



## City of Alameda, California

July 7, 2025

Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

I write to update you on significant activities occurring at the Alameda Free Library in May and June 2025 and inform you of future activities.

### **PERSONNEL**

#### Staffing Update

On June 30, Sicilia Smith started as a full-time library technician. They primarily work at the Bay Farm Island Library. Sicilia has previous library experience at Santa Cruz Public Libraries and San Rafael Public Library. They also have an educational background in early childhood education.

One part-time library specialist left employment with the Library in June.

#### Recruitment for Two New Full-Time Librarians

The Library will begin the recruitment process for two new full-time librarians this month. The positions were approved by City Council on June 17 along with the 2025-27 biennial budget.

### **COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES**

#### Realigned Hours Begin October 6

Prioritizing when the Library is most used by the community, the Library will adjust its operating hours on Monday, October 6. Overall, the Library will be open one additional hour per week across its three locations. Communication to the public about the realigned hours will begin in September.

The realigned hours are as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Main	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6	9-5	9-5	12-5
Bay Farm Island	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6		9-5	
West End	10-6	10-6	10-6	10-6		9-5	

#### Strategic Planning Process

With the release of the community survey in July, the Library entered a new phase in the

process to develop a new five-year strategic plan. The survey is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese and community members may complete it until July 31. Postcards will be mailed to targeted neighborhoods encouraging them to complete the survey. The first postcards will arrive the week of July 14.

Additionally, all libraries have engagement boards where people share information about their visit and what would improve their experience. The in-library engagement is available in English and Spanish and will also be available until July 31.

Finally, there will be a series of community conversations in July and August. The community conversations will occur in July and August, and the dates and times for those conversations are below.

- Saturday, July 12, 3:30-4:30 pm at the West End Library, 788 Santa Clara Avenue.
- Tuesday, July 15, 6:00-7:00 pm via Zoom using the link <https://alamedafree.org/cczoom>.
- Saturday, July 19, 2:00-3:00 pm at Leydecker Recreation Center, 3225 Mecartney Road.
- Sunday, July 20, 2:00-3:00 pm in the Family Study Room at the Main Library, 1550 Oak Street. (Session in Spanish)
- Saturday, August 2, 11:00 am-12:00 pm in the Second Floor Conference Room at the Main Library, 1550 Oak Street. (Session in Chinese)

### WhaZoodle

The Library recently added WhaZoodles to its collection. WhaZoodle is a screen-free audio learning device for kids ages 3-12 that has thematic content and runs for about two hours. Each device has three modes:

- Explore mode offers child-friendly podcasts, fun facts, sing-alongs, and short stories.
- Recess mode gets the listener moving with dancing, drawing, crafts, and more.
- Relax mode offers guided meditations or stretches and sleep or nature sounds to help the listener wind down.

WhaZoodles checkout for three weeks and may be renewed twice if other patrons are not waiting to use them.



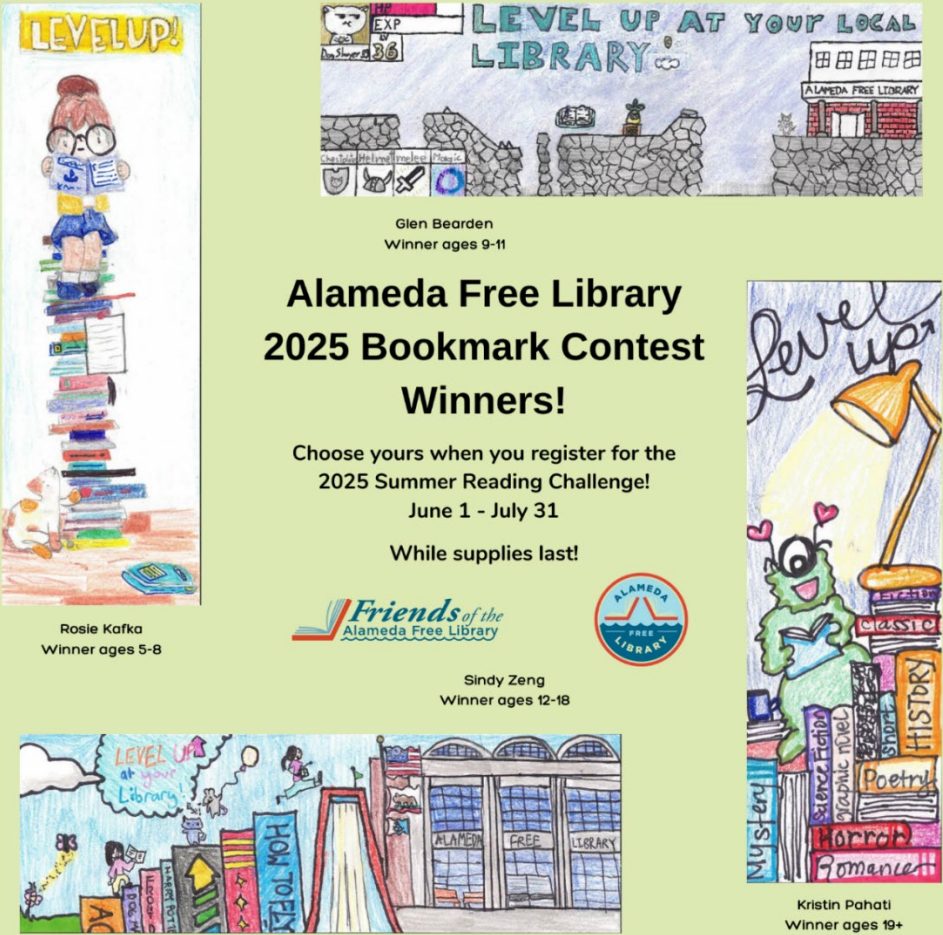
## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### Summer Reading Challenge

As of June 30, 4,025 people have registered for the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge. Children represent the largest group of participants at 2,730, followed by 1,071 adults, and 224 teens. According to Library Services Manager Eva Volin, 2025 is the first time the Library has had more than 4,000 people participate. The Summer Reading Challenge runs through July 31, which is also the last day to collect prizes.

The Summer Reading Challenge started on Sunday, June 1, when more than 800 people visited the Main Library to register, participate in family-friendly games, and attend a puppet show.

Congratulations to our 2025 bookmark design contest winners Rose Kafka, Glen Bearden, Sindy Zeng, and Kristin Pahati! People who register for the summer reading challenge receive one of their bookmarks while supplies last.



**LEVEL UP!**

Glen Bearden  
Winner ages 9-11

**Alameda Free Library  
2025 Bookmark Contest  
Winners!**

Choose yours when you register for the  
2025 Summer Reading Challenge!  
June 1 - July 31  
While supplies last!

*Friends of the  
Alameda Free Library*

ALAMEDA  
FREE  
LIBRARY

Sindy Zeng  
Winner ages 12-18

Rosie Kafka  
Winner ages 5-8

Kristin Pahati  
Winner ages 19+



### Edison Elementary Science Night

In May, the Library participated in Edison Elementary's Science Night by reading science related stories and offering families an opportunity to Code with LEGO.



### May Day

The Bay Farm Island Library celebrated May Day with a performance from the Berkeley Morris Dancers. Thank you to ARPD for use of the outdoor space at Leydecker park.

### Local Author Edna Cabacin

Alameda author Edna Cabacin Moran read from her book *Honu & Moa*, a Hawaiian retelling of the Tortoise and the Hare, discussed the art of Hawaiian storytelling, and provided a hula demonstration to an enthusiastic audience at the West End Library on May 17.



### Crab Cove Storytime

A large and enthusiastic crowd enjoyed a special storytime at Bay Farm Island Library on June 23 that included snake-themed books and a visit from a Crab Cove naturalist and slithery friend.



### Pride Crafternoon

On June 14, families gathered at West End Library to make pride related crafts.



Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Eitner  
Library Director