



Friends of Auburn Library ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

- **Community Enrichment Programs**
- **Communications and Gifts of Service**
- **Fundraising and Revenues**

President's Note:

It's been a year of growth and adaptation for Friends of Auburn Library. We began the year celebrating the library expanding hours to seven days a week—even Sundays! A big win for the entire Auburn community. The year closed with a temporary library while the library building on Nevada Street received much needed infrastructure updating. The FOL board worked successfully to adapt to the needs and changes.

Securing a state grant to fund much-needed infrastructure upgrades meant the Auburn Library would be closed for 18 months beginning in January 2025. During this time, a temporary library was established at the Finance Building on Richardson Drive in Auburn, operating with more limited hours.

Despite the challenges, the temporary location proved to be something special, thanks to the creativity and dedication of the library staff. Their innovative efforts kept our community engaged and connected.

The incredible Used Book Sale team adapted to the new circumstances, adjusting to different needs while working next to the ongoing library construction project. The setup also required some additional expenses, including the rental of a portable toilet and trash bin.

As a board, we held our monthly meetings at various locations, including the Annex, the Rocklin Library offices, and eventually a delightful meeting room at the Health and Human Services building across the street from the temporary library location.

Throughout the year, the FOL Board engaged in discussions about how to update and improve our operations to stay current, visible, and effective in serving our library, our members and the broader community. As part of this effort, we made a strategic decision to reduce the number of board meetings from ten to five per year. Highlights of our year include:

Community Enrichment Programs

- NOON Speaker Series relaunched with amazing speakers the 3rd Friday of each month
- Reading in the Classroom also was begun again for grades Pre-K to third grade
- Kidz books collected from members of FOL
- Planned a new initiative to provide books for all first-grade students in Auburn with “Word Busters” tutors

Communications and Gifts of Service

- Bookmarks to promote FOL membership and involvement.
- An incredible Used Book Staff of 35+ Volunteers dedicated to our monthly sales and donation days.

Fundraising and Revenues

- A Library Enhancement Fund to support the library needs post remodel.
- Big Day of Giving profits: \$17, 046.83

*It was an absolute honor to be president of such an incredible group!
Louise Isaacson*

Executive Board (Elected)

President	Louise Isaacson
Vice-President	Michele Young
Corresponding Secty	Kathy Schwenk
Recording Secty	Kathleen Edwards
Membership	Barbara Jicha
Treasurer	Judy Monahan
Past President	Jackie Fleckin
Members-at-large	Rosie Stillwell, Ralene Snow, Delana Ruud

Standing Committees (Appointed)

Beecher Room Art	Charlene Messner
Bulletin Board	Delores Peck
Facebook	Deanna Stilwell
Historian	Anne Holmes
Hospitality	Sherry Couzens
Used Book Sales Team	Michele Young
	Mary Piette
	Margaret Kindig

Ad Hoc Committees (Appointed)

Annual Dinner/Raffle/Auc.	Michele Young, Kt Baker
Big Day of Giving	Judy Monahan
Celebrity Chef	Gerry Suskin
Footsteps Newsletter	Erin Isaacson
Graphic Design	Madonna Anglin
Great Books	Walt and Bonnie Wilson
Harvest Festival	Jane Hamilton
Kaff Trust Committee	Judy Monahan, Louise Isaacson, Delana Ruud, Charlene Messner
Noon Programs	Bob Snyder
Raffle/Auctions	Judy Monahan, Louise Isaacson, Kt Baker
Reading In The Classroom	Anne Holmes
Website	Laura Bracke

Community Enrichment Programs

Auburn Library Summer Reading Program

FOL was proud to provide financial support for the Auburn Library's highly successful 2024 Summer Reading Program, "*Choose Your Own Adventure*." This community-wide reading initiative was a tremendous success, with readers logging over **two million minutes**—an incredible milestone for Auburn!

We are equally excited to support the 2025 Summer Reading Program, themed "*Level Up*." The program is currently underway, and we look forward to sharing the results this fall.

Reading in the Classroom Program — March 2025

Our Reading in the Classroom program was started in 1999 by Barbara Covich and Peggy Dunievitz to celebrate "National Children's Book Week". The first reading program was done in November of that year to support this national event. After a dozen or more years we changed it to the Spring to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday at the beginning of March to support the "Read Across America" program.

Our reading program was stopped in 2021 due to Covid and after four years we were delighted to be able to bring back our popular program this year. We went to 4 Auburn schools and 31 classrooms with 29 readers, visiting TK–3rd grade students. More than half were first time readers. The personal touch of sharing the joy of reading was well received, with a positive response from both the teachers and readers. We plan to do it again next year to highlight the library and help promote a lifelong love of reading.

Chair: Anne Holmes

NOON Speaker Series Program

We were excited to relaunch the **NOON Speaker Series** this year, featuring **amazing speakers** on the **third Friday of each month**. Speaker suggestions were gathered from the FOL Board and members.

The series has been well-received and continues to offer engaging, thought-provoking presentations that enrich our community. From October to December they were hosted in the Beecher room and from January on they were held in the Ross Room at Auburn City Hall. Overall the attendance of each speaker presentation was outstanding with typical attendance of 25–35 people, and a few well over a 100.

Advertisement of the events is critical. The Auburn Journal featured the speakers each month. Bookmarks, e-blast, Footsteps, FOL website and Facebook all carried the tags about the speakers.

The Auburn Library staff supported the Speaker Series providing a tub of books on the subject and a bibliography of related books. It was a great addition and enjoyed by all.

Chair: Bob Snyder

Auburn Harvest Festival

The Auburn Harvest Festival is sponsored by the Auburn Recreation District. It takes place in October every year in a beautiful park. This an opportunity for Auburn Friends to be seen by the community. We decorate a booth, hand out candy and hand out free books. We also provide information regarding our organization and the Library. It is a fun event.

Chair: Jane Hamilton

Beecher Room Art

The Beecher Room at the Auburn Library is a great venue to display art. Several groups use the room including a tai chi class. Patrons of the library can wander in to view the art. Over the year six artists or groups of artists have the opportunity to display their work for two month intervals. Professional artists as

well as amateurs display their artwork. From July through December of 2024, artwork was available to be viewed in the Beecher Room. In January of 2025 the library was closed for safety upgrade renovation. The Beecher Room will be unavailable for displaying artwork until the upgrade is completed in June of 2026.

Chair: Charlene Messner

Celebrity Chef's Cooking for Community Service

The annual Celebrity Chef event was held on March 7 at the Auburn County Fairgrounds, and it was another delicious success! Once again, the ever-popular **FOL meatballs** were served—and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were pleased to see increased attendance this year, adding to the energy and excitement of the evening.

Chair: Gerry Guskin

Great Books

Great Books is a group for book lovers using the shared inquiry method of discussion. We meet the second Tuesday of each month, 1-3 PM. We are currently meeting at Pioneer United Methodist Church. We are reading certain selections from "The World's Greatest Short Stories" and "The Norton Reader, 14th Edition".

Book selections for the year included: Bartleby the Scrivener by Herman Melville, Here Everything is Possible by Lad Tobin, Back When a Chocolate Puck Tasted, Guiltily, Like America, by Dan Barry

This is Tossing by Chris Wiewiora The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant, The Interior Stadium by Roger Angell The Man Who Would be King by Rudyard Kipling, The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy, From the Blind Side by Michael Lewis and 20 more titles.

We also sponsored a mini retreat for 24 people to discuss "Boys in the Boat" and watch the movie.

Chair: Walt and Bonnie Wilson

December Books for Kidz of Placer County

Auburn FOL and members partnered with Placer FOL (formally Rocklin FOL) to donate books to Placer Community Action Networks's Kidz Community. Auburn FOL was able to gather 350 books for children ages birth to 18. The children selected their own book with their family.

Books for Auburn First Grade Students

We're excited to begin giving all Auburn first grade students a book as they complete their tutoring with "Word Busters" tutoring program in the spring. This new initiative to provide books for all first-grade students in Auburn. aims to encourage early literacy and a lifelong love of reading by ensuring that every first grade student receives a book of their own. A book plate will be included in the book and information on the library's summer reading program.

Communications & Gifts of Service

Volunteers and In-kind Donations: 3,300 Estimated Hours

We began the year collecting volunteer hour information but when the library closed recording of volunteer information was not secured so this report is an estimate.

The Used Book Sales continue to compose the biggest chunk of volunteers, about 35 and volunteer hours of about 175 hours per month. In addition, the Executive Board positions require many volunteer hours of around 100 per month.

Footsteps Newsletter, Website, Facebook and E-mail Blasts

The Friends "Footsteps" newsletter was sent out three times this year with updates on library activities and FOL. The newsletter mailed to members declined to about 110 with the majority of our members getting the newsletter by e-mail. Communications with members included monthly e-blasts focusing on used book sale dates and NOON program speaker series.

Facebook has followers and helps communicate events. Our web page, FOLauburnca.org and our email FOLAuburnCA@gmail.com has increased activity. The challenge is to keep the web page updated routinely.

Publishing Chairs: Footsteps: Erin Isaacson; Facebook: Deanna Stillwell; Website: Laura Bracken

Fundraising and Revenues

Membership: 285 members, \$6420.00 donations

Our membership year began in July 2024 with 356 members. We closed the year with 285 members. Our membership dues remain at \$10 per year although many members contributed more than the minimum. Total membership income was \$6420.00.

July membership renewal was different this year, as a letter summarizing the year was sent with the renewal form and a return envelope. In addition, LIFE members also received an update letter and a request for them to update their contact information. The plan is to contact the Friends who did not renew in September.

Chair: Barbara Jicha

Used Book Sales and Donations of Materials: \$12,776.24

The FOL Used Book Sale fiscal year ended with a fruitful and flourishing grand total of \$11,903.15.

The Jean Couzens Annex bustles with enthusiastic buyers and donation folks on the first Tuesday and the following Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additional donation days are the second Tuesday and following Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We have around 35 volunteers who work tirelessly each month to make sure that all donated items are received and sorted by genre, cash register table is fully manned, books are shelved, and when necessary culled, duplicates or items not being used by us are sent to other entities that can use them and all damaged, etc., items are placed in the two toter bins just outside of the Annex where they are picked up each Monday and turned into pulp. In addition once a month a representative from the Placer Food Closet comes by and picks up books from us to use for the Food Closet recipients.

Our wonderful volunteers put in over 120 hours per month helping our Used Books Sales/Donations thrive.

Team Leaders: Margaret Kindig, Mary Piette, Michele Young

Annual Dinner, Raffle and Auctions

A wonderful and very enjoyable dinner was enjoyed by 176 Library lovers on Sunday, January 26, 2025. The dining room tables at The Ridge Event Center were beautifully decorated with a flower plant sitting on top of the donated centerpiece books and were happily taken home by our guests. In addition the raffle tables were gorgeous and items were plentiful. Everyone commented on how much fun they had and that they enjoyed having a raffle, a small silent auction (6 items) and a live auction (7 items).

The eventing brought in a total of \$20,525.00 before expenses and a net profit of \$7,159.36 with profits due to sponsorship and the raffle, and silent and small live auction.

Profits: *Net Raffle*: \$1,488 (35 items?) \$637 Expenses
Live Auction \$2,510.00 (7 items) No Expenses
Silent Auction \$515. (6 items) No Expenses
Sponsorships \$3,300

The committee recommends moving to another location to make a profit and keep the dinner tickets at \$75. per guest.

Chairs: Michele Young, Dinner; Judy Monahan, Raffle; Kt Baker, Live Auction;
Louise Isaacson, Silent Auction

Big Day of Giving — \$17,046.83

Our Friends of the Library (FOL) supporters were incredibly generous this year, helping us raise over \$17,000! We introduced matching funds this year, and the initiative proved to be a great success — we raised over \$7,000 more than last year.

Thank-you notes were sent out promptly to all our donors, and we are deeply grateful for their continued support. Looking ahead to next year, we suggest assembling a small team to help send **immediate email acknowledgments** as donations come in, followed by a **handwritten thank-you note** to add a personal touch.

Kaff Trust Fund Update

The original \$300,000 from the estate of Marjorie Kaff (received July 2023) has made two \$25,000 distributions to the Auburn Library for purchase of nonfiction materials. The first \$25,000 was presented at a formal presentation at a Board of Supervisors meeting on February 2024 and second was presented in the Auburn Library with the staff September 2024. A third distribution is planned for September, 2025 with invitations to be sent to Auburn City Council.

The primary focus on the September 2024 round of Kaff Fund purchasing was filling in collection gaps and replacing dated materials. In total, 1,142 items were purchased, with General Adult Non-Fiction making up the bulk of the purchases with 896 items. Of the 1,142 items purchased, 360 items were newly published materials.

During FY2024-2025, the library moved into a temporary location at the Finance Administration Building. The move prompted significant review of every collection as we removed outdated and poorly circulating materials and rehoused popular materials so that they would be readily available during our month of complete closure in January 2025. One of the categories thoroughly reviewed was our general adult biography collection. To refresh this collection, we purchased 116 biographies on prominent and popular figures. We also dedicated funds to updating our timeliest collections – medical information and travel – to maintain information accuracy.

In the children's department, the key focus was refreshing popular collections with new materials along with replacing well-loved ones when possible. The two largest purchase areas were biographies and animals, with 35 and 34 items, respectively. For the next category, medicine and health, we purchased a new series of books that offer child-friendly explanations of topics such as safety, neurodiversity, and Type 1 diabetes. In the psychology materials, we purchased materials on friendships, building confidence, and dealing with difficult emotions such as anxiety and grief.

Library Enhancement Fund Drive

At our annual “*We Love Our Library*” Dinner Event, we kicked off a fundraising effort to support the purchase of furnishings that will enhance the function and feel of our library—such as children’s bookshelves and comfortable seating. That evening, we collected \$739 in cash donations, planting the seed for something much bigger.

As we close the 2024–2025 fiscal year, we’re thrilled to report that over \$100,000 has been raised and set aside in Library Enhancement Funds. These funds are currently invested in CDs earning approximately 4% interest, and will be available to support the library as specific needs are clarified ahead of the grand reopening in summer of 2026.

**Friends of Auburn Library
Revenue and Expense Summary
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

REVENUE:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Fundraising:</u>		
R1	Membership	6,420.00
R2	Used Book Sales	12,776.24
R4	Library Dinner	12,075.00
R4R	Raffle-Dinner	5,150.00
R4S	Sponsors - Dinner	3,300.00
R5	NOON Program	10.00
R7	Donations	12,168.93
R7A	BDOG	18,255.67
R8	Memorials	400.00
R12	Miscellaneous	0.00
	Total Revenue	<u>\$70,555.84</u>

Activity Summary

Total Revenue **\$70,555.84**

Total Expenses - Minus **\$23,332.52**

Net Proceeds **\$ 47,223.32**

Beginning Cash Balance 07-01-2024 **\$77,552.18**

Cash Balance **\$124,775.50**

10/24 Transferred to Bank CD **\$40,000.00**

10/24 Interest from mature CD **\$1,787.05**

Ending Cash Balance 06/30/2025 **\$86,562.55**

Kaff Certificate of Deposit \$262,942.82 7/24

Interest YTD 7/24-6/25 \$10,587.47 = \$273,530.29

Library Improvement Fund #2 \$40,000 10/24

Interest YTD 10/24-06/25 \$1216.43 = \$41,216.43

Library Improvement Fund #1 \$42,116.18 12/24

Interest YTD 12/24-6/25 \$546.55 = \$42,662.73

Judy Monahan, Treasurer

6/30/2025

EXPENDITURES:

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Fundraising expenses:</u>		
F1	Membership	516.70
F2	Used Book Sales	840.45
F4	Library Dinner	11,656.31
F4A	Raffle - Dinner	637.79
F5	BDOG Fees	15.99
F7	Annex	238.07
	Total Fundraising Expense	<u>\$13,905.31</u>

Library expenses:

L1	Library Materials	0.00
L2	Literacy program	1,000.00
L3	PCFL Trust	1,000.00
L4	Memorials	\$0.00
L5	Library Improvement Fund CD	\$0.00
	Total Library Expense	<u>\$2,000.00</u>

Community Enrichment

CE2	Summer Series Concert	0.00
CE3	Reading In The Classroom	0.00
CE4	Library 50 Year Celebration	96.95
CE5	Noon Program	0.00
CE6	Community Festival	\$0.00
CE7	Summer Reading	\$2,500.00
	Total Comm Enrich Expense	<u>\$2,596.95</u>

Administration expenses:

A1	Hospitality / Courtesy	92.13
A2	Insurance	1,390.00
A3	Newsletter	1,014.19
A4	Office Supplies	1,100.58
A5	Advertising	394.29
A6	Website	46.34
A8	Miscellaneous	792.73
	Total Administration Expense	<u>\$4,830.26</u>

Total All Expense Catagories **\$23,332.52**