



July 12, 2017

Dear Members of the Library Board,

Welcome to our four new members of the Library Board! I am very excited to have you participate on our Board and become outstanding advocates for the Library in Alameda. We, unfortunately, are sometimes a “best kept secret” in Alameda and it would be great if you could help spread the word about our amazing Library and the programs we offer. The July Library Board meeting will include some general Board orientation so you’ll know what it is you are receiving in your board packet.

This letter is to bring you up to date on activities during the months of May and June, and to provide a look forward to some of the projects which will be coming up.

Library Services Reports: (Consent Agenda). The April and May 2017 Library Services Reports are included in your Board Packet. The Expenditure Reports for May and June are also included.

Main Library Update. Little Free Libraries. The Libraries have been delivered to Alameda Recreation and Parks (ARPD). Since summer is a busy time for both ARPD and the Library, installation of the first library will be later this summer. The first one will be installed in front of the ARPD office on Santa Clara, we will do a “ribbon cutting” for the opening of this new library along with a press release so the public will know what it is when they start getting installed in the local parks. We are very excited to have them so close to installation!

A successful “Made in Alameda” event was held on March 18 at the Main Library. Plans are already in the works for the 2nd annual Made in Alameda event on March 17. We have already secured permission to hang a large street banner on Park St. February 27 – March 13, which will give us much more visibility. Staff learned a lot from the first event and the next one will be bigger, better, more variety, and a lot of fun.

Circulation Coordinator Kevin Tam and Teen Librarian Hallie Fields staffed a table at the City’s Youth Career Fair held at Encinal High School on March 23rd. As a result of their attendance, the library will gain two part time, high school interns. Each will work about 20 hours a week for four weeks. They will be rotated through the various divisions within the library to give them a taste of the work we do. Last year’s intern was eventually hired as a PT library aide. Intern salaries are paid for by the Community Development Department and the Social Services Human Relations Board.

In an effort to be inclusive to all, the Boys & Girls division has begun a Sensory-Friendly Family Film series on the 4th Saturday afternoon of the month. These movies will be shown in a less than dark room, talking will be allowed, standing up / sitting down will be allowed, coming late and leaving early will be allowed, occasional panic attacks or other minor interruptions will be allowed. Everyone is invited to attend these films, but children with special needs are encouraged. The first film was shown at the end of May (holiday weekend) which drew an audience of 12. As word spreads, we expect attendance to grow.

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Eva has also arranged for a Baby Sign Language playgroup to meet for a series of sessions beginning in late September.

Thanks to the work of Circulation Coordinator Kevin Tam, the Art Docent lectures will return in July and other programs are in the works. When the Library Art Committee disbanded due to lack of a volunteer chairperson many were upset and the Library received a lot of inquiries when those programs would return. The Friends of the Library stepped up and has a small committee working with Kevin to locate the presenters and then Kevin checks for room availability and gets the date on the calendar. This *new* partnership should be a good one. Without a committee chair, who had done most of the work locating artists, assisting with the hanging and takedown of the art, the changing exhibits had to end. The past calendar was filled two-years out.

Budget. Yay! The City Budget, which includes the Library Budget, was adopted on June 6. There were no budget reductions required in this two-year budget. The Library received approval to re-establish the reduced neighborhood library hours, effective July 1. That will increase each library 8 hours, now both neighborhood libraries will be open 5 days a week, closed Fridays and Sundays. Funding was also approved in the first year to replace/upgrade the computers in the computer lab and to replace/upgrade some public staff workstations in the second year. Beyond those two “increases” the budget was basically asked to “hold the line” which we think we are fine in doing.

Library Logo Staff Shirts. Now that we have a new logo approved and adopted by the Library Board, we are in the process of putting together an order for polo shirts with the new logo. Staff will be allowed to wear these shirts while working and I encourage them to wear them when representing the Library at off-site events. I will be giving each member of the Library Board a shirt, you will be able to pick your color and size at the meeting and we will be placing the order the next day.

Summer Challenge. Summer (Reading) Challenge for all ages began on June 1 and will end on July 31. New this year is that the tracking will be done online. Readers can sign up with our database “Beanstack” that will track the progress. Participants will still earn incentives and the database will give the library better statistics. A few people said they enjoyed coming to the library to check off their progress but participants still have to come in to pick up their prizes. Some of the check points are not number of books read but attendance at programs. Teen services is trying to drive the teens to their programs through the summer challenge. Adult services has been taking the library bike, “Words on Wheels” out to the parks for afternoons of quiet reading. That has been a success as people can be seen draped over benches, their own chairs, or sprawled out on the grass, reading. The Library offers water and small snacks. Save the date! The End of Summer Reading party is Wednesday, July 26 at the O’Club, the program begins at 6:30 p.m. This program brings about 100+ children and their families out to the O’Club to be celebrated for their reading efforts. The City Council, City Manager, Library Board, Friends President, & major donors, are invited to be on the stage to shake hands of our young readers as they hear their name as they cross the stage. After the applause dies down there is a show, this year we are presenting “The Circus of Smiles” which is a juggling act, then cookies and water are offered as snacks and everyone goes home. It’s a fun event, great PR. You don’t have to say anything, although the Board President will have to speak (Eva will write the speech) and the elected officials always have the opportunity to speak. Then to completely wrap up summer reading, believe it or not, Harry Potter turns

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twenty years old at the end of July, so our library will host a party on July 31 (Harry's birthday)! Unfortunately, I will be on vacation and missing both events but they look to be a ton of fun!

Poet Laureate Selection. The Poet Laureate selection team worked hard to create a short list from the 12 applications we received. Amazingly the five members had the same two applicants as 1st or 2nd so having those two people on the short list was easy. In the end, three people were recommended to the Mayor for in-person interviews for selection. Even after the interviews the decision was very difficult as the top two applicants continued to be on top and in the end, the City will have two Poet Laureates to represent us and spread poetry far and wide. On September 5 at the City Council meeting, Poets Cathy Dana and Gene Kahane will be appointed as Alameda's Poet Laureates and each will read their inaugural poem. You are all welcome to attend if your schedules allow.

Friends of the Library. The Friends Board met on May 22 and June 26. The Friends Board continues to actively seek new Board Members to expand the skill set of the organization. All of the Board members are encouraged to bring prospective Board Members forward.

Sadly since the last Library Board meeting former Library Board and Library Foundation member, member of the Friends of the Library, founding member of the Library Art Committee, and the founder of the Live @ the Library concert series, Ruth Belikove passed away. Ruth was 94 years young, a resident at Cardinal Point, and was full of ideas and life right up to her passing. We will miss Ruth and have sent our condolences to her family.

The Friends are planning a Volunteer Appreciation event and will be honoring Adair Jorgenson, Gert and Peter Woods for their 40+ years of chairing and working the bi-annual book sale. The event is scheduled on Thursday, July 20, at Dragon Rouge. Technically this is the first day of my vacation but I will try to be organized enough to stop prepping for my scout trip to attend the event and thank our volunteers, and this event ends early enough in the evening that I don't think it will be an issue for me.

The Spring Used Book Sale is May 5-6-7 at the O'Club. This has been a huge undertaking since the merge of organizations but I don't think it would have been any different without the merge. Hopefully all the details have been addressed and the sale is good to go. Moving materials from storage to the O'Club should be underway even as this letter is being written. After the spring sale the format of the Friends used book sales may change as the physical ability to maintain the current format is difficult. More volunteers are needed and brainstorming for ways to change how things get done. Carole Robie is the Friends Board liaison to the book sale and will keep us informed.

Live @ the Library tickets will be available on August 1. This year the three concert series will be on September 16, October 28, and December 2. Our performers this year are: September 16: Singer Kenny Washington & Guitarist Jeff Massanari; October 28: The Alden Trio (Jon Lee, piano; Yuri Kye, violin; Brady Anderson, cello); December 2: Suzanna Smith. It should be a great concert series, tickets will be available from Brown Paper Tickets, at Dewey's Café, and at Books Inc. on Park Street. In addition Friends Board members (and I) will have them for sale.

The next Friends Board meeting will be on Monday, July 2, (the August meeting is in question depending on whether or not they have business to discuss) at the Main Library in the Family Study Room at 6:30 p.m.

Alameda Reads. Program Assistant Barbara Papik is ready to step into the Program Coordinator role. Barbara is now the Program Coordinator for Alameda Reads with the departure of Amy Prevedel.

The Alameda Reads Office in the Veteran's Building on Central, is a vibrant, busy place most hours of most days. They have been providing tutoring on a drop-in basis in a learning lab model. While many tutoring pairs continue to meet at the office and in the library, most learners now go to the learning lab. They usually meet with the same volunteer week after week. But, when a learner or a volunteer can't come, they are free to work with someone else. Alameda Reads staff track the materials and progress of each Learner, and are able to support the participants immediately, respond to any problems people are having right away, and offer a welcoming social environment for everyone.

The Learners have been busy meeting their goals! Another of our Learners has become a US citizen! Alameda Reads is so proud and excited to have played a part in that tremendous accomplishment. She has been a participant in the program for several years and her focus had been improving her English speaking and writing so that she could communicate more effectively at work. At the end of last summer, her focus shifted and she became determined to become a US citizen. She worked with two of our tutors to help prepare for the citizenship exam and...she passed! She's very much looking forward to being able to vote in the next election. She is continuing to work with her tutor on her writing skills.

Alameda Reads is pleased to report that they have added several native speakers of English to their list of program participants. While they happily welcome everyone who wishes to improve their reading and writing, they have been trying to engage more native English speakers since the demographics of the program have been skewing heavily to ESL learners. They continue to search for ways to reach out to that pool of learners Alameda Reads, ROCKS!

Activities and Events.

NO regularly scheduled storytimes or community sing-alongs in August

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| July 1 | Libraries Outside: Shoreline to Doolittle Ponds. 9:00 a.m. |
| July 1 | Mama Goose Story Time. 10:00 a.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room every Saturday) |
| July 2 | Self-Paced Open Computer Lab. 1:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Lab (every Sunday) |
| July 3 | Community Sing-Along. 10:15 a.m. Main Library, Stafford Room (every Monday and Wednesday) |
| July 3 | Teddy Bear Picnic: 10:30 a.m. Tillman Park |
| July 3 | Adult Film: "Get Out." 5:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room |
| July 4 | ALL LIBRARIES CLOSED FOR JULY 4 TH OBSERVANCE |
| July 5 | Peter Rabbit Story Time. 10:30 a.m. West end Library |

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- July 5 Open Computer Lab. 1:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Lab (every Wednesday)
- July 5 School-age Story Time. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room (every Wed
- July 5 Lawyers in the Library. 6:00 p.m. Main Library (also August 2)
- July 6 Peter Story Time. 10:00 a.m. Main Library, Felker Program Room (every Thurs)
- July 6 Teen Room Takeover: Minute to Win It. 2:30 p.m. Main Library, Teen Room
- July 6 Thursday Craft. 3:30 p.m. Bay Farm Island Library. (every 1st Thursday of the month)
- July 7 Open Computer Lab. 10:00 a.m. Main Library, Computer Lab (every Friday)
- July 8 We Love Legos. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room
- July 9 Reading in a Park. 2:00 p.m. McKinley Park
- July 10 Teddy Bear Picnic. 10:30 a.m. Longfellow Park
- July 10 Alameda Library Book Club. 6:30 p.m. Main Library, Family Study Room (also Aug 14)
- July 11 Community Blood Drive. Noon. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 11 Open Computer Lab. 1:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Lab (every Tuesday)
- July 11 Tween Time. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programing Room (every July Tuesday)
- July 11 Intermediate Book Club. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Program Room
- July 11 Alameda Great Books Club. 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Family Study Room (also Aug 8)
- July 11 Library Running Club. 7:00 p.m. (also July 25)
- July 11 Family Storytime. 7:00 p.m. Bay Farm Island Library (every Tuesday)
- July 12 Teen Book Club. 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 12 Teen Advisory Board. 5:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 12 Library Board Meeting. 6:00 p.m. Main Library, Administrative Conference Room
- July 13 Congresswoman Barbara Lee Satellite Office Hours. 3:00 p.m. Main Library,
Administrative Conference Room (every 2nd and 4th Thursday)

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- July 15 Libraries Outside. 10:00 a.m. Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland
- July 15 Library Mystery Party & Teen Book Swap. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 17 Teddy Bear Picnic. 10:30 a.m. Krusi Park
- July 17 Lawyers in the Library. 6:00 p.m. West End Library (also August 21)
- July 17 Art Docent Lecture: Degas, Impressionism & the Paris Millinery Trade. 6:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 18 Advanced Book Club. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Felker Programming Room
- July 18 Summer Movies: Cool Runnings. 7:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 19 Cup of Coffee and a Good Book. 1:15 p.m. Islandia Clubhouse (also August 16)
- July 19 Jack Alexander Magic. 3:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 20 Teen Room Takeover. 2:30 p.m. Main Library, Teen Room
- July 20 We Love Legos. 3:30 p.m. Bay Farm Island Library (every 3rd Thursday of the month)
- July 20 Playdough Play. 3:30 p.m. West End Library (every 3rd Thursday of the month)
- July 22 Sensory Friendly Family Film: Kubo and the Two Strings. 2:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 24 Teddy Bear Picnic. 10:30 a.m. Woodstock Park
- July 24 Friends of the Library. 6:30 p.m. Main Library, Family Study Room
- July 25 Knitting/Crochet Meetup. 6:00 p.m. Main Library
- July 26 End of Summer Reading Party. 6:30 p.m. O Club
- July 27 Assembly Member Bonta's Satellite Office Hours, by appt only. 1:00 p.m. Main Library, Admin Conference Room (every 4th Thursday)
- July 27 Messy Science. 3:30 p.m. Bay Farm Island Library
- July 27 Super Hero Training. 3:30 p.m. West End Library
- July 29 Teen Zone: Watch & Play. 1:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room
- July 29 Grown Up Gaming. 1:00 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room

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July 31 Harry Potter Party. 6:00 p.m. Main Library
July 31 Last Day of the Summer Reading Challenge
August 5 Summer After-Party for Teens and Adults. 2:00p.m. Lincoln Park
August 8 What about this Eclipse, Anyway? 6:30 p.m. Main Library, Stafford Room

If you have any questions about the items to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you would like to discuss these or any other items, please email me at jchisaki@alamedaca.gov or give me a call at 747-7747. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening.

Sincerely,


Jane Chisaki
Library Director