



Friends of the Alameda Free Library



Far Left: Long lines of eager buyers at the October sale. **Top:** Freesia holding Sarah; at two months she is already engrossed in books.



Thanks to pioneering work by Adair Jorgensen (see below) and Gert and Peter Woods (see right) Friends continued more than forty years of volunteer-driven sales of donated books and media. Wonder how much we raised over the decades? See page 4!



Adair, Farewell and Thanks!

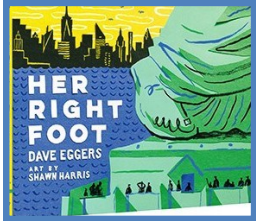
FOR OVER FORTY YEARS Adair Jorgensen was a Friend of the Alameda Library. Her reason for joining Friends was simple. "We were looking for ways to make money and benefit the library. We all liked to read, and that's where it all came from." With Gert and Peter Woods, Adair began organizing book sales in the 1970s. Adair tirelessly sorted books, deployed volunteers, and trained cashiers for every sale. She gleaned and priced children's books (her favorites) until two months before her passing. She often said, "We're not getting any younger. Someone is going to have to take this over!" Happily a group has stepped up; see page 4.

Adair was an officer on the Friends board and was active in many other community organizations. She was PTA president of both Wood Middle and Encinal High schools, a member of Blossom Branch of Children's Hospital, on the Aeolian Yacht Club board, and a board member emeritus of the Altarena Playhouse. Her longtime friend and book sale co-chair, Gert, recalled a trip to New England with Adair, Peter, and others. They visited many beautiful sites and stayed in historic inns. Demonstrating another of her talents, Adair was put in charge of cocktails, which in this case meant retrieving liquor bottles that fell out a window and into the garden.

Adair's many fans and co-workers remember her as dedicated, with a bright and welcoming smile, an avid reader, and a lot of fun with a fine sense of humor. Gert said it best, "Adair was a great worker and friend." She will be greatly missed. Memorial gifts may be made by check to the Friends of the Alameda Free Library, payable to "FAL" and sent to P.O. Box 1024, Alameda, CA 94501 or online at www.alamedafriends.com/support-us. □

IMMIGRATION NATION

SEPTEMBER 27 SOME FIFTY people assembled at the Main Library to hear five distinguished authorities on the topic of immigration. The moderator was Penny Washbourn, Ph.D., president of the Alameda chapter of AAUW. The event was co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) and Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL).



The moderator first alerted the audience to a children's book about the Statue of Liberty, *Her Right Foot* by Dave Eggers with art by Shawn Harris. The statue's crowned head, arm, and flame are usually pictured, but the book's close-up of the right foot of the statue indicates she is in motion. The moderator cited statistics about how few immigrants are in America, and how exceedingly few are Muslim, in contrast to the misperceptions of many. She read a headline in the August 23, 1017 *San Francisco Chronicle*: "The Imaginary Immigrant Hordes." The takeaway point was "Hostility drives misperception, not the other way around."

Immigration historian Laura Fantone showed slides of key events and developments in federal immigration policies since the first great migration in the mid-1850s. She said, "Most immigrants today are not Mexican; the number from China has surpassed both Mexico and India, and those number are going up slowly and steadily."

Panel member Pratheepan Gulasekaram is a law professor at Santa Clara University; his professional concerns include the political and legal dynamics of state and local immigration regulations, and their effect on federal policies. Just two days before the panel discussion, an executive order, dubbed Travel Ban 3, excluded travelers from Chad, Venezuela, and North Korea. Note: These nations are not majority-Muslim countries, which were the focus of Travel Ban 1.

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan was unable to attend due to illness. Her legislative aide Vanessa Cadeno pointed out that there is no legal definition of sanctuary. It has evolved to mean a state or local policy in which state or local law enforcement decline to cooperate with officials from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In Alameda County, one out of three residents is an immigrant, the majority of those are naturalized citizens. One hundred thousand county residents are undocumented; 11,000 are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Senate Bill 54 "the California Values Act," signed in October by Governor Jerry Brown, directs the California Attorney General to create model policies, expected to add uniformity and clarity.

Reverend Deborah Lee of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity works with thirty faith communities to accompany and advocate for fair treatment and dignity of immigrants. The extractive economies are displacing the populations of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Silver and gold mining are familiar examples, and Lee also pointed out the extraction of hydroelectric power. She described how multinational companies and military aid together have led to human rights abuses.

Finally, Amos White spoke; he is associate with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Alameda People Power Movement. He likened the struggles for immigrants' rights to 1960s-era civil right struggles in the U.S. His family of origin exposed him to the activism of that era. He reminded us that racist episodes have not ended, as one can tell from the noose incident at Alameda High and the defacing of a local mosque and a synagogue.

Note: If you missed this significant discussion, it will be repeated noontime at the College of Alameda Wednesday November 8; for information about logistics and free registration, visit AAUW Alameda or call 510.748.7455. □

Nine Sell-Out Years!

Live@the Library Jazz

Dec. 2: "Fever, The Peggy Lee Project"

Singer Suzanna Smith

Tickets at Dewey's Café, Books Inc., and brownpapertickets.com/producer/15915.

\$35 each. The show starts at

8:00 p.m. Stafford Room, Main Library.

Doors open at 7:00. p.m. Information Lu-



zanne,



Immanuel Lutheran Community Day

THE FRIENDS JOINED other Alameda volunteer groups in August at the inaugural “Community Volunteer Day” sponsored by the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Tables were spread out in the sun on the blocked off road, Lafayette Street between Santa Clara and Central Avenues. Almost two dozen groups spread out their wares, brochures, and sign-up sheets, informing and tantalizing hundreds. Board member Honora organized the Friends table and deployed people in two hour shifts; she thanked helpers, including Judith, Karen B, Karen M, Luzanne, and Mari. Early visitors to our table were Julia and 4 year old Maverick, “I work in San Francisco, and we live here in Alameda. We just got off the ferry, and we are browsing to investigate volunteer opportunities that work with my schedule.” Catalina and toddler Antonella (above center) were there because they support the library and its offerings. “The Friends and their programs help encourage and channel families to read books. Many families go to all three branches and the book sales, because they want kids to be stimulated to visit libraries, instead of always watching TV or something else on a screen.”

Later at the Friends spot, Mari (above right) recalled that she was last featured in this newsletter in April, 2016 when she was “shadowing” reference desk staff for a class leading to a degree in library science. She also pitches in another way, “I wash the towels for Dewey’s Café!” The Elks Lodge had some lively members staffing that day, witness Lynne and John (above left) joyfully strutting to the Sun Kings, a local band specializing in Beatles covers.

Dot, the Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, talked a bit about the history of the vintage building. A substantial wooden structure, the 1891 church is the oldest such in Alameda. The interior of Immanuel is reminiscent of the design of the “tall ships,” those handsome sailing vessels once the underpinnings of commerce and travel, on San Francisco Bay and round the globe.

IM’s art glass windows are a felicitous combination of custom design, meticulous craftsmanship, and the thrift possibilities afforded by mass production. The stunning window over the altar is perfectly sited to catch and amplify morning sun; it was custom made and carried a hefty price tag. The windows that light up the side walls of the place, however, were ordered from a catalogue, A close look shows that they share identical flashed glass borders. When first installed, their centers were clear glass, leaving room for congregants to commemorate a favorite saint or family member. In the choir loft, the majestic organ casts a spell under the aegis of Musical Director and organ master Terry O’Connor, who treated visitors that day to a noon concert followed by guided tours that emphasized the 125 year-plus heritage of the building. The Friends thank the congregation for putting on this event and look forward to taking part next year! ☐

Report from the October Sale

Fanfare for Our Uncommon Volunteers



A HEARTY THANKS to more than 100 people who volunteered at the highly successful Book & Media sale last month. Be part of a venerable tradition that thrives after more than forty years, organized by the Friends to benefit the Library, The inaugural sale was in 1975 at Wood School, and in addition to books, it offered a silent auction of some volumes deemed special because of autographs, scarcity, or vintage. The



next Friends sale is in the Spring of 2018.

JOIN THE YEAR ROUND GLEAN TEAM! Our volunteer activities offer a way to meet new people, consolidate friendships from previous years, have fun with a like-minded group, and best of all, support and enhance the Library.

Now that the the October sale is over, consider adding gleaning-sorting-pricing to your job list! While the hectic twice-a-year sales need a influx of many for a short time, the Glean Team needs people to help year round so when the sales loom, we have our items winnowed, priced, categorized, and ready to offer. Want to enlist? Veterans, we welcome you heartily! If you are new as a library or Friends helper, we embrace you too! Experience great satisfaction doing these tasks and enjoy the afterglow of success in helping the Friends and the Library !

Join us by emailing Volunteer@alamedafriends.com. ☐

Proclamation

Whereas, in 1974, a small group of concerned Alameda residents met to discuss ways in which they could help the needs of the Alameda Free Library, and on March 25, 1975, the "Friends of the Alameda Free Library" organization was officially formed and

Whereas the commitment by the Friends of the Library to support our library by organizing and hosting book sales, staffing Dewey's Café, producing the "Live@the Library" concerts, have funded over \$1.26 million in programs, equipment, and "ideas" for the library for over forty years . . .

Therefore let it be resolved that October 15-21 2017 be proclaimed as Friends of the Library Appreciation Week.

Whereas, the generous support of the Friends of the Library extends to the operation of Dewey's Friends Café in the library, which requires about 24 volunteers a week in two-hour shifts and a dedicated steering committee of Friends who are invited to volunteer; and

Whereas, the commitment by the Friends of the Library to support our Library by organizing and hosting book sales, staffing the Café, and producing the popular "Live @ the Library" concert series, have funded over \$1.26M in programs, equipment and "ideas" for the Alameda Free Library for over 40 years.



Accepting the City Council proclamation from Mayor Trish Spencer (in striped dress) are Friends representatives Cindy Silva, Karen

Meet Friends Director Carole Robie

What are your earliest memories of reading and books? I have always loved reading and books . . . and often the books were scattered about my bedroom floor, much to my mother's dismay because she thought their proper home was on the book shelf. I often went to the Alameda "Children's Library" on Oak for story hour and then we checked out two books.

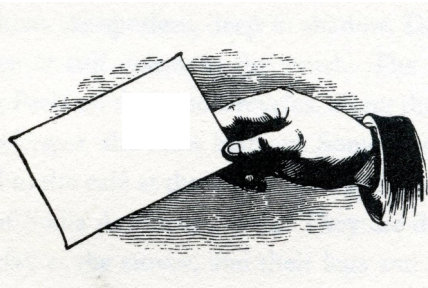
Do you enjoy "actual" books? Ebooks? Both? I love real books because I can easily go back to places I want to re-read. I also write in my books . . . so I have quite a collection. I do have an electronic reader, because it is so convenient when traveling or just to carry in my purse.

What are you reading these days? I just finished *A Gentleman In Moscow* which I loved. Some of my other favorites from recent months are *The Nightingale*, *All The Light You Cannot See*, *The Lilac Girls*, *The Zoo Keeper's Wife*, *Rules of Civility*, *Glass Houses*, *Magpie Murders*, *The Underground Railroad*, *Strangers In Our Own Land*, *Tears We Cannot Stop*, and *Hillbilly Elegy*.

You are hosting a literary dinner party . Who gets invited? So many people come to mind. At the moment I am thinking about writers of the political world; so I would include Jon Meacham, Elizabeth Warren, Condolezza Rice, Karl Rove, David Axelrod, Michelle Obama, David McCullough, and Laura Hillenbrand.

Tell us about your personal involvement. I joined the Alameda Free Library Foundation because I was concerned about sustained, long-term funding for the library. It was a time of budget cuts, and I believed that we needed to build a potential source of income for the library over time. I served in a variety of capacities for the Foundation and when the two library fund-raising groups—the Friends and the Foundation--decided to merge, I fully supported that decision. I love the fact that we can support Library Director Jane Chisaki's vision for providing a variety of outstanding programs for our community through our efforts. I am thankful for the support the community of Alameda has provided through the Friends of the Library.

What are your hopes for FAL and for the Alameda Free Library? My hopes are for continued support of FAL programs and for many more volunteers to join us as we continue supporting the best library in our State! ☐



**Notes from Editor
Kris Matarrese**

A Change: As Editor, it is my duty to report that

Judith Lynch is moving on, and this is her last edition of the FAL Newsletter. In the 2 ½ years she has been with the newsletter, it has grown more and more informative, entertaining, imaginative, and delightful. After each issue, the adulation rolled in! She leaves large shoes to fill indeed! Judith will remain an FAL volunteer, serving in a different venue. We thank her with sincere gratitude and admiration.

Contributors to this issue: Thanks to Karen Butter, Mari Clark, Luzanne Engh, Kumar Fpanse, Judith Lynch, Karen Manuel, Martha Peck, Billy Reinschmiedt, and Peg Rosen.

We would like to hear from you: This newsletter is published monthly by Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL). Have a story idea, a correction, or an image to share? Our deadline for the January issue is December 20. Please email inquiries and submissions to info@alamedafriends.com ☐

KEEP IN TOUCH! WITH FAL ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Information: Info@alamedafriends.com
- ◆ Become a volunteer: Volunteer@alamedafriends.com
- ◆ Donate funds, services, etc.: Donate@alamedafriends.com

Mission: Friends of the Alameda Free Library

- ✳️ **TO PROVIDE A VARIETY** of ways to contribute to the ongoing services and growth of the Alameda Free Library for the enjoyment and benefit of the entire community.
- ✳️ **TO ACT AS STEWARD** for the library and its many services and programs through advocacy, volunteerism, and fund-raising to supplement public funding.

2017 FAL Officers and Directors

President: Karen Butter; Vice President: Kumar Fpanse;
Secretary: Karen Manuel; Treasurer: Bill Gibbs;
Directors: David Beall, Eileen Bitten, Luzanne Engh, Marlene Grcevich, Nancy Horton, Honora Murphy, Billy Reinschmiedt, Carole Robie, Karen Roemer, Eileen Savel, and Jo Winzenread. The Board meets the fourth Monday of each month except December, at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Room, Main Library. The public is welcome. ☐

Friends
of the
Alameda
Free Library

P.O. Box 1024

Alameda, CA 94501

Return Service Request-

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