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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,

April was a month filled with community, creativity and the kind of joy that reminds us why I do this work. I am so proud of everything we accomplished together and I look forward to an equally exciting May.



Mads Tolling performs at Live @ the Library

The Live @ the Library concert series came to a wonderful close on April 11 with a captivating performance by Mads Tolling — the second and final concert in our 2026 series. I don't know about you, but I still have Mads playing on repeat in my head!



Live @ the Library on April 11

A heartfelt thank you to our Live @ the Library organizing team — led by Renesha Robinson, whose leadership and dedicated board service have meant so much to FAL, along with Karen Butter, Billy Reinschmiedt and Eileen Savel — and to all of our event volunteers, whose care, creativity and dedication made the season exceptional.

We are grateful to the Alameda Free Library for partnering with us and sharing their space and to Books & Bites Cafe volunteers for keeping our guests happily refreshed throughout the evening. Thank you to our generous sponsors whose support made the restoration of the concert series possible.

On April 18, the Library hosted its beloved annual Día de los Niños celebration. Families enjoyed a captivating magic show by Magician Mike Della Penna, a joyful bilingual performance by Cascada de Flores and free fresh churros in the Library's parking lot.



Día de los Niños on April 18

Books For Friends distributed free coupons to families for free books and met many new community members who took advantage of the gift. It was a wonderful afternoon, and events like this one are made possible entirely through your support — your donations to FAL fund 100% of the Library's programs.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the [Alameda Used Book Sale](#), running Wednesday, May 13 through Saturday, May 16. There will be thousands of quality books at low prices, with net proceeds benefiting the Library — a true win for community members donating books, readers and the Library.

Speaking of support, our [2026 Spring Appeal](#) is underway! Continuing in the spirit of April's [National Library Week's](#) message to find joy with the Library, we ask you to consider making a gift to help sustain and grow the vital services the Alameda Free Library provides our community. Just as sunshine and rain nourish spring blooms, your generosity helps our Library thrive as a dynamic and accessible resource for everyone in Alameda. If you haven't yet had the chance to [donate](#), we hope you will. Each and every gift makes a difference.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, generosity and enthusiasm. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Alameda Used Book Sale!

Cheers,

Josh Dapkus

President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library

Alameda Used Book Sale
May 13 - 16, 2026



ALAMEDA

USED BOOK SALE



ALAMEDA MAIN LIBRARY 1550 OAK ST. ALAMEDA, CA

**MAY 13
THROUGH
MAY 16**
\$5 BAGS SATURDAY

SALE HOURS

WEDNESDAY 5/13

1 - 6 PM

\$5 TEACHER BAGS ON
WEDNESDAY

THU, 5/14 - SAT, 5/16

10 AM - 4 PM



LARS G. HANSSON
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



ALAMEDA
MUNICIPAL POWER
A Department of the City of Alameda



The [Alameda Used Book Sale](#) is open from **May 13 to 16** at the Alameda Free Library. The sale features **over 10,000 books** at unbeatable prices! This is a great chance to stock up on books for all ages and interests. On Wednesday, May 13, from 1 to 6 pm, we'll have a **special discount for teachers: fill a bag for just \$5!**

Sale Hours & Details

- **May 13 (Wed):** 1 - 6 PM – open to all. Educators, fill a bag for \$5!
- **May 14 - 16 (Thu - Sat):** 10 AM - 4 PM
- **Location:** Stafford Room, Alameda Main Library (near the Books & Bites Cafe)

Volunteers Needed!

The May sale will feature a special vintage and collectible section with items donated to the Friends by Tavistock Books. The [volunteer signup page](#) is

now open!

We are still looking for volunteers in these areas:

- **Book Counters: Wednesday, May 13 and Friday, May 15**
- **Book Movers: Wednesday, May 13 and Saturday, May 16**
- **Tear Down: Saturday, May 16**

Please follow [this link](#) to sign up for volunteer shifts and email Book Sale Co-Manager/Volunteer Coordinator Janelle Harper at volunteer@alamedafriends.com with questions.

Book Boxing Leader Needed

FAL's Book Sale Committee is looking for a volunteer to assist with training and hands-on instruction for sorting (Tuesday and Friday mornings at the warehouse), book sales (May and October 2026) and at Books For Friends (year-round). The leader should love organizing and have a good sense of fitting items into three dimensional spaces. The Book Sale Committee is a group of FAL board members and volunteers who like having fun while supporting the Alameda Free Library. Coordination meetings occur about five times a year. Please join us if you have a penchant for packing and are available on October 17, 2026 from 3 - 6 pm when we will be packing up from our fall Alameda Used Book Sale and have flexibility to volunteer during the 2027 sale dates, which are scheduled for May 11-17 and October 19-25, 2027.

Thank You to Our Used Book Sale Sponsors

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

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

Books For Friends
Quality Used Books at Great Prices

Bookshop Hours

Weds: 12 - 6 PM

Thurs - Sat: 12 - 4 PM

Main Library

Special Shop Hours

Visit us during the Alameda Used Book Sale Week, May 13 - 16

The shop will be open extended hours during the upcoming Alameda Used Book Sale.

Wednesday, May 13 from 10 am - 6 pm

Thursday, May 14 - Saturday, May 16 from 10 am - 4 pm



**ALAMEDA
USED BOOK SALE
WEEK**

MAY 13 - 16, 2026
BOOKS FOR FRIENDS
Quality Used Books at Great Prices

SPECIAL SALE HOURS
Wednesday, 5/13
10 AM - 6 PM
Thu, 5/14 - Sat, 5/16
10 AM - 4 PM

Alameda Main Library
1550 Oak St
Alameda, CA

The poster features a red header with the event title and a circular logo for 'BOOKS FOR FRIENDS' with 'BF' initials. Below the header, the dates and title are in large, bold letters. The sale hours are listed in a smaller font. At the bottom, the library's address is provided. The background of the poster shows a stack of books, including one titled 'FLAVORS', and an open book.

Pop-Up Used Book Sale

On May 2, 2026, Friends of the Alameda Free Library partnered with West Alameda Business Association to bring a Pop-Up Used Book Sale (PUBS) to the Alameda Farmers' Market in advance of the May 2026 Alameda Used Book Sale.

American Red Cross Partnership

Tuesday, May 19

12 - 5 PM

Books For Friends will be open to the public every Blood Drive Tuesday. Friends of the Alameda Free Library will thank blood donors with a free book or media item, up to a \$10 value. To sign up to give blood, please visit the [Alameda Free Library's blood drive page](#).

Come visit with Philip in the shop on Blood Drive Tuesday!

Retail Manager

Books For Friends is looking for a part-time, paid Retail Manager. If interested, please [visit our website](#) to view the job description. If you have questions, please contact Marcie Soslau Johnson, Executive Director, at director@alamedafriends.com.

Book Donations

Call for Children's Books!

FAL is in need of *children's picture books and board books*. Please help by donating your picture and board books. We are committed to circulating your family's treasured books to community members who will enjoy them. At Books For Friends, children's book prices are kept intentionally low to create greater access.



Books For Friends volunteers Charlyze and Sharyl

To donate books, please complete a [Book Donation request form](#) and the Book Donation Coordinator will schedule you for an upcoming Sunday dropoff time. Books For Friends and the Alameda Used Book Sale would not be possible without the ongoing, generous donations we receive from the community. Thank you for considering a book donation to the Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

Friends of the Alameda Free Library wants to thank the Books For Friends volunteers for their service to the shop and Library.

What's Happening in the Books & Bites Cafe?

Come visit the Books and Bites Cafe!

Hours

Mon - Sat: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sun: Closed

Main Library



March was an amazing month for Books & Bites Cafe with record sales! Traffic in the Cafe has picked up a bit, with more customers finding out

about us and coming back for more.

Many customers are splurging on an extra pastry and items like Colombe Iced Lattes from our refrigerator case. Our coffee and muffins are popular due to our great deal - a coffee and a muffin for just \$5. Come visit with us in the Main Library!

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.

As our organization continues to grow, so does our need for passionate, community-minded individuals to help guide it. Many of the key functional areas of FAL are led by committees, which are made up of volunteers and board members. If you love the Library and want to play an active role in supporting its future, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to us at volunteer@alamedafriends.com and [visit the FAL website](#) to learn more about committee service and how you can get involved.

FAL Partners with Latitude High School

Executive Director Marcie Soslau Johnson will be mentoring a [Latitude High School](#) student this month. Latitude is a learn by doing Oakland public high school that places high school students in the immediate community for learning and professional growth opportunities. Latitude is just over one mile away from the Main Library, but in a different world. Roxanna Blanco Tapia (Roxy) is a Latitude junior and will be shadowing Marcie, learning about how nonprofits maneuver and interact with the community. Roxy will also spend time volunteering in Books For Friends.

To find out more about how to host a Latitude student, please reach out to Michael Clemme, Internship Coordinator and Community Programs Manager, at mcellemme@efcps.net.

Live @ the Library Committee Lead for 2027

Live @ the Library is a concert series that began in 2009 and had been on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A small, dedicated team of volunteers has revived the program, completing two jazz concerts and a fundraising event in the 2026 season. We are looking for a volunteer to lead the program in 2027. The concert series will run from January to April 2027 and planning is underway. If you are interested in partnering with FAL to bring world class live music events and concerts to Alameda, we'd love your help to lead this committee.

Social Media Enthusiast

FAL is expanding marketing efforts for its popular Books & Bites Cafe, Live @ the Library and Friends @ Home programs. We are looking for a social media volunteer to join the FAL Communications Committee to develop, schedule and manage our social media presence via Planable, a service that centralizes social media management across Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and Facebook. FAL's communications team meets every second Monday of the month from 6:30-7:15 pm.

Upcoming FAL Events



[Author Talk | Deepa Fernandes Speaks with Alka Joshi](#)

Main Library

Saturday, May 30 @ 1 PM

Join us at the Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak Street on Saturday, May 30 for Friends @ Home's return to in-person programming. New York Times best-selling author Alka Joshi presents her internationally acclaimed Jaipur Trilogy — The Henna Artist, The Secret Keeper of Jaipur and The Perfumist of Paris — alongside her captivating new novel, Six Days in Bombay. Award-winning journalist, cohost of NPR's Here and Now, author and Alamedan Deepa Fernandes will host the conversation. Advanced registration is required. Doors open at 1:00 pm and the program begins at 1:30 pm. Limited copies of Alka Joshi's books will be available for sale at Books For Friends the day of the event. Alka will be available post-program for book signing.

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

Kids and families



Family Odissi Dance

Class

May 9 | 11:15 - 12:15 PM

May 17 | 2 - 3 PM

Main Library

In celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month we will be hosting a Family Odissi Dance Class on Saturday, **May 9th from 11:15am-12:15pm** and Sunday, **May 17th from 2:00-3:00pm**. Registration is required. Discover the beauty of Odissi, a classical dance from eastern India, in a fun and nurturing class designed for young learners. Families can build confidence and creativity as they learn foundational movements and expressive storytelling. Each session includes mindful circle time, engaging mythology stories, warm-ups, guided dance practice, and relaxing cool-downs—creating a joyful and enriching experience for the whole family.

To register: Please contact the Children's Department to sign up your family for both or either



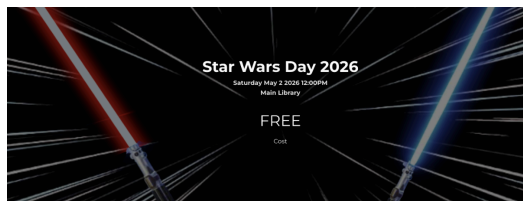
End of School Year Party!

May 27 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Bay Farm

Celebrate the end of the year with us at Bay Farm Island Library on Wednesday, **May 27th from 3-5PM!** We'll kick off the beginning of summer together with games, coloring, and sunshine at the theatre space outside of our library! We'd like to especially honor the fifth graders who will be rising up to middle school next school year.

Adults



[Star Wars Day 2026](#)

May 2 | 12:00 - 2:30 PM

Main Library

Join the Main Library on **Saturday, May 2nd** from **12:00 – 2:30pm** for a day of intergalactic fun!

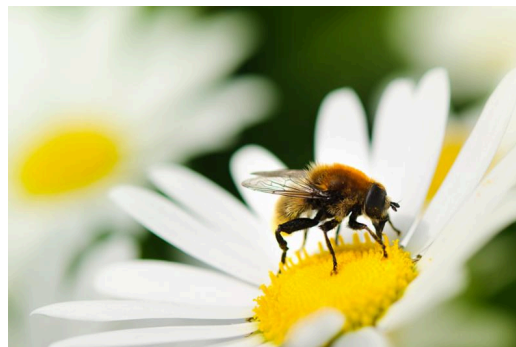
12-2:30 PM | Button making, scavenger hunt, make-your-own lightsaber, and more crafts!

12:00-1:00 PM | Star Wars Bingo

1:00-2:00 PM | Star Wars Family Trivia

Plus! A special visit from the 501st Legion. Come ready to take a picture!

Crafts and giveaways are while supplies last.



[Beeswax Candle Making Workshop](#)

May 9 | 3 PM

West End Library

Sager Family Farms will be joining us at the West End Library on Saturday, **May 9 at 3 pm**. Not only will they bring their Live Viewing Hive so that you can see the inner workings of a bee hive, but you will also learn about bees and how they produce beeswax. Topping that off, we will have a Beeswax Candle Making Workshop, where participants will roll and decorate their own beeswax candle. Space is Limited and Registration is Required. Registration will open April 9th. (the term "Bookings" refers to registration.)

To register or if you'd like additional information about this program, please email: WEBref@alamedaca.gov or call (510) 747-7767.

**Join our Spring 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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