
FAL President's message by Karen Butter



I hope this holiday season was a brief respite for you to safely enjoy friends and family after many postponed get-togethers. Unfortunately, we are still facing COVID variants. Yet we are grateful for so much. While I hesitate to mention individual volunteers, I want to make an exception and acknowledge the exceptional leadership of Kris Matarrese. While our archives may not have recorded all of her activities, she has been an important contributor for many years. Kris was FAL President and skillfully guided the development of the organization. She was the Dewey's Cafe volunteer coordinator for 10 years, newsletter editor and has been copy editor for many years finding errors that many of us have overlooked. When we needed help, Kris was there through countless book sales and community events. Kris is stepping down from her volunteer work with FAL and we send best wishes to her and the family.

Over the holiday season FAL volunteers have been hard at work planning exciting programs, including new and reopened services for 2022. Please check out and register for the art docent and author talks. We have an outstanding line-up of speakers and topics.

I also want to report on the remarkable progress in planning for new opportunities to purchase used books. The Library book sale space will open in mid February; we will hold three special pop-up sales this spring; and finally, we are beginning to plan for the return of the Fall book sale at the O'Club in October. More details about each are in this newsletter. Additionally, we will reopen Dewey's Café for the occasional break from library work.

In July FAL supported the Library's request to the city council for funds to purchase Wifi hotspots. The portable, pocket-size hotspots provide internet access to families and library patrons without a connection at home and are typically faster than cellular service. We are pleased to report that the City Council funded the request at its December meeting. The Library plans to offer the free service in 2-3 months. While we know the City has long-term plans to improve internet access on the island, this is an essential service for Alamedans.

Used book sales - big news!

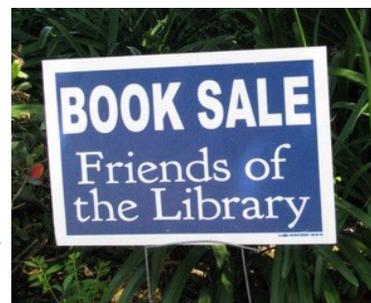
After a year and a half of doing our best with online used book sales, the Used Book Sale committee has scheduled many purchasing opportunities for 2022. We are really excited about this book sale comeback and know you will be too.

Starting Thursday, February 10, a book sale space will open at the main library in the old book donation/sorting room. The space will be open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 12 to 4, and hours will increase as our volunteer base increases and as COVID allows. The committee has carefully selected books to stock the new space.

Next, we will be holding three genre specific pop-up sales in the Stafford Room of the main library, see dates below. Watch our newsletters and our website for more information about these genre sales.

Most exciting of all is the return of our long awaited traditional used book sale at the O' Club in October. We warmly welcome our co-chairs Cindy Silva and Joe Mallon for managing this event.

OK, this part may be even more exciting, we will begin accepting donations of gently used books in mid



February. Donations will be picked up by FAL volunteers from your home using COVID safety precautions. To sign up for a donation pick-up week, please call the book space in the main library starting February 10 on any Thursday, Friday or Saturday between noon - 4 p.m. at 510-747-7737.

Many thanks to the very hardworking Used Book Sales committee from all of us at FAL. We appreciate all that you are doing.

Mark your calendars:

February 10, 12 - 4 p.m.: Used Book sales begin at Main Library.

The book sale room will be open every Thursday - Saturday, 12 - 4 p.m.

March 12, 12 - 4 p.m.: Pop-up mysteries sale, Stafford Room, Main Library

April 9, 12 - 4 p.m.: Pop-up sale, Stafford Room, Main Library

June 4, 12 - 4 p.m.: Pop-up sale, Stafford Room, Main Library

October 21, 22, 23: Used Book Sale, O' Club, Alameda Point



Dewey's Café reopening

We are pleased to announce that Dewey's Cafe is reopening Tuesday, January 18th at noon. The cafe will be open Monday through Friday 12-4 p.m. Seating will be spaced for safety, but drinks and snacks will once again be available. Masks are required when not eating or drinking. Take a library break and come to Dewey's Cafe.

Call for volunteers

We have many volunteer opportunities available to you. Whether you would like to volunteer from home or come to us, we have abundant need for people with a variety of skills. Please go to our webpage at <https://bit.ly/FALvolunteer> for more information.



Call for board members



Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FAL) is accepting applications from members of the Alameda community who would like to serve on our Board of Directors. We are looking for applicants who reflect the diversity of the Alameda community and would like to enhance their leadership skills while advocating for a strong, vibrant library. To apply, please send a letter of interest to volunteer@alamedafriends.com. Please indicate why you are interested in serving on the Board and how your background and expertise could support the Board.

FAL is a nonprofit organization that contributes to the ongoing services and growth of the Alameda Free Library and supports its services and programs through advocacy, volunteerism, and fundraising to supplement public funding. To learn more, visit our website at <https://alamedafriends.com>.



Author Larissa Zimberoff, January 19 at 7 p.m.

TECHNICALLY FOOD: Inside Silicon Valley's Mission to Change What We Eat by investigative reporter Larissa Zimberoff is the first comprehensive survey of the food companies at the forefront of this booming business. Zimberoff questions the mania behind today's changing food landscape to uncover the origins of these mysterious foods and demystify them. These sometimes ultra-processed and often secretly produced foods are cheered by consumers and investors because many are plant-based—often vegan—and help address societal issues like climate change, animal rights, and our planet's dwindling natural resources. Can these products also be good for our health?

Author Gabrielle Selz, February 2 at 7 p.m.

Light on Fire: The Life and Art of Sam Francis is the first comprehensive biography of Sam Francis, one of the most important American abstract artists of the twentieth century. Based on Gabrielle Selz's unprecedented access to Francis's files, as well as private correspondence and hundreds of interviews, this book traces the extraordinary and ultimately tragic journey of a complex and charismatic artist who first learned to paint as a former air-corps pilot encased for three years in a full-body cast.



With settings from World War II San Francisco to postwar Paris, New York, Tokyo, and Los Angeles, Selz crafts an intimate portrait of a man who sought to resolve in art the contradictions he couldn't resolve in life.

Art Talk: Jacob Lawrence February 7 at 7 p.m.



In observance of Black History Month, Friends of the Alameda Free Library present a docent program on one of America's greatest African American artists, Jacob Lawrence. The Migration Series is a 60 panel set of narrative paintings depicting the Great Migration, when hundreds of thousands of African Americans moved from the rural South to the urban North after World War I. Explore the epic story of something comprehensive, timely yet timeless, told through images which convey metaphors of injustice, strife, struggle, change, hope, ambition and even beauty.

Author Syed Masood, February 25 at 7 p.m.

Following two families from Pakistan and Iraq in the 1990s to San Francisco in 2016, **The Bad Muslim Discount** is an inclusive, comic novel about Muslim immigrants finding their way in modern America.

The Bad Muslim Discount is an irreverent, poignant, and often hysterically funny debut novel by an amazing new voice. With deep insight, warmth, and an irreverent sense of humor, Syed Masood examines universal questions of identity, faith (or lack thereof), and belonging through the lens of Muslim Americans.



Author Lisa See, March 16 at 7 p.m.



The Island of Sea Women follows Young-sook and Mi-ja, girls from strikingly different backgrounds who bond over their shared love of the sea. Working in their village's all-female diving collective, the two friends come of age in a community where gender roles are anything but typical. Here, women are the primary breadwinners, the heads of household in all but name, and yet, as Mi-ja and Young-sook come to realize, there are limits to their control that can prove devastating. The Island of Sea Women is a "beautiful story about the endurance of friendship when it's pushed to its limits."

Go to our website at www.AlamedaFriends.com to register to attend these Friends @ Home programs.



P.O. Box 1024
Alameda, CA 94501
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To help spread the word about FAL's work, be sure to "like" our Facebook page the next time you're on Facebook. If you click to "get notifications," that makes sure you'll see our posts in your news feed. It also helps if you share our posts to your Facebook friends. [@friendsalamedafreelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/friendsalamedafreelibrary)

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
Copy Editors: Peg Rosen, Karen Butter, Karen Roemer, Karen Manuel
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Switch to the email version of our newsletter to help us save money. You'll also receive monthly (instead of quarterly) newsletters and weekly event updates. Use the link below to switch!
<https://bit.ly/FALSignUp>



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

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