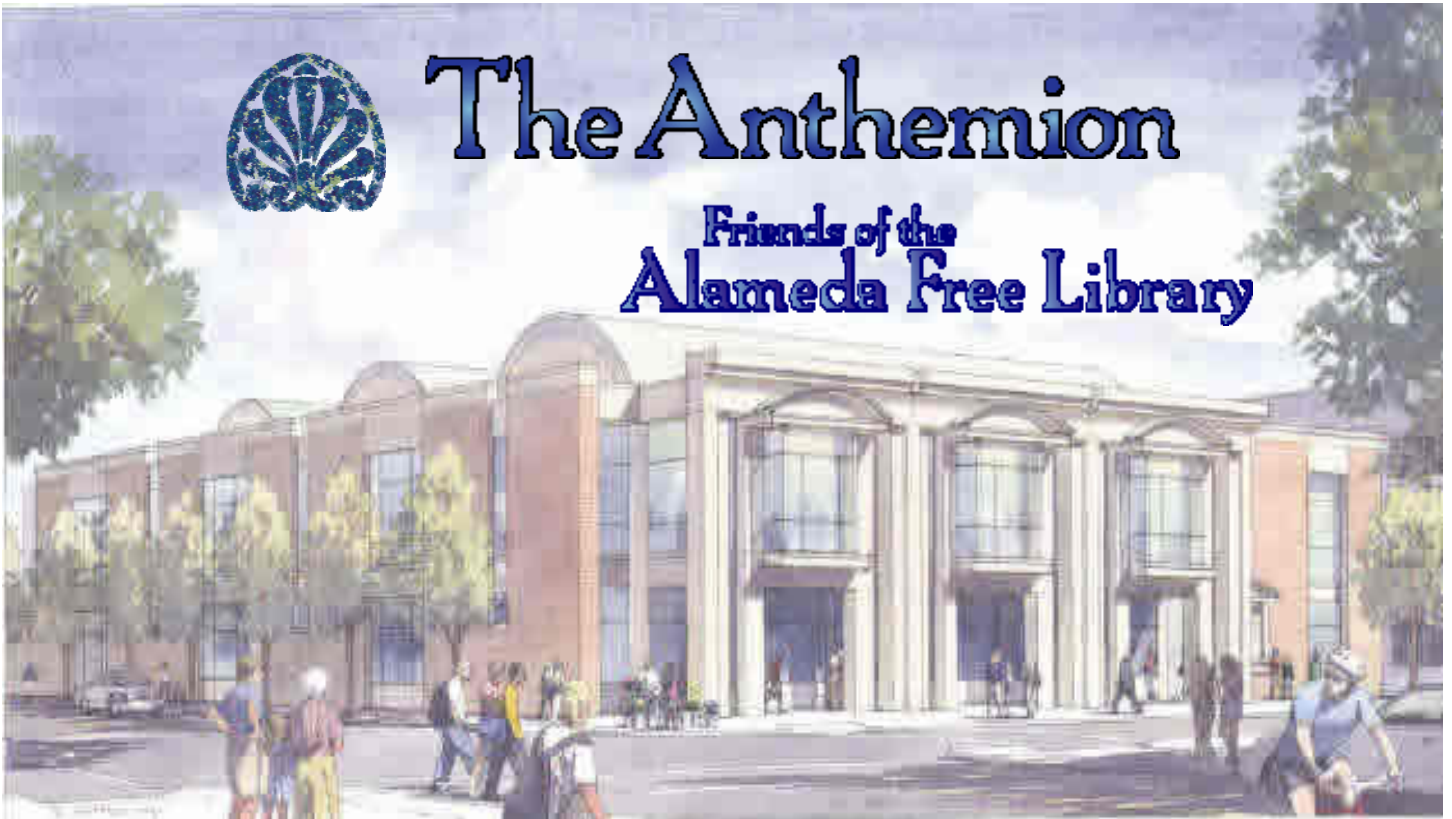


# The Anthemion

## Friends of the Alameda Free Library



Volume 37 Number 4

January 2012

Marc Lambert, *Editor*

### ***From the President***

Here we are starting off on a new year. Where did 2011 go? 2012 holds many goals and programs for FOL to participate in as an organization:

We are only two Book Sales away from the end of 2012...Completion of the FOL Recipe Book....The Concert at the Alameda Theater...Numerous programs for the children...Art Shows...Continuation of the Alameda Reads Program...Live @ The Library Series...a new Board of Directors and more...

Congratulations to my fellow Board members. We are open to any suggestions or projects that you feel could be done to improve our Library.

Please come to our next meeting and see how the business part of Friends of the Alameda Free Library works.

Happy New Year!!!

~ Cindy Silva

### ***Notes from the November Meeting***

President Kris Matarrese called the regular meeting of the Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FOL) to order at 7:30 pm in the Main Library. Seventeen members and all officers were present. Several corrections to the minutes of October 17, 2011 were proposed:

--Under Book Sale Committee, John Kennedy said the net sales amount should be *gross* sales.

--Under the Café Committee, Ann North said that although there was a small loss in September, that is by no means a trend, meaning there should be no reason for dismay.

--Under Library Board, Jane Chisaki said Kevin Minney had not attended the October meeting. A quorum was indeed present or the Board would not have met. The FOL accepted the minutes as amended.

**Treasurer:** John Quick submitted a report of FOL net worth standing at \$147,922 as of November 1. John reported a check for \$695 had been received for the Friday Night Flights. His report was accepted.

**Membership:** Jerry Yarbrough will provide the membership list to the Café Committee for volunteer recruitment.

**Book Sale Committee:** John Kennedy reported shelf sales were \$265 last month; consignment sales were \$77. Online book sales in October were \$465.

There was a general discussion about what the Committee does with the books left over from the Sale. Right now most go to a charity in China, those they don't want go to Alameda County recycle. Marilyn Ng mentioned bins for books in the parking lot by Walgreens and Starbucks by Webster St placed by reading-tree.org.

### *Next Friends Meeting*

January 23 at 7:30pm, Main Library, 1550 Oak Street, Stafford Conference Room A

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To increase public awareness of the library as an essential part of the community's educational and cultural facilities. To support and cooperate with the library in developing library services and facilities.

Cindy added that there is a local community book exchange. The advantage the current arrangement has is that the people taking the leftover books are willing to pick them up at no charge.

**Café Committee:** Nancy Gormley reported on the last Committee meeting. The reduced hours are having an effect on sales but there is no cause for alarm. Part of last month's "loss" was due to stocking up on items that had been depleted. There had been an issue with the drinks cooler door not sealing and the compressor running all the time, but the seal has been fixed. Honora Murphy will be working on recruiting more volunteers.

**Library Director:** Jane reported that the Library Board is working on the five-year strategic plan. They will take up one topic each meeting so work on the plan will proceed for several months.

Library staffing is very thin right now, the branches will close Christmas and New Year's Eves. Because the holidays fall on Sundays, City policy is to close the Mondays after.

The November library birthday month has been a mixed experience: the storytelling and historical events have been very well attended, but only two Library gifts have been received.

Jane thanked Cindy and the representative from the University Women who testified in support of the Library at the City Council budget meeting.

**AFL Foundation:** Honora spoke of how great the Live @ the Library series was. FOL needs to join the Foundation to push the February Von Stade benefit. Thirty-five benefit tickets were sold at the last Live concert.

**Ongoing Business:** Nancy reported for the Cookbook project. Only 50 recipes have been received, a minimum of 100 are needed. Several ideas were forwarded to help get more recipes: remove the maximum recipe contribution of five, open up for contributions from Library staff, and Honora will include a recipe plug in her Café volunteer contacts. The requisite number must be reached by mid-January to get the proof to press in time for publication by the next Book Sale.

The slate of officers presented at the September meeting--Cindy Silva President, Kate Quick Vice President, Bill Gibb Treasurer, and Marc Lambert Secretary--was approved by acclamation. Honora presented Kris with a nice potted flowering plant in honor of her service.

**New Business:** Honora and an ad-hoc committee brought the concern that the FOL account books have not been audited. Bill said he's had many dealings with Lars Hansson CPA about the Meals on Wheels finances and recommends Lars take a look at the FOL procedures. FOL approved Bill and John Quick negotiating with Lars Hansson for a review of the FOL financial books.

~Marc Lambert

## ***FOL Recipe Book Project***

There is a project underway that promises to be fun and may even capture some local history. That project is the FOL Recipe Book. A dedicated committee has come together, done the research and is now waiting for you to send in your favorite recipes. Perhaps you are famous for your sinfully-rich brownies. Or perhaps your holiday table is graced with traditional recipes that others would love to make part of their own traditions. And what about the recipes brought by our ancestors

and held with fierce determination to keep the past alive?

Our favorite recipes will create a wonderful, vibrant and meaningful collection for our own kitchens as well as the kitchens of our family and friends not to mention the next generations of Friends of the Library.

The first step is to send your recipes in! We are collecting recipes in many categories: Appetizers, Beverages, Soups, Salads, Main Dishes, Veggies/Side Dishes, Quick Meals, International, Healthy/Low Fat, Slow Cooking/Crockpot, BBQ or Desserts.

Recipes can be sent by email to [folcook-book@gmail.com](mailto:folcook-book@gmail.com) or by U.S. mail to **FOL Recipes PO Box 1024 Alameda, CA 94501**. Forms can be found at the [www.friendsalamedafreelibrary.org](http://www.friendsalamedafreelibrary.org) home page (scroll to the bottom of the home page for link). Or email and ask for the form to be emailed back to you. Please include a phone number with your submission in case there are needed clarifications.

Everyone has something they can submit to this treasure trove so let's make it happen!

~Kris Matarrese

## ***Library Board Report***

The Library Board met Nov. 9.

NLIP: Initial discussion was on the status of the New Library Improvement Project or NLIP along with the funds remaining from Measure O. The NLIP projects are finished with a remaining fund of \$583,712. The money is primarily the interest earned from the money raised for the Measure. The money can be only be used for capital improvement projects.

Jane stated that a purchase of an ILS would qualify. There would be more than enough money as the ILS systems being considered at the moment are in the \$300,000 range. The purchase would not happen for a couple of years. Open source or joint service or contracted service from Alameda County or West Bay are also being considered for the RFP. The cost may be even less under those circumstances.

The remaining money could be used for a "rainy day" fund. Mike asked if a second elevator could be considered, since there was space set aside in the building plans for one and that it would be there in case of breakdowns. The new hardware and software for the present elevator was discussed. There are still issues that Public Works has to address to the elevator company that did the new install. It was decided to wait to see how well the elevator fix turns out over the next month.

Library web page: The Assistant City Manager agreed that the Library web page needed to be upgraded and agreed to meet with the Library Board about it. The Assistant City Manager wanted a clean and functional look, and offered to allow things to be moved, but wanted to hold changes until after the comment period.

The City plans changes after the first of the year and are looking at open source for a variety of reasons. The Council members are offering their opinions on the look as well. The Library would like free control over the page and will wait until after the first of the year for the City's decision.

Strategic Plan: The Board decided that the Strategic Plan was so important that it should be considered in sections with two sections being reviewed during a single meeting. This will allow for more detail and narrative for the goals, objectives and activities to be examined.

Sunshine Ordinance: The City Manager has gotten a Sunshine Ordinance adopted that goes into effect February 2012. This is to ensure transparency in government and committee functions. The Library Board is already doing most of what will be required, including digital audio recordings of meetings. There will be a training packet from the City coming next month with more details.

Staffing: The part-time Library Tech will change to full-time. The staffing is so thin that a branch may close occasionally due to lack of coverage.

~ Kevin Minney

### ***Library Art Corner***

#### **Ellen Dreibelbis & Patti Heimbürger: Fine Artists**

Local artists, Ellen Dreibelbis and Patti Heimbürger will exhibit their paintings on the second floor of the Alameda Main Library from Monday January 2, 2012 through Saturday January 28, 2012.

Oakland-based artist Ellen Dreibelbis creates colorful and dramatic oil and pastel paintings of people of many ages, races, eras and settings, as well as still life and fantastical subjects.

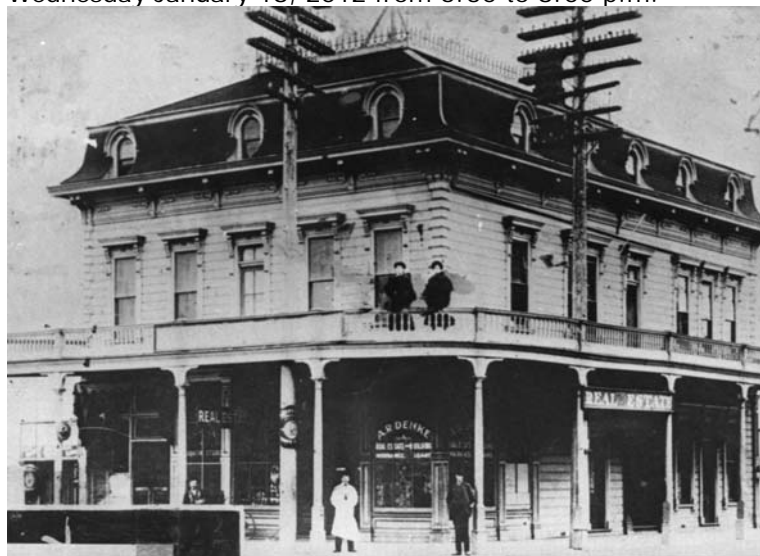
Alameda resident Patti Heimbürger creates whimsical, bold and colorful oil landscape paintings with texture and paintings with interesting people as subjects.

#### **A Balloon Flight over Webster Street**

Set your time machine to 1888 and join Eric J. Kos and Dennis Evanosky for a balloon flight over Webster Street. We'll fly over the south shore and view the beaches and resorts that came before Neptune Beach. We'll peek down at today's Croll's Building and learn about the Britt family who built the First Empire-style structure.

Learn about the early business, the two rail-roads that served the Street and the story of the Street's extension over the marshlands to the Webster Street Bridge. Eric and Dennis will share then-and-now photographs and stories about some of the early denizens of the street that defined Alameda's West End.

The program will be held in Regina K. Stafford meeting rooms on the first floor of the Alameda Main Library, on Wednesday January 18, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



### **The Art of the Silk Road**

LauraBeth Nelson, a docent from the Asian Art Museum will present a program on the Art of the Silk Road on Wednesday January 25, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The program will be held in the Regina K. Stafford meeting rooms on the first floor of the Alameda Main Library.

The lecture discusses the world's oldest international highway, on a voyage that spans six centuries (AD 600-1200). Using works of art from the Asian Art Museum, the program showcases four representative cities: Xi'an, China's Tang Dynasty capital; Turfan, a bustling oasis; Samarkand, home of prosperous merchants; and Baghdad, a meeting place for scholars, scientists, and philosophers.

~David Hall



Courtesy Asian Art Museum

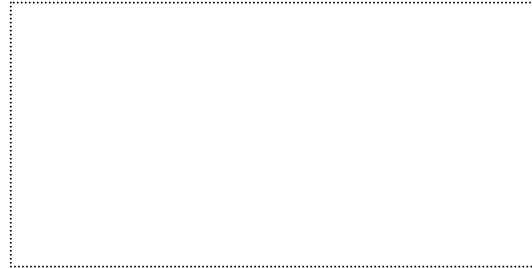
Next Book Sale:  
May 4,5,6 2012



Friends of the  
Alameda Free Library

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<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$50.00	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$75.00	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$100.00	4
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<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity for the Friends Activities
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<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

All donations are tax deductible. Be sure to ask your employer if matching funds are available.

\*Denotes the number of book sale preview tickets you will receive. Annual memberships are from January 1st to December 31st. Dues received after September 1st of previous year are applied to the following year.  
Please make checks payable to "**Friends of the Alameda Free Library.**" Send this form with your check to:  
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