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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,

Happy Lunar New Year! It's been wonderful to start the month off with a beautiful, sunny weekend. As always, we have a full slate of FAL news for you, plus a [special request for feedback](#) to improve this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who visited or volunteered at the Used Book Sale in February.



Joshua Dapkus, FAL President

By all measures, it was one of our most successful sales, with over 200 boxes of books sold. And we couldn't have done it without each of our 78 volunteers, filling 125 shifts over the four days of the sale. A special thanks to Billy Reinschmidt and the Book Sale Committee for all of the hard work and planning that goes into putting on this event.

It was great to see all of you who made it to our partner fundraiser night at Saltbreaker restaurant last week. A huge thanks to Saltbreaker for donating 10% of the night's proceeds, which amounted to over \$700 in support of the library.



Karen Butter, Former FAL President, and Marcie Soslau Johnson, Executive Director

Did you know that your library card gets you [free access to the New York Times](#)? FAL has stepped in to restore this subscription and we're happy to report that patrons are making good use of it, reading nearly 700 articles per month. Due to your generous donations, we are committed to supporting access to this valuable news resource.

Our next Friends @ Home [docent talk about Japanese art](#) takes place via Zoom next Wednesday, March 11 at 7 pm.

And we're excited for our first [Live @ the Library concert](#) this year on March 28 featuring Tammy Hall. Tickets are selling fast – I'd recommend getting the two-concert bundle and return for Mads Tolling on April 11. Books For Friends will be open from 6:30 to 8:30 pm both concert nights.

A special volunteer opportunity is coming up at the Bay Farm Island branch to help with maintenance of the native plant garden, a FAL-sponsored beautification project that was originally funded in 2024. There are three shifts on Saturday, March 7 from 10 am to 1 pm and if you'd like to use your gardening skills to support the Library, please [sign up here](#).

Finally, we'd like to ask you for a favor. FAL's monthly newsletter is the primary channel for us to communicate with you and we don't take your time or attention for granted. In order to make this newsletter better, we have put together a short survey to hear from readers like you. Any and all feedback is helpful for us to identify areas of improvement.

[Take Our Reader Survey](#)

Cheers,



Josh Dapkus

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



March 2026 Special Bookshop Hours

Thursday, March 5

12 - 5 PM

Books For Friends will be open an hour later, to accommodate visiting children's author, Peter H. Reynolds. Get free tickets to this highly anticipated event [here](#). Stop in Books For Friends to purchase a copy of Reynolds' new picture book, *When You Dream Big!*, and other titles, which are made available through a collaboration with Alameda Children's Librarians and [Books Inc.](#)

Tuesday, March 10

12 - 5 PM

Books For Friends will be open to the public on Blood Drive Tuesdays. Friends of the Alameda Free Library will thank blood donors with a free book or media item, up to a \$10 value. Find out more about how to [sign up to donate blood](#) on the Alameda Free Library's website. Come visit Philip in the shop on Blood Drive Tuesdays!

Saturday, March 28

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Books For Friends will be open late to welcome the return of Live @ the Library, a two-concert series. Books For Friends will be open special hours to accommodate concert ticket holders and evening shoppers. Learn more about [Live @ the Library](#) by visiting our website.

What's Happening in the Books & Bites Cafe?

Books & Bites Cafe Hours

Mon - Sat: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sun: Closed

Main Library



Want to help out, but don't have a lot of time?

Would you help **twice a month** for less than an hour picking up our pastries from Firebrand Bakery, and delivering to the Cafe? Choose Monday, Wednesday and/or Friday mornings! To find out more, please text Joni Mahler at (510) 205-9594.

Did you know the Books & Bites Cafe has delicious food and drinks?

Things to try:

- A Starbucks Mocha Frappuccino,
- Egg bites with or without uncured bacon,
- Ghirardelli chocolate squares,
- Firebrand Croissants: plain, almond, chocolate or ham & cheese.

Volunteer Corner

Welcome to the Volunteer Corner! FAL is a 50-year-old nonprofit organization serving the community through fulfillment of its mission: to raise funds and advocate for the success of the Alameda Free Library. We rely heavily on volunteer support to carry out our mission.

We need your help! If you are interested in one of the volunteer roles below, please send your resume via email to volunteer@alamedafriends.com and we will set up a time with you to discuss our organization and the help needed.

[Volunteer Appreciation Event – March 14 at 4PM](#)

Join us for a special evening dedicated to celebrating the incredible volunteers who make the Friends of the Alameda Free Library possible. This volunteer appreciation night is our way of saying thank you to the dedicated individuals who generously give their time, energy and passion to supporting our community's most vital resource. If you received your invitation, please be sure to reply by March 9. Your contributions truly make a difference in our community. We look forward to honoring you and your fellow volunteers at this special celebration.

[Live @ the Library Committee Members](#)

Live @ the Library is a concert series that began in 2009 and has been on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A small, dedicated team of volunteers has revived the program, scheduling two jazz concerts and a fundraising event in 2026. We are looking for volunteers to join the committee, assist with the 2026 concert series and help plan a more robust and diverse live music program for 2027. If you are interested in partnering with Alameda Free Library to bring high quality live music events and concerts to Alameda, we'd love your help on this committee! Please write to us at live@alamedafriends.com if interested.

[Book Sale Committee Members](#)

Book sales are the bread and butter of FAL operations. A small team of dedicated volunteers work to support Books For Friends and larger Alameda Used Book Sales from the entry point of scheduling donations through to offering books for sale to the public for affordable prices. There are many moving parts and we are currently looking for a Lead Book Boxer.



This volunteer would help with all aspects of ensuring books are boxed, transported and stored well. The commitment requires regular attendance at a minimum of one sorting shift a month, availability on the closing day of each Alameda Used Book Sale and participation in Book Sale Committee meetings that occur about five times per year. Please write to us at used-book-sales@alamedafriends.com if interested.

Book Sorting Shifts at the Warehouse

Sign Ups Now Open: April - June 2026

Prepare for Used Book Sales behind the scenes. Help sort donated books into genres with a dedicated group of volunteers at the Building 6 warehouse on Alameda Point, Tuesday or Friday mornings as scheduled. On the job training is offered by our shift leads, Kayla Belich and Paul Leber. Layers and closed-toe shoes are recommended for warehouse conditions. Please find sorting shifts, as well as all active FAL volunteer sign-up needs, [by clicking here](#).

Upcoming FAL Events

BAY FARM ISLAND LIBRARY GARDEN SERVICE DAY!

Help us maintain (weed!) our beautiful Bay Farm Island Native Plant Garden!

**SATURDAY
MARCH 7TH
10AM-1PM**

Sign up for one hour, two hours, or all three hours!



**ALL TOOLS PROVIDED!
ALL AGES WELCOME!**

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CAREGIVER



Sign-up here or call
(510) 747-7787

This garden was generously funded by Friends of the Alameda Library and commemorates its 50th anniversary! We are grateful for the beauty and educational value it brings to our Bay Farm Island community.

****Please note no volunteer credits can be given for this service. ****

If you need accessibility accommodations to participate, or information translated or in other formats, please contact rvanlare@alamedaca.gov

[Volunteer Opportunity | Native Plant Garden Service Day](#)

Bay Farm Island Library

Saturday, March 7 @ 10 AM - 1 PM

Matt Hagedorn, native plant guru and the creative spark behind the garden, and Rosemary Van Lare, Bay Farm Island Branch Supervisor, will be leading a weeding effort on **Saturday, March 7 from 10 am to 1 pm.**

They are seeking five volunteers to assist during each of those three hours. You can sign up for one, two or all three shifts! Gloves and tools will be provided (although you are welcome to bring your own, if you like). Note that children must be accompanied by a caregiver to participate.

You can register at [this link](#) or email Rosemary at rvanlare@alamedaca.gov with your preference.



JAPANESE ART

MEDIEVAL TO EARLY MODERN HIGHLIGHTS

JOIN US

MARCH 11 @ 7 PM

[Art Docent Talk | Japanese Art – Medieval to Early Modern Highlights](#)

Virtual Event (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 11 @ 7 PM - 8 PM

This presentation surveys highlights of Japanese art from the medieval to the early modern periods. They include paintings, sculpture and woodblock prints of everyday life. The talk also touches on art forms such as rock gardens, tea ceremony and Ikebana flower arrangement that reflect the fundamental Japanese aesthetic known as wabi-sabi.

[Register here.](#)



[Live @ the Library | March 2026 Concert: Tammy Hall](#)

Alameda Free Library, Stafford Room

Saturday, March 28 @ 7 PM

Discover world-class music in an intimate community setting. Friends of the Alameda Free Library presents Live @ the Library, featuring acclaimed jazz artists performing right in your neighborhood.

Space is limited, [purchase your tickets here](#). Save \$10 by purchasing the 2-Concert Series bundle for only \$80 (plus fees) at checkout!

Grammy-recognized pianist, composer, and musical director Tammy L. Hall brings four decades of artistry to the stage. A sought-after collaborator, she's performed alongside jazz luminaries including Etta Jones, Ernestine Anderson, Terri Lyne Carrington, and Regina Carter.

In 2024, Hall composed original music for the award-winning podcast Red 4 Revolution (Best Independent Audio Fiction, Tribeca Film & Audio Festival) and received the Arts Council for Monterey County's Champions of the Arts award.

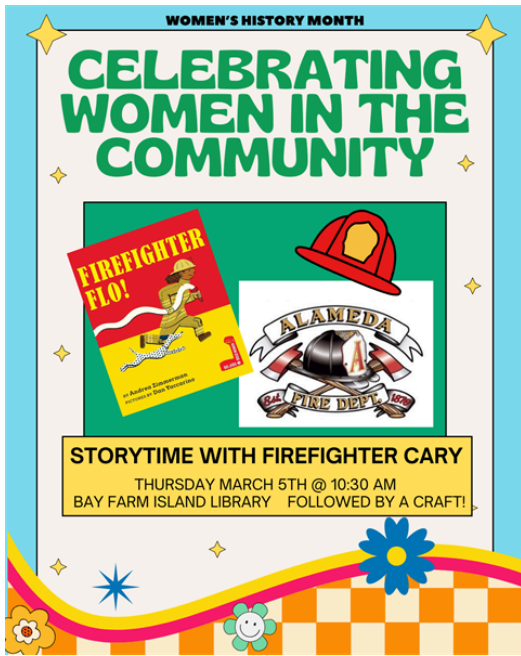
Alameda Free Library Events

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



BFI: Storytime with Firefighter Cary

Mar 5, 10:30 - 11:30 AM
Bay Farm Island Library

To celebrate Women's History Month, we are spotlighting some of the women who serve our community! Join us for a special storytime with Firefighter Cary of the Alameda Fire Department and stay for a fun craft and photo op.



Author Visit with Peter H. Reynolds

Mar 5, 4 - 5 PM
Main Library

Join us at the Main Library on Thursday, March 5th at 4 pm when New York Times bestselling creator Peter H. Reynolds introduces, *When You Dream Big!*, an uplifting story about learning to follow your heart and your toes.

Adults



Online Author Talk with Kate Quinn



Mar 12, 4 PM
Virtual Event

Join us for a virtual conversation with bestselling author Kate Quinn about her latest novel, *The Astral Library*, a magical adventure that asks: what if you could live inside your favorite book? Follow Alexandria “Alix” Watson as she discovers a hidden library where stories become doorways to new lives—until a mysterious enemy threatens the worlds within. Register now to hear Quinn discuss her first foray into magical realism and this enchanting celebration of books and imagination.

[WHM: Poetry & Film with Tae Poetically Divine](#)

Mar 21, 11 AM - 1 PM
Main Library

Spend the morning with local poet, filmmaker and cultural worker Tae Poetically Divine. In honor of Women’s History Month, we will screen her short films, experience her poetry and share a cup of tea.

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!**](#)

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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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