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## President's Message

Dear Friends,

### **A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Amazing Volunteers**

A huge thank you to our incredible and dedicated volunteers who made the October Book Sale a tremendous success in every area of operation! Volunteers, new and seasoned came together to move tables, organize books, guide shoppers, staff cashier stations and more.



Meanwhile, our tireless Friends Café and Books for Friends (FAL's used bookshop) volunteers kept shelves stocked and supplies replenished throughout the busy weekend. Thanks to their hard work - and the community's wonderful support - the Café celebrated its biggest sales day ever on Saturday, October 18!

We are deeply grateful for the time, energy and enthusiasm each of you brought to make this event so special. Thank you for helping our Used Book Sale thrive.

Special thanks to Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft for highlighting the Sale during her remarks at Saturday's No Kings rally, which introduced many attendees to Books for Friends and our Used Book Sale. Remarkably, two enthusiastic shoppers purchased 140 bags on Saturday - a record-breaking moment for the event! Kudos to Billy Reinschmiedt for his outstanding leadership in organizing the event, supported by the highly efficient book sale committee: Marcie Soslau Johnson, Joanne Schneider, Kayla Belich and Tamara Solorzano.

On a more somber note, we were deeply saddened by the passing of Bill Gibbs, a longtime board member and treasurer. A segment below honors Bill's remarkable legacy of service to FAL, which extended to many other Alameda nonprofit organizations. He will be deeply missed.

Warm regards,

**Karen Butter**  
President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library

## Books For Friends

### Quality Used Books at Great Prices

#### Bookshop Hours

Weds: 12 - 6 PM  
Thurs - Sat: 12 - 4 PM  
Main Library

Thank you to our new and loyal customers for supporting Books For Friends during the October Used Book Sale. We are happy to report that we had a successful week with over 900 books sold.

Please come visit us before the end of 2025. Books For Friends gift cards are available for purchase and make a wonderful present.



Looking to volunteer with BFF? Schedule a tour and interview by calling [\(510\) 747-7737](tel:5107477737), emailing [volunteer@alamedafriends.com](mailto:volunteer@alamedafriends.com) or stopping by during open shop hours.

We are looking for committed, customer-friendly volunteers to work ongoing, weekly shifts of two to four hours per shift. We are currently recruiting for regular Friday and Saturday volunteers. Training is available.

## What's Happening in the Friends Cafe?

#### Friends Cafe Hours

Mon - Sat: 10 AM - 4 PM  
Sun: Closed  
Main Library

Fall has officially arrived and there's no better place to enjoy the season than right here at the Friends Cafe! Whether you're taking a break from browsing the shelves or just need a cozy spot to catch up



with friends, we've got plenty of local goodness waiting for you.

We're proud to serve Mr. Espresso coffee from Oakland — rich, flavorful and perfect for chilly mornings. Pair it with a fresh pastry from Firebrand Artisan Breads, and you've got yourself the perfect fall treat.

New additions alert! We now offer ginger beer, root beer and cream soda from Alameda Soda Company — all locally made and full of old-fashioned flavor. Plus, for something sweet, don't miss Craft Chocolates from a local chocolatier.

 **Mark Your Calendar: Cider Day** – Saturday, November 22

Join us for free hot apple cider with any purchase! It's our way of saying thank you and to celebrate the season together. Bring a friend, warm your hands (and heart) and enjoy the cozy vibes.

Stop by the [Friends Cafe](#), sip something local and savor the season. We love being your neighborhood spot for coffee, treats and community.

## Upcoming FAL Events

<p>JOIN US! November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm</p>		<p>HISTORIC CHANGES BRING ARTISTIC REVOLUTIONS</p>
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[Docent Talk | Historic Changes Bring Artistic Revolutions](#)  
**Virtual Event (Zoom)**  
**Wed, November 12 @ 7 PM**

Historic events of the 19th and early 20th centuries changed the world forever. Wars, social unrest, industrial revolution and scientific discovery created a modern world no longer interested in traditional academic art. Learn how these historic events changed the art of the 20th century. Featuring Master Docent Lisa White.

*A Presentation and Conversation with Phoenix Art Museum*

Registration is free. Please register in advance [here](#).

## In Memory of Bill Gibbs



FAL was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of Bill Gibbs. Bill was a long time member of our antecedent Friends organization. Bill followed the merger of the Friends Foundation and Friends of the Alameda Free Library, continuing on as Treasurer and later became a member of the Board of Directors, where he served for many years.

Bill was an amazing person who gave generously to his community and to FAL. Bill was an ardent supporter of the Alameda Free Library, an avid reader and a devoted volunteer, helping many charitable organizations across Alameda. Bill served on the boards of the Altarena Playhouse, Alameda Boys & Girls Club and Alameda Meals on Wheels. He was the corporate secretary for Rockwall Winery and could be counted on to share his love of wine by donating favorites from his personal collection to FAL for various community celebrations.

Bill was a practicing attorney and in retirement, he was always willing to talk about various issues and lend counsel with kindness and care. We were so fortunate to have had Bill as a friend, volunteer and board member for a considerable amount of his adult life. When his wife Jackie passed away a few years ago, Bill missed her dearly. Bill and Jackie are now reunited and Alameda will miss Bill at the many community events that he supported and loved.

**Thank you to our Used Book Sale Volunteers,  
Shoppers and Donors!**



Friends of the Alameda Free Library would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful volunteers, shoppers and donors who made our recent Used Book Sale such a success! We couldn't have done it without you - 230 boxes of books sold, with 72 unique volunteers filling 140 volunteer roles, including Billy Reinschmiedt, our beloved Used Book Sale Manager.

Over the course of four days, FAL enjoyed hosting volunteers, visitors and shoppers. We connected via our love of reading, learning and libraries. Because of your contributions, FAL raised important funds to support the Alameda Free Library's programs, collections and community initiatives.

From all of us at Friends of the Alameda Free Library: **thank you for your time, energy and commitment to our mission.** People are the heart of this event, and your contributions make our community stronger, one book at a time.

A special thank you goes out to our Used Book Sale sponsors:

[Lars G Hansson CPA](#)  
[Alameda Municipal Power](#)  
[Windermere Real Estate](#)  
[Greenway Golf](#)  
[Neo Home Loans](#)  
[Red Tie Printing](#)

*Please support local businesses that support the library system.*



**Mark your calendars! Upcoming 2026 Used Book Sale dates:**

- Wednesday, February 4 - Saturday, February 7
- Wednesday, May 13 - Saturday, May 16
- Wednesday, October 14 - Saturday, October 17

Contact us at [volunteer@alamedafriends.com](mailto:volunteer@alamedafriends.com) to learn more about volunteering at our Used Book Sales!

## **Dining Out at Saltbreaker for the Alameda Free Library**



Thank you to Saltbreaker and owner Adam Dove for hosting Friends of the Alameda Free Library at a Dine & Donate event on October 25. Saltbreaker generously donated 20% of each bill back to the Library when diners made reservations using our special code, "LIBRARY." A wonderful time was had

by all who attended, and we're grateful for the community support to help fund our library programs and services!

## 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 and Families



#### Youth Art Club

**Nov 6, 3:30 - 5 PM**

Bay Farm Island Branch

Fourth through 8th graders, meet at the Bay Farm Island Library on the first Thursday of every month to create works of art! Participants in our November meeting will learn how to hand-sew a stuffie!



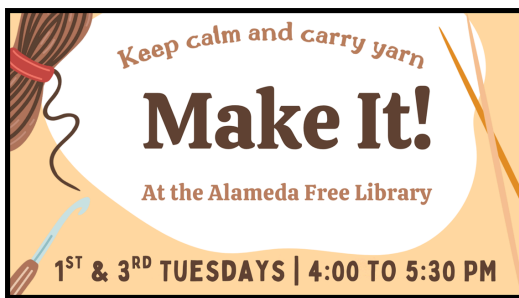
#### NorCal Bats

**Nov 22, 2 PM**

Main Library

Meet and learn about bats on Saturday, November 22 at 2pm in the Stafford Room at the Main Library. Plus, join us after for fun bat-themed crafts!

### For Adults



**Make It: Keep Calm and Carry Yarn**  
**Nov 4 & 18, 4 - 5:30 PM**  
Main Library

Please join us at the Main Library in the Family Study Room for a casual fiber arts craft circle. All kinds of fiber artists are welcome. Please bring your own materials and expertise, and come ready for an afternoon of community building and crafting.



**"No feeling is final" - Poetry Book Club & Community of Practice**  
**Nov 20, 3:30 - 4:30 PM**  
West End Branch

Taken from Austrian poet Rainier Maria Rilke's *The Book of Hours*, "No feeling is final" is the name given to our poetry reading group and community of practice where participants are encouraged to move through life's variable rhythms with the help of a regular poetry practice. We encourage adults 18+ to come build community through poetry in this monthly part-book club, part-workshop gathering. Read poetry, write to prompts and welcome local poets to share their works-in-progress. Bound poetry zines featuring each month's poems will be available to pick at the West End Branch Library the week prior to the program, with additional copies available when we meet. All levels of experience reading and writing poetry are welcomed!

**Join our Fall Campaign and Support the Alameda Free Library's Programs**

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

Send your contribution today!



role as a place for discovery, learning and connection. Join us in making a lasting impact – donate today!

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

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