

Three outstanding Alameda leaders share their journeys

In recognition of Black History Month, FAL invited three outstanding leaders to share their journeys and challenges in making a difference in Alameda. A large, diverse, and rapt audience gathered on Feb. 24 to hear about the experiences of Christine Chilcott, CEO of Girls Inc. of the Island City, Ardella Dailey, Alameda Unified School District trustee, and Vickie Smith, long-time activist for diversity and equity in schools. Local journalist, editor and writer Akilah Monifa moderated the discussion, eliciting thoughtful and sometimes emotional responses from the panelists with carefully crafted questions about their achievements, mentors and inspirations.



Panelists Vickie Smith, Christine Chilcott, and Ardella Dailey

Particularly poignant responses came with Monifa’s question about where the women get the courage to be a leader. Smith said: “I want to go to bed at night knowing I made some contributions.” She noted how painful it is that racism is still a reality in America. “Everybody has to get out and take a stand. I want better for my kids, I want better for my grandson, I don’t want him to go through what I went through. Yes, I have the courage to do it because I have the right to do it.” Chilcott cited her husband’s role in giving her courage when she doubts herself, as do the girls at Girls Inc. “When you’re stressed and go out and see 100 kids of all kinds of diversity...see them getting along together, or not getting along but figuring out ways to talk about it,” she said.

Dailey recalled a period of her life when she left the U.S. for three years to live with her husband and son in Nigeria because of their concerns about racism. “It took more courage on our part to [come back and] say we are Americans and we are entitled to things,” Dailey said. “We wanted to be part of the solution and make it true that there’s liberty and justice for all.”

At the end of the discussion Carole Robie, the FAL’s event chairperson, presented each of the panelists with certificates naming them as honorary board members of the Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

—David Beall and Jan Greene

Inside:

Page 2:

Art Docent Program
May Book Sale Info

Page 3:

Author Series

Art docent lecture April 29: Claude Monet, The Late Years

The Monet exhibition at the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco (Feb. 16 to May 27) features 50 paintings by Claude Monet dating from 1913 to 1926, the final phase of his long career. During his late years, Monet stayed close to home, inspired by his garden at Giverny. With its evolving scenes of flowerbeds, willows, wisteria, and water lilies, the garden became a personal laboratory for the artist's study of natural phenomena. Monet's radical late works redefined the master of Impressionism as a forebearer of abstraction.

Alameda Free Library, Main Branch

Monday, April 29; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Next Art Docent Program: Peter Paul Rubens: May 13



Monet: "The Japanese Footbridge" 1888

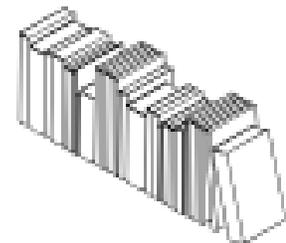
Ray and Charles Eames: Recap of last month's art docent program

Have you ever sat in an Eames chair? You probably have, whether you realize it or not, because the designs of Charles and Bernice Alexandra "Ray" Eames were ubiquitous for decades and defined the style that we know as "mid-century modern." From the molded plywood splints used for World War II casualties, to the IBM Pavilion for the 1964/1965 New York World's Fair, to the seating areas still used today in many airports, their use of modern materials was visionary and unique. The FAL art docent lecture on the Eames display at the Oakland Museum of California was presented by docent Avril Angevine on February 11 at the main library. A large audience enjoyed her entertaining and informative discussion. Angevine especially brought out the breadth of the Eames's work including film making, architecture, multi-media installations, photography, and toys.

FAL Used Book Sale coming Friday May 3 through Sunday May 5

The next Used Book Sale is May 3 to 5. FAL accepts donations of new and gently used books, DVDs and CDs. Donations are accepted on **Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.** at the Book Sorting Room, accessible off Times Way beside the Main Library, 1550 Oak St. Just drive up to the donation room door on Times Way where volunteers can help you unload your car.

You can also drop off books in Dewey's Friends Café whenever the library is open. Please place your donation in sturdy bags or boxes. Free off-street parking is available behind the library or across Oak Street in the city hall parking lot.



Note: Regular volunteers can expect an email from the Book Sale Committee about sign-ups for the May Book Sale.

AAUW-FAL Alameda Author Series continues in March and April

March 18, 6:00 pm: [Lea Kirk](#) on her Prophecy series novels *Prophecy*, *Salvation*, and *Collision*.

Reservations: <https://leakirk-aauw2019.eventbrite.com>



April 8, 6:00 pm: [Natalie Devora](#) on her memoir *Black Girl, White Skin*.

Reservations:

<https://nataliedevora-aauw2019.eventbrite.com>

Talks are free but reservations through Eventbrite are necessary. See above for reservations information for each talk. All talks are held in the Stafford Room, Alameda Free Library Main Branch, 6 to 8 p.m.



President's Board Report: January Meeting

The Board noted the full calendar of activities for the next few months with docent talks, screening and discussion of the movie *Dark Money* in partnership with AAUW and LWVA, and a series of 4 Alameda author talks in partnership with AAUW. In recognition of Black History month, FAL is hosting a program of stories of women leaders in Alameda. Board members and volunteers are needed to assist with each of the events.

The Book Sale Committee is experiencing continued thefts and destruction of materials at the storage facility at Alameda Point. Due to the generosity of Allan Michaan we now have a small storage area to relocate some of the materials. We are also negotiating with the city for another space that might be available within a few months to move the remaining items. In the interim we are planning to rent space. President Karen Butter thanked Carole Robie and Peg Rosen for their leadership in developing longer term solutions for storage. The Book Sale Committee is also looking for medium-size sturdy boxes; they can be dropped off at the book sale room by the Café in the library.

The Café is doing very well – since its inception it has transferred more than \$57,000 to the Friends account for library programs. In the past few months they introduced seasonal items that sold very well. The Café Committee also reported that one of its volunteers will turn 95 this year and a few others are in their 90s.

—Karen Butter

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.

2018 FAL Officers and Directors

President: Karen Butter

Vice President: Kumar Fanse

Secretary: David Beall

Treasurer: Bill Gibbs

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Newsletter Production: Karen Roemer, Jan Greene

Copy Editor: Kris Matarrese

Friends
of the
Alameda
Free Library

P.O. Box 1024
Alameda, CA 94501

Return Service Requested

Coming Events

March 4: Film: *Won't You Be My Neighbor*
5:30 to 8 p.m.

March 18: Author Series: Lea Kirk
6 to 8 p.m.

April 7: Dave Rocha Jazz Trio
2 to 4 p.m.

April 8: Author Series: Natalie Devora
6 to 8 p.m.

April 29: Art Docent Program: Claude Monet
6:30 to 8 p.m.

All listed events will be held at the Alameda Free Library, Main Branch, 1550 Oak St., Alameda

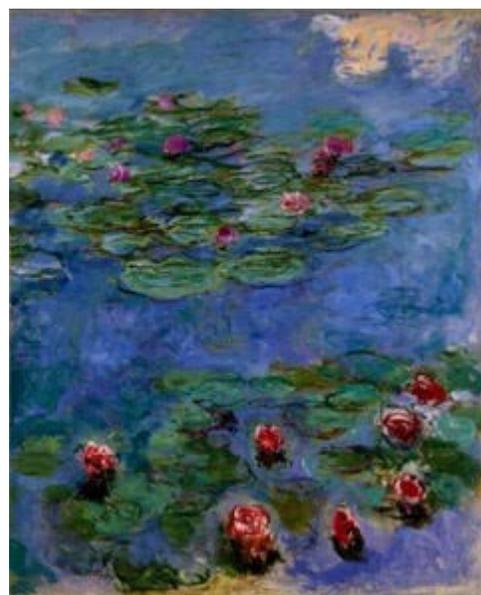
Stay in touch!

Information: info@alamedafriends.com

Become a volunteer: volunteer@alamedafriends.com

Donate funds, services, etc.: donate@alamedafriends.com

For the latest information on Friends events check our website:
www.alamedafriends.com.



‘Monet; ‘Nymphaeas (Water Lilies)’1914-15