

# F.O.A.L. FOCUS

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

## OREGON ACTRESS MUGS IT UP IN AUBERRY

On December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, F.O.A.L. sponsored comedic actress and operatic soprano Emily Windler's visit to the drama classes at Sierra High School. Having traveled from her home in Portland, Oregon, she brought her good humor and wacky style to two rambunctious groups eager to learn more about physical performance.

"Windler is a wonder" exudes the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and indeed she proved herself to be wonderful as a teacher those two days. With patience and a smile, she showed the students how to use their bodies, and especially their faces, to their full potential of expression. The Advanced Drama class, now in final rehearsals for their upcoming performance of the commedia dell'arte piece *The Green Bird*, benefited immediately from her suggestions to mug to the audience and exaggerate their bodily movements.

Windler was also wonderful in her performance of "Opera Frantique," her one-woman show at the Auberry Library on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup>. It was clear in her performance that she practiced what she had preached to the students. As her character Christina Pescalla, the infamous operatic soprano, she strutted into view, only to have her long dress snag on the edge of the stage, causing her alternately to tug at it frantically, and to look sheepishly out at the audience, mustering a huge—if semi-apologetic—smile. This was just the first in a series of physical gags she performed, punctuated by the full-throttled and gorgeous singing of several operatic arias.

This unique hybrid of physical comedy and operatic performance kept the large library audience in thrall. Sierra High Drama teacher Beth Linder

Carr notes: "After the performance, I was able to tell Emily that her suggestions had had an immediate impact on the quality of my students' performances. In the intervening rehearsal, the student actors had clearly begun to inhabit their bodies more consciously, using them to express the emotion of the moment. I'm very grateful to F.O.A.L. for bringing her to my classes and to the community as a whole."

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Windler coaches SHS students in physical comedy techniques.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to all of our FOAL friends and welcome you to our first newsletter ringing in 2016.

This time of year catches many folks looking both forward to the next year and back to the last. Our board does that every year as we plan for growth in the following season. For us here at the Friends of the Auberry Library that perspective can be summed up in one word—more.

In 2016 we plan to offer *more* programs to promote shared learning experiences in our community, we hope to gain *more* memberships helping us to fund our mission, and we intend to encourage *more* enthusiastic volunteers to support our efforts.

***“For us here at the Friends of the Auberry Library that perspective can be summed up in one word—more. .”***



Jamelie Taylor

## SMART SHOPPING AT HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

The annual F.O.A.L. Holiday Book Sale took place December 1-3. This is one of 3-4 book sales F.O.A.L. has each year depending on the amount of book donations we receive throughout the year. Book sales are run by volunteers and all of the items for sale are donated to F.O.A.L. A nice part about this fundraiser is the flexibility, and that it does not require any expenses to be laid out by F.O.A.L. to make the event happen. This year F.O.A.L. made almost \$500 from these sales.

Fundraising is just one of the goals of the book sales. The sales also offer F.O.A.L. an opportunity to meet new people who are not aware of F.O.A.L. and share with them all that we do in the community. The sales offer volunteers a chance to meet and work with each other thus filling F.O.A.L.'s goal of community building. Lastly the sales offer people an organization to whom they can donate their gently used books where they know the money will go to a good cause and

stay here in their community. Books can be dropped off at the FOAL office on Tuesdays from 10-3 (our regular office hours) or any other time by appointment, call 779-3625. Also they can be dropped off at the library anytime that it is open.



Linda Reavely makes some smart purchases from F.O.A.L. volunteer Brian Clague



Loren Leach and Aaron Turner set up for the sale.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We currently have 192 memberships representing 309 current members.

Among our top supporters at the benefactor level are:

- Beverly Leach
- Anne & Stan Neal
- Becky Ray
- Stephen Guinn & Sandy Beach

Our focus this year is to spread the word on the value of FOAL in our community, and to bring even MORE value (see our president's message). If people feel there is benefit to our community, hopefully they will want to support it!

Not sure where your membership stands? Give our program director, Loren Leach, a call at (559) 779-3625 or e-mail him at [foalorg@gmail.com](mailto:foalorg@gmail.com)

### **F.O.A.L.'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.*

## SNAP JACKSON GIVES AUBERRY THE BLUE-GRASS

The community was treated to a FOAL concert of Stockton band Snap Jackson and the Knock on Wood Players on Saturday, December 5. This lively acoustic bluegrass quartet entertained an enthusiastic audience of 75 with their original and cover tunes, played on banjo, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, fiddle, and string bass. They performed bluegrass, soul, and other elements of American roots music.

The Gilly Girls, a local musical family, opened with a short set of bluegrass music. The audience and Snap Jackson were impressed with the young sisters' abilities and stage presence.

**REMINDER**

**Do YOU**  
want to get notifications and reminders when these events are coming up? Send a message to [foalorg@gmail.com](mailto:foalorg@gmail.com) to get on the mailing list!



Stockton Band Snap Jackson jams at the Auberry Library



Local quartet "Gilly Girls" open with a blast of old timey music.

## TAG...YOU'RE IT! BY ELIZABETH DENNISTON, TAG MEMBER

The Teen Activity Group (TAG) meets every Thursday at 4:00. We do a variety of projects every week, so there is something for everyone. We have had a fun filled year so far. Here are just a few of the projects we have done: pumpkin carving, tie dye, dissecting owl pellets, DIY Christmas ornaments, guest speakers, and board games. Not only do we have all these fun activities, but we also have "Pizza and Pages" where once a month the group picks a book to read. On the selected day we have pizza and talk about the book we read.

The TAG is also an amazing way to meet new people, and make incredible friends. TAG allows you to come and be yourself, and discover the joys of a simple, but outstanding group. You can share

your ideas about a topic, and see other's points of views and opinions. Teen activity group is so many fantastic things, and every Thursday is better than the last.



TAG Team having a merry time with DIY ornaments

## MEET A "FRIEND": ANNE NEAL

**Tell us how you first got involved in with F.O.A.L.** A group of library volunteers suggested forming a Friends group back in the early 1990's. I was the branch librarian and only paid staff member so relied heavily on my corps of dedicated volunteers. The idea behind forming the Friends was to put a name to our fund raising efforts. This group worked tirelessly by holding book sales, bake sales, and raffles, as well as writing a few small grants and setting up glass recycling at the Intermountain Nursery. They even marched in the Auberry Fall Parade every year with comically themed entries.

**What do you wish other people knew about F.O.A.L.?** FOAL has evolved into an organization that serves the entire community. The concerts, lectures, and other programs are free for everyone and they don't even have to travel down the hill for great entertainment. In addition,

everyone should know that the FOAL board is a group of community volunteers who believe in the mission and in our community. They work hard to accomplish FOAL's goals. Everyone should become a member of FOAL!

**What would someone be surprised to know about you?** I come from a family of librarians- my Mom and both sisters are librarians. Despite the esoteric label of "librarian", I'm a country girl at heart and tend such pets as a yak, a donkey, and chickens. I also like to hike.

**You've done a lot of traveling. Do you have a favorite spot?** Of course, it's hard to label a travel spot as "favorite". But the most unusual and memorable trip we took was to visit our daughter and son-in-law in Mongolia. What an amazing place that is with no roads, no fences, just wide open land. On that trip we also took the Trans-Siberian railway to Lake Baikal in Siberia. Now THAT was a third world adventure for sure. What we have discovered is that

around the world, people are friendly and interesting.

**What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?** Again from Mongolia- airag which is fermented mare's milk. Part of the weirdness comes from the memory of buying it from nomadic Mongolians in their ger (yurt). They sold it to me in an old used Coke bottle. Delicious!

**What do you always want to try and never did?** I would still like to swim with wild dolphins. I've done it under controlled circumstances but it would be thrilling to swim in a cove with wild dolphins cavorting around.

**What book did you read last?**

A recent book I really loved was "The Invention of Nature; Alexander Von Humboldt's New World" by Andrea Wulf. Who knew the man who inspired the naming of so many geographical features was once the most famous naturalist in the world? Fantastic book.

## LIBRARY LINK: HAPPENINGS AT OUR FAVORITE LIBRARY

January 12 marked the new season of Storytime, a program targeting preschoolers to encourage early literacy. Two dozen children and adults welcomed storyteller Laura Fleek to share a mix of stories and music, including the clear crowd favorite, the "Shaky Egg" dance. Following the stories, families were invited to join in a craft related to the day's theme.

According to Senior Library Assistant Raelene Fleming: "We usually have between 20 to 30 children (and parents)



Librarian Laura Fleek shares a story about the zoo.

attend each week. The librarian plans a different theme each week with stories and songs. Some parents stay afterwards to visit and allow the children to play together. My favorite part of Storytime is seeing the kids get involved and listen to her stories. And I really love seeing the families coming in to use the library which teaches the kids to become lifelong users of libraries! "Auberry Branch Library Storytime and Craft meets every Tuesday at 10:30am through April 26<sup>th</sup>.



Families share in crafts relating to the Storytime theme

## COMING UP: FO.A.L. FAT TUESDAY

After a 2 year hiatus FOAL will once again be hosting a **Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Party**. This year's event will feature the Zydeco band Jemmy and the Lunatics with special guests the SHS Jazz Band and Mountain Choral Company.

Each year FOAL sponsors one monthly concert that includes a collaborative venture with the music students from Sierra High School. This is an extension of FOAL's Music Outreach Program that visits the high school music department 5-6 times each year. This year, for three days prior to the day of the Library Concert, the band will visit the school and teach the students 3 songs that they will

perform with the band both at the outreach visit to the school and at the library as part of the Mardi Gras Party. This is a great learning event for the students as they get the experience of performing publicly with professional musicians in front of their fellow music students at the school outreach visit and for the community at the library concert. Sierra High music teacher Bruce Weinberger says he has never heard of any other high schools that offer this kind of an opportunity to their students and he is extremely grateful to FOAL for making this unique situation possible. FOAL pays the entire cost of this program and offers it to the school for free.



Live zydeco music captures the Mardi Gras spirit!

**Did you know:** "Mardi Gras" means "Fat Tuesday" in French? And just what IS Fat Tuesday? Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. In many Christian denominations, Lent is a period of 40 days prior to Easter Sunday, where members reflect on sacrifice by giving up a favorite food or activity. Interestingly, the date of Easter Sunday celebrations moves each year with the phases of the moon. *Catholicism.about.com* describes it this way: "The Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox". This year, Easter falls early, therefore so does Fat Tuesday: Feb 9th.

## 6 Friends of the Auberry Library

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

- The AHS Foundation, Minneapolis, MN.
- The Bertha & John Garabedian Charitable Foundation, Fresno, CA.
- The Downing Planetarium, Fresno, CA.
- The Rotary Club of Auberry Intermountain, Auberry, CA.
- Southern California Edison.

**We're on the Web!**

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 9 from 7-9 p.m** Return of our Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras party..

Music by zydeco band Lonesome Jem and the Lunatics PLUS SHS Jazz Band and Mountain Chorale

**March 4th at 7:30 p.m. Anne Neal Guest Speaker Series:** Author John T. Austin 60-minute presentation on how the Tulare Lake Basin has responded to drought. We have effectively been in drought since the late 19th century, using more water than we have. This presentation covers sources of water in recent decades; both surface and groundwater, local sources and imports. Also addressed are evaporation, reuse, land subsidence and rebound. It is amazing how we have changed the land.

**March 11 Concert.** Shap-Hill Jazz Project.  
Social 1/2 hour 7-7:30. Concert 7:30-9 p.m.



***Beyond the Books!***

***Friends of the Auberry Library***