Friends of the Alameda Free Library

DONATE | VOLUNTEER | EVENTS

President's Message

Dear Friends,

July was a busy month for FAL starting our participation in Alameda's ‘longest parade in the nation’ 4th of July parade. Like last year, FAL decorated Billy Reinschmiedt’s truck with banners, book jackets and bling and drove, walked and skated along the 3 ½ mile route. Board members and friends proudly carried signs “*Ban Hate not Books*”, “*Leaders are Readers*” and “*The Library – All are Welcome*” - to claps and enthusiastic shout outs along the route. Thanks to all who helped to make this event a community success!

At the end of July, FAL Board members and volunteers staffed the wine and beer booth at the Alameda Art and Wine Faire, giving out coupons for a free book from BFF. Faire-goers redeemed over 40 coupons, introducing many new patrons to the bookshop. With funds supported by FAL donations, the Library also hosted a very successful Dog Man Day program featuring Dog Man (film), crafts, an art contest and giveaways. Witnessing excited children throughout the Library donning their dog man hats (helmets with pink droopy ears) was priceless!

Coming up: Mark your calendars for September 17 for a public viewing of the PBS documentary, Free for All: the Public Library, funded by the Rotary Club of Alameda. Doors open at 5pm with refreshments and popcorn. BFF will also open for business. **Click on this link to register** for this free event.

Lastly, the Friends Cafe continues to experiment with its menu so stop by to check out the new items.

Warm regards,

Karen Butter
President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library

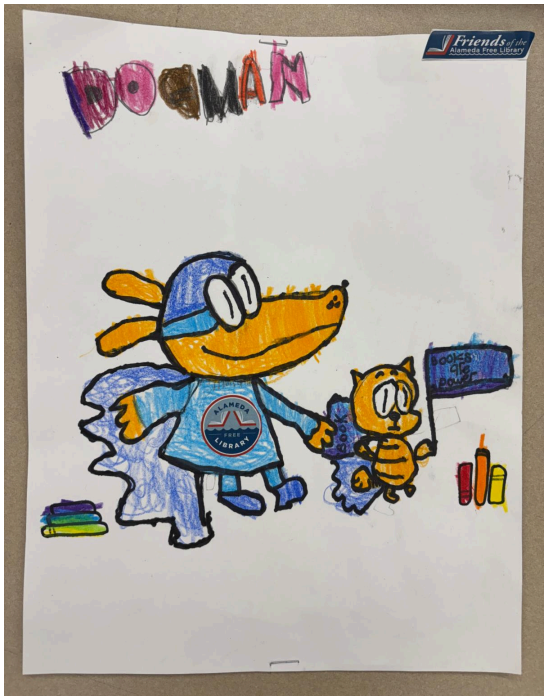
Highlights from the Dog Man Day Program

Funded by Supporters Like You

Dog Man Day - based on Dav Pilkey's Dog Man graphic novel series - was a highly anticipated program with 171 attendees. The Saturday, July 26 program was full of crafts, giveaways and a very special guest visit. Children and their families participated in engaging crafts highlighting Dog Man's cop hat and Petey's Secret Lab. Additionally, the Library hosted a Dog Man art contest, buttons made from recycled Dog Man books, and a screening of the Dog Man movie.

Attendees were thrilled to see our special surprise guest, Dog Man himself! We enjoyed seeing the kids share their enthusiasm and love for Dog Man. Thank you to the Friends of the Alameda Free Library for their generous sponsorship.

– Fernanda Nuñez Gutierrez, *Librarian, Children Services*



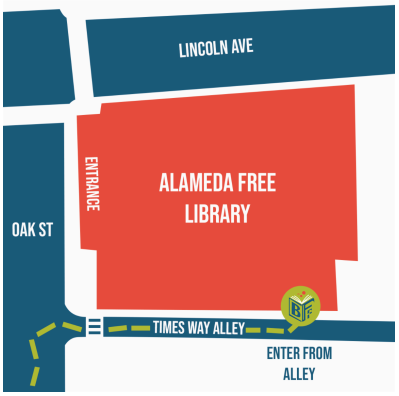
Books for Friends (BFF)

Alameda's Curated Used Bookshop

BFF Hours
NEW: Wednesdays, 12 - 6 PM
Thurs, Fri, Sat, 12 - 4 PM
Main Library

BFF is now open on **Wednesdays from 12 to 6 p.m.** Come in and check out our special selection of quality used books at great prices. Enter from inside the library via the Friends Cafe or via the outside entrance on Times Way Alley.

BFF is looking for donations of gently used and new children's books. Please visit our **How to Donate Books** page to schedule a drop off date and time.



Looking to volunteer with BFF? Schedule a tour and interview by calling (510) 747-7737, writing to **volunteer@alamedafriends.com**, or stopping by during open shop hours. We are looking for committed, customer friendly volunteers to work regular, weekly shifts of two to four hours per shift.

What's Happening in the Friends Cafe?

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

Savor the Season at the Friends Cafe
As summer winds down and the school year begins, the Friends Cafe is here to help you ease into the transition. Whether you're a parent needing a quiet moment after morning dropoff, a student looking for an after-school snack or a teacher grabbing a quick bite between classes, we've got something for you!

Our new seasonal menu items are fresh, satisfying and just the right kind of cozy. Stop by and try our delicious muffins, new energy bars and drinks, savory chips and our ever-popular Firebrand pastries. And of course, we're still serving your favorite teas, coffee and hot chocolate to keep you going strong.

The new season brings new opportunities. If you've been thinking about getting more involved in the community, this is the perfect time to join our all-volunteer team! The Friends Cafe runs with the help of friendly, dedicated volunteers and we'd love to welcome you as we head into fall. Whether its a consistent few hours occasional help, we'll find a slot that works for you.

Come enjoy the last golden days of summer on the outdoor patio or take your treat to-go as you dive back into a new routine. The Friends Cafe is your locale for comfort, community and great food...any time of year!

Upcoming FAL Events

The Visual Diary of Joan Brown
Virtual Event (Zoom)
Wed, Aug 13 @ 7 PM

At the heart of Joan Brown's art is a profound interest in the human experience and everyday life, which is vividly portrayed in her lively narrative artworks. Guided by her instinct and multifaceted interests, Joan Brown explored a wide range of subject matter throughout her three-decade career, including family and pets, travel, heartbreak and spiritual beliefs.

Join Master Docent Susan McGee from the Phoenix Museum of Art for an interactive session to gain fascinating insights into Brown's creative process and immerse yourself in this celebrated artist's colorful and dynamic world.

Webinar Link Here

Free For All: The Public Library Documentary Screening

Alameda Free Library Main Branch
Sep 17, 5 - 8 PM

Join FAL for a complimentary viewing of the PBS documentary, Free For All: The Public Library. Free For All recounts the history of the "Free Library Movement," which resulted in the establishment of the library we enjoy today, where everything is free, no one is excluded and we have the opportunity to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Doors will open at 5 pm, and the program will start at 6 pm. Library Director Michael Eitner and FAL Board President Karen Butter will introduce the film. Registration is required as space is limited. Please **register here**. All

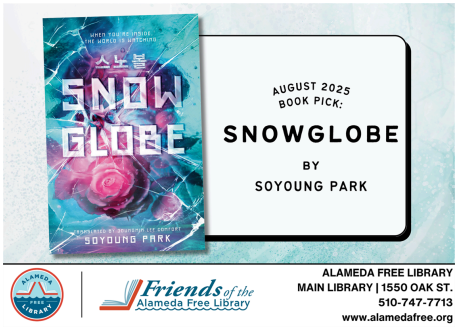
registrants will receive a complimentary beverage and snack to enjoy during the viewing.

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



Teen Book Club
Aug 6, 4 - 4:40 PM
Main Library

Teens, join our Teen Book Club!

Each month, members get to pick the book we read from our Young Adult (YA) collection. While supplies last, free copies are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. To join, **please register**.

How Book Club Works:
The monthly title is the book we will discuss when we meet in August.
For example, you would pick up your book and read it by August 6, and then we meet on August 6 to talk about it. After

Sound & Vision: Ghosts and Logic, Anjelica Colliard, Kam
Aug 9, 2 - 4 PM
Main Library

In this installment of the Sound & Vision series showcasing local artists, we'll be doing intuitive drawing led by Anjelica Colliard aka Jellicore (all materials provided!), listening to a live set by Eli Wise aka Ghosts and Logic, and being treated to some bibliomancy c/o Kam (no registration necessary!)

our discussion, we will vote on the next book to read.

FOR ADULTS

Online Author Talk with Smithsonian Scientist Jay Falk

Aug 5, 11 AM
Online

Delve into the fascinating world of birds through astonishing photography and clear explanations in this absorbing global guide, The Bird Book: The Stories, Science, and History of Birds. Birds are dinosaurs with a history going back millions of years. Our fascination with them runs deep in history, and our close association is reflected in creation stories, myths, legends, songs, and children's stories.

Register and add questions for the author then tune in live or watch the recording.

Trans Film Mini-Fest 2025

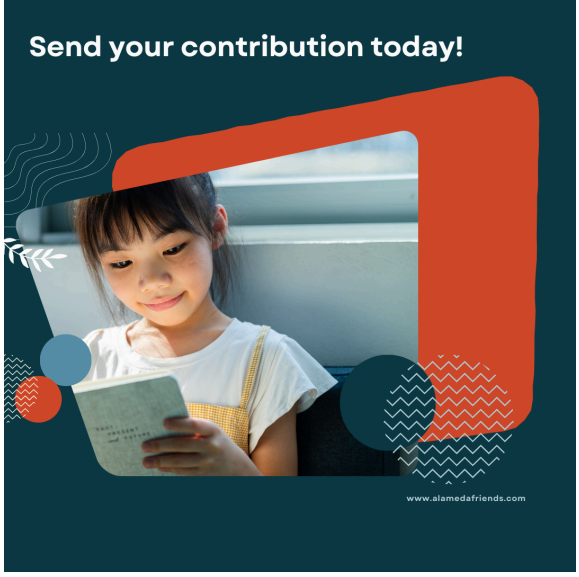
Aug 23, 12 - 5 PM
Main Library

In celebration of Trans History Month, the Alameda Free Library will be hosting local trans filmmakers for a day of shorts, home movies, and feature films! Filmmakers will be present to screen their works and chat with audiences about their processes and the importance of film as a medium to bring trans experiences into public awareness.

Please note that films may not be suitable for all audiences, and personal discretion is advised.

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

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