

President's Message: Karen Butter



Happy 2021. Today, my message is to express deep gratitude to all of you who have supported the Friends and the Alameda Free Library in 2020. Thank you to the Library Director, thank you to the Library Staff, thank you to the Friends' staff and Board, thank you to our volunteers, and thank you to all of you who donated at every level. We are looking forward to 2021 with a sensational selection of Friends @ Home events. In October I was concerned that we would not have any 2021 events and today we have eight fantastic programs in the first four months. We've put together a varied program and feature award winning authors and knowledgeable, talented docents. We hope many in the audience have a chance to read the books before the talks – and a reminder that you can buy the books at Books Inc. in

Alameda or online at <https://www.booksinc.net>.

We are introducing new docents from the Bay Area and beyond, along with a few favorites. Please mark your calendars and be sure to register to join us for these wonderful events. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to the Rotary Club of Alameda for a generous grant in support of our two Black History Month programs. (Hidden in Plain View and Revelations) in February.

As we shift into the new year I want to recognize our donors who helped to sustain our programming for these events and to support our exceptional Alameda Free Library. Thank you for your support. It means the world to us.

Online used book sale open 24/7

We wholeheartedly thank our online bookstore sponsors who participated in our “buy a box of books” promotion during December and the beginning of January. Your generous support has greatly helped our fundraising efforts and we hope it brought you joy and surprises during the holiday season.

Our hardworking used book sale committee members continue to add books and genres to the FAL online used bookstore. You may select individual titles or purchase two sizes of grab bags of books in your favorite genres. Love mysteries? We have many from which to select or let our committee members select for you. We will keep the online bookstore open for you, until we can return to our traditional used book sales.

Visit our online store to make your selections. We deliver to Alameda. Out of town purchasers can pick up their purchases. Details are on our website. alamedafriends.com/shop



Stay connected to FAL

To reduce costs, we are now mailing our newsletter quarterly only. To stay updated on all our programs and news and to help us reduce costs even further, please sign up for our monthly email newsletter by sending your email address to info@alamedafriends.com Many thanks!



Author Georgia Hunter: January 13 @ 5 p.m.

When Georgia was 15 years old, she discovered that she came from a family of Holocaust survivors. Years later, she embarked on a journey of intensive research, determined to unearth and record her family's remarkable story. The result is the New York Times best seller, *We Were the Lucky Ones*, a gripping saga that follows the Kurc family as brothers, sisters, parents, and children scatter across continents at the start of the Second World War, determined to survive, and to reunite. At its core, Georgia's historical novel is a tale of hope, love, and endurance against all odds. Georgia will present an illustrated backstory about her decade-long quest to put her family's history to paper, revealing the extraordinary discoveries she made along the way - not only about her ancestors, but about her own identity, and the resilience of the human spirit. Visit the events page on our website for registration information.



The Birth of Impressionism: January 27 @ 7 p.m.



This talk revisits the first of the two landmark exhibitions organized by the Musée d'Orsay and shown at the de Young in 2010. The two exhibitions covered French painting in the last half of the 19th century, a period that is considered one of the most transformative in Western Art. The nearly 100 works in this exhibition let you follow a group of artists who rebelled against the subjects and styles of art preferred by the establishment and who went on to create new subjects and new styles of painting. At the time they were called lunatics and madmen, today they are known and loved as the Impressionists.

Our guide for this talk is Rita Dunlay who has been a member of the Docent Council of the Fine Arts Museums since 1994. As a member of the Art Talks Program, she has prepared over 30 presentations on special exhibitions at the de Young and the Legion of Honor. Rita is from Pennsylvania and graduated from the University of Michigan, where she majored in French. Visit the events page on our website for registration information.

Hidden in Plain View: Rebirth of African American Art during the Harlem Renaissance: February 8 @ 7 p.m.

During the 1930's, there was a renaissance of sorts in the arts in America. African American painters and sculptors, as well as writers and musicians and actors, many of them centered in Harlem, were popular and admired. Then, almost without recognizing it, they seemed to disappear. Where did they go and WHY did they seem to vanish from the public conversation? As it turns out they were still here, but they were "hidden" in plain view.

Join us as we "rediscover" them and attempt to answer the mystery! Our docent for this evening's presentation will be Sherrill Koopot, from the Phoenix Museum. This event is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Rotary Club of Alameda.

Living in the Shadows,
Hidden in Plain View



The African American Art
Experience

Author Elsa Hart : February 10 @ 7 p.m.

The daughter of a journalist, Ms. Hart was born in Rome and spent much of her childhood abroad, attending international schools in Moscow and Prague. She is drawn to stories about travelers throughout history, and likes to put her own characters in places that are unfamiliar to them. Her first three mysteries follow the exploits of a crime-solving librarian in 18th-century China. Her fourth novel, *The Cabinets of Barnaby Mayne*, introduces Cecily Kay, an 18th-century plant enthusiast whose fascination with botany leads her into a world of collectors, apothecaries, artists, and charlatans.



Author Robin Sloan: February 17 @ 7 p.m.



Robin Sloan's first novel, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*, was a *New York Times* best seller, translated into more than twenty languages. His latest novel, *Sourdough*, was published in 2017. With his partner Kathryn Tomajan, Robin produces California extra virgin olive oil under the label Fat Gold. Mr. Sloan is also a programmer and explores new uses for technology. He lives in Oakland and works out of the Murray Street Media Lab, down by the railroad tracks. He will be talking about the Bay Area inspirations behind his two novels.

Revelations: Art of the African-American South: February 24, @ 7 p.m.

Can you see and create art out of something completely ordinary? For centuries African American artists working in the Southern part of the U.S. had to "make do", utilizing whatever materials they could find; but what emerged will make you reconsider what art can and should be. Join us as we look at the ingenuity and creativity that can be borne of oppression and sacrifice.

One of our favorite docents, Marsha Holm, will lead us in this intriguing exploration. This event is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Rotary Club of Alameda.



FAL mourns loss of library supporter

Jeptha Tillman Boone (85) died November 8. Dr. Boone was a military veteran and practiced internal medicine with the Alameda Medical Group. His interests were wide ranging, from history and genealogy to music, especially opera.

We at Friends of the Alameda Free Library remember him as a strong supporter of our library and a former member of the Library Foundation. His vision to develop a sustainable funding source for the Alameda Free Library lives on today. He will be missed.

FAL Mission

- ◆ 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.

Friends of the Alameda Free Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
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Friends
of the
Alameda
Free Library

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Alameda, CA 94501
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Coming Events

March 17, 2021: **Art Docent Program: Post Impressionism (Part 2)**

April 14, 2021: **Art Docent Program: Wayne Thiebaud**

We record most of our author talks, but copyright issues keep us from recording some the art docent programs. If you aren't able to attend our webinars in real time, you can enjoy most of them at a later date. Recordings are posted within a few days of each event. Check on our website for the past events we have recorded. You may also go to youtube.com and subscribe to our Friends of the Alameda Free Library channel. Enjoy!

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 and info, check our website: www.alamedafriends.com