donations from our supporters, FAL is a proud sponsor of the summer reading program, with a growing number of participants each year. Sign up at any library branch or **online** and earn prizes based upon the amount of reading, including a free book up to $10 from BFF (the Books for Friends bookshop at the main library).

FAL board members and their families and FAL supporters walked (and rolled) in Alameda's 3.3 mile-long 4th of July parade. Billy Reinschmiedt donated his truck for the day and we added garlands and spinners for more bling. We held several signs which drew many cheers from the crowd. The most popular was Lynda Williams' sign: "BAN HATE NOT BOOKS." Mark your calendar for July 4th 2026 and plan to join us. FAL received a lot of community support for the library along the entire parade route. You can also find us pouring wine at the Art and Wine Fair on Saturday, July 26. Lastly, FAL is the recipient of the Corica First Friday on August 1. Plan to attend from 4 to 7pm to enjoy games, food and drink, while supporting FAL.

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed a new, full-time Executive Director, Marcie Soslau Johnson, who will start work in July. Many of you are familiar with Marcie's outstanding work with the used book sales, BFF, and as a former FAL board member. The Board looks forward to working with Marcie to strengthen FAL's presence in the community.

On the fundraising front, FAL is the very proud recipient of a grant from the Rotary Foundation to host a September showing of the PBS Documentary Free for All: The Public Library. More news to come in the August newsletter. FAL also just received an award from the Alameda County Arts Council to support our outstanding Docent talks. Finally, FAL is in the

middle of our Spring Appeal fundraising campaign, so please **consider a donation** in any amount to support the outstanding programs in the Library.

Warm regards,

Karen Butter
President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library

In Memory of Donna Vaughn

FAL was heartbroken to learn of the passing of Donna Vaughn, a founder of FAL. After college, Donna took a bus to San Francisco and fell in love with the Bay Area. She met her husband Jack at a bridge table – one of her many passions – and they moved to Alameda in 1962. Donna and Jack were instrumental in the founding of FAL in 1974. Donna served as the first secretary and Jack, an attorney, wrote the articles of incorporation.

Donna and FAL were part of all the library campaigns to raise money to replace the old Carnegie Library. Donna participated in Alameda Library book clubs and was a member of many local organizations including serving as the first president of the Alameda League of Women Voters. She transcribed letters for her book Dear Catharine, Dear Taylor: The Civil War Letters of a Union Soldier and His Wife.

When Donna started working on the first library campaign, she hoped her new baby at the time would get to see the new library. Instead, it was Donna's granddaughter who saw the new library! The family requests **donations** to FAL in lieu of flowers.

Donations may be be mailed to FAL, P.O. Box 1024, Alameda, CA, 94501.

Help to Shape the Future of the Library

Take the Community Survey

As part of the Alameda Free Library's strategic planning process, the Library wants to hear from everyone: - whether you visit the Library regularly or on rare occasion. Your input will help guide future services, programs, and spaces to better serve Alameda.

Please follow **this link to take the survey** before July 31, 2025.

Highlights from the 4th of July Parade!

Jul 4, 2025

Est. 1974
Friends of the
Alameda Free Library
Raising funds and advocating for the success of
the Alameda Free Library.
alamedafriends.com

50 years
of service
to the
community
50
Join us
for the
next 50!
Volunteer
Today
Library Cafe
Open to the Main Library
Books for Friends
Support
Our
Library!
Great snacks
Great prices

Angel's NAILS SPA
510-263-8777
Friends of the
Alameda Free Library

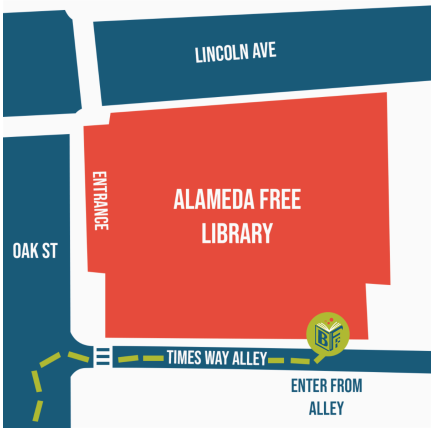
Books For Friends (BFF)

Alameda's Curated Bookshop

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

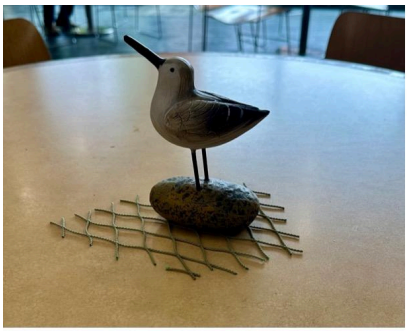
BFF is now open on **Wednesdays from 12 to 6pm**!

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



Summer's here and so is the shoreline!
The season of sun, stories and seaside charm has arrived at the Friends Cafe! As the library launches its Summer Reading Program, the cafe is joining in the fun with a fresh new theme: Beach Days & Shorebirds.

Come enjoy a cozy seat inside or bask in the sun on the patio as you sip an iced tea and dive into your summer read. Our space is now decked out with coastal touches to celebrate the beauty of the bay- from sandy shells to whimsical bird decor. Whether you're picking up a new book or meeting a friend for a treat, the cafe is your perfect summer stop.

Let's make this a season of great reads, good coffee and a gentle breeze. See you at the shore – right here at the library!

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

Upcoming FAL Events

Modern Art and America: Alfred Stieglitz and His New York Galleries

Virtual Event (Zoom)
Wed, Jul 16 @ 7 PM

In the first half of the 20th century, Alfred Stieglitz did more to introduce modern art to an American public than arguably any other single individual. Known for his photography, he will also be remembered as an art dealer. From 1907-1917, the "Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession" later known as "291" staged some of the most important early exhibitions of modern art held in America. The gallery hosted artists like Auguste Rodin, Henri Matisse, Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Constantin Brancusi, and other European modernists, for many the first showings of their work in New York.

Stieglitz was a man with an agenda. He wanted photography to be accepted as a fine art, but felt that American art (Arthur G. Dove, Marsden Hartley, John Marin, Charles Demuth, Paul Strand, Georgia O'Keeffe, Max Weber) could only benefit from being placed in the context of vanguard European art.

Webinar Link Here

Corica Park First Friday

Corica Park Golf Course
Aug 1, 4 - 7 PM

Come out to Corica Park for their monthly First Friday event, which features:

- Food provided by 510Preps (meat and veggie options available)
- St. George Spirits seasonal cocktails
- Locally made beer from Almanac and drinks from Alameda Soda
- Lawn game and putting competitions

Net proceeds benefit the Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

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.

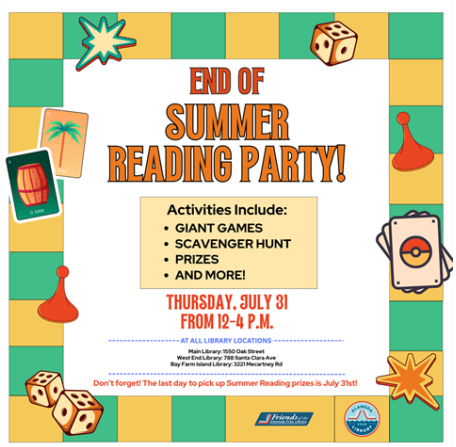
These events are made possible due to your donations to the Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

FOR KIDS, TWEENS, TEENS & FAMILIES

Tracy the Animal Show Guy

Jul 12, 2:30 PM
West End Library
Jul 19, 1 PM
Bay Farm Island Library
Jul 19, 2:30 PM
Main Library

Meet and learn about a variety of animals with Tracy the Animal Show Guy! All three shows will be the same, so choose the one closest to you.



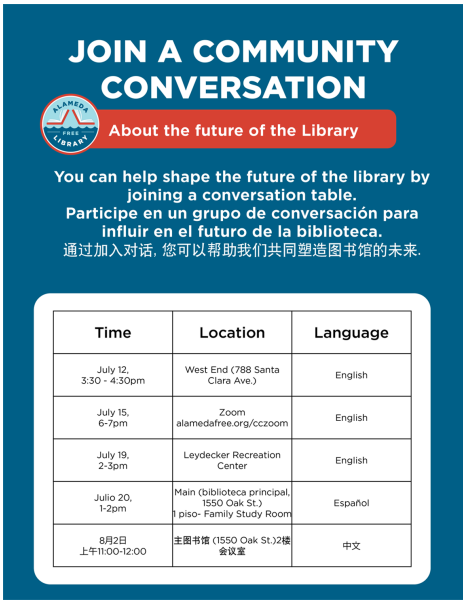
End of Summer Reading Party

Jul 31, 12 - 4 PM
All Library Branches

You did it! You participated in the 2025 Summer Reading program! Now it's time to celebrate. Visit any Alameda Free Library location for giant games, a scavenger hunt, and more! At the Main Library, we'll also have Loteria, trivia, and karaoke. The festivities start at noon until 4:00 p.m.

Don't forget that July 31st is also the last day to pick up Summer Reading prizes!

FOR ADULTS



Community Plant Swap

Jul 12, 1 - 3 PM

Main Library

Bring a plant or two, meet other plant and garden people, and take home something new.

PLANT SWAP GUIDELINES

- Bring plant cuttings, succulents and potted indoor and outdoor plants to share
- Healthy, disease-free and pest-free plants only
- Label your plants if possible
- No early drop-offs

Community Conversations

Jul 12, 3:30 PM

West End Library

Jul 15, 6 PM

Zoom

Jul 19, 2 PM

Leydecker Recreation Center

Julio 20, 1 PM

Biblioteca principal

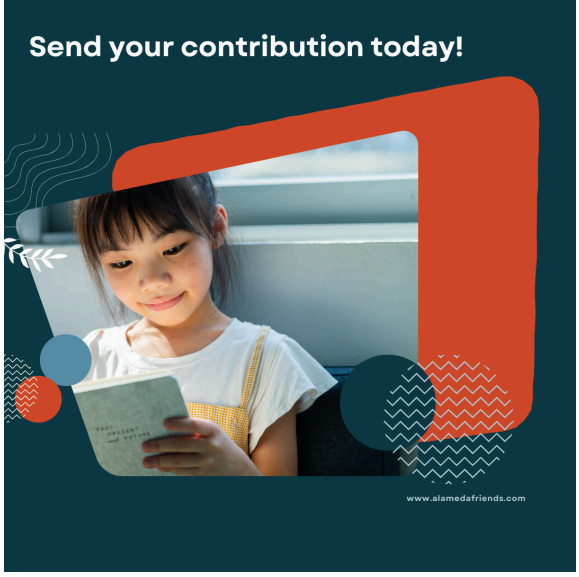
8月2日, 上午 11

主图书馆

Join in on a community discussion to discuss the future of the Library. Multiple events available online and in-person.

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.
Tax ID: 23-7437087

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

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