

FOAL Focus

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

MARDI GRAS FESTIVITIES RING OUT



Sierra High musicians join *Lonesome Jem and the Lunatics* on stage

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FOAL held its annual Mardi Gras Party on Fat Tuesday, Feb 28. The library saw a packed house with people of all ages enjoying the Zydeco/Cajun band *Lonesome Jem and the Lunatics* with a special guest appearance from the *Sierra High Jazz Band* and *Mountain Choral Company*.

The music outreach collaboration with SHS was funded by a grant from Southern California Edison.

Guests, some wearing Mardi Gras costumes, filled the dance floor all evening. The King and Queen of the Ball, Chris and Tina Galfo, greeted folks and passed out Mardi Gras beads while leading the celebration. By all accounts, a good time was had by everyone.



King Chris & Queen Tina

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AT A FRESNO GRIZZLIES GAME!

FOAL has tickets to the Fresno Grizzlies game on Friday, June 23 vs. the Sacramento River Cats (The S.F. Giants AAA team). Seats are in Section 211, rows 4-9, on the second level behind home plate. Game time is 7:05. As a special bonus, there is a Health Expo before and during the game and a Fireworks show immediately after the game.

This event is a fundraiser for FOAL. Tickets are \$17. The Fresno Grizzlies will donate \$7 per ticket sold to FOAL. Tickets are available from any FOAL board member, or through the FOAL office. For more info contact us at foalorg@gmail.com.
[559-779-3625](tel:559-779-3625)



2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Choices, choices! Do I go outside and plant some flowers or stay inside to write this article? Do I attend the volunteer event downtown or stay on the hill for a hike? Do I bake banana bread or cut some weeds? We're always faced with decisions and each one contributes to our life path.

Are the options having only minor effects or more meaningful? I suppose the answer to that question weaves into each of our personal world-views and is determined by the time taken for reflection.

Today my friend Donna and I kayaked early as usual and chose to go downstream. We were hoping the water was high enough to allow passage up a small drainage to see the wildflower bloom and hear the waterfalls. As the channel narrowed

and grew shallow, we were so excited to walk upstream that we barely pulled our boats above the water line before we ventured off. Not a great choice we learned when we returned to see Donna's boat hung up on a tree branch midstream and mine around the corner barely visible. Rather than plunge into the shallow creek Donna climbed along the bank, balanced on a boulder and carefully lowered herself into the kayak without tipping it. She was then able to tie onto the other boat and drag it upstream. Now what did we learn?

I hope we all take the time to learn from our friendship encounters.

First, be vigilant and realize that conditions can change at any time so pull your boat up higher to dry land. Second, use your personal skills of level-headedness and balance to make decisions to better your situation. And third, adapt to changes in your environment. We celebrated our exciting adventure, further strengthening our bonds of friendship. I hope we all take the time to learn from our friendship encounters.



Jamelie Taylor

A NOTE REGARDING MUSIC OUTREACH

One of FOAL's key missions is to increase community access to information and knowledge. Our music outreach to local schools is a program that serves this purpose. Mr Bruce Weinberger, Sierra's music director, shared the following message with parents of his students, and we are pleased to share it with our FOAL family:

The value of this program cannot be over emphasized. Students that are thinking about going into the music profession get a real look into what it takes to go into the music business. The amount of practice, the dedication involved, the music theory needed, spontaneous communication, and the importance of not being "flakey".

But even more important are the lessons learned by all the students whether or not they plan on going any farther with their music. These lessons include:

- *If you can dream it, you can do it.*
- *Hard work and dedication pays off.*
- *Believing in yourself.*
- *Delayed gratification.*
- *Music improves the quality of life.*
- *Striving to always do your best.*
- *The importance of communication.*
- *The importance of not being "flakey" (again).*

In my 35 plus years of teaching, I have never heard of any program like this in public schools.

My students and I are so fortunate to have this opportunity for the past decade!!

Bruce Weinberger

NOTE: FOAL thanks Southern California Edison for its generous support of the music outreach program

I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning." — Plato

On Tuesday, March 21 the Anne Neal Guest Speaker Series hosted author John Austin for his presentation: *What the San Joaquin Valley Used to Be Like Way Back When*. His talk covered the last 15 million years of natural history in just under an hour. A crowd of over 50 people turned out on a rainy evening to hear this very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

He talked about the movement of continental plates along the San Andreas Fault and how that drastically changed the environment from marine to freshwater. He described volcanic eruptions, floods, droughts and a series of ice ages and how each played a role in changing the types of plants and animals that inhabited the area. Near the end of the timeline, Austin addressed the role man played in the environmental changes through the introduction of disease as well as the effects of overhunting.

This was the third time that John Austin had given a talk as part of this series. Each time the audience has enthusiastically received this dynamic speaker. He has many more topics he can speak on so look forward to more appearances from him in the future.



The crowd got a crash course in the geologic history of our central valley

PLANT LABELING PROJECT

Have you ever taken a close look at the landscaping surrounding our Auberry library? I'm sure those of you who are gardeners have taken note and possibly wondered what the plants are. Wonder no more! FOAL's most recent outdoor project on our property is to label the plants with both common and scientific names.

In 2007 the original landscaping around the bank building that became our library was getting tired and needed updating. Anne Neal, the librarian at the time, appealed to the FOAL board to consider a more drought-tolerant plan and to possibly plant some flowers that could be cut and brought inside. FOAL hired a landscape consultant who developed a design, and early in 2008 the plants as well as irrigation, top soil and bark mulch were installed. That project cost FOAL about \$ 18,000 and nine years later most of those plants are mature.

For their Earth Day project this year the Cub Scouts, who meet weekly in the library, spread wood chips in the landscaped area. Bonnie Bladen from Intermountain

Nursery met with me in March to identify all of the plants. The last step in this process is to type up those names and attach them to plant labels. With the help of FOAL's board we hope to have this project completed by May Day. Stop by the library to see the new look.

-Submitted by Jamelie Taylor



Look for the bright yellow labels in our gardens

DYNAMIC COLLECTION OF PERFORMERS IN 'AFTER THE SOMBRERO'



Omar Nare leads the evening with his *After the Sombrero* musical program

On Friday, March 10 FOAL's Monthly Concert Series hosted an evening of music and dance featuring Omar Nare' in *After the Sombrero*, with special guests: dancer Jasmin La Caris, violinist Patrick Contreras and a special guest appearance by the *Sierra High String Ensemble*.

After the Sombrero was a collection of original songs that chronicled Omar's musical journey from childhood Mariachi star to pop singer, Salsa band leader and eventually, 15 years later, back to Mariachi music again with a new interpretation of the Mariachi genre he calls Nuevo Mariachi. The performance incorporated original dance numbers choreographed by his wife, Jasmin La Caris, and he was accompanied by violinist extraordinaire Patrick Contreras.

For the finale, Omar was accompanied by the *Sierra*

High String Ensemble on two songs that they had learned from him earlier in the week as part of the Music Outreach Program that FOAL incorporates with its concert series. This program is funded by a grant from *Southern California Edison*.

Both Omar and Patrick have played several times at the Auberry Library with different bands and are crowd favorites. This latest appearance by them only solidified their standing as artists you don't want to miss no matter what style of music they are performing. We are sure it will not be their last time playing here.



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.

WHAT'S NEW WITH FOAL?

LIBRARY LINK: HAPPENINGS AT OUR FAVORITE LIBRARY

FOUNDERS' BANNER

The FOAL Board has long been interested in recognizing the founders of our organization. The initiative and hard work of this initial group created a lasting legacy. We are looking for ways to display our gratitude to these members. We agreed to team up with Carol Olson, local prize-winning quilter, to create a banner with the founders' names. Because we are all beginning crafters, the banner will be small and simple, but from our hearts and hands. We hope to display the final product in the library to the left of the entrance, above the display case. Wish our team (and mostly Carol Olson!) luck as we try to pull this together.

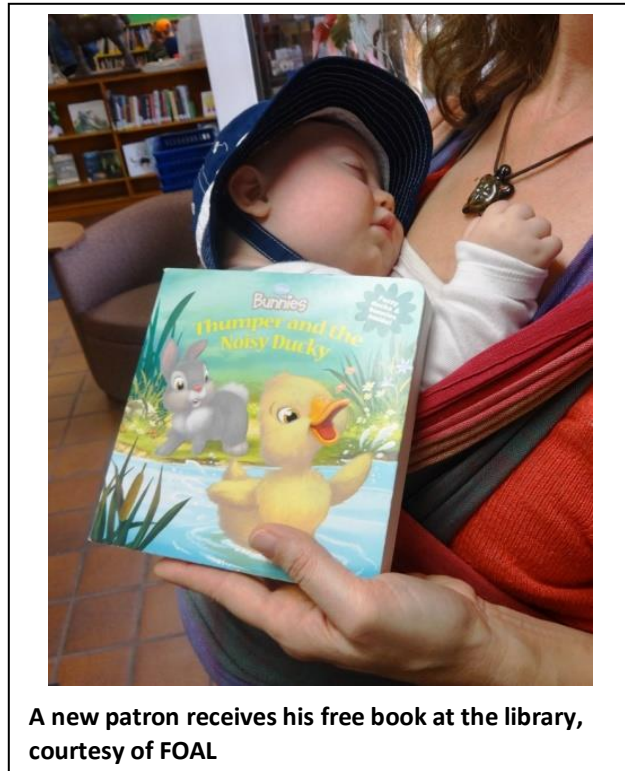
BEER SALES AT CONCERTS

After much consideration, the FOAL board has decided to have a trial run of beer sales at our outdoor concerts. Sales will be limited to two per customer, and will end 30 minutes prior to the end of the event. Our June concert will be our first event with beer available. We have had beer and wine sales at our "Friend Raiser" dinners in prior years, with no issues, and many have enjoyed the opportunity to have a drink while socializing. Snack food will also be available for sale.

FIRST GRADE BOOK GIFTS

Each year, FOAL provides every first grader in our mountain schools a book as they head into summer. Hopefully, it is only the beginning of their summer reading! Our board members head out to Pine Ridge and Foothill Elementary Schools to provide these gifts "face to face". Of course, the message of summertime literacy is important for every child, so if you are a home-schooler and are interested in participating in this program, please contact us at foalorg@gmail.com, or leave your name and contact info with the library desk.

BOOKS FOR BABIES PROGRAM



One of the many programs that FOAL sponsors through the Auberry branch is Books for Babies. Established years ago, with a suggestion from librarian Anne Neal's husband Stan, the aim of the program is to present a new board book to babies and their parents as an incentive to read to babies from the very start.

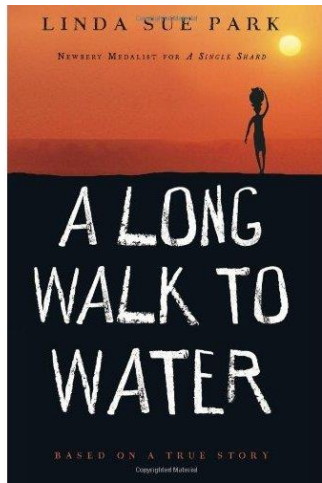
Reading to children from the earliest age contributes to their development in many ways. Follow this link to read more about it: <http://www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources/e-family-news/2014-the-importance-of-reading-to-babies-and-infants>

Parents of new babies are encouraged to drop into the Auberry Branch Library and ask for their free book from Friends of the Auberry Library. At the same time they can register for the child's first library card, which is also free! Establishing a habit of library use is another important part of anyone's life.

Submitted by Anne Neal

*A book is a gift you can
open again and again.*

—Garrison Keillor

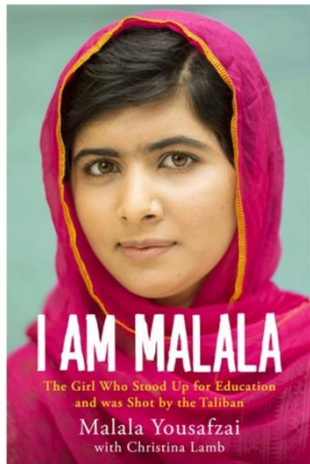


Reviewer: Joni Lloyd

Genre: Historical Fiction

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

A Long Walk to Water, by Linda Sue Park retells the story of Salva Dut a young boy fleeing from the civil war in the South Sudan. Based on a true story, this fictionalized version chronicles Salva's quest for freedom as a "Lost Boy." Cleverly written into each chapter is a time hop story that details the young life of another child living in conditions that require her to walk miles a day in an effort to collect water. As the stories intertwine, the reader learns the pressing need to provide clean sustainable drinking water in countries that are missing this core element for living. This book inspires the reader to take action, so much so that the Book Club students at Foothill Elementary School are preparing a Read-a-Thon to raise money for Salva Dut's organization. His organization is Water for South Sudan, find out more by reading the book and visiting <http://www.waterforsouthsudan.org/>

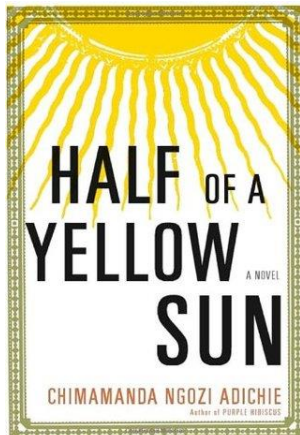


Reviewer: Macy Lloyd

Genre: Autobiography, Young Adult

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

I am Malala, by Malala Yousafzai, follows young Malala in the Swat Valley in Pakistan. There she fights against the Taliban. The Taliban is a gang-like group of up-risers, who want to gain power and are against rights for women and girls' education. Malala is not willing to give up her education and speaks out against the Taliban. She soon takes a bullet in the head from the Taliban, because they want to silence her. Malala Yousafzai has gone on to be the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and her message still is heard, loud and clear. This autobiography is packed with a great story and is an amazing, inspirational book.



Reviewer: Anne Neal

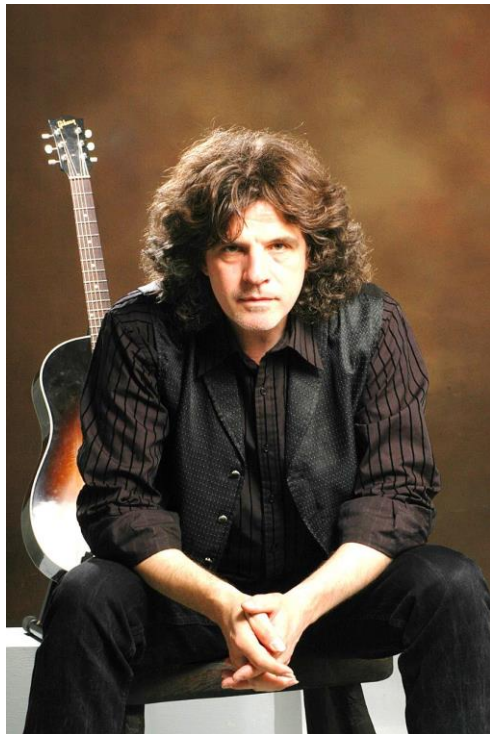
Genre: Historical Fiction

Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi

Do you remember the doomed republic of Biafra? In the late 1960s, The persecuted Igbo people of Nigeria rebelled against their state to form a new republic with the motto: "Peace, Unity, and Freedom." Their flag contained an image of half a yellow sun. I still remember the horrific news stories from back in the day with their images of famine and murder but did not remember the story behind this rebellion. After reading this novel, I feel connected to the people of the region and what they, who were living the lives we all feel entitled to, had to endure. They were good, brave people who wanted justice. This story can be extrapolated to situations all over Africa and the world.

This may not sound like the topic of a novel that anyone would willingly pick up to read. However, the author has created unforgettable characters who bring the whole tragic situation to life. I relish learning about history through well-developed stories and characters. You too will be hooked into the lives of the University professors and their associates who are trapped in this moment of history. Highly recommended!

100TH CONCERT MAY 19TH



As part of our mission of providing a vibrant cultural gathering place, FOAL is proud to present its 100th free concert! This milestone will be marked with a special performance by Claude Bourbon, visiting from the UK. Bourbon is a singer/songwriter specializing in a blend of medieval and Spanish blues. You can check him out at <http://www.claudebourbon.org/>

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



COMING SOON: VOLUNTEER PICNIC & ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, June 25th, the FOAL board will be honoring the volunteers from this past year with their traditional picnic in Sohm Garden. This afternoon celebration gives us a chance to recognize our friends who generously give their time and energy to help with the FOAL mission.

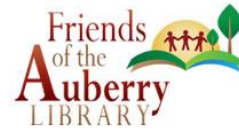
Also on Sunday, June 25th, from 5-6:30 p.m. will be the Members Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social. We will have a guest speaker, a short business meeting, and adjourn to the gardens for ice cream and fellowship. If you have never had Stan Neal's hot fudge sauce, you need to come just to taste it! Hope you can join us.

ASTRONOMY NIGHTS

As summer nears, we all look forward to more outdoor activities. One good possibility is some evening star gazing! Our summer astronomy program kicks off Friday, May 12. Join local astronomer Carl Dotts as he leads observations of Jupiter and Virgo. We'll meet on the Sohm Garden lawn from 8-9:30 p.m. Bring chairs or a blanket, and your sense of adventure!



ABOUT US



Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

A registered non-profit since 2005

Board of Directors

Jamelie Taylor, Chair
Charlotte Gordon, Vice Chair
Amy Poore, Secretary
Connie Schlaefel, Treasurer
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Lorraine Doyle
Sean Marjala
Anne Neal

Library Liaison

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Program Director

Loren Leach

FOAL Focus Newsletter

Connie Schlaefel, Editor

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

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E-mail: foalorg@gmail.com



SPRING CALENDAR

Friday, **May 12**, 8-9:30 p.m. Astronomy Night, Sohm Garden at the Auberry Library

Friday, **May 19**, 7-9 p.m. 100th FOAL Concert, featuring Medieval and Spanish blues guitarist *Claude Bourbon*, on tour from the UK.

Friday, **June 16**, 8-9:30 p.m. Astronomy Night, Sohm Garden at the Auberry Library

Friday, **June 23**. *Fresno Grizzlies* game. Gates open at 5:35 p.m.. Game starts at 7:05

Sunday, **June 25**, 3-5 p.m. Volunteer Picnic

Sunday **June 25**, 5-6:30 p.m. Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.friendsofauberrylibrary.org/>