In 2008, Ramzy Ayyad and his family opened Zaki Kabob House located at 1101 San Pablo Ave (at Dartmouth St.) in Albany, CA, to provide the community with a taste of delectable Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cuisine.

In addition to being a fulltime restaurant owner, Ramzy is also a fulltime supporter of the Alameda County Library, Albany Branch and generously donates 10% of his Monday lunch and dinner time proceeds to the Albany Library.

A Bay Area native and a recent college graduate, Ramzy is a huge proponent of libraries. As a student he appreciated its many valuable assets, utilizing the quiet study rooms to focus on his schoolwork and enjoying access to innumerable resources. Some of his best library experiences involved receiving quality guidance from librarians at the help desks, who consistently and enthusiastically directed him to credible information in reliable sources.

Not only does Ramzy recognize the immediate value of libraries when it comes to needing resources, he also has a personal philosophy as to why he offers his support in such a big way: he sees his values reflected in the way the library maintains open access to any and all materials, respecting each patron's unique knowledge needs without judgment or consequence. From this stems a deep appreciation of public libraries, especially in the way they encourage community members to come together.

Help us give a big THANK YOU to Ramzy Ayyad and his family for their unwavering support and dedication to the Alameda County Library, Albany Branch!

Message from the Director

This issue of ExLibris is dedicated to all of our loyal library supporters. We honor those who circulate our materials; visitors who enjoy reading in the books stacks; participants at our free workshops and events; students leveraging our Homework Centers; and parents with children in strollers who attend story time each week.

The Alameda County Library Foundation which funds 11 Alameda County branches is grateful for the community support of our patrons and friends. Our success depends upon the contributions of foundations, donations from local businesses, proceeds from fundraising events and the generous gifts we receive from individuals.

Our public-private partnership with the Alameda County and the generosity of all our donors keeps our libraries relevant and vital. Thank you for your support and participation. We look forward to seeing you at the library! Best wishes for a fun, safe and productive summer!

Tiona Smith
Executive Director
Thank you Hedco Foundation!!!!

The Alameda County Library Foundation is incredibly grateful for the generous award from Hedco Foundation for the purchase of nine AfterSchool Edge™ stations for Alameda County Library Homework Centers located in the Albany, Castro Valley, Dublin, Fremont, Newark, San Lorenzo and Union City branches.

12 Things You Pay For That Your Library Has For Free

1. Read for FREE Libraries are known for books: fiction, non-fiction, art, biography, history and reference. eBooks can be downloaded into nearly any format or device. The average cost of a hardcover book is $18.99, an average children's book is $12.00, an average paperback $6.99, and an eBook download is between $.99 cents and $9.99.

2. Magazines and Newspapers for FREE Magazine titles from National Geographic and The New Yorker to Vogue and Good Housekeeping, including back issues are available for loan. Local newspapers like The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times are available for reading in the library. The average cost of a newspaper subscription: $45.00 per year.

3. Listen for FREE Music CDs. If you need music for a party, a child's birthday celebration or just listening while relaxing, you can find it in the library. Average cost of CD: $13.00 and higher.

4. FREE Periodical Searches If you are a high school or college student, a job applicant or business person, you may be required to cite sources, prepare footnotes, or find obscure facts. The library has powerful databases. The only cost associated with using them is printing and copy costs.

5. Librarians at Your Fingertips If you can't find answers you need or are looking for materials, librarians await your questions. You may reach them by phone, by text, by email — or in the library at the reference desk. Cost of a college education — $35,000 to $57,000 a year!

6. Internet and Wi-Fi You can have free internet access and Wi-Fi, by just sitting in the library. The average cost of internet service: $22.00 a month!

7. Watch Movies for FREE Alameda County Library offers a range of children's movies from Sponge Bob, The Magic School Bus and Disney movies to informational DVDs from National Geographic, how-to instructional films and major motion pictures. The selection for adults is extensive. You will be hard pressed to find a movie that is not in our collection. Average family night at a movie theatre: $48.00 (without drinks!).

8. Learn a Foreign Language for FREE Traveling abroad on business or vacation? Check out the free foreign language learning databases. Patrons can choose from over 15 languages. Course fees and instructional materials can cost as much as $500.

9. Job Preparation for FREE The library has comprehensive resources for preparing for tests including the civil service exam, military entrance exams, SAT/ACT, MSAT, LSAT and others. You will find practice tests at all levels. We also have books and databases to advance your job search. Tutors often go from $200 an hour!

10. Find Your Family History for FREE For family genealogists, the library offers free access to materials and databases. The librarians can also assist you with your search.

11. FREE Books for Parents The library is a significant resource for parents. Summer reading programs, story times, parenting books and a new Parent Lecture series are resources for families.

12. Other FREE Services The library offers tax forms, voter registration forms, test proctoring and other services.
Supporters 2012

Although we cannot list all of our generous donors in these pages, we are grateful to everyone who has supported Alameda County Library with a gift to the Alameda County Library Foundation from January 2012 through December 2012. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed it incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us at 510.745.1532.

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ACLF Is Looking for Volunteers!

Consider volunteering for one of the many ACLF committees, joining the ACLF Board of Directors or assisting the Foundation team with administrative tasks, special events and fundraising campaigns.

ACLF also participates in the Teens’ Community Service Program with the local school districts. We have an on-going need for clerical support. This is a year round opportunity where students can work in the Foundation office to gain real-life office administration experience and knowledge while also earning Community Service hours for graduation.

Call the Foundation at 510.745.1532 or email volunteers@aclf.org for more information on volunteer opportunities.
The Alameda County Library is pleased to announce its Summer Reading Game. There will be games for pre-readers, kids, teens and adults!

This year’s theme is “Have Book – Will Travel!” and will run from June 10, 2013 to August 10, 2013. Library patrons can sign up and get their gameboard at any of the following Alameda County Library branches: Albany, Castro Valley, Centerville, Dublin, Fremont Main, Irvington, Newark, Niles, San Lorenzo, Union City and the Bookmobile. Gameboards will be used to keep track of time spent reading or completing fun activities. In addition to exciting raffle prizes there will also be plenty other cool prizes and free books for participants!

Summer reading programs are an important part of the library’s programming because research shows that children typically regress academically over the long summer break. Youth who practice their reading skills over the summer return to school better equipped to continue with their studies. Additionally studies show that Adult participation is key: the best way to get your children to read is to let them see you reading.

This program is presented by the Alameda County Library, with support from the Alameda County Library Foundation. Other sponsors include Chabot Space & Science Center, LEGOLAND, Oakland A’s, Target, The Lawrence Hall of Science and Togo’s. For more information visit one of Alameda County’s Library branches or online at www.aclibrary.org.

Find Us On Facebook!

The Alameda County Library Foundation (ACLF) is excited to announce the launch of its new Facebook page! This will provide us with yet another fun way to connect with you – our Library supporters. Due to Facebook’s widespread popularity, ease of accessibility and the sheer number of people who use it, our page provides us with a fantastic opportunity to build visibility and awareness for ACLF news, events and activities.

Check us out at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alameda-County-Library-Foundation/554552441232273 to “Like” us, see what we’re up to, share our page with your friends, play the monthly mystery game and/or just visit. See you there!!
Alameda County Library Foundation

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- All of the above, plus:
  - An invitation to a private breakfast with the County Librarian.

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Yes, I want to help the Alameda County Library keep its essential services available in the face of drastic city and state funding cuts. Enclosed is:

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