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This monthly newsletter gives you the latest updates and news from the Friends. If you'd like to unsubscribe, just click [this link](#) or the one at the bottom.

Dear Friend,

The new year has arrived, accompanied by some celebratory rainstorms! I hope you had a restful and reflective holiday season and a positive start to 2026.

Last month, the FAL board elected new officers. I'm honored to serve as President, alongside Vice President Kyle McBard, Treasurer Kris Venturini and Secretary Andre Fairley. Throughout the year, you will hear more about our new officers and the new board members we are welcoming in 2026: Nafisah Ali, Mary Ann Munro, Billy Reinschmiedt and Jennifer Tell.

Before looking ahead, I want to extend deep gratitude to our outgoing Executive Board Committee—Karen Butter, Carole Robie, Kris Venturini and Renesha Robinson-Palmer—for their outstanding service. Be sure to check out the new Volunteer Corner section of the newsletter to read more about Karen and Carole's remarkable contributions and ongoing commitments to FAL!

I'm excited to build on the incredible legacy Karen Butter has created during her time as President. For those I haven't met yet, I've lived in Alameda for six years after moving here from Honolulu, Hawaii. Over the past year and a half on the FAL board, I've served on our communications and technology committees and witnessed firsthand how vital our organization is to both the library and our community. I'm passionate about supporting a vibrant, relevant public library because I believe it's a cornerstone of a thriving community, and I look forward to working with all of you to further FAL's impact in the years ahead.

Finally, our Fall 2025 fundraising campaign is still underway. This campaign is our most effective fundraising vehicle, and we rely on your generous donations to support the Library. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed! I encourage you to continue your support through donating, volunteering and attending Library and FAL events.

Cheers,

**Josh Dapkus**

*President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library*

**SAVE THE DATE:  
Used Book Sale  
Feb 4 - 7, 2026**

**USED BOOK SALE**

**FEBRUARY 4 - 7, 2026**

**HOURS:**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4: 1 - 6PM**  
**THU - SAT, FEBRUARY 5 - 7: 10AM - 4PM**

**Friends of the Alameda Free Library**

**OVER 10,000 BOOKS, UNBEATABLE PRICES!**

**BOGO OFFER AT THE NEARBY BOOKS FOR FRIENDS BOOKSHOP**

**ALAMEDA MAIN LIBRARY  
1550 OAK ST.  
ALAMEDA, CA 94501**

*FIND MORE INFORMATION AT [ALAMEDAFRIENDS.COM](http://ALAMEDAFRIENDS.COM)*

**ALAMEDA MUNICIPAL POWER**

**Windermere REAL ESTATE**

**GreenwayGolf**

**LARS G. HANSSON  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

Our first [Used Book Sale](#) of 2026 is **February 4 - 7** 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 4, from 1 - 6 PM, FAL is offering a **special discount for teachers:** to **fill a bag for just \$5!**

## Sale Hours & Details

- **February 4 (Wed):** 1 - 6 PM – open to all; however, teachers can fill a bag for \$5!
- **February 5 - 7 (Thu - Sat):** 10 AM - 4 PM
- **Location:** Stafford Room, Alameda Main Library (near the Friends Cafe)

## 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.

### [Sign up to volunteer](#)

Orientation sessions will be offered on two dates, Saturday, January 24 from 10 - 11 AM and Saturday, January 28 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM, for new and returning volunteers. Once you have a volunteer profile, please sign up for an in person orientation session by [clicking here](#).

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

## Thank You to Our Used Book Sale Sponsors

We'd like to give a special shout-out to the following sponsors of our February Used Book Sale:

- [Lars G. Hansson CPA](#)
- [Alameda Municipal Power](#)
- [Windermere Bay Area Properties](#)
- [Greenway Golf](#)

## Fall 2025 Fundraising Campaign

Thank you to all of those who have already contributed to our Fall 2025 Fundraising Campaign. Thanks to FAL supporters like you, **there is now a kids or family program taking place every day of the week** at one of the three Alameda library branches. Plus, with new librarians coming soon to the West End and Bay Farm Island branches, we can expect even more

programming this year. Consistent and quality programs like these are such an important part of the library's offerings, engaging our youngest community members from the start. It wouldn't be possible without your support!

Contributions are still being accepted for our Fall 2025 Fundraising Campaign. To donate, just click on the button below:

[Donate Today!](#)

## Books For Friends

Quality Used Books at Great Prices

### Bookshop Hours

Weds: 12 - 6 PM

Thurs - Sat: 12 - 4 PM

Main Library

*Special Note:* Beginning February 1, Books For Friends will **pause donation drop-offs for the entire month of February 2026** to give the small volunteer team time to work through several large book donations made in late 2025. Donation appointments will resume Sunday, March 1, 2026.



If you'd like to donate books in February, please reach out to one of the following resources:

- Savers, Marina Village
- Goodwill, across from the Alameda Free Library
- Salvation Army on Park Street
- The Book Mark, 10th and Broadway in Oakland

Books For Friends and the FAL Used Book Sale would not be possible without the ongoing, generous donations we receive from the community. Thank you for thinking of Friends of Alameda Free Library when you are cleaning your shelves and parting with your books, CDs and DVDs.

To donate, please fill out a [book donation request form](#) and the Book Donation Coordinator will schedule you for an upcoming Sunday drop-off

time. Thank you for your patience.

## What's Happening in the Friends Cafe?

### Friends Cafe Hours

Mon - Sat: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sun: Closed

Main Library

Friends Cafe needs volunteers to pick up pastries from Firebrand Bread on Alameda Point and deliver them to the Main Library on Monday, Wednesday and/or Friday mornings. Please review the full volunteer description in the Volunteer Corner section below for more information.



## Volunteer Corner

Welcome to the Volunteer Corner! Here we'll be highlighting FAL volunteer opportunities and spotlighting the work of our fantastic volunteers.

### Thank You, Karen and Carole 💕

Outgoing Board President Karen Butter and Vice President Carole Robie's Friends of the Alameda Free Library Board service closed on December 31, 2025. We express our profound gratitude to both for their extensive contributions in support of the Alameda Free Library.

Karen will remain connected to FAL through the Friends @ Home and Live @ the Library programs. Carole will continue to support FAL as a member of FAL's Fund Development Committee. Both will mentor the newly elected Board President and Vice President to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

We are grateful to Karen and Carole for their energy, insight and community involvement, which they will continue to leverage to support a library system that strives to be a leading and inclusive educational resource for all.

### Friends Cafe Needs Delivery Drivers 🚚

The Friends Cafe is looking for volunteers to pick up pastries from Firebrand Bread on Alameda Point and deliver them to the Main Library every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. Volunteers would arrive at

Firebrand by 9 AM, pick up the pastries and deliver to the Alameda Main Library on Oak Street before 9:30 AM!

Please let us know if you would prefer to work one, two or three mornings per week. This is an easy and fun way to help the library and the cafe! An orientation and training for volunteers will be organized later this month. If interested, volunteers may [sign up here](#) or write to [volunteer@alamedafriends.com](mailto:volunteer@alamedafriends.com) with any questions.

## FAL De-escalation Training 🎓

FAL invites volunteers to participate in de-escalation training on Sunday, February 1, 2026 from 10 AM - 12 PM in the Main Library, Stafford Room.

This training is being offered to all FAL volunteers who actively engage with the public. Attendees will:

- Learn and practice verbal and non-verbal strategies to use when interacting with individuals in a heightened emotional state often triggered by feeling unsafe, marginalized and disrespected.
- Receive information regarding the human brain's response to stress.
- Explore the concept of implicit bias and the role it plays in our everyday interactions.

The information shared in this session may be helpful to anyone who may engage in a conversation that is fraught with difficulty. Please register by January 30 by following [this link](#). Reach out to [volunteer@alamedafriends.com](mailto:volunteer@alamedafriends.com) if you have any questions.

## Upcoming FAL Events



[Art Docent Talk | Clay & Culture](#)  
**Virtual Event (Zoom)**  
**Weds, January 21 @ 7 PM**

Discover the evolution of ceramic artistry across Asia in this engaging tour of this collection from the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. From ancient origins to global influence, the program highlights how Chinese ceramic traditions shaped techniques, styles, and innovations throughout the region and beyond. Join us for a rich exploration of craftsmanship, culture, and the enduring legacy of clay.

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

## 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.*

### Kids and families



Youth Art Club Presents... 

# snail MAIL Adventures

Create mail art and get curious about what can be sent with just a stamp!

with special guest, Mail Artist Hanne!



Thurs, January 8th  
3:30-5 pm

Bay Farm Island Library



Open to 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders  
**Registration Required!**

### [Snail Mail Month: Youth Art Club](#)

**Jan 9, 3:30 - 5 PM**

Bay Farm Island Branch

4th through 8th graders, meet at the Bay Farm Island Library on the



 BAY FARM ISLAND BRANCH LIBRARY

## Build with LEGO

NEW DAY! TUESDAYS



2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

### [Build with LEGO](#)

**Jan 20 & 27, 2:30 - 4 PM**

Bay Farm Island Branch

NEW DAY - TUESDAYS! We will provide the LEGO building blocks. Use your imagination and creativity to create with them!

first Thursday of every month to create works of art! Participants in our December meeting will celebrate BFI's Snail Mail Month by creating mail and discovering what can be sent with just a stamp! Special guest, mail artist Hanne, will lead this session.

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## Adults

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### [Learn Sewing at the Library](#)

**Jan 10, 11 AM - 12:30 PM**  
Main Library

Come learn the basics of sewing from local makers Gaby and Cynthia. Make a new sewing project every session! We will provide materials, instruction sheets, and know-how to get you started. No registration required. We will meet on the second Saturday of the month unless otherwise noted.

This month's projects are:

- Coin purse
- Pincushion
- Tote bag

No previous experience is required - please come ready to learn! This



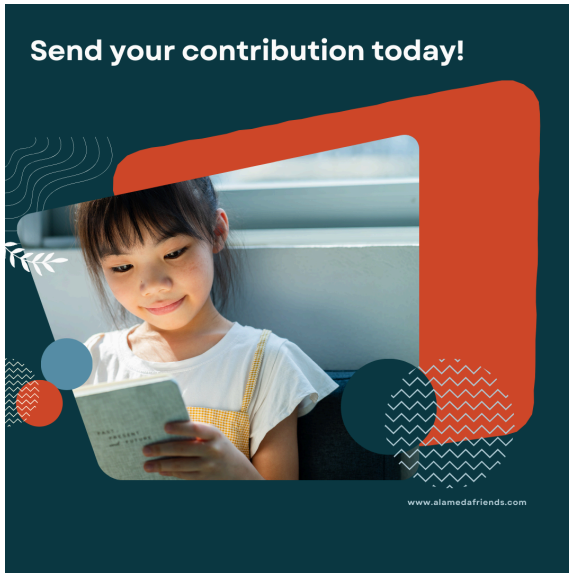
### [Make It: Keep Calm and Carry Yarn](#)

**Jan 20, 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.

program is designed for adults ages 18 and up.

## 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 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. Tax ID: 23-7437087

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