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Kris Matarrese, Editor

FAL: Make Library Bonds Easier to Pass

**LIVE @ THE
LIBRARY
CONCERTS
A FALL FULL
OF JAZZ!
SEE PAGES 2, 3**

FRIENDS OF THE ALAMEDA Free Library recently wrote to support a bill to lower the voter threshold for local library construction bond projects from the current 2/3rds vote necessary to 55%. That changes the requirement for passage from 67 out of 100 votes to 55 out of 100, a significant difference. The bill is sponsored by State Senator Bill Dodd and co-authored by Senators Mike McGuire and Bob Wieckowski. According to Senator Dodd: **“Our public libraries provide critical services to our state, educating future generations, promoting lifelong learning, and providing cultural enrichment. That’s why we need to empower local communities to better maintain and expand the accessibility and capacity at their public libraries.”**

The bill was passed by the Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee May 2nd and faces several more steps in the legislative process. For fine-grained details, check <https://www.facebook.com/SaveCALibs/?fref=nf> As it works its way through the legislative process, we will alert library supporters about the need for letters and phone calls. Please see note below.

RE: SCA 3-DODD: 55% VOTE FOR LIBRARY BOND CONSTRUCTION

“The Friends of the Alameda Free Library urges your support for SCA 3, a bill to lower the local vote threshold for library construction bonds from the current two-thirds vote to 55%. Libraries are more popular now than ever – in California more than 22 million people visited libraries last year. In the City of Alameda our Main Library celebrated its 10th Anniversary last year. With the new expanded facility we are able to offer programs for all ages – story time for preschoolers, literacy classes for adults, an internet café with 40 computers in use all hours, partnerships with the local school district, and a teen center.

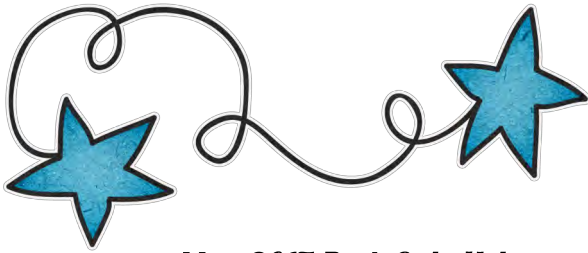
“The Library also supports community programming such as the recent, “Made in Alameda,” highlighting products made locally, and “American Islam: Muslim 102,” attended by more than 150 people. The community heard from a panel about the tenets of Muslim, its teaching, and practices. With modern, updated Libraries, these are a few exciting examples of the activities and services possible.

“While Alameda has a new Main Library, we are looking toward the future as we develop Alameda Point, a former naval air station. Over the next decade we expect to see hundreds of new housing units as well as strong and continuing interest from businesses looking for new locations. A library is vital part of that infrastructure, along with schools. The passage of SCA 3 is a critical piece in our ability to raise local funds to construct a new library. Community budgets are under continuing pressures to support local government and aging infrastructure. With the passage of SCA 3 the City of Alameda would have the tools and authority to issue library bonds for construction of this facility by a 55% vote. School districts currently have this authority.

“Today, more than ever, we need to invest in our intellectual infrastructure. I ask you to support this important piece of legislation that will make such a difference in the lives of constituents you serve.

“Sincerely, Karen Butter, President, Friends of the Alameda Free Library”

NOTE: Make sure you are on our email ALERT list; see page 5 for details.



May 2017 Book Sale Helpers

WITHOUT THE MANY people who volunteered for the recent May event, there would be no Book Sale to raise money for the library. Thanks to each and every one of you. Don't forget the October Book Sale, already beckoning for more helping hands! ☐

Adair Jorgensen	Helen Jefferson	Lynda Graham
Amo Tarnoff	Jan Greene	Marie Randall
Andrea Roveda	Jennifer McCaffrey	Martha Peck
Andrei Shkidt	Jennifer Miller	Marvin Winzenread
Andrew McKinley	Jerry Yarborough	Michael Hodgsa
Ann North	Jo Winzenread	Mike Nagata
Anne Storm	Johanna Woolley	Mitzi Wong Nguyen
Barbara Benson	John Paulsen	Nancy Bartlett
Beth Sibley	John Silva	Nancy Cooney
Bettina Sims	Jon Fellman	Nick Hoff
Billy Reinschmiedt	Judy Ecker	Patricia Mancini
Carolyn Storm	Julia Shurn	Patti Itano
Cathy Huie	Karen Butter	Peg Rosen
Cynthia Silva	Karen Manuel	Peter Woods
David Wexler	Kathy Neptune	Renae Breitenstein
David Wood	Katryn Linton	Roger Eckert
Deanna Huie	Kerry Shoji	Sally Faulhaber
Debra Cramer	Kevin Storm	Sarah Kim
Dennis Dickens	Laura Boughnea	Shannon Silva
Eileen Savel	Lina Paulsen	Shelley Read
Elbert Benson	Linda Yarborough	Susan Avery
Elizabeth McCaffrey	Lisa Perry	Tess Rogers
Gertrude Woods	Liz Roger	Todd Storm
Glen Itano	Lorraine Salazar	Zack Storm
Heather Zacks	Luzanne Engh	

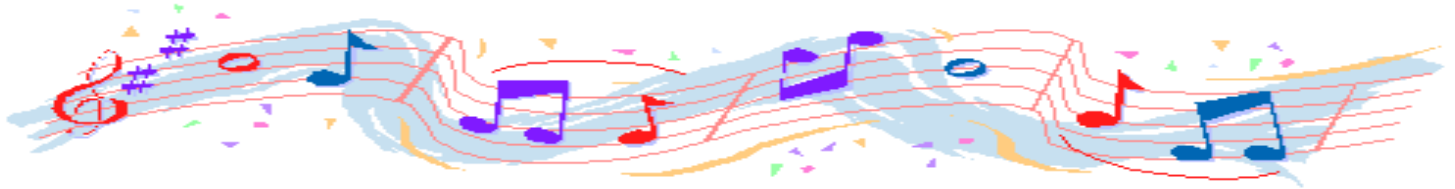
May 2017 Book Sale

TRUDY AND JOHN trundled along a capacious and sturdy shopping cart to haul their finds. This sale is only their second, but they will be back, "Now that we are both retired," he said, "we have much more time to read!" In addition to music CDs and armloads of books, they also shopped for two grandkids, one in K, the other a 5th grader, and both reading . . . mostly books of course.

A family from Otis School was heading gleefully to the check-out line-- grandmother Susie, mom Rachel, and her children, Eunice in grade 4 and Buck, a 6th grader. The youngsters were hauling caches of science fiction tomes and as much of the Narnia series as they could glean. Rachel found art books to enrich her library and scored a treasure—a pristine 1944 edition of Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*.

Longtime volunteer Lynda has assisted at past sales with her time—sorting, pricing, and boxing. She has also perfected the art-science of packing sale books so they don't get sullied or ruined. "It is a lot of work," according to her, "but worth it. I love books and even when I was working I frequented the West End branch." For the most recent sale, Lynda spent the Thursday before at her usual post, counting how many boxes were going on sale the next day—her total, 1064!

First timer Eileen served on the Library Foundation board and helps organize the Live@the Library concerts, so she is no newcomer to Friends' activities. She decided to help out at the recent book sale, and the experience was a revelation. "When I signed in that Friday, I chose one of the History tables. It was staffed by only a few helpers but lots of bins of books to unpack and display." During the two hours she was there, the table volunteers pitched in vigorously with a subtext of humor. "How gratified we each felt when the job was done. I had never seen an entire group working together like busy bees and having fun doing the jobs. The energy in the room was palpable; it was the most wonderful experience, and I will be back!" ☐



ENJOY JAZZ? LOOKING FOR A WAY to support our library and work among enthusiastic volunteers? Friends of the Library needs a ticket manager for our highly successful Live@theLibrary concerts, now in its ninth year. The series returns to the Stafford Room, Main Library, for three Saturday evenings. Eileen Savel is once again booking this year's program. Thanks to their passion for live music, devoted volunteers Eileen, the late Live@ founder Ruth Bellikove, and business whiz Luzanne Engh, have enticed jazz artists of local, regional, and national renown to perform at the Alameda Library. This year will be no exception.

The Live@theLibrary Concert Committee needs a volunteer to manage ticket sales for the fall 2017 concert series; duties run from mid-July to mid-December 2017. Concerts (see page 3 for artists) are September 16, October 28, and December 2. The job includes: Ordering tickets and posting concerts on a website; Distributing tickets; Managing an Excel spreadsheet to track ticket sales; Collecting and recording proceeds from ticket sales; Collecting tickets at the three concerts and managing the will-call list; Reporting sales progress and producing final report. Interested? To volunteer, or for more information, please contact Luzanne Engh, 510.325.5776, luzengh@comcast.net. ☐

FAL Events Past & Prologue

OVER MANY YEARS the Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL) has sponsored, co-sponsored, underwritten, and bankrolled many library events. Major FAL money raising efforts naturally garner robust publicity, Book Sales have spanned more than four decades, (see page 2), and the high-roller musical entertainments, grouped under the slogan Live@theLibrary, have brought in peak revenue for almost ten years (see page 2 and below). Unheralded FAL generosity is frequent and often not mentioned on posters or in publicity. Some FAL contributions are tangible such as furniture and equipment. Smaller gifts abound and tend to go unnoticed, such as snacks for the Teen Advisory Board, art supplies for various craft sessions, summer reading for youngsters, Alameda Reads. . . . Here are some past and future FAL endeavors. □

Dave Rocha Jazz: A Fond Memory

“**IN CELEBRATION** of Jazz Appreciation Month, the Dave Rocha Trio put on a wonderful free concert at the Main Library Sunday, April 29. The packed house enjoyed a variety of music, featuring flugelhorn, bass, and guitar. Selections include George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and more. Dave is a long-time Bay Area artist who has been playing with his group for over twenty years. Friends of Alameda Free Library funding provided the opportunity to host Dave and his band.” Cosette Ratliff, Supervisor, Adult Services, Alameda Free Library



FAL Alert! Immigration Nation: Challenge for All Americans

GIVEN THE SUCCESS and acclimation that greeted the Muslim Panel in February, the FAL has again partnered with AAUW and the League of Women Voters to explore an issue that affects most people. Virtually all of us are descendants of immigrants from somewhere. Red-pencil your calendars for September 27, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Stafford Room of the Main Library. A hundred and a half folks attended the Muslim panel so plan to arrive early to claim a seat. More information about panelists and topics will be forthcoming; watch the FAL newsletter and sponsor websites. □

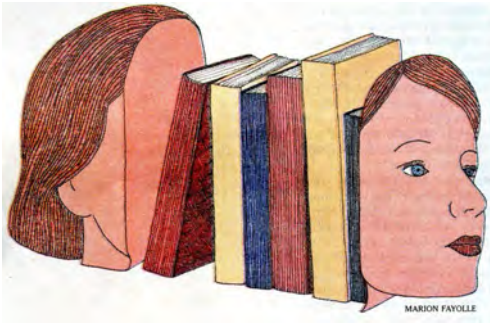
FAL Alert! Live@theLibrary Concerts Ninth Year Ready, Set, Go!!

- ◆ **September 16:** Singer Kenny Washington and Guitarist Jeff Massanari
- ◆ **October 28:** "From Maurice Ravel to Bill Evans: The Piano Trio in the 20th Century" with the Aden Trio
- ◆ **December 2:** Suzanna Smith sings the songs of Peggy Lee

Tickets go on sale August 1, many details in future FAL newsletters, FAL and Library websites, and social media.

NOTE: We need a volunteer to help with ticket sales and more. See story on page 2. □

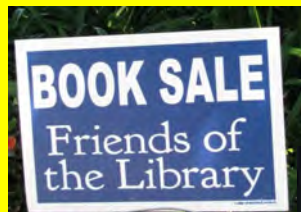




Book Club Corner

- Ⓢ **Alameda Great Books**, 6:00 p.m., Family Study Room, 2nd Tuesday, contact Jeff, jeffhitchings.jh@gmail.com.
June 13 reading: *First Principles of Morals*, by Immanuel Kant. Early alert for the first fall session: Gustave Flaubert's *A Simple Heart*.
- Ⓢ **Alameda Library Book Club**, 6:30 p.m., 2nd Monday, contact Pam J, pamchung@aol.com. **June 12 reading:** *The Vegetarian* by Han King. "Kang has been rightfully celebrated as a visionary in South Korea . . . His glorious treatments of agency, personal choice, submission, and subversion find form in the parable. There is something about short literary forms – this novel is under 200 pages— in which the allegorical and the violent gain special potency from their small packages . . ." Porochista Khakpour, *The New York Times Book Review*
- Ⓢ **Teen Book Club**, ages 13-18, 4:00 p.m., Stafford Room, 1st Wednesday, contact Hallie, hfields@alamedaca.gov. Book purchases and snacks underwritten by Friends of the Library (FAL). "Wednesday, June 7, the teen book club members will discuss advance reader's copies (ARCs) of books that are sent to library staff before publication, an exciting glimpse behind the scenes. Club members will also pick up new ARCs to take home. Then we will discuss books we're reading this summer," advises Hallie, Teen Services Librarian.
- Ⓢ **Check Yo'Shelf Book Group**, (teen books for adults) Family Literacy Room, 7:00 p.m., 3rd Tuesday, Carlie, cwebber@alamedaca.gov. Members bring Young Adult (YA) novels. We have no information yet about this potentially engrossing new endeavor. Watch the Book Club Corner for future postings.

Shopping, Hauling, Buying, Helping at the Spring Book Sale



MEET 2017 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FAL) BOARD MEMBER EILEEN BITTEN

What are your earliest memories of reading and books? Reading was an integral part of my growing up. Both my parents were lovers and collectors of books so books were omnipresent. As little children we would turn the pages and pretend that we were reading. Being read to was a part of the daily routine, so that I could begin to anticipate the words in the best loved and most frequently read books and thus began the process of reading. At dinner time, after we had had the usual discussions about the activities of our day, my Mother would read to us as we ate. Then we would discuss the content of what had been read. A very effective way of instilling in us the love of reading and learning, while at the same time making sure we ate dinner.



Do you enjoy “actual” books? Ebooks? My preference is for “actual books.” I love holding a book and physically touching and turning the pages and going back to an earlier section to pick up details I may have missed. I do appreciate the ease and portability of Ebooks when I travel.

What are you reading? *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, the history of the Ghent Altarpiece; *The Silk Road*, a book about the art, culture, commerce and history of the Silk Road; biographies of Eleanor of Aquitaine and Kenneth Clark; *Mason’s Retreat*, a novel; the current selection of my book club, and I always enjoy a good mystery novel.

You are hosting a literary dinner party. Which authors would you invite? Limiting it to four-six guests would be difficult, so I would have several dinner parties, each at a different restaurant. I would start with the Greek philosophers and build guests lists from there.

Tell us about your involvement with the FAL and the Library Foundation. I was on the Foundation Board and worked on the committee for the merger of the Foundation and the Friends, a positive move for the Library and the citizens of Alameda. Serving on the current Board is a way that I can contribute to supporting the important role that libraries must play in any civilized society.

What are your hopes-fears for the Alameda Free Library? I worry when I hear comments that books are a thing of the past, that everything is available on the internet, and as an extension of that thinking Libraries will diminish in importance.

Anything you would like to suggest or promote? To continue, improve, and expand upon what we are doing, with an emphasis on the children. ☐

DON'T MISS OUT on any Friends of the Library (FAL) events and news. Please send your email to friendsalameda@librarians.com.



OUR SYMPATHY: The Friends, patrons, sponsors, and volunteers extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Ruth Bellikove, the founder of the Live@the Library concert series. We will publish a more complete remembrance of her life and contributions to the Friends and the Library in the July issue. See Editor’s Note below if you would like to add a memory to the tribute. ☐

Notes from Kris, Our Editor

Contributors to this issue: Thanks to Luzanne Engh, Hallie Field, Adair Jorgensen, Judith Lynch, Karen Manuel, Cosette Ratliff, Billy Reinschmiedt.

We would like to hear from you: *The Anthemion* is published by The Friends of the Alameda Free Library, P. O. Box 1024, Alameda CA 94501 or visit us at friendsalamedafreelibrary.org. Any FAL anniversaries, significant life events, promotions, etc.? Please let us know. Our email is friendsalameda@librarians.com. Have a story idea, a correction, a book report, or an image to share? Our deadline for the July issue is June 23. Please email inquiries to judithlynch7@gmail.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 Board, Members

President: Karen Butter; Vice President: Kumar Fause; Secretary: Karen Manuel; Treasurer: Bill Gibbs; Board members: Eileen Bitten, Luzanne Engh, Marlene Greovich, Nancy Horton, Honora Murphy, Billy Reinschmied, Carole Robie, Eileen Savel, Cindy Silva, 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
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 Alameda, CA 94501
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- **June 23 Anthemion Deadline**
- **September 27 Immigration Nation**
- **Live@the Library Concerts**

- 🎪 **September 16**
- 🎪 **October 28**
- 🎪 **December 2**

