

FOAL Focus

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

CROWD RINGS IN FAT TUESDAY IN AUBERRY



Sierra High's Jazz Band and Mountain Chorale Company joined Gemmy and the Lunatics in a musical celebration of Fat Tuesday. *Catchpole photo*

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The Auberry Library was alive with color and energy on Tuesday, February 9. The room throbbed with toe-tapping and dance-inspiring Cajun and Zydeco music from Lonesome Jem and the Lunatics during FOAL's 8th Mardi Gras. The Mardi Gras King and Queen, Chris and Tina Galfo, were resplendent in colorful costumes. They bedecked each participant with traditional beads as they entered the library. Revelers of all ages donned costumes or masks and enjoyed the music of Gemmy Bluestein's

band, along with the Sierra High School jazz band and Mountain Chorale Company. Bluestein's band had rehearsed on three different days with the music groups at the high school. This outreach was sponsored through a grant from Southern California Edison. The community didn't even have to travel to Fresno's Tower District. We had our own family-friendly Mardi Gras right here in Auberry!
- contributed by Anne Neal



Chris and Tina Galfo conduct royal duties as Mardi Gras King and Queen. *Catchpole photo*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Someone told me once that *to have a friend one must be a friend*. Friends can remind you to laugh, encourage new thinking and propose shared experiences. Friends help us create memories to differentiate yesterday from tomorrow. With friends we often expand our understanding and knowledge of the world around us.

That is how I felt when I became part of FOAL's wildflower walk with Shirley Spencer in the San Joaquin River Gorge one drizzly Sunday in March. Our group of 13 observed green hills bright with

wildflowers---rain accumulation well beyond normal in a swollen river system---our foothill surroundings were, and are, refreshed with new energy and blooms where none have been before.

What a perfect time to expand our Friends group where we have not been before! The FOAL board is ready to take our 'show on the road' to address groups in the

"What a perfect time to expand our Friends group where we have not been before!"

hopes of making new friends who will attend free events and help our organization to grow. If you belong to a group, large or small, whose members might like a brief FOAL presentation please let our director, Loren, know. We like to think that we are in the business of making friends.



Jamelie Taylor

FOAL's mission is to

- *Support the Auberry Branch Library as it strives to encourage literacy and lifelong learning;*
- *Provide a vibrant cultural gathering place;*
- *Enhance the Library's resources and services; and to increase community access to information and knowledge.*

FLOWER PEEPING AT THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE

On a misty Sunday morning, a group of intrepid hikers gathered at the San Joaquin River Gorge for another FOAL activity.

Shirley Spencer, wildlife naturalist, author, and Yosemite guide, hosted the group for a stroll down the trail to the bridge across the

river. Shirley engaged everyone in lessons on everything from Lupine pollination to how Manzanita grows.

The mist enhanced the scenery so everyone felt it was a magical day. We were fortunate to experience another "Shirley outing".

*- Contributed by
Anne "The Peeper" Neal*



Fearless flower peepers brave the drizzle and follow their tour guide up the SJR trail – Leach photo



Do you want to be on the mailing list for FOAL events?
Just contact us at
foalorg@gmail.com

SPRING CLEANING IDEA

Pare down that stack of books sitting around gathering dust. Pass them along to another reader AND earn money for your favorite library support group! FOAL collects books, and when the inventory gets large enough, we have a book sale. This is a great event not only for FOAL, but also for shoppers. The books are usually \$0.50 - \$1.00, and the selection is very diverse. So during your spring cleaning, collect those extra books (in good condition), and bring them over to the FOAL office on Tuesdays, or to the library any time during regular hours. Throw your used printer cartridges in too...we now recycle them. Questions? Please contact our Program Director, Loren Leach at foalorg@gmail.com

MARVAL MAKES MUSIC

Well, really, we should say MarVal card-carrying *customers* are making music. If you have a little red MarVal community card, and have it scanned when you make your purchase, MarVal donates a percentage of your purchase to your selected non-profit. This is part of the eScrip program, which MarVal generously joined several years ago. When you get a community card, you may choose up to three member non-profits to receive a percentage (around 1%) of your purchase. It is small, but it adds up! FOAL received \$1600 last year from this program, which pays for three concerts. So remember, scan that card and *make some music!*

RHYTHM AND WISDOM FROM THE JAZZ PROJECT



Bassist Kevin Hill turns over the reins to the SHS Jazz students to explore “Summertime” from a new angle.

It was an awkward silence. Visiting musician Kevin Hill had just asked the students in the classroom “Do you have your instruments? Who plays the horn?” It seemed at first that no one wanted to fess up. But slowly, one volunteer became nine, and the music began to play!

The Fresno jazz band, Shap-Hill Jazz Project, conducted several classes of music outreach, and an evening concert at the Auberry Library on March 11th. The quartet consisted of a vocalist, bass, percussion, and a seven-stringed guitar! Two of the members are music teachers, and they were clearly in their element, sharing musical and professional advice. One of the musical themes

was the “back and forth” between musicians as they play jazz. This interplay is often called “call and response”, but in jazz it is called “trading fours”. The band used the song “Summertime”, which the students knew, to explore playing basic notes and trading fours. As another musical exercise, Hill suggested taking a classic instrument solo, and putting words to it to better understand the music. On the professional side, the musicians encouraged pursuing a college level education and learning people skills. “Getting along with people is far more advantageous than being a musical prima donna,” Hill told the students. Good advice!

- Contributed by Connie Schlaefer

4 SPONSOR SOMETHING SPECIAL!

Here is our task...a key part of our mission—create vibrant, cultural gatherings. In Auberry. *And we are getting it done!* How, you may well ask? In large part, through committed sponsors who want to see something special happen. Whether they are individual philanthropists, or community-minded companies, some of our most powerful events happen as a direct result of a sponsor. For example, Southern California Edison has generously sponsored ALL the student outreach events for Sierra High School this year! Another donor has sponsored FOAL's literacy support in

grades K-3, \$10,000 per year for the past several years. Talk about impact!

As a FOAL sponsor, you can select something special and meaningful for you, whether it is bringing a certain type of music or art to our community, or investing in literacy and education. You could even choose to sponsor the distribution of our new FOAL Focus newsletter! And of course, as a non-profit, all donations and sponsorships to FOAL are tax-deductible. If you have an interest in sponsoring something special, please give our program director, Loren Leach, a call at (559) 779-3625 or e-mail him at foalorg@gmail.com

MEET A "FRIEND": JASON RINKER

Tell us how you first got involved with FOAL Some time in 2008/2009, John Maxwell asked if I would be willing to volunteer as a board member. I must admit I had very little understanding of the organization as a whole but had heard the name from time to time being that my wife Emma and my oldest son Steven would frequent the library. I was a little hesitant in accepting the position because of time constraints due to starting a local business and growing my family. John assured me that the time requirement would be minimal and thought I would enjoy meeting the board.

I still remember that first meeting; sitting around the table in the back of the library watching a small group of impassioned people from so many walks of life come together and give of themselves to make this little community we call home a better place. By the end of that meeting, I felt honored to be part of something I knew would be a driving force in bringing "Awesomeness" to our community.

Tell us about someone who has

influenced your decision to work with FOAL? John Maxwell had a profound influence on me. John's gift is to take the big picture and put it into manageable goals. He understood the importance of structure but built it to be flexible and nimble. Many of the lessons I learned on the board under his leadership have been applied in my business and personal life.

What do you wish other people knew about FOAL? FOAL's FREE concerts are AMAZING! Not only are the musicians highly skilled but most of them travel to the high school to do workshops with the music department. Oh, and F.O.A.L has a Facebook page so help spread the word and give us a LIKE!

What might someone be surprised to know about you? Not too sure how surprising this will be but what the heck... I love racing sail boats! I started crewing on a 21 foot San Juan 5 years ago and have never looked back. The skipper of the boat is Bill Parson who lives in the Mile High area. If you have never been to a High Sierra Regatta I highly recommend it. With over 100 sail boats on the lake at one time, it's a sight to see.

What book did you read last? I'm



Jason is a lifelong resident of Auberry, and is co-owner/manager of Mountain Flame Propane.

about to finish a re-read called *The Arms of Krupp* written by William Manchester. It's a history of Krupp dynasty which owned and ran a dominant armaments' manufacturing company in Germany spanning from the Thirty Year War through the Nazis.

If you could witness any historical event, what would you want to see? Wow! I love history and asking me to pick one event is like asking me to eat only one thing for the rest of my life, but top of my list would have to be the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. To see in person the formation of one of the greatest nations in the world. To watch the founders of this great nation sign a document that would lead to the formation of a country led by the people, for the people, would be so cool!

LIBRARY LINK: HAPPENINGS AT OUR FAVORITE LIBRARY

Did you know that saying “check” on the move before checkmate is not in the official rules? I did not, until I stopped by the library on a Thursday afternoon to catch the chess program in action. It was an unusually quiet day, according to program leader Rod Sanderson .



Rod Sanderson oversees the start of a new game.

Usually, he sees a mix of about ten “regulars”, adults and children. The games vary according to age and skill. Technically, the game is limited to 2 hours and 44 moves. Younger players’ games usually take 15-20 minutes.

Sanderson has been the force behind this program since the Spring of 2006. He is quick to emphasize the term “program” over “club”, because a club is bound by more stringent rules. The program is “drop-in”, versus the formal membership of a club. The boards and pieces actually were inherited over the years from the elementary schools. FOAL has recently added new pieces and timers. He also noted that the library has ordered new chess books and the Chess Life magazine. Sanderson shared his hopes for what he sees as the next step for the program—some chess memberships and a future tournament. The chess program runs year-round, Tuesdays from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

– Contributed by Connie Schlaefer

COMING UP: FO.A.L.'S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC

In order to fulfill its mission, FOAL relies heavily on help from a large pool of “Friendly” volunteers. Volunteers help with everything from setting up and running book sales to serving on the board of directors. Each year 60-70 volunteers donate an accumulated total of over 2,000 hours to FOAL. Each spring the board of directors hosts an event to thank their volunteers for all the help they have given in the previous year.

This year the Annual Volunteer Recognition Event will be held on Sunday, May 1st outside in the Sohm Garden at the Auberry Library. The event will feature a “gourmet picnic” with an array of salads, sandwich-makings, and dessert. Beer, wine, and ice tea will also be served.

- Contributed by Loren Leach



Stan Neal and Rick Sixty are happy volunteers today!



Volunteers enjoy their picnic on the lawn. Leach photos



Just a few of the wonderful salads at last year’s event

Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

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Loren Leach

FOAL Focus Newsletter
 Connie Schlaefer, Editor

RECOGNITIONS

The Friends of the Auberry Library would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

- The AHS Foundation
- The Bertha & John Garabedian Charitable Foundation
- The Downing Planetarium
- The Rotary Club of Auberry Intermountain
- Southern California Edison



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 1, Annual Volunteer Picnic in the Sohm Garden, Auberry Library

Food, beverages, lawn games, and best of all, good company! Join us for May Day, 1-3 pm.

Wednesday, May 4th, The Dusty Brough Trio:

Surf Jazz Guitarist Dusty Brough steps out front to lead his own trio of fine jazz instrumentalists. Featuring Paul Bertin on saxophone and Julien Cantelm on drums. "A classical guitarist gone rogue". Social 1/2 hour 7:00-7:30 Concert 7:30-9:00 pm.

Friday, June 17, Jaguar Bennett – Bullsh*t Is My Native Language:

What's the secret power that rules the world? Marketing! Jaguar Bennett, Fresno's most offensive comedian (and real-life marketing professional) reveals how truth is manufactured, advertisers implanted what you think are your core beliefs, and corporate brainwashing will create world peace in this hilarious, thought-provoking, and maddening comic exposé of the marketing industry. Friday at 8 pm.

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