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President's message by Karen Butter



I have a 40 year professional career as a librarian and I am appalled at the constraints placed on school librarians. Librarians face intense pressure from school boards and communities seeking to ban books exploring racial and LGBTQ themes. A few of the restrictions on librarians with masters degrees include a required parental review of all books, permission from the Principal to purchase a book, and in Florida librarians must undergo retraining programs on book selection. These limitations have a chilling effect on librarians, library collections and, most importantly, the students who are constrained in their ability to explore new ideas. If you share my concerns and live in an area where restrictions exist, please speak with leaders about your concerns.

Our Live @ the Library concerts sold out within a few weeks in large part to Eileen Savel's skill at selecting outstanding jazz performers. Doors for all three concerts open at 7 p.m. for socializing and to shop at BFF for high quality used books. We reserved a few seats for [individual](#) and [corporate](#) sponsors. If you would like to become a sponsor, click the links above. For questions, please contact [Kelly Ground](#).

Look for information in this newsletter about the Mini Book Sale in March.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our Annual Meeting on February 27 to hear about FAL's significant progress in 2022 and our plans for the future.

Some encouraging news. Paul Madonna, one of our Friends @ Home authors, is steadily recovering from a serious accident. It has been 12 weeks since he was hit head-on, while driving home from work, by an out of control driver in San Francisco. After many surgeries and reconstruction of body parts, he will soon begin rehab to learn to walk again. FAL was fortunate to have [Paul speak](#) about his book *Come to Light* in 2021.

Friends @ Home Event | February 8

WEDNESDAY!

Under-Represented Art Stories

Art Docent Event

February 8 @ 7 p.m.

The Phoenix Art Museum introduces us to artists who 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.

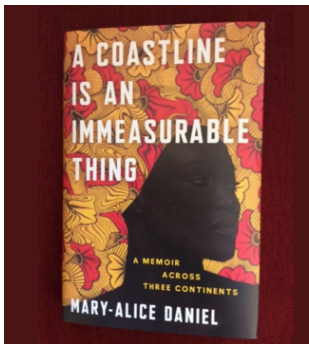


We will be guided in this exploration by John Engen, a docent with the Phoenix Art Museum since 2017. A person of many talents and varied interests, he has worked for several universities and over 50 non-profit organizations. He lives in Tempe with his wife Lisa and rescue dog Tukee.

Learn more [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Friends @ Home Event | February 15



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.

Learn more [here](#).

Register [here](#).

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, Stafford Room**

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

[Please RSVP Here](#)

Friends @ Home Event | March 8

**Designing Home: Jewish and
Midcentury Modernism**

Art Docent Event

March 8 @ 7 p.m.

Join us for a retrospective of this major 2014 exhibit. Our guide for this exploration will be former Contemporary Jewish Museum docent Susan Light. Brimming with a dazzling array of vintage furnishings, textiles, wallpapers, ceramics, photographs and ephemera, the exhibit focused on more than forty architects and designers who helped spark America's embrace of midcentury modernism.

Learn more [here](#).

Register [here](#).



Mini Used Book Sale Friday and Saturday, March 17- 18

Mark your calendars. This Mini Book Sale is a two-day event on **March 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** each day. Come buy quality books from various genres for all ages. Prices range from \$1 to \$3 and children's books are \$.50 each.

The sale will be held in **the Stafford Room at the Main Library.**

We will hold 3 mini book sales which will replace the traditional May big book sale at the O'Club this year. This is the first of the three sales.



FAL Board welcomes new member

Serena Hom

The FAL Board welcomes Serena Hom to the Board of Directors. Serena is a native of Alameda who grew up using Alameda Free Library. She and her family settled here and she became an active volunteer with the Friends last year. Serena became an integral part of Books for Friends, leading the marketing plan for BFF's grand opening. She brings a rich professional background in marketing with well respected companies such as REI and Peet's Coffee among others. Her work experience will greatly benefit FAL's work in our mission to advocate for our public library and fund raise for programs that will benefit all Alamedans. We are very pleased to have her join our board.



Did you buy a book set at our October 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.

Books For Friends

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

Quality books at great prices!

Books are curated by Books for Friends (BFF) manager Philip Barry. Located in the Main Library across from Dewey's Friends Cafe. Gift cards are also available for purchase.



SOLD OUT! Live @ the Library SOLD OUT!



Our first Live @ the Library concert series since the pandemic sold out quickly. We hope you purchased tickets for one or all of the concerts.

February 18: Tierney Sutton and Tamir Hendelman

March 25: Mimi Fox

April 15: Suzanna Smith

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 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.

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!

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