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This monthly newsletter gives you the latest updates and news from the Friends.
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Dear Friend,

What a remarkable spring it has been. Our community has shown up in full force for the Library, and I am excited to share the highlights as well as a few things to look forward to in the months ahead.

Our May 2026 Alameda Used Book Sale was a success with over 170 boxes of books sold. This would not have been possible without our 71 dedicated volunteers, who contributed a collective 316 hours of their time. My deepest thanks go to co-chairs Billy Reinschmiedt and Janelle Harper and the entire Book Sale Committee. A special shoutout is due to Aly Wagenman and Charlize Situ, who ran a creative pop-up booth at the Alameda Farmers' Market on May 2. Tabling at the market was a fantastic way to bring books and advertise for the sale directly to the community. I'd also like to thank our sponsors: [Lars G. Hansson CPA](#), [Alameda Municipal Power](#), [Windermere Bay Area Properties](#), [Greenway Golf](#) and [School of Rock Alameda](#). As we look toward our next sale in October, we are running low on children's picture and board books. Your [donations of these items are greatly appreciated](#).

On May 30 FAL hosted New York Times bestselling author Alka Joshi at the Alameda Free Library for an intimate afternoon of conversation celebrating Joshi's new novel, *Six Days in Bombay*. Special thanks to Deepa Fernandes, Emmy Award-winning journalist and fellow Alamedan, for participating in the conversation. Thank you to the Friends @ Home Committee and Programming Librarian Oliver Mills for organizing such a beautiful event. Books For Friends still has limited signed copies of Alka Joshi's books for sale. Please stop



in the bookshop this week if you would like to secure a signed copy.

*Author Alka Joshi in conversation
with Deepa Fernandes*

The Rotary Club of Alameda selected FAL as a recipient of an Annual Community Grant. FAL will be using these funds to support book sale operations. Library Services Manager Eva Volin was present at the community award meeting and accepted the grant on behalf of FAL.

The City of Alameda Public Arts Commission has awarded a Cultural Arts and Arts Programming Grant given to Friends of the Alameda Free Library in support of Youth Show Up, a youth-driven event planned for March 20, 2027 in the Stafford Room of the Main Library. Youth Show Up will be executed in partnership with Alameda Education Foundation and Sylvia Gibson, Alameda Unified School District Staff member and founder of the Season for Nonviolence high school speech contest. The youth-centered event will feature a poetry slam, art opening and speech exhibition focused on Martin Luther King's vision of the Beloved Community. I believe our success in this competitive process reflects the strength of our partnerships and our shared commitment to elevating youth voices. Please save the date — it promises to be an extraordinary day.



Library Staff with FAL

Fresh off National Library Week, FAL was proud to recognize Library staff by buying them lunch as a small expression of the community's heartfelt appreciation for everything they do. The next time you see a staff member, please take a moment to let them know how much they mean to our community.

Looking ahead, the Alameda Free Library's [Summer Reading Challenge](#) kicks off June 1 and runs through July 31. I hope you'll help spread the word. This popular FAL-funded program promotes literacy across the island and has grown tremendously year over year, in a large part due to your support. Programs like the Summer Reading Challenge — along with every other free program offered at the Library — are made possible by your donations. [Please contribute to our 2026 Spring Appeal.](#) Every gift, at any level, helps ensure that the Library's beloved programs remain free and accessible for all Alamedans.

Summer has arrived, and we're already planning for Alameda's 4th of July Parade. As we've done in past years, FAL is participating in the parade with a "float" consisting of a fully decorated pickup truck and trailer — prepared by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. If you're interested in participating, please [click here to join the 4th of July Committee](#) or [click here to sign up to walk in the parade](#). Family, friends and Library lovers are all welcome!

On July 11, the Alameda Free Library will be hosting the [Alameda Book Con \(ABC\)](#). This event is the first of its kind in Alameda, a literary celebration of local authors and creators. Learn more about how you can volunteer for this event in the Volunteer Corner section of the newsletter.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a happy Jane Chisaki Day on June 30! Learn more about the history behind this Alameda holiday later in the newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your support of the Alameda Free Library. It is truly a privilege to serve alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of Friends.

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

Thank You for Supporting Books For Friends in May 2026

Books For Friends served over 120 customers during the sale week. Thank you for visiting the store, for your purchases and for your donations. Books For Friends and the Alameda Used Book Sale would not be possible without the ongoing, generous donations we receive from the community and the volunteers who staff the bookshop. We love the community we have created and are committed to circulating books to community members who will enjoy them at intentionally low prices, creating greater access and shared experiences around books.



Books For Friends is Looking for a Part-Time Retail Manager

FAL has opened a part-time Retail Manager position for the bookshop operations. If you are or know an experienced bookseller who would love to lead a volunteer staff of over 30 individuals to support the Alameda Free Library by offering donated books back to the community, please stop by the shop or [visit our website](#) to learn more about working in Books For Friends. Books For Friends offers a great work environment with highly motivated and dedicated volunteers giving their time to make access to used books and media a priority.

Please Donate Children's Books

Children's books are a top seller at Alameda Used Book Sales. Books For Friends is in need of children's picture books and board books. Please help by donating your picture and board books to FAL. Books For Friends may accept one bag of children's books (picture or board only) per donor during regular shop hours. If you have more than one bag to give, please complete a Book Donation request form [here](#) and the Book Donation Coordinator will schedule you for an upcoming Sunday drop-off time.

Books For Friends and the Used Book Sale would not be possible without the ongoing, generous donations we receive from the community. Thank you for thinking of Friends of the 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 Books & Bites Cafe?

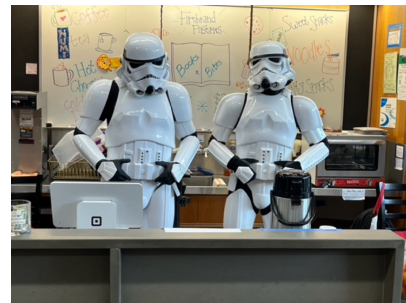
Books & Bites Cafe Hours

Mon - Sat: 10 AM - 4 PM

Sun: Closed

Main Library

Stop by sometime to sample our delicious Firebrand pastries!



*New volunteers at the
Cafe on May the Fourth!*

Looking for protein? Try our Egg Bites, Mozzarella Cheese Sticks or Salami & Cheese packs! We also carry Chocolate Milk and Regular Milk!

If you are looking for Cold Brew or Lattes, try our La Colombe cold brew craft coffee, latte or caramel latte.

On a budget? Try our delicious Mr. Espresso coffee plus a muffin for only \$5 total. The best deal in town!



The Cafe was happy to support the Queer Team Alameda Center Prom with a delicious gift basket.



The Books & Bites Cafe would like to remind you to VOTE!!

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.

FAL Fourth of July Parade Committee

The Fourth of July is just around the corner and FAL is gearing up to celebrate. We are putting together an ad-hoc parade decoration committee and we would love for you to join the fun. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help decorate and prepare our truck and trailer to represent FAL in Alameda's time-honored tradition. Whether you're great with streamers, have a fantastic eye for design, or just want to bring your amazing energy to the team, we need your help to make our float spectacular. This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate with the community, show off your Library pride and have a blast creating together. If you're ready to roll up your sleeves and help us get parade-ready, [please sign up here](#). Please write to volunteer@alamedafriends.com if you have any questions.

Walk the Parade!

Join FAL and the Library on the parade route – walk alongside the FAL float for part or all of the parade. This is one of the most exciting events of the year, and a fantastic way to connect with our amazing community while celebrating our shared love for the Library. Wave to the crowds and show off your Library pride. Enjoy the festive atmosphere with fellow volunteers and board members. We want you there! It's going to be an unforgettable day of fun, laughter, and community spirit. Wear your favorite Library-related gear or your best red, white, and blue.

If you'd like to walk with us, [please sign up here](#). Please write to volunteer@alamedafriends.com with questions. We'll see you on the parade route!

Alameda Book Con (ABC 2026), July 11

For the first time in Alameda Free Library history, over 25 children's, teen, and adult authors will be hosted at the Main Library on Saturday, July 11, 2026 for a literary extravaganza. Friends of the Alameda Free Library is partnering with Library staff to help make this event fun and accessible to all. We are actively seeking day-of volunteers. Please review the volunteer roles and [sign up here](#). Please write to volunteer@alamedafriends.com with questions about how you may support this exciting program.

An orientation for ABC 2026 volunteers will take place on Thursday, June 25 from 5-6 pm in the Main Library, Stafford Room. [Please register for this important orientation event here](#).

Upcoming FAL Events



[Art Docent Talk | The Etruscans: From the Heart of Ancient Italy](#)

Online

June 17 @ 7:00 - 8:00 PM

From the ninth to second centuries BC, Etruscan culture flourished in what is present-day Tuscany, Italy. The Etruscans were a sophisticated, wealthy people who left behind a rich history and traditions reflected in artistic objects found in tombs, temples, sanctuaries, and homes. They made major contributions to Western civilization's architectural, engineering, and artistic achievements. Yet their culture remains largely unknown, overshadowed by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and shrouded in the absence of surviving written Etruscan histories. Organized by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, *The Etruscans: From the Heart of Ancient Italy* is the first major U.S. exhibition in two decades to focus on this complex culture that significantly influenced the ancient Mediterranean world. Based on the latest archaeological discoveries and the most up-to-date scholarship, the exhibition presents objects renowned for their unparalleled beauty and exquisite craftsmanship. These include remarkable bronze and terracotta vessels and sculptures, opulent gold jewelry, and other treasures on view to the public for the first time.

[Register here.](#)

June 30 is Jane Chisaki Day



Mayor Ashcraft and Jane Chisaki

In 2023, upon Jane's retirement from the City of Alameda as Library Director and the end of a 39 year career serving the City of Alameda, Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft brought a proclamation to City Council establishing Jane Chisaki Day. Jane's legacy spans launching the Library's first website, opening the new Main Library, growing annual visits from 100,000 to 800,000, reviving the Alameda Poet Laureate program, launching the free

mobile hotspot program and stewarding Tonarigumi, Alameda's Lost Japantown. We are so grateful for all that Jane built for this community.

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

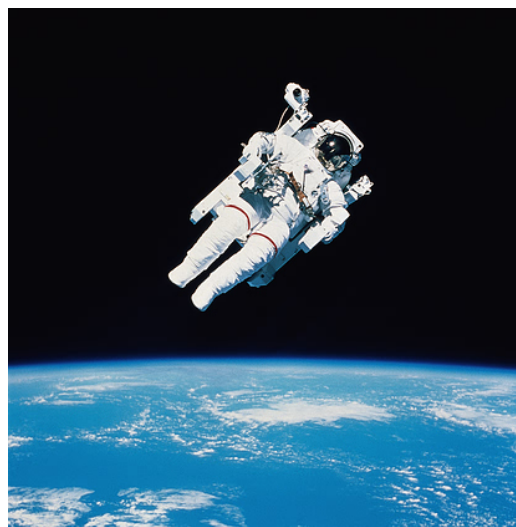


Plant a Seed - Read!

June 6 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Bay Farm

Join us for an outdoor community art class steps away from the Bay Farm Island Library! This is the Bay Farm Island Library's first event of **Summer Reading 2026** celebrating the theme of Plant a Seed - READ! Miss Stephanie of Petit Picassos will guide participants through a read-aloud story, planting, and creating garden-themed projects. Designed with family attendance in mind and with projects intended for ages four and up. This is a drop-in event! We



Astro Everywhere

June 27 | 11:00 AM

West End Library

Love astronomy? Want to learn more and take a **Virtual Journey** through the solar system? Check out sun spots (safely) through a telescope? Join us at the West End Library for Astro Everywhere! This event will be held on **Saturday, June 27 beginning at 11 am**. Our presenter, Josh Roberts will take audience members on a virtual tour of the galaxy and answer questions about space. He will also be bringing telescopes in which audience members will be able to

recommend arriving as early as you can since supplies are limited.

view the sun (safely) following a safety lecture.

Adults



[Online Author Talk with Mary Savig](#)

June 3 | 11:00 AM

Online Events

Join us for a fascinating discussion with Smithsonian Curator **Mary Savig** on the history and significance of craft at state fairs—from blue-ribbon quilts to sculpted butter cows, and so much more!

State Fairs: Growing American Craft features more than 100 photos of extraordinary and unconventional crafts from state and tribal fairs, including needlework, basketry, jewelry, ceramics, crop art, butter sculpture, and saddles. The catalog highlights personal stories and regional and cultural traditions, creating a vibrant portrait of American life. Come one, come all! State Fairs has a little something for everyone.

[Register here to add questions for the author, then tune in live or watch the event recording.](#)



[Online Author Talk with Sana Javeri Kadri and Asha Loupy](#)

June 23 | 11:00 AM

Online Events

Join us as we chat with **Sana Javeri Kadri** and **Asha Loupy** about *The Diaspora Spice Co. Cookbook*, which celebrates beautiful, simple, and seasonal cooking with 85 recipes adapted from India and Sri Lanka's best family spice farms.

Diaspora Spice Co. sources the most flavorful, fresh spices in the world from 150 regenerative farms across South Asia—from elders, indigenous communities, young changemakers, and brilliant multi-generational farming families across India and Sri Lanka who are leading the way in sustainable and climate change-resistant agriculture.

Join us LIVE for a chance to win a copy of *The Diaspora Spice Co. Cookbook*! The giveaway link will be in the Resources area under the

broadcast screen during the live event. Please ensure you are watching on your library's webpage for the chance to participate.

[Register here to add questions for the author, then tune in live or watch the event recording.](#)

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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