



Dear President Amarasiriwardena and Members of the Library Board,

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

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

MARCH



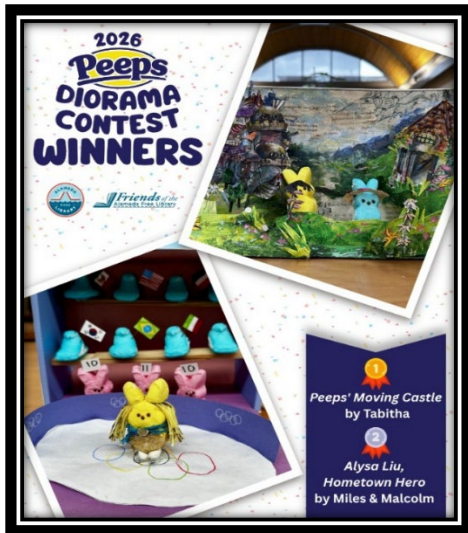
Storytime with Firefighter Cary

For Women’s History Month, the Bay Farm Island Library hosted a special storytime with Firefighter Mackenzie Cary. In addition to sharing what her job entails, Firefighter Cary read *Firefighter Flo* and participated in the other parts of story time – songs, finger plays, and the shaker activity. Thank you, Firefighter Cary and AFD!



Hands-on Neuroscience for Young Learners

Scientific Adventures for Girls facilitated the drop-in event on Saturday, March 7 at the Main Library that was attended by 96 people. Participants created life-size nervous systems, learned about amazing women scientists, created a model of a spine, and discovered how their brain and senses work through taste tests and matching games.



2026 Peeps Diorama Contest Winners

This year we had 37 entries for the Peeps Diorama Contest in March. Winners were announced on April 3rd. First place winner was *Peeps' Moving Castle* by Tabitha. Second place winner was *Alysa Liu, Hometown Hero* by Miles and Malcom.

April



For Arab American Heritage month, the library offered six cultural and creative programs

MOCHA Workshop

MOCHA artist-led workshop at West End Library featuring Arab American artist Helen Zughaib's work.



Tatreez Embroidery Workshop

Two-hour class with artist Amanne Sharif teaching Palestinian embroidery and the falahi stitch, exploring its historical and political significance at Bay Farm Island Library.

Scrapbook Self-Portraits

STEAM Wednesday program creating self-portraits inspired by Helen Zughaib.

Novel Idea Book Club

Discussing "The Dream Hotel" by Moroccan-American author Laila Lalami, who writes about migration, identity, and belonging.

Aparna Krishnamoorthy Visit

Local Author reading of "On The Way to Neptune" with craft activity making cardboard flower vases; the picture book celebrates curiosity and nature through a child's perspective in Alameda.



Wahab Algarmi Visit

Graphic novel illustrator teaching storytelling techniques and editing exercises for all ages. Had two school visits reaching over 800 kids, and an event at the Main Library with 28 participants.

Día de los Niños 2026

The annual Día de los Niños celebration at the Main Library. There was a magic show with Magician Mike Della Penna, a bilingual music and dance performance by Cascada de Flores, free health and development screenings for children provided by Alameda Family Services, face painting, and fresh churros.



Bookmark Design Contest April 4-April 30

The Library encourages children, teens, and adults to use their imagination and design a bookmark inspired by the 2026 Summer Reading theme "Plant a Seed, Read" or that celebrates books, reading, and libraries. All submitted designs will be entered into the Bookmark Design Contest and winners' bookmarks will be printed and distributed during the Summer Reading Program.

GENERAL UPDATES

Library Staffing Update

Marina Balingit, Library Assistant at Tech Services retired on April 30th. She was an integral part of the Library and her work ethic and provided valuable contributions to the efficiency of library workflows.

Requested the vacated Library Assistant position to be a Librarian I position in charge of Collections Development. This is a core library function that is currently being handled by two part-time staff.

Library Social Worker through Housing and Human Services (HHS) got approved funding for another year.

EmPOWERing Access Project

We received a grant to install a privacy booth at the Main Library. The [Pillar Booth](#) is designed for one person and it will expand our available study room space. Installation expected to take place at end of May.



Pillar Booths are designed to be the industry-leader in sustainability, comfort, and durability.



Sustainable

Sustainably designed with eco-friendly wood, removable acoustic panels and an occupancy sensor to conserve energy.



Quick Assembly

The assembly of each Pillar Booth is minimal and takes less than an hour with two people using only an allen wrench.



High Quality Materials

Made in the USA with a durable steel frame, shatterproof polycarbonate door, and UL listed lighting and electrical components.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlon Romero
Acting Library Director