



City of Alameda, California

April 30, 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 March and April 2025 and inform you of future activities.

PERSONNEL

Staffing Update

On March 24, Caitlin Emig started as a part-time administrative assistant. She works at Alameda Reads. Caitlin has experience at Bay Area Technology School and the Oakland Zoo.

Kayla Ngai was promoted to part-time library associate from library aide on March 24, and works at the Main Library.

Princess Iereneo joined the City as part-time case managers with Housing and Human Services. Princess works at the Main Library on Mondays from 9-4.

A full-time library services manager resigned from their position effective April 3. Additionally, a full-time library technician at Bay Farm Island Library worked their last day on April 21. The Library opened a recruitment to replace the library technician in late March. Panel interviews to create a hiring list are scheduled for May 5. Finally, one part-time library associate left employment with the Library in March.

Classification Revision

On April 2, the Civil Service Board approved revisions to the Supervising Librarian classification, which will now be known as Library Services Manager. The revised classification provides multiple ways for applicants to meet the minimum qualifications. Importantly, the minimum qualifications focus on skills rather than credentials. By doing so, the Library provides a pathway to promotion that is not tied to educational attainment.

COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES

Student Access Cards

The Library has initiated discussions with Alameda Unified School District to provide library cards to all students. S.B. 321, which was signed by Governor Newsom in 2023, encourages libraries to partner with school districts to offer library cards. Additional information about

student access cards may be found on the State Library's [website](#).

2025 Summer Reading Challenge



The 2025 Summer Reading Challenge begins Sunday, June 1 with games, crafts, and a family dance party at the Main Library. The Summer Reading Challenge is open to people ages 0-100+ and runs from June 1 to July 31.

People may pick up a paper gameboard at any location or register and track their progress [online](#). To finish the Summer Reading Challenge, people must read for 24 hours and/or complete activities from June 1 to July 31. Participants earn prizes as they progress through the Summer Reading Challenge.

There are three age ranges for the Summer Reading Challenge: (1) children – ages 0-12; (2) teens – ages 13-18; and (3) adults – ages 19+.

Prizes are provided at registration and 8-hour increments while supplies last. The last day to collect prizes is Thursday, July 31.

- All participants receive a bookmark designed by a community member at registration.
- At 8 hours, everyone receives one free scoop of ice cream from Tucker's Ice Cream.
- At 16 hours, children receive a free book of their choice. Teens and adults receive a voucher for one book priced at \$10.00 or less from the Books For Friends bookstore located in the Main Library.
- At completion, or 24 hours, children receive a coupon good for one youth round of golf at Subpar Mini Golf. Children who are too young to participate in mini golf may elect to receive a



rubber duckie. Teens and adults receive a raffle ticket for the chance to win one grand prize bundle.

In addition to prizes, the Library has programs planned throughout June and July. Beyond the traditional kickoff and wrap up events at the Main Library, the following are selected programs during the Summer Reading Challenge. Please visit the Library's website for a full list of programs.

Tween Week

Main Library

June 9-13, 2:30 pm

Level Up your creative skills with a different offering each day this week! For Tweens in grades 4-8.

Monday, June 9: Zines

Tuesday, June 10: DIY Mini Flower Press

Wednesday, June 11: Printmaking

Thursday, June 12: Scrapbook Self-Portraits

Friday, June 13: Travel Games

Renee Padgett Storyteller

Main Library

Saturday, June 14, 10:30am

A musical family storytime featuring Bay Area musician Renee Padgett.

Pride Crafternoon

West End Library

Saturday, June 14, 2:00 pm

Celebrate and express your pride with an afternoon of pride-related crafts.

East Bay Vivarium Reptiles

Bay Farm Island Library, Leydecker Event Room

Saturday, June 21, 1:00 pm

Join us to meet and learn about reptiles! Recommended for ages 4+.

Petit Picassos Art Camps

Bay Farm Island Library, Outdoor Amphitheater

Tuesday, June 24, 10:30 am

Ms. Stephanie will lead a fun outdoor art camp just steps away from the library! Registration required.

Harmony Monsters

Main Library

Saturday, June 28, 2:00 pm

Music, movement, and lots of family fun with Steve Slater and Harmony Monsters!

Puppet Art Theater

West End Library

Saturday, June 28, 3:00 pm

Fan favorite Puppet Art returns to Alameda with their show Tommy's Space Adventure.

Math Games

Main Library

Tuesday, July 1, 2:30 pm

Level up your math skills with mathematically mind-bending games for the whole family!

Sensory Science

Main Library

Tuesday, July 8. 2:30 pm

Level up your inner scientist. Engage your senses in hands-on scientific exploration. Be prepared to get messy!

Tracy the Animal Guy

West End Library

Saturday, July 12, 2:30 pm

Bay Farm Island Library, Leydecker Event Room

Saturday, July 19, 1:00 pm

Main Library

Saturday, July 19, 2:30 pm

Meet and learn about a variety of animals with Tracy the Animal Guy! All three shows will be the same, so choose the one closest to you.

Dog Man Day

Main Library

Saturday, July 26, 2:00 pm

Drop in for a Supa Awesome afternoon of Dog Man fun, games, and crafts.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Police Storytime at Bay Farm Island Library



On March 10, Officer Adraya Fetzer was the very popular special guest at storytime in conjunction with Women's History Month. Officer Fetzer shared that she wants to be a strong female role model for her daughter. She also gave participants baseball cards of her K-9 Ace. Thank you, Officer Fetzer!



Radical Girls of Skate Culture

Kids learned about skateboard culture and the girls who are shaping it at the Leydecker Center on March 15.

Career Fair

On March 22, community members met local women in varied careers at the Leydecker Center – including Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft.

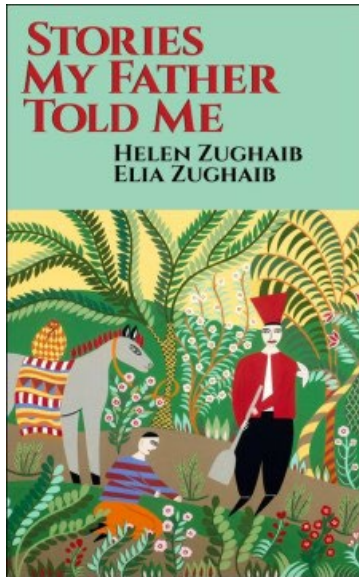


National Library Week

National Library Week 2025 was April 6-12 and this year's theme was "Drawn to the Library." The library offered take and make spirograph kits at all locations for adults. At the West End Library, people made book-spine art of their favorite books and characters. Patrons at the Bay Farm Island enjoyed meditative art for busy people (pictured). And the Main Library hosted Captain Jack Spareribs.



Arab American Heritage Month



During April, the Library hosted a series of events to celebrate Arab American Heritage Month. The Bay Farm Island Library hosted a program in partnership with the Museum of Children's Arts that focused on Arab Architecture. The Main Library hosted a hands-on, multimedia exploration of a set of archival materials from Librarians with Palestine, a 2013 delegation of librarians from all over the world to the West Bank. Children made self portraits inspired by Helen Zughaib and her book *Stories My Father Told Me* at the Main Library. Finally, the West End Library provided take and make kits for children to design their own mosaic tile.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Digitizing and Documenting Your Family History

Saturday, May 4
Main Library, 1:00 PM

Dive into a realm where physical artifacts meet virtual storytelling. This session immerses you in the art of utilizing artificial intelligence for oral history creation, scanning, photo restoration, photo management, movie making, and storytelling. Explore real-life case studies illustrating how to intricately weave your family's saga using multimedia methodologies. Discover invaluable free resources and best practices to preserve your family's legacy. By session end, you'll learn about tools and techniques to create a digital family heritage library, that will be a timeless treasure for generations to come. Presented by Ron Chan, President of the Bay Area Chinese Genealogy Group.

From Folktales to Fairytales

Saturday, May 10

Leydecker Event Room, 1:00 pm

Participants will learn about folktales from China, Japan, and Vietnam and create art projects based on the folktales. Registration Required.

Japanese-English Bilingual Family Storytime

Saturday, May 10

West End Library, 10:30 am

Poponta Cultural Society will present an interactive Japanese-English bilingual storytime that will include puppets and songs.

Family Storytime with Edna Cabacin Moran

Saturday, May 17

West End Library, 3:00 pm

Alameda author Edna Cabacin Moran will read from her book *Honu & Moa*, a Hawaiian retelling of the Tortoise and the Hare. She will also provide a Hula demonstration and discuss the art of Hawaiian storytelling.

Storyteller Roopa Mohan

Wednesday, May 21

Main Library, 3:30 pm

Storyteller Roopa Mohan will present short stories from across Asia. Hear about clever animals and other courageous characters in stories originating from India, Japan, China, and the Philippines.

Film Screening: *Mother Earth, the Magnificent* with Traditional Song & Dance

Saturday, May 24

Main Library, 2:00 pm

Local independent filmmaker Mei Sze Phung of SeePurE Productions will screen clips of her various films tackling issues of climate change, immigrant identity, and Chinese-Vietnamese culture – including the film “Mother Earth, the Magnificent” that is still in production and slated for release in 2026. Phung will also instruct participants in traditional songs and dance forms of her heritage.

Mandarin-English Bilingual Family Storytime

Tuesday, May 27

West End Library, 10:30 am

Kids Go Mandarin! will present a musical Mandarin-English bilingual storytime for the entire family.



Storytime and Crafts with Miss Jenn

Saturday, May 3

West End Library, 10:30 am

Miss Jenn from Temple Israel will read stories, sing songs, and discuss the many important contributions of Jewish Americans to our country.

Jewish Perspectives on Immigration

Tuesday, May 6

Main Library 6:30 pm

Two Alameda residents and members of Kehilla Community Synagogue will lead us in contemplation of the ways in which the stories of Holocaust survivors do and do not mirror immigration narratives of the day. The program will open with one presenter sharing about her family's immigration journey to the United States after the Holocaust. Then we will hear about the work the Kehilla Community Synagogue Immigration Committee has been doing over the last 10 years, focusing on providing accompaniment, sanctuary, and organizing with other community groups about immigration policy issues.

Jewish Heroes

Saturday, May 10

Main Library, 1:00 pm

Join us for a family program highlighting Jewish Heroes in collaboration with Miss Jenn, Director of Education at Temple Israel of Alameda.

Vilde Chaya Performance

Saturday, May 10
Main Library, 2:30 pm

Local folk musician and Holocaust music scholar Vilde Chaya will lead us in a workshop and performance on Jewish folk music including Yiddish, Hebrew, Ladino music and more. Come join us to share in the joy of Jewish cultural diaspora!

Jewish Contributions to Pop Culture

Saturday, May 17
Leydecker Event Room, 2:00 pm

Join Rabbi Minster for a fascinating presentation about Jewish contributions to American pop music, film, and culture beyond the surface level of entertainment. The presentation will include film and music clips.

Upcoming Events

The Role of Diet and Healthy Living in Aging and Alzheimer's Disease

Thursday, May 15
West End Library, 2:00 pm

The Alzheimer's Association of Northern California will discuss the role diet and healthy living play in aging and the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Qigong for Children

Wednesday, May 28, June 4, June 11, and June 18
West End Library, 2:00 pm

Qigong is a practice designed to calm the mind and focus the body. Certified instructor Robert Dorsett will offer a four-week series for children 7-12. Registration required.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Eitner
Library Director