

# FOAL Focus

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

## BOOK SALE A SUCCESS ON MANY LEVELS



Happy first graders show off their newly acquired books

Earlier this month, FOAL and the Foothill Elementary School Parent Faculty Association (FES PFA) launched the first-ever “Book Fair Bazaar”. The event was a new combination of FOAL’s expertise in used book sales, and the PFA’s traditional fundraising book sale through a vendor. This sale was completely “grassroots”, and was a result of our community donating and partnering to run the show.

The Book Fair Bazaar was held at the elementary school library April 8-11. Classes came by during their normal library time. Each class visit started with the FOAL representative reading to the class, sharing a personal favorite story or poem with the students. Next, the students were given time to “shop”, perusing books ranging from board books (for younger siblings) to chapter books. One of the wonderful parts of this event is that there were several racks of free books. As a result, every child who wanted a book (or two), was able to leave with books of their very own.

Although the primary goal of this event was literacy, with fundraising as a secondary goal, the event was a success in both areas. The sale raised \$847. FOAL donated its portion to PFA for literary programs.

*Continued on p. 3*



Friends share their excitement and their books

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Jamelie Taylor

Spring is here, wildflowers surround us and the pace of foothill life has picked up in preparation for fire prevention season. For me these weed-eater hours seem like a chore so I'm trying to find balance through my volunteer activities.

As the school year begins to wind to a close those volunteer hours have involved several literary events. Have you heard of Letters about Literature? It's a national writing

contest for grades 4-12 through the Library of Congress in which students write to a favorite author. I recently read the middle school entries as a judge in California. What amazing writers we have! Have you heard of Battle of the Books (BOB)? This is another contest in which high school students form a team, read 29 books (this year) and then compete in answering questions about each book. This year there were 10 teams valley-wide competing at Fresno Pacific University. What amazing memories they have for small details! I will be volunteering at Fresno High later this month for the elementary BOB competition.

Before the Easter break FOAL and the Foothill Elementary PFA collaborated to host the first-ever Book Bazaar to sell gently-used books at affordable prices to K-6 students. Both PFA parents and FOAL board members worked the 4 days of sales. It was so rewarding to see the delighted shoppers each take 3 or more books home "to keep". In May FOAL will have a book booth at the FES Carnival to continue supporting that reading enthusiasm. In between these fun volunteer events I don't mind pulling weeds and doing chores around the property. For me the balance is important. I hope you find some volunteer opportunities to help offset chores.

### **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;*
- *Increase community access to information and knowledge.*

## QUILT SHOW

FOAL's recent Bev Karau Quilt Show was a great success. Bev, a valued FOAL volunteer, gifted 15 art quilts to our organization for our ongoing fundraising campaign when she moved away. The show was held at the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society museum in the old dorm building and this partnership brought more than one hundred visitors to the museum during the months it is usually closed.

The raffle quilt and quilting book sales raised more than \$400 and five fabulous quilts sold in the silent auction bringing in more than \$2000. With nine quilts left there are still opportunities to purchase if you missed this show.

## FOAL BOARD OFFSITE

Each year the FOAL leadership team participates in an all-day "offsite" meeting to look more deeply at an issue or two. This year the discussion centered around the goal of sustainability while maintaining a variety of quality programs. FOAL has been fortunate to receive several legacy gifts, some for specific programs, which have provided needed funding. The current challenge is to embark on a campaign to encourage gifts of several types in order to depend on future sustainability. Ideally the team plans to make this an easy and visible option for people who believe in FOAL's mission and want to contribute with a lasting impact. This 'gifting' discussion will continue.

## ANNE NEAL SPEAKER SERIES: SIERRA GEOLOGICAL HISTORY



Archeologist Jeff Irwin gave a fascinating talk  
(Catchpole photo)

On Tuesday, March 12, Sierra National Forest Archeologist Jeff Irwin gave a presentation for the Anne Neal Guest Speaker Program to a packed house of over 80 people. His well-prepared and presented talk covered the archeological history of the Sierra National Forest from 15,000 years ago through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

He discussed theorized migration routes to the new world, trade routes and trading relationships, stand out artifact discoveries, various spear point making material sources and techniques, common food and game sources, and various native peoples' tribal areas and boundaries. He was a wealth of information and was able to deliver it in a way that made it easy for the layman to understand and enjoy.

### BOOK FAIR (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

The feedback on this event was very positive. In addition to seeing the reaction of the children to the books, the students also seemed to enjoy listening to the readings at the beginning of the period, especially our resident former librarian "Library Anne" Neal. One teacher even recalled being a student herself and taking field trips to Auberry Library, where Library Anne would read to them.

Another teacher commented to Cortney Burke: "Thank you for the book fair this year! This year I saw that the connection for students was 100% literacy, 100% reading, and 100% joy".

FOAL will have a booth at the Foothill Elementary carnival on May 31<sup>st</sup> to sell the remainder of the books, and continue the wave of joy and books.



Sparkling faces with their new books



Bluestein on banjo and Hill on bass at the Auberry Library

On April 4, FOAL treated folk music enthusiasts to a Sunday concert featuring two top local musicians, Evo Bluestein and Kevin Hill. Evo has long been a Central Valley master chef in the world of American folk music, cooking up dishes of blues, Appalachian, Zydeco and Cajun fare. Evo has delighted audiences with his virtuosity in fiddle, banjo, autoharp, guitar, vocals and dance. In addition to his recordings, live performances, and teaching, he keeps a vigorous school performance calendar. His recent book *Road to Sweet's Mill* (2017), documents the gathering of folk musicians and the cross cultural ferment in the 1960's at the Mill, a beautiful Central California location.

Kevin, however comes from the musical worlds of jazz and funk. He is a highly sought master of the bass, both the classical standup variety and the electric version. For this venue, he relied on his standup version.

The overriding theme of the evening was folk music with a particular nod to social justice and the musical heritage of black slaves. Early in the program they performed "Juba," a slap-rhythm number allowing Evo to demonstrate his deft clogging abilities.

The duo performed their version of Irish lyricist Andy Irvine's "Facing the Chair," a posthumous tribute to Sacco and Vanzetti. They then covered various artists from Doc Boggs, Bessie Smith and Chuck Berry. Evo played tunes on his banjo, fiddles, and autoharps. Late in the program he switched from his diatonic autoharp to one of his own invention, the Evoharp, a chromatic version, more suitable for blues and modern music. Kevin not only kept up with Evo's various styles, but added plenty of riffs of his own, enhancing the melodies.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR...  
 ASTRONOMY NIGHT IS BACK  
 Come check out the heavens  
 from Sohm Garden  
 Monday May 6, 8-9:30 p.m.





Raelene shows us the tile, which will be preserved.

**NEW CHILDRENS' LIBRARIAN:** The Auberry Library is excited to have a brand new children's librarian, Teresa Vargas. Teresa has been part of the Fresno County Public Library system for three years, first as a "floating" library assistant who filled in at branches across Fresno County, and most recently as the lead staff at the Bear Mountain Library in Squaw Valley.

Teresa is currently earning her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and will graduate this coming December. In addition to the Auberry Library, Teresa will serve as the youth services librarian for the Sierra Gateway cluster of libraries, including the Mosqueda, Betty Rodriguez, Clovis, Shaver Lake, and Big Creek Libraries.

Teresa is especially excited to work with the Auberry community because she enjoys getting to know new people and looks forward to learning about all the wonderful things that Auberry has to offer. She can't wait to bring fun-filled story times and crafts to the library and build connections with the children and families of the community. Be sure to look for her at the "Summer at the Library" programs this June and July!

**RENOVATION:** In the next month, the library will get a renovation, replacing the old carpet with new flooring. According to library technician Raelene Fleming, the new flooring will be a darker reddish-brown laminate, selected to coordinate with the existing tile. The tile will remain, since it is very functional in the entryway, and still in good shape.

Although FOAL owns the building that houses the library and provides the space rent-free, Fresno County Library pays for maintenance and upgrades like this.

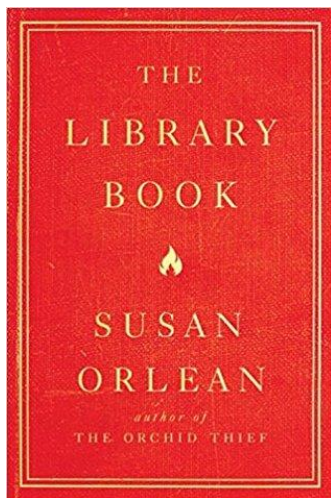
Scheduled to start May 13<sup>th</sup>, the project is projected to take two weeks. The hope is to avoid impact to the summer programs, which bring in a lot of traffic. The work will include boxing up books, putting them in a storage trailer, like a POD, and removing shelves. The library is looking at options such as mobile library vans to accommodate customers. Look for updates in our regular community channels, like the Mountain Press.



Theresa Vargas, our new children's librarian

**Reviewer:** Raelene Fleming

**Genre:** True Crime Stories

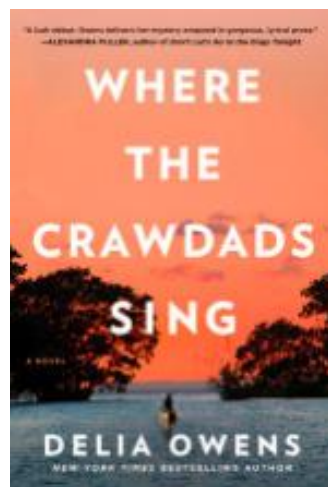


**The Library Book by Susan Orlean (2018)**

Orlean captures the life of libraries and their importance in our communities. She gives detailed descriptions of the staff, volunteers, patrons, and the person the investigators suspected to have set the fire at the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library on April 28, 1986. The fire destroyed over four hundred thousand books, over five million American patent listings dating from 1799, numerous irreplaceable historical items, and over seven hundred thousand books were damaged by smoke and/or water. Her investigative writing spanning the beginnings of libraries and libraries of today, the witnesses of the fire, and the life of the suspect are detailed and insightful. If you have a love of libraries, or true crime stories, this book is a must read!

**Reviewer:** Anne Neal

**Genre:** Historical Fiction/Mystery



**Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (2018)**

Kya, known disparagingly by the locals as “the marsh girl” or “swamp trash”, has lived her whole life in a remote North Carolina coastal community. Abandoned by her family, she spends her years developing survival skills and observing the swamp. Although unschooled, she possesses a deep intelligence, curiosity, and memory.

Tate, a childhood friend of Kya’s brother, starts taming Kya like the feral animal she resembles. He leaves rare feathers to intrigue her and eventually is able to spend time with her and teach her to read. Over the years, she blossoms into a published naturalist. The author’s lyrical description of the environment and Kya’s growing knowledge are captivating.

The plot turns to a murder investigation and love story which flesh out the action. Whether your interests are in history or in mystery, this is a good read!



Do you want to be on the mailing list for FOAL events? Just contact us at [foalorg@gmail.com](mailto:foalorg@gmail.com)

## SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR



Monday, May 6, Astronomy Night, Auberry Library, 8-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 11, Concert. An evening of classical music with the Emerald Duo and special guest flutist Rochelle Mann. 7:00 p.m

Saturday, June 9 Astronomy Night 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12, FOAL Annual Meeting, 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12, Anne Neal Guest Speaker Series Wildflower presentation followed by our Annual Ice Cream Social. 7:00 p.m.

Monday, July 8, Children's Program. Children's book author Joe Ozier reads from his book Jimmy's Tree, the true life story of his dog Jimmy and his rescue from abandonment. With special guest appearance by Jimmy! 11:00 a.m.

## ABOUT US

### Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

*A registered non-profit since 2005*

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#### FOAL Focus Newsletter

Connie Schlaefer, Editor

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

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**We're on the Web!**

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

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