



The Anthemion

Friends of the Alameda Free Library



Volume 36 Number 10

July-August 2011

Marc Lambert, *Editor*

From the President

The Dewey's Café Recipe Book Project is on! Nancy Gormley and Gigi Monterrosa have generously offered to co-chair the project. In addition, two FOL members have offered to be part of the project as well. A good team is in place. Thank you for taking on this fun project!

And now for some unfortunate news: due to unavoidable budget cuts at City Hall, the Main Library will now be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. This in turn means the **Café at the Main Library will also be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings** for the foreseeable future. Once we see how this new schedule works, we will re-assess the café hours and make any necessary adjustments.

Mark your calendar now and plan on attending a presentation at the Main Library on **Wednesday, September 28th 6:30-8pm**. This presentation from **SFMOMA** promises to be extremely popular "**Calder to Warhol: Introducing the Fisher Collection**". Stafford Meeting Room 1st Floor past the café

Our **Nominating Committee** of Jo Winzenread, Honora Murphy and Bill Gibbs are searching the FOL membership for potential candidates for the 2012 Friends of the Library Board. This is a terrific opportunity for the organization. If you would like some information or would like to be considered, please contact a Nominating Committee member. Don't be shy!

Next FOL meeting: Aug 15th at 7:30pm.

~Kris Matarrese

Notes from the June Meeting

President Kris Matarrese called the regular meeting of the Friends of the Alameda Free Library (FOL) to order at 7:35pm in the Main Library. Fourteen members and all officers were present. The minutes of the prior meeting of May 16, 2011 were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Treasurer: John Quick submitted a report of FOL total asset balance standing at \$90,115. His report was accepted.

Membership: Jerry Yarbrough has a list of all current members totaling 281. The e-newsletter list is now at 54% of membership. The Book Sale Committee requested information about members who might be interested in helping with the Book Sale. Jerry will retrieve that information and also go through the memberships to extract interest/resource information for the Nominating Committee. Jerry reports that mailing out the hard copies at the post office remains an adventure, as there always seems to be some wrinkle in the process. We still send out 200 copies that way, usually adding City Council members and the like.

Book Sale Committee: Gert Woods read from letters received from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Recreation and Parks Department thanking FOL for our \$750 honorarium to each. The Committee had two estate pickups recently. They have two steady volunteers to help; it's getting a bit crowded in the sorting area. Lulu Suleiman has begun her on-line book sales and has netted \$126.

Next Friends Meeting

August 15 at 7:30pm, Main Library, 1550 Oak Street, Stafford Conference Room A

The Anthemion is published by The Friends of the Alameda Free Library
P.O. Box 1024, Alameda CA 94501
www.friendsalamedafreelibrary.org

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.

Library Board Report

July 13

Café Committee: Kris reported that five of the seven Committee members are out of town. It's been a pinch to get the Committee to decide when to be open in the face of changing Library hours (see Director report below).

Library Board: Kevin Minney reports that the Board heard that among library reductions was homebound service. Fee increases for room leasing and re-instating the interlibrary loan charge were approved.

The Board was very happy for the success of the Book Sale. A Dutch auction and raising first day prices were suggested.

Net zero metering will be installed for the Main for its solar panels.

AFL Foundation: Jane Chisaki reported just as she came in from the meeting. Co-presidents Carole Robie and Jan Green began their terms. Five new members have been added; most are retired AUSD employees.

Library Director: Jane reported the City Council met May 31 on the budget; the Library had proposed a 7% (\$163,000) cut, which would have included the Main closing one day. The Mayor argued that the Main must be open seven days a week and found about \$10K to put back in the budget to assure that. Jane was pleased at the amount of support there is for the Library on the Council. The Library will still have to close each of the branches an additional day but the idea will be to only have them closed one day at a time because a longer closure means the book drop bins start to overflow.

The Governor's veto of the budget means there is no state support for Library programs. The cooperative (ex-BALIS) has some reserves and can maintain their services for a year, but the Alameda Reads program loses immediately the \$20K from the State that goes to materials and program. Cindy Silva asked if the FOL and Foundation came up with the money, could that loss be made up? Jane appreciated the offer but needs to get final figures before making such a request.

The Summer Reading Program is off to a great start: 700-800 people are enrolled and many attended the kickoff last week.

Ongoing Business: FOL had fairly good attendance at the Angela's Friday Night Flights; the Library staff really turned out, though.

FOL will share a table with the Foundation at the Meals on Wheels event at the Rock Wall Winery July 17. Every one is encouraged to stop by.

New Business: Kris reported on the Dewey's Café recipe book project (see From the President above for the latest news).

We discussed at some length the wording for the FOL appreciation plaques to be put up in the two branches. Kris will e-mail the proposed wording we agreed upon to the FOL list for any other input.

Good of the Order: SFMOMA has offered a free additional docent presentation September 28 as a replacement for an earlier presentation that was affected by technical difficulties.

~Marc Lambert

The Board was treated to a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of the Main. Measure O funds remaining are about \$800K. The City Controller said the ILS purchase could be an eligible expense. Jane thought the purchase would happen a couple of years down the road with the balance of the fund being kept in an interest-bearing fund for emergencies. The Bay Farm light fixture was checked; the West End lights have different bulbs, accounting for their different brightness. Catherine Atkin was elected new Board President and Nancy Lewis was elected Vice-President. Mike Hartigan and Suzanne Whyte have served with distinction and are to be congratulated. There was discussion about the state of the sidewalk at the front of the Main, quotes for steam cleaning will be requested. Alameda Municipal Power discovered a long-time error in their metered billing for the Main, resulting in a discrepancy requiring a 50% increase in monthly billing. AMP has asked for the amount of \$10k for the arrears, which the Library will pay in monthly installments of \$1k. The elevator will be out-of-service for August for refitting and repair.

~Kevin Minney

Live@theLibrary Concert Series Returns

Alameda's popular Live@theLibrary concert series returns in September for its third season with three sets of top-quality local artists who specialize in jazz and the Great American Songbook. The concerts take place at the Alameda Main Library on three Saturday evenings. Tickets are \$75 for the three-concert series and \$30 for each individual concert. The concerts usually sell out, so it's best to buy tickets ahead of time. The series is hosted by the Alameda Library Foundation, Friends of the Alameda Library and the Library Board Art Committee. Community sponsors will underwrite expenses so all proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the library. Sponsors are: Perforce Software, First Community Bank and Bank of Alameda. Cairdea Design and Marketing, Books Inc. and Dewey's Friends Café made in-kind donations. This season's programs are: **September 24:** Anton Schwartz, Oakland-based jazz saxophonist. **October 22:** Wesla Whitfield, singer, and Mike Greensill, accompanist. **November 19:** Amanda King, jazz singer. Tickets are available at Books Inc., Dewey's Friends Café and online at www.brownpapertickets.com. Doors open at 7 p.m., concerts start at 8 p.m. Light refreshments including wine, coffee and light desserts will be available at the Café.

~Jan Green

Next Book Sale:
October 14,15,16

Library Director's Corner

The *new* reduced operating schedule began for all three libraries on July 1. In spite of the reductions, Ala-

medans will still find their Main Library open seven days a week. The new hours are:

Main Library

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Holidays

West End Library

Monday Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Tuesday, Friday, Sunday, Holidays

Bay Farm Island Library

Monday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, Holidays

The State Library will not be releasing any funds until after January 15. The Governor signed the "Plan C" Budget, which contains the minimum recommended funding for libraries, but it is contingent on revenue "triggers". The gist of it all is AB 121 *aka* the Trigger Bill that requires the State to receive over \$87B in forecasted revenue. On December 15, 2011, if the revenue forecast turns out to be less than \$87,452,500,000, then there will be several programs that will be reduced. There are a total of 13 listed for this first trigger and five are programs in the State Library. This includes the funding for our literacy program Alameda Reads. If the revenue projections are met, then funds will be released to the local level after January 12. The Library will be requesting "bridge funds" from the Friends to fund Alameda Reads at least through January 2012, when we should know the outcome from the State.

There is additional sad news for the Library in this new fiscal year. Library Executive Assistant Marsha Merrick was a casualty of the budget due to lay-offs in other City departments. Marsha was an integral part of Library operations since 2005 and everyone will miss her positive, "can-do" attitude. The Library kept the position, not the individual. Our new Executive Assistant will be

Christina Baines, formerly from the City Manager's Office. Please be patient as Christina learns the secrets of the Library as this will be a whole new world for her. We welcome Christina to this new chapter in her career and are ready to show her what a great place the Library is to work.

Did you read the Alameda Magazine "Best of 2011" list? The Bay Farm Island Library is an Editor's Choice Award Winner as the "Best Million Dollar Makeover on the Island." See the entire list at

<http://www.alamedamagazine.com/media/Alameda-Magazine/July-August-2011/Alamedas-BEST-of-2011/>

The Solar Panel Project for the Main Library is almost complete. The commissioning finally took place in July, delays were due to cloudy days, and hopefully the energy-display kiosk will arrive in August.

The End of Summer Reading Celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17. Come see and celebrate our young readers as they cross the stage to receive their congratulatory handshakes from City Council, Library Board, Library staff, and, of course, Friends of the Library representatives. Then stay for the other highlight of the evening, a presentation by "Wild Things, Inc." who will talk about and show wild animals — last visit included a cheetah, hawk, and orangutan! Always a barrel of monkeys, but without the monkeys! The ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. with Wild Things immediately following. Call the Boys & Girls Department for more information at 510.747.7705

Long time Library Technician, Mary Blackshere will retire from the Boys & Girls Department after 37 years of service to the City. September 3rd will be her last work day and there will be many special happenings that day. Shhh! It's a surprise! Keep an eye on the Library Events Calendar or the Alameda Free Library Facebook page for information as it leaks out. Join Mary for her very special last day.

~Jane Chisaki

Live@theLibrary Concert Series Fall 2011

Save These Dates
Saturday, September 24
Saturday, October 22
Saturday, November 19

Programs you won't want to miss!
Tickets available **NOW!**



Friends of the
Alameda Free Library

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Alameda, CA
Permit No. 75

(check one)

New membership or January 1, 2011 Renewal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Newsletter format preference (**check one**): hardcopy/US Mail or softcopy/email

Please check classification desired		
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5.00	2*
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$5.00	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10.00	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$18.00	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	\$35.00	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$50.00	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$75.00	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$100.00	4
Plus Donation:		
Total Amount Enclosed:		

Please check areas of interest
<input type="checkbox"/> Book Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> Café in the Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership in the Friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (contributions, pictures, mailing)
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity for the Friends Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts in the Library
<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: Friends of the Alameda Free Library, P.O. Box 1024, Alameda CA 94501.

