

FOAL FOCUS

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

FOAL REACHES OUT TO ART AT SIERRA HIGH



Local artist Jeff Scott observes as a student tries her hand at wood carving during a recent art outreach

Thanks to a grant generously funded by the Bonner Family Foundation in 2017, FOAL has been able to schedule three artist 'outreach' visits to the art department at Sierra High School.

Each visit was held for two class periods at the end of the day between 1:30 and 3:10 with a student audience varying from about 40 during the early period to 20 in the last time slot. Tony Sharp, the art instructor, had each visit pre-approved by the administration and the students proved to be an attentive and appreciative group.

The first artist to present in February was local woodworker Jeff Scott with his amazing carvings. He not only brought multiple examples of what can be achieved in this area, but also brought tools students got to use in a 'hands-on' activity during the later class. His sense of humor kept students engaged throughout his presentation.

On March 15th Shirley Spencer, a Yosemite park ranger, presented her artwork and published books to students. Her presentation focused on what future options are open to people who have an art background. Her watercolors have enabled her to

participate in art shows, publish several books and extend her skills. She encouraged students to take classes, explore different media and see the world with an artist's eyes. Ms. Spencer had time to demonstrate some of her water color techniques to the smaller group.

Former Sierra High art instructor Linda Saude, was the artist presenter in April along with her former student, Norma Shaw Kuykendall, who is now studying graphic art. Ms. Saude brought some examples of her smaller work as well as photos of her much larger pieces dealing with the beauty of the forest floor around Shaver Lake. Now working as a professional artist, Saude encouraged students to find their own focus in art and advised them that employers look for art students because they are often the best problem solvers. Ms. Kuykendall shared her many graphics projects, all electronic presentations that resemble what would be presented to clients in real-world settings. She also shared some packaging examples she had designed for restaurants and baby products. Students were very interested in the programs she

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Jamelie Taylor

The first quarter of 2018 has come and gone already. Where does the time go? As a retired person I feel like I have less time to do all the things on my daily list and how did I ever work as well?!

This time of year seems especially busy for most of us with weeds to

trim, branches to pick up and gardens to plant. Add those chores to the list of usual daily must-dos and there's little time left to enjoy friends, read a book or complete a puzzle. It all comes down to prioritizing. Each of us must decide what is most important to us.

Some of us cook elaborate meals while others heat something up or do take-out. Some of us choose to watch many hours of TV or movies while others prefer to read. Some of us fill the calendar with meetings, trips and appointments while others prefer to be spontaneous. What works for one

does not work for all and therein lays the beauty of being part of a community.

Within a community people get to know others, appreciating similarities as well as differences. For me that is much of the value of FOAL. I have gotten to work on a board with people I did not know well and made new friends from among our group of volunteers. At every concert or speaker evening I get to meet people who are new to me. Bring a friend to the next event you attend so that person can experience a taste of our community's flavor.

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.*

NAME THAT TELESCOPE... ANYTHING BUT SUE!

In preparation for our summer astronomy program, FOAL is asking for help from our young community members. We would like to give our new (to us) 16-inch telescope a special, personalized name. Here are the contest rules:

- Contest is open to kids 5-18 years old.
- Submit the name you are choosing with an explanation of why you think that's the best name for our telescope.
- Pick up and submit entry forms at the Auberry Library.
- Contest ends 5 p.m. May 5, 2018.

The prize for the winner is the prestige of having YOUR proposed name applied to this very special instrument. Now let's get those creative juices cranked up!



FOAL's telescope anxiously awaiting its new name

LANCE CANALES & THE FLOOD DRENCH AUBERRY IN BLUES



Canales takes the stage in Auberry with bassist Jake (Cobra) Finney and drummer (DB) Daniel Burt.

After spending the day at Sierra High School for FOAL's music outreach program, Lance Canales and the Flood returned to Auberry on a rainy March 16 evening and treated concert goers to a deluge of sound. Lance brought his band, his deep raspy voice, his guitars, a kazoo, and his unique style of Americana blues to FOAL's 108th free concert. Fans filled the Auberry Library despite the weather.

Lance enjoys conversing with the audience between songs. His commentaries often answer questions from the crowd about his instruments and his music. This evening he shared stories about his native American flute, his "trashtone" amplifier which was custom crafted for him in Clovis and his 1952 Stella guitar that cost him all of \$25.

Lance began his set with two captivating pieces showcasing his mastery of the Native American flute. He then moved to "Train Station Blues," "Digging," "Hoodoo Man," and "Beat Up Blues," from his 2012 album *Elixir*. From his 2015 album *The Blessing and*

the Curse, he offered "Hich-Wyah Man," "The Farmer," "Cold Dark Hole," and "Deportee."

In 2013 Canales recorded the single, "Plane Crash at Los Gatos: Deportee," a cover of Woodie Guthrie's original poem of 1948, which Guthrie and Pete Seeger later crafted into a song. That song has been recorded by numerous artists over the years. Canales' 2013 version included writer Tim Z. Hernandez of Orosi, reading the names of the Mexican nationals who died in the crash. Canales then collaborated with Nora Guthrie, Woody's daughter, the Guthrie Foundation and Hernandez to put on a concert to raise \$10,000 for a memorial headstone giving name to the deportees who were buried nameless in a mass grave at Holy Cross Cemetery, Fresno. That monument was dedicated September 3, 2013, and stands in testimony to their memory.

You can see Lance give the story of this song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEIJBSU5GKI>.
- submitted by Rick Sexty

*If I had my life to live over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry
and listen to some music at least once every week.*

— Charles Darwin



FCPL staff member & poet James Tyner
(photo: Fresno Bee)

A special guest visited the January FOAL board meeting: Mr James Tyner. James is a long-time member of the Fresno County Public Library staff, and also happens to be the City of Fresno's first-ever poet laureate, appointed to a two-year term in 2013. James is a passionate advocate for poetry, in a broad sense as well as within the library system. In 2005, he established a program called "Poets in the Library" which still continues today. James also teaches poetry-writing seminars through the Fresno County libraries.

James has a second interest that carries over to his library job, and that is gaming, specifically role playing games or RPGs. Auberry Library has started a program for fans of RPGs, hosting a Dungeons and Dragons group on Monday nights. *Note: these games can be pretty lively, so Monday night is NOT quiet time in the library.* Every third Monday, James comes up to host this group. He has also introduced a newer space-themed RPG called Starfinder. This game and its rulebook are described in some detail in *A Friend Recommends*, our book review feature on the next page.

James shared one of his poems with us for this edition of the FOAL Focus. After reading it, it is easy to see why this author has garnered some well-earned recognition.

—submitted by Connie Schlaefer

Fresno, California. 2013.

By James Tyner

I am Fresno

*I am the high school kid that can't wait to get out of this town, there's nothing to do here, nothing ever happens, waiting for that last summer, before heading out of the city.
I am the kid just back from college, moving back in with mom and dad, trying to find a job now that schools over. Back home again, taking down old posters from the wall and putting up diplomas.
I am the couple that just bought their first house, a fixer upper, yard golden from too much sun, their three year old walking up the steps, paint still on dads pants from the bedroom he just finished.*

*I am fields of vines, grapes growing in a vast green, raisins drying on brown paper, strawberries just plucked from the field.
I am moving north, new buildings, restaurants, glass and plastic meeting not so far from the river, a hail of lights and traffic.
I am coming back downtown, dusting off the concrete and brick, old restaurants that have been there for years, fresh again.
I am new business, sprouting, and food trucks, turning up like flowers over asphalt.*

*I am a softball player, mitt clenched tightly, a wrestler alone on a mat, a stadium of waving red.
I am a long line of poets, words spreading through culture, through time, through classrooms, through books.
I am the owner of championships, of Pulitzers, Oscars, Tonys, struggling to win just one more thing.
I am noticing myself, finally.*

I am at a family barbeque and all the children there share the same last name, the same blood, and all have different shades of skin, my father by the pool, speaking Spanish to my daughter, his aged brown hand running through her wispy blonde hair.

I am a bowl of Pho for breakfast, the noodles warm, broth like a hug, meat tender and fresh.

I am Lula kabobs for lunch, the spice just behind the tongue, pilaf golden and perfect.

I am sitting at the dinner table, rolling a hot dog into a corn tortilla, boiled beans and white rice, the air growing smoky from the tri-tip barbecuing outside, my cousin bringing in a plate of pan fried noodles from the place down the street.

I am home.

I am Fresno.

ART OUTREACH (CONT'D FROM P. 1)



Guest speaker Shirley Spencer shared her watercolor techniques with SHS art students

used to draw and design her assignments, some of which they recognized while others were new to them . FOAL plans to bring more artists to the art department at SHS during the 2018-2019 school year. We appreciate this opportunity to help students explore the many possibilities within the art world. If you have any suggestions of a local professional who would enjoy presenting to high school students, please let FOAL know. *—submitted by Jamelie Taylor*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR JUNE 26TH

The FOAL annual meeting for 2018 has been scheduled for June 26th. As a community benefit organization, a.k.a. 501(c)3 , FOAL hosts an annual meeting for all members, to summarize for our members what has been happening in the past year, and what is projected for the next. We share the major decisions from the board, and also ratify the board members for the next term. All members should receive a ballot to approve or disprove the actions of the board, plus vote for board members. We are required to have a minimum level of participation to ratify these actions, so your participation is important! We'll try to keep the business to a minimum and the enjoyment to a maximum for this event. This year, we are voting on a slate of board members to continue their terms: Sean Marjala, Amy Poore, and Connie Schlaefer.

As a special feature of this year's meeting, we've asked City of Fresno poet laureate James Tyner to come share and inspire with his poetry as a guest speaker for the Anne Neal Speaker Series immediately following the membership meeting. We hope you will come to enjoy his special take on our local color.

If you have been to an annual meeting, you may be asking another really important question: Will there be ice cream with Stan Neal's famous hot fudge sauce? The answer is yes! Whatever the draw, we do hope to see you on June 26th. With a busy summer, if you can't be there in person, we're hoping you will cast your ballot to concur with the FOAL mission and direction, or share your views about a new course. *— submitted by Connie Schlaefer*

LOCAL ARTIST DONATES QUILTS TO RAISE FUNDS



One of Bev's amazing art quilts showing the complexity possible in this medium

One of FOAL's valuable volunteers recently moved away from Auberry to be near family in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Beverly June Benn Karau mailed out books FOAL had sold on Amazon, often driving several days a week to the FOAL office from her home. She also created beautiful art quilts for fundraising events for FOAL, the San Joaquin River Parkway, and Sierra Foothill Conservancy. Many of us got to know her on tours several years ago, enjoying her dry sense of humor. In 1999 Bev had a one-woman show featuring her quilt work at Fresno State where she worked for many years.

As a parting act of generosity, Bev is donating fifteen gorgeous art quilts to FOAL for fundraising opportunities. Created between 1993 and 2017 these colorful pieces vary in themes from Carnival to commemorative tributes to natural flora and fauna. Some of her more whimsical quilts celebrate fishing, polar bears and even mermaids. Local quilters have been helping FOAL directors determine how best to make this gift available to the community. Watch for a future quilt show and fund-raising sale. – *submitted by Jamelie Taylor*

ASTRONOMY DURING THE DAY?

Astronomy Night is scheduled at 4:30 pm on June 23rd. So close to the summer solstice, 4:30 p.m. is long before dark. Is this a typo? No! For this session, the group will be looking at sun events, with the proper precautions, of course. Major events on our closest star are particularly interesting, and we'll learn and observe more about these happenings first hand. Join us in the Sohm Garden as we observe our star. –*submitted by Connie Schlaefer*

Reviewer: James Tyner

Genre: Gaming; Role Playing Games

Starfinder Core Rulebook by James L. Sutter *et al* (2017)

The Starfinder Core Rulebook is a new book put out by Pazio publishing. It is a set of rules to play the Starfinder role playing game. For those who are new to it, a role playing game (or RPG) is a type of game where one friend (the Game Master) tells a story and the other players at the table progress through the story. The most famous RPG is Dungeons & Dragons, made famous again recently because of the show “Stranger Things.”

Starfinder is an RPG in space, but there are still dragons, giants, and monsters to take on and treasure to find. You play as an explorer called a Starfinder, and travel the galaxy with friends. The setting is fresh and fun, but it still feels comfortable. Think of it as a “Star Wars” meets “Lord of the Rings.”

For those who are new to the game, the rules may seem dense. To more experienced players, this will feel familiar. The rules are adapted from the D20 system, based off of D&D. But this book has everything you need to get started, from the different classes you can play such as a pilot or a soldier, and many new races to try, such as the lizard-like Vesk and the insectoid Shirren. There are even Elves and Dwarves in this as well.

Despite it having a bit of a beginning curve, the book is well written and has everything you need to get started playing the game. The game itself is fun and exciting. There is also free support online for the game, including premade characters and adventures. I highly recommend it.



Reviewer: Anne Neal
Nonfiction

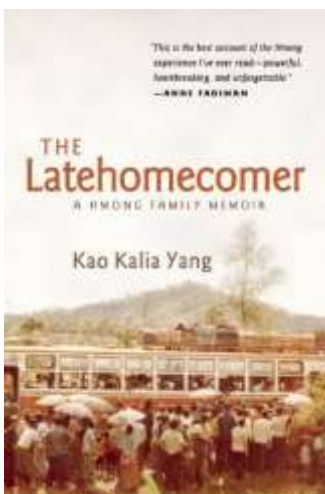
Genre: Autobiography,

The Latehomecomer; a Hmong Family Memoir by Kao Kalia Yang (2008)

After aiding the CIA and downed pilots in America’s “secret war” in Laos, the Hmong were targeted and hunted down for slaughter by their enemies. This story begins with the harrowing account of two families running and hiding in the forest. The son and daughter of these families met by chance and married quickly before she was separated forever from her mother. The suspense continues as the women are captured and held in prisoner of war camps, eventually reuniting with the men.

This is the account by the daughter who was born in a refugee camp in Thailand. Kalia vividly writes the story of her siblings, her parents, and her beloved grandmother who are eventually resettled in Minnesota. The reader feels the humiliation of the adults who struggle to fit into American society and to provide for their large family, as well as the daughter who becomes mute from the trauma so takes to writing. Most of all we understand the love and bonding that preserves the family.

This book is a poetic portrayal of the Hmong people embodied in the story of this one family. It is a must-read for people from all backgrounds in order to understand what the Hmong endured. This memoir was chosen by the National Endowment for the Arts as well as Fresno County as this year’s Big Read selection.



SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR



May 20, Sunday, 5-7 p.m. Concert – The Experience with Eva Scow and Ray Moore

May 23, Wednesday, 8-9:30 p.m. Astronomy Night. Focus on the Moon & Corvus the Crow.

June 2, Saturday, 7-9 p.m. concert – Blues music with the Laurie Morvan Band from Los Angeles.

June 23, Saturday, 4:30-6:00. Astronomy Night. Focus on the Sun

June 26, Tuesday, 7:00-7:30 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting

June 26, Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Anne Neal Speaker Series: Poet James Tyner.

ABOUT US

Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

A registered non-profit since 2005

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FOAL Focus Newsletter

Connie Schlaefer, Editor

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We're on the Web!

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

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