



City of Alameda, California

December 30, 2024

Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

I write to update you on significant activities occurring at the Alameda Free Library in November and December 2024 as well as inform you of future activities.

PERSONNEL

On November 18, Alice Erickson started as a librarian and will focus on outreach to schools. Prior to joining the team, Alice worked at San Mateo County Libraries and Santa Clara County Library District.

Library Associate Vanny Tuy's customer service was the reason the Library received a five-star Google review on December 16. The reviewer noted that she was "SO helpful and friendly."

The library's community resource specialist left employment with the Library in December.

COLLECTION, RESOURCES & SERVICES

Most Borrowed Books of 2024

Fiction

	Title	Author
1.	James	Percival Everett
2.	The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store	James McBride
2.	The Midnight Library	Matt Haig
4.	Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus
4.	Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow	Gabrielle Zevin
6.	There There	Tommy Orange
7.	Tom Lake	Ann Patchett
8.	The Covenant of Water	Abraham Verghese
8.	The Exchange: After The Firm	John Grisham
10.	Circe	Madeline Miller

Nonfiction

	Title	Author
1.	Caste: The Origins of our Discontents	Isabel Wilkerson
1.	Solito: A Memoir	Javier Zamora

3.	Crying in H Mart	Michelle Zauner
4.	The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder	David Grann
5.	Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants	Robin Wall Kimmerer
6.	Smitten Kitchen Keepers: New Classics for Your Forever Files	Deb Perelman
7.	Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning	Liz Cheney
8.	Guinness World Records 2024	
9.	The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics	Daniel James Brown
10.	The Woman in Me	Britney Spears

Children's Fiction

	Title	Author
1.	The Truth About Stacey	Raina Telgemeier
2.	Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea	Dav Pilkey
3.	Dog Man: The Scarlet Shedder	Dav Pilkey
4.	The Authoritative Calvin and Hobbes	Bill Watterson
5.	Baby-Sitters Little Sister. Vol. 5, Karen's School Picture	Katy Farina
6.	The Baby-Sitters Club. Vol. 4, Claudia and Mean Janine	Raina Telgemeier
7.	The Duckling Gets a Cookie?	Mo Willems
8.	The Baby-Sitters club. Vol. 9, Claudia and the New Girl	Gabriela Epstein
8.	Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets	Dav Pilkey
10.	Rocking in My School Shoes	Eric Litwin

Teen Fiction

	Title	Author
1.	Catching Fire	Suzanne Collins
2.	The Book Thief	Markus Zusak
3.	One of Us Is Next	Karen McManus
4.	The Cruel Prince	Holly Black
5.	The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins
6.	The Summer of Broken Rules	K.L. Walther
7.	Five Survive	Holly Jackson

7.	The Inheritance Games	Jennifer Lynn Barnes
7.	It's Not Summer Without You	Jenny Han
7.	Twilight	Stephenie Meyer

Ebooks

	Title	Author
1.	Funny Story	Emily Henry
2.	The Women	Kristin Hannah
3.	A Vampire's Promise	Carla Susan Smith
4.	The Arondight Codex	Nicole R. Taylor
5.	Fourth Wing	Rebecca Yarros
6.	Claudia and the Bad Joke	Arley Nopra
7.	Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Gamus
8.	The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler's Men	Eric Lichtblau
9.	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store	James McBride
10.	Tom Lake	Ann Patchett

Audio ebooks

	Title	Author
1.	A Court of Thorns and Roses	Sarah J. Maas
2.	Fourth Wing	Rebecca Yarros
3.	Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
4.	The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck	Mark Manson
5.	The Court of Mist and Fury	Sarah J. Maas
5.	Educated: A Memoir	Tara Westover
7.	Iron Flame	Rebecca Yarros
8.	The Woman in Me	Britney Spears
9.	Becoming	Michelle Obama
9.	Funny Story	Emily Henry

Strategic Plan

The Library has selected a firm to lead its strategic planning efforts. The City Council will most likely consider the service provider agreement at its March 4, 2025 meeting.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Hour of Code

The Main Library hosted three one-hour coding events on December 5, 6, and 9. During the program, twenty-six children coded a story using Scratch.

Police Storytimes at Bay Farm Island Library

Officers Fetzner and Mohib were special guests at two separate storytimes at the Bay Farm Island Library in November. They read stories and interacted with those in attendance. Thank you to the Alameda Police Department for partnering with the Library to make these events a reality.



Firefighter Storytime at West End Library

Fire Chief Luby joined Virginia Hill for a special storytime at the West End Library on November 26. Thank you, Chief Luby!

Science Wonders Workshop at the Main Library

On November 23, participants in the Science Wonders Workshop series used LEGO Education kits to learn about natural disasters. They built a shaking platform that simulates an earthquake, a building, and created coding to develop a shake-alert system.



Dinovember at the West End Library



Petite Picassos at Bay Farm Island Library



Children from kindergarten through third grade enjoyed stories and making aprons with stamps. Miss Stephanie provided the instruction. Thank you to ARPD for the use of the Leydecker Recreation Center for the event.

Junior Librarian Storytime at Bay Farm Island Library

On December 7, three junior librarians in 5th and 6th grade presented a winter-themed story time at the Bay Farm Island Library. Each junior librarian read one picture book, and they assisted with the felt stories and egg shaker song. The attendees and junior librarians alike enjoyed the special storytime.



Nutcracker Storytime

In partnership with Tutu School, the Main Library hosted a special Nutcracker storytime on December 6. More than seventy attendees enjoyed the classic tale as well as dancing through the magical lands of snow and sweets.

Hanukkah Stories and Crafts



Ms. Jenn from Temple Israel of Alameda visited the Main Library and shared Hanukkah stories and crafts with the community on December 21.

QUARTERLY ALL-STAFF MEETING

Library staff will gather for their quarterly meeting the morning of Wednesday, January 22. To ensure everyone may participate, the Main Library will be open from 12-5 pm that day. The operating hours at Bay Farm Island and West End Libraries are not impacted by the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Eitner
Library Director