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President's message by Karen Butter



Happy New Year! In 2023 we will continue the reintroduction of FAL's traditional programs, as well as the introduction of several new ones. We held our traditional Used Book Sale in October (our first since the start of the pandemic!) with support from over 100 volunteers. We are also excited to announce the return of the always sold-out Live @ the Library jazz concerts in February (more details in this newsletter).

One of the newer initiatives introduced in 2022 was the Pop-Up Book Sale, a smaller version of the traditional Used Book Sale. The Pop-Ups are held in the Alameda Free Library and require fewer volunteers than the larger book sales. We plan to replace our traditional spring book sale with three 2-day Pop-Ups, but are still planning to hold the October Book Sale at the O'Club. Last year we also opened Books for Friends (BFF), a used bookstore in the Main Library that sells high-quality second-hand books at great prices. It is a permanent addition to our book sale offerings and now has many regular customers.

The Washington Post recently published an outstanding article titled *We're drowning in old books. But getting rid of them is heartbreaking*. Book owners talk about how precious books have become even as their shelves are bursting at the seams. Many see books more as friends than objects. The result is what the article calls "the great deaccession." Used book operations, including ours, are seeing tremendous demand to donate books. FAL's used book venues allow books a second life. Thank you to all our donors for giving books a new home, contributing to a more sustainable world and supporting the Alameda Free Library.

You're Invited - FAL Annual Meeting

Join Us!

Please join us for FAL's annual meeting to review 2022 accomplishments, meet the new Board and outline plans for 2023.

**Monday, February 27 @ 6:30 p.m.
The Main Library's Stafford Room**

Light refreshments will be served.
All FAL supporters are invited.
We look forward to seeing everyone.

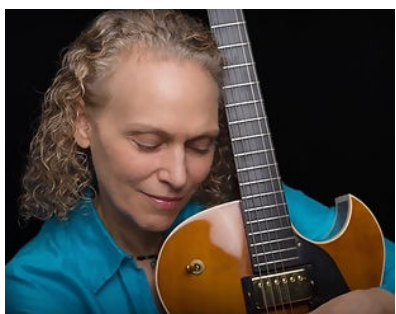
Live @ the Library concert countdown!

We are thrilled to announce FAL's Live @ the Library concert series is back! The 2023 concert series will be held in the winter and spring, with concerts on February 18, March 25 and April 15.

Our artists are exceptional and well known in the Bay Area and beyond.

February 18: We begin our season with Grammy Award-winning vocalist Tierney Sutton, who will be accompanied by the incomparable Tamir Hendelman on piano.

Tamir Hendelman is an award-winning jazz pianist. His playing has been described as "sensitive, introspective and captivating."



March 25: Mimi Fox

The second part of this series is a concert showcasing the emotional depth and finesse of Mimi Fox. Mimi is an American jazz guitarist and educator known internationally for her work. She is the winner of six consecutive DownBeat International Critics Polls. Performing alongside Mimi are Brian Ho on the Hammond B-3 Organ and Lorca Hart on drums.

April 15: The Peggy Lee Project.

This powerful series closes with singer Suzanna Smith and her all star quartet: Lee Bloom on piano, Noel Jewkes on sax, Gary Brown on bass, and Leon Joyce on drums. The show celebrates the legacy of Ms. Peggy Lee.



Doors open at 7 p.m. for a social hour with the sales of wine, pastries and more delights. Mix and mingle with friendly Alamedans. The shows begin at 8 p.m. with one intermission.

Ticket information will be available soon. Watch our [website](#) for updates about how to purchase tickets.

For more information about the concerts, contact John Kaso at Kaso.john@gmail.com or [510-502-5364](tel:510-502-5364).

BFF news!



Books For Friends Open Thursday - Saturday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Books for Friends (BFF) continues to grow its customer base as more and more people discover this gem in the Main Library across from Dewey Cafe.

We want to expand hours of operation in 2023, and are looking for regular weekly volunteers for shifts on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and on Thursdays between the hours of 12 to 4 p.m. Adding a fourth day could increase FAL revenue by \$7,500 or more per year.

Please call the shop or stop by BFF during regular hours for more information. We have a great team of dedicated volunteers and we would welcome more help.

Many thanks go to our volunteers, FAL Board members and shoppers.

Check out the [Alameda Post article](#) about the new BFF logo!

Did you buy a book set at our Oct. book sale?

If you are the gentleman who purchased the Time Life Book Set about World War II at our October sale at the O'Club, we discovered a missing volume from your set: *India, Burma and China*. You can pick it up at BFF Thursday through Saturday between 12-4 p.m.

Pop-Up Used Book Sale coming March 17-18

Mark your calendars. The next Pop-Up Book Sale is a two-day event on March 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. Come buy great used books and support Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

The sale will be held in the Stafford Room at the Main Library. Volunteer sign-ups will be available online in February.





We are pleased to announce that we have exceeded our fall fundraising goal! Our fundraising appeal began in October and ended on January 1. We send heartfelt thanks to all our long-time donors and to the many new donors who generously gave this fall.

All donations go toward our Annual Fund, which provides ongoing support for many of the programs and services at the Alameda Free Library. A full list of donors will be available at a later date.

Thank you all, and happy New Year!

FAL Board welcomes two new members



Renesha Robinson-Palmer

The FAL Board welcomes Renesha Robinson-Palmer to the Board of Directors. Renesha has been working on Friends @ Home events. She will also be managing the Friends website.



Katherine Adcox

We also welcome Katherine Adcox to the Board of Directors. Katherine has been working on Friends @ Home events this past year; she also managed publicity for October's Big Book Sale. Katherine will be chairing the Communications Committee.

We are delighted to welcome both Renesha and Katherine to the Board and look forward to continuing our work with them.

Many thanks to those leaving the Board

At the end of 2022, Directors Becky Cyr, Marcie Soslau, and Doris Ung stepped down from the Board to focus on other aspects of their lives.



Becky Cyr managed the Friends’ website and coordinated the onboarding of new volunteers.



Marcie Soslau was the main force in creating the Friends’ new book sale initiatives, including the Books for Friends store. She also co-created the Books Inc. fundraiser, which has enjoyed great success during the past two years.

Doris Ung was an important member of the Communications Committee and played a key role in identifying dozens of potential authors for the Friends @ Home series.

No photo available for Doris Ung

We greatly appreciate the hard work these three Directors devoted to FAL. We will miss them all and wish them well in their future endeavors.

We need you!

We have many volunteer opportunities available. Whether you want to volunteer from home or in person, we have a huge need for people with a variety of skills. We are in need of people interested in managing our Communications Committee, staffing Dewey's Friends Cafe, staffing Books for Friends, managing volunteers or working on the various book sale events. Please click [here to learn more](#).



Art Docent Event

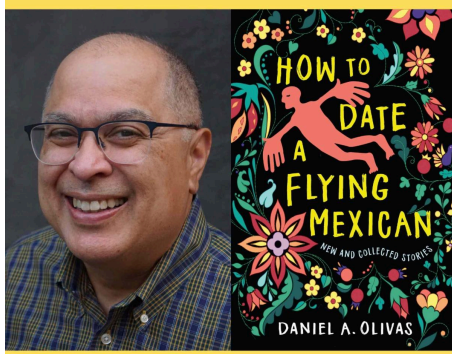
January 18 @ 7 p.m.

California artists may follow styles that originate in Europe or New York, but they put their own stamp on them - sometimes a bit more irreverent, sometimes more down to earth, but always full of California color and verve. In 1962, Pop Art - the flip and hip answer to the soulful Abstract Expressionism of the 1950s - burst on the art scene when the Ferus Gallery on La Cienega Blvd in Los Angeles exhibited Andy Warhol's soup cans. Local artists were mining the same territory, bringing objects of contemporary life, like ice cream cones, gas stations, and the Goodyear blimp, into art. Learn about a few California Pop stars - Ed Ruscha, Wayne Thiebaud, Joan Brown, Roger Kuntz, and Robert Colescott - in this talk.



We will be guided in this exploration by one of our favorite docents, Avril Angevine. Avril is an independent art lecturer who has spoken at the Alameda Library many times. She is a Humanities and English instructor at local colleges, and a museum guide at both SFMOMA and the Oakland Museum.

[More information here.](#)
[Register here.](#)



Author Daniel A. Olivas

How to Date a Flying Mexican

January 25 @ 7 p.m.

How to Date a Flying Mexican is a collection of stories derived from Chicano and Mexican culture, ranging through fascinating literary worlds such as fairy tales, fables, and dystopian futures. Many

of Daniel A. Olivas's characters confront both directly and obliquely questions of morality, justice, and self determination.

The collection is made up of Olivas's favorite previously published stories, along with two new stories - one dystopian and the other magical - that challenge the Trump administration's anti-immigration rhetoric and policies.

Daniel will be interviewed by his friend, poet León Salvatierra, author of the poetry collection *To the North/Al Norte*.

More information coming soon.

Find more information [here](#). Register [here](#).

Under-Represented Art Stories

Art Docent Event

February 8 @ 7 p.m.

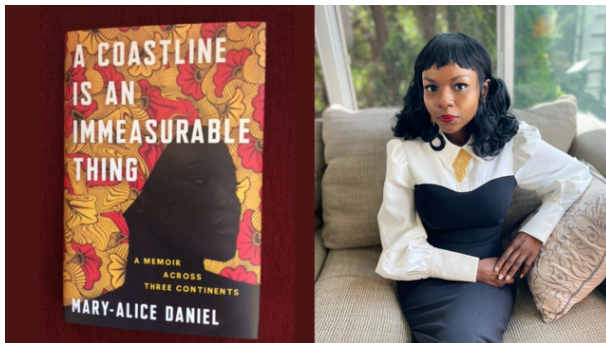
The Phoenix Art Museum, in its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, presents “Under-Represented Art.”



Meet artists that tend to be under-represented in American museums. Self-identified as Navaho/Pueblo Laguna, Anishinabe, Mexican, Black, Gay & Queer, these artists produce work ranging from abstracted to hyper-realism. The presentation includes a presidential portrait, a work inspired by Picasso’s Guernica, images of performance and political art, and installation and immersive art. Join us for powerful, compelling stories of chaos, transformation, and harmony.

We will be guided in this exploration by John Engen, a docent with the Phoenix Art Museum since 2017. A person of many talents and varied interests, he has worked for several universities and over 50 non-profit organizations. He lives in Tempe with his wife Lisa and rescue dog Tukee in a historical mid-century modern home.

Register [here](#).



Author Mary-Alice Daniel

A Coastline Is an Immeasurable Thing

February 15 @ 7 p.m.

Mary-Alice Daniel’s family moved from West Africa to England when she was a child, uprooting from their native land

in the Nigerian savanna. Five immigrants entered a prim, cold environment with few familiar features. So began their nomadic course across three continents in search of places of belonging. With a deeply intimate approach, the ‘American-African’ author peers inside the spiritual contrasts of her heritage: Islam, Christianity, & magic. Layered narratives invoke real and imagined ancestors, unweaving uneasy origins.

Mary-Alice Daniel was born near the border between Niger/Nigeria. She grew up in England and Tennessee. After attending Yale University, she earned an MFA from the University of Michigan. She is a Cave Canem Fellow who holds a PhD in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California.

To learn more and register, click [here](#).

Please forward this email to your friends and invite them to join us.

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Find us on YouTube



Miss a Friends @ Home event, or want to rewatch your favorites? Simply [check our website](#) or subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#) to view the recordings. We record as many events as possible, copyright permitting. Enjoy!

We need your support!

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