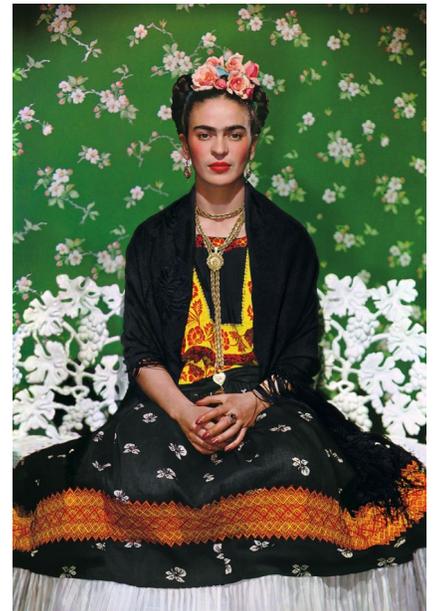

Art Docent Lecture: *Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving*

Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's unique and immediately recognizable style was an integral part of her identity. Kahlo came to define herself through her ethnicity, disability, and politics, all of which were at the heart of her work. *Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving* is the largest U.S. exhibition in ten years devoted to the iconic painter and the first in the United States to display a collection of her clothing and other personal possessions, which were rediscovered and inventoried in 2004 after being locked away since Kahlo's death, in 1954. They are displayed alongside important paintings, drawings, and photographs, including images from the 1930s when she lived in San Francisco with her husband, Diego Rivera.

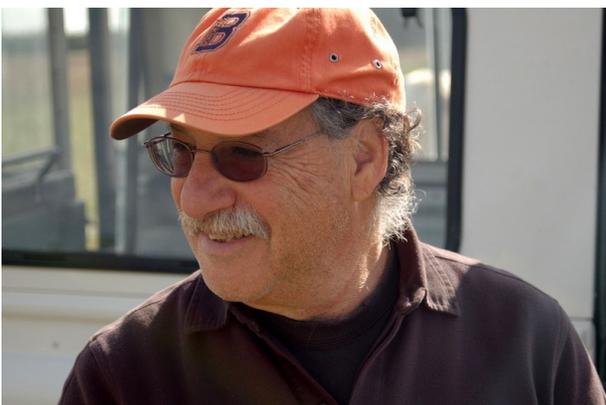
Docent Kathryn Zupsic has been an art educator for over 25 years working as a docent and lecturer for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the de Young Museum, Legion of Honor, and SFMOMA. She specializes in Latin American and Modern Art. A native of Portland, she has a degree in Spanish and Latin American Literature from the University of Oregon and is a graduate of La Varenne School of Cuisine in Paris.

Monday, March 16, 2020 6:30 p.m.
Main Library



Frida Kahlo: Frida on bench, 1939

FAL/AAUW Alameda Author Series: Mark Greenside, March 11



Mark Greenside

The fourth annual Alameda Author Series, sponsored by FAL and Alameda Branch of AAUW, continues with best-selling author and chronicler of life in France Mark Greenside. Mr. Greenside will speak about (*not quite*) *Mastering the Art of French Living*, a memoir that details Greenside's daily adventures in his adopted French home, where the simplest tasks are never straightforward but always end in a great story.

This event is free, but reservations are requested, available at <https://markgreenside-aauw2020.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday March 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Main Library

Black History Event: Black Youth: Exploring the Road to Success

On February 2nd the Friends of the Library presented its second annual panel discussion for Black History Month in the Main Library's Stafford Room. This year's topic was "Black Youth: Exploring the Road to Success." Kiki Devoramoni moderated the discussion with the same skill she displayed at last year's event, asking evocative questions which drew out the expertise and experience of the three panelists, Oral Lee Brown, Ron Whittaker, and Michelle McAfee.

Oral Lee Brown is a nationally recognized benefactor of school children, who has helped several entire classrooms of underprivileged kids attain higher education. Ron Whittaker is a founding parent and Board Member of the Academy of Alameda charter school. Michelle McAfee is a teacher at Park Day School.



Photo by Billy Reinschmiedt

A chance encounter with a second grade girl started Oral Lee Brown on her mission of helping disadvantaged kids. In 32 years she has shepherded over 85 children through to higher education. Problems in one of Alameda's elementary schools prompted Ron Whittaker to join other parents in founding the K-8 Academy of Alameda in the West End, which is thriving after 10 years. Michelle McAfee turned dissatisfaction with most of her own teachers and inspiration from her parents into a 26 year teaching career, and a strong focus on African American history

In summarizing what factors lead to success for Black youth, each panelist mentioned something the youth themselves need to be or do, such as "Believe in yourself," "Don't let anyone stop you," and "Be fearless." But from their own stories it was clear that having the help of committed and caring adults can be just as important.

Further information and resources can be found at destinyarts.org, youthspeaks.org, blackteacherproject.org, Kanju Girls (@KanjuGirls) Twitter, Youth Radio, East Bay Youth, Outdoor Afro, blackgirlscodes.com, the Boy and Girls Club, Girls Inc. of the Island City, the Oral Lee Brown Foundation, the Hidden Genius Project, and blackhistoryeveryday.com (managed by Kiki).

- David Beall



President's Message:

FAL started out the year with a bang. In February, we sponsored three exceptional programs in recognition of Black History Month. The panel, Black Youth Exploring the Road to Success, offered personal stories about their struggles and suggestions for today's youth. The event was recorded and will be available on the FAL website for those unable to attend. The first docent talk of the year featured the outstanding speaker, Marsha Holm, with an overview of the DeYoung Museum exhibit – *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983*. I encourage

everyone to make a trip to San Francisco to see the exhibit – over 40 of the paintings are from artists in the Bay Area. Finally, the Alameda Authors series in conjunction with AAUW featured Jenee Darden, reading from her wonderful collection of essays and poems, *When a Purple Rose Blooms*.

In January, Library Director Jane Chisaki presented the Library's Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025, *More of It.... Make People Love It* to the FAL Board. The plan emphasizes that Alamedans love the library but want more – more hours and more physical space. FAL is excited about the proposal for three physical space ideas --- to open a seed and tool lending library at Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, build a new library at Alameda Point, expand the Bay Farm Library. All will require significant commitment from the City, FAL and all Alamedans. A great way to start the New Year! - Karen Butter

Volunteers Needed: The booksale committee would love to have more help. Dewey's Café is always looking for volunteers. Please email Volunteers@AlamedaFriends.com to volunteer.

“Soul of a Nation” Art Docent Lecture Review

On February 10th The Friends of the Library kicked off its 2020 Art Docent series with a presentation of the de Young museum’s exhibit, “Soul of a Nation – Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983.” Docent Marcia Holm gave her usual well-prepared, authoritative and entertaining presentation.

The works in the exhibition include both abstract and representational depictions of the black experience in America, starting with the flowering of the Civil Rights Movement. The Spiral Art Collective was founded in 1963 in New York City by several black artists and produced a group exhibition in 1965. Other groups sprang up across the country as black artists responded to the rise of the Black Power Movement, the Selma marches, the Watts riots and other events of the tumultuous period.

The images Holm chose for her presentation included the powerful “America the Beautiful” by Norman Lewis, which is an abstract depiction of a KKK gathering. Other prominent artists she covered included David Hammons, Timothy Washington, Charles White and numerous others from the extensive exhibition.

Betye Saar’s “Liberation of Aunt Jemima” included found objects from the 1960’s Alameda Flea Market. Another local connection in the exhibit is Cleveland Bellow’s image of a young black man with raised hands that appeared on ten billboards around Oakland and Berkeley in 1970. The portrait could be viewed as a person expressing either joy or fear of harm. Either way it seems powerful and even modern. The exhibit will continue at the de Young through March 15th. Marcia Holm encouraged everyone to visit the museum, as there is much more to see than she had time for in her program, and many pieces are best viewed in person.

- David Beall

This program and the Black History Event featured on Page 2 were sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Rotary Club of Alameda.

The next art docent program will present Frida Kahlo’s work, March 16, 6:30 p.m. at the main library.



IN MEMORY OF JOHN QUICK

Long time FAL supporter, John Quick, passed away on January 28. John served as FAL treasurer from July 2003 through 2011 and was a dedicated book sale volunteer doing what needed to be done including moving boxes of bought books to buyers cars. John was passionate about education, volunteering with the Adult Literacy program and in the Ruby Bridges Elementary School classrooms. He was an avid fisherman and birder. In John’s memory, FAL will make a donation to the Alameda Free Library to support children’s materials. John will be missed by all.

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.

Newsletter Production: Karen Roemer, Karen Manuel, Kris Matarrese

Copy Editors: Kris Matarrese, Peg Rosen

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Friends
of the
Alameda
Free Library

P.O. Box 1024
Alameda, CA 94501
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Coming Events

March 11, 2020: Alameda Author Series: Mark Greenside
Alameda Free Library, Main Branch, 6:00 p.m.

March 16, 2020: Art Docent Lecture: Frida Kahlo
Alameda Free Library, Main Branch, 6:30 p.m.

April 13, 2020: Docent Lecture: David Park
Alameda Free Library, Main Branch, 6:30 p.m.

April 20, 2020: Alameda Author Series: Edna Cabecabin Moran
Alameda Free Library, Main Branch, 6:00 p.m.

*****May 1-3, 2020: FAL Used Book Sale*****
Albert H. Dewitt O' Club, Alameda Point, Alameda

May 20, 2020: Alameda Author Series: Bronwyn Harris

June 8, 2020: Art Docent Lecture: Judy Chicago



Frida Kahlo: Self-Portrait

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.