July 1, 2026

Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

I write to update you on significant activities occurring at Alameda Free Library in May and June 2026 and inform you of future activities.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

April

Family Odissi Dance Class
May 9 (Sat) 11:15am-12:15pm, Main Library
May 17 (Sun) 2:00pm-3:00pm, Main Library
Learn classical Indian Odissi dance through storytelling, movement, and mindfulness. For families with young learners.

Stories that Dance May 30 (Sat) 3:00pm-4:00pm, West End Library
Laya Arts Collective presents Bharatanatyam and Kathak dance demonstrations with interactive story-based activities. Family-friendly.

Author Talk: Alka Joshi
May 30 (Sat) 1:00pm-4:00pm, Main Library
In partnership with Friends of the Alameda Library, NYT bestselling author Alka Joshi discusses her Jaipur Trilogy and new novel *Six Days in Bombay* with journalist Deepa Fernandez.

Jewish American Heritage School Age Storytime
May 12 (Tue) 4:30pm-5:30pm, Bay Farm Island Library
Stories, discussion, and craft activities exploring Jewish American identity with educator Natalie Abber.

Celebrating Irving Berlin May 16 (Sat) 2:00pm-3:00pm, Main Library
Family sing-along celebrating America's beloved songwriter with songs, activities, and stories. This program is presented alongside Ms. Jenn from Temple Israel of Alameda.

Film Screening: Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire
May 28 (Thu) 4:00pm-5:30pm, West End Library
PBS documentary exploring Elie Wiesel's life, writings, and fight against injustice. Free copies of *Night* available while supplies last.

Live Performance: Vocolot
May 31 (Sun) 2:00pm-4:00pm, Main Library
A cappella vocal ensemble blending folk, jazz, and cantorial traditions. Multilingual performance promoting peace and reconciliation.

June

Summer Reading Kickoff

June 1 – July 31, Main Library, Bay Farm Island, and West End Library

The 2026 Summer Reading Program kicked off on Monday, June 1st, with games galore at the Main Library. The fun keeps going all summer long with programs at all three of our locations. Kids, teens, and adults are all welcome to visit their neighborhood library to sign up to read and earn prizes.

The library encourages everyone in the community to join the summer reading fun and take advantage of the many resources and opportunities available. Whether it's attending a storytime, browsing our collections, or checking out a California State Library Parks Pass, there's something for everyone at the library this summer. The 2026 Summer Reading Program runs from June 1 to July 31.

As of June 22, There have been 3,234 sign-ups across all branches and age groups.

Alameda Book Con (ABC) 2026 – Celebrating Bay Area Authors and Creators

Saturday, July 11, 2026 – 10:30am-4:00pm, Main Library

The Alameda Free Library is proud to present Alameda Book Con (ABC), a free community literary event showcasing local authors, illustrators, and book-related artists from across the San Francisco Bay Area.

ABC 2026 is designed to celebrate the creativity and diversity of Bay Area storytellers while connecting readers of all ages with local literary talent through exhibits, author interactions, and community engagement. The event offers attendees the opportunity to discover new books, meet creators, and support the Bay Areas' vibrant literary arts community. Featured among the over 40 exhibitors will be Alan Barillaro, Edna Cabcabin Moran, Vincent Chu, Jerry Connors, Brian Copeland, Janet Dawson, Meg Elison, Abbie Harlow, Briana Loewinsohn, Thien Pham, and many others Alameda readers will recognize and enjoy.

Pride Festival at the Bay Farm Island Library
Saturday, June 20, 2026 – 10:30am-1:00pm, Bay Farm Island Library, Leydecker Park
The Alameda Free Library invites patrons of all ages to join us for the first ever Pride Festival. Pride Festivals have been around for decades, and the Alameda Free Library is thrilled to continue that tradition here in Alameda to provide a space for LGBTQIA+ joy, excitement, and community building during National Pride Month!

We'll kick off our Pride Festival with a Drag King Storytime, presented by award-winning local drag king Jota Mercury (they/he) at 10:30AM. Beginning at 11:30AM, there will be face painting, tabling by local organizations, including Rainbow Families Action, and crafting, such as button making and bookmark decorating! Library staff members will also be giving away free books that celebrate Pride while supplies last!

Sewing Workshop for Kids – Pride Rainbow
Wednesday, June 17, 2:30 PM - Main Library
The first of a six-part Sewing Workshop for Kids where they cover the basics of hand sewing and provide plenty of practice while making fun projects for participants to take home. No experience needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlon Romero
Acting Library Director