

# FOAL Focus

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

## FOAL PARTNERS WITH FES PFA FOR BOOK SALE

**January - February 2019**



FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Parent Faculty Association (FES PFA)  
& Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)  
are joining forces to host a school-wide **Book Fair Bazaar!**

**but first, we need your books!**

If you have any **gently used kids books** you'd like to donate, we are holding a  
**Book Collection Drive January - February 2019.**



We are seeking previously enjoyed children's books  
- early reader to 7th grade (or appropriate) levels -  
and/or relevant hobby books (crafting, cooking, drawing, etc).

At the December FOAL meeting, visitor Cortney Burke made an intriguing pitch to the board. Burke, who is vice-president of the Parent Faculty Association at Foothill Elementary School (as well as a member of FOAL), was seeking a partnership between the two organizations to conduct a fundraising book sale. The partnership would include collecting children's books, and hosting a sale at the elementary school for the students. Books would be sold for \$0.50 to \$5, with the majority priced at \$1 each. The primary objective is to make book ownership accessible and affordable for all students, with a secondary objective as a fundraiser for both groups. The board discussed the idea, compared the effort to the FOAL mission goals, and decided to go for it!

During the months of January and February, both groups will be collecting books, age appropriate for kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. "How-to" books on hobbies, arts, etc. will also be appreciated. Drop-off points are at Foothill Elementary School, the SUSD district office, and the SHS front office. Donations can also be dropped at the FOAL office, and the Auberry Freight Station.

After the main collection period, the books will be sorted according to reading level, using the collective expertise of both FOAL and PFA volunteers. Tentative plans for the sale are targeting early April at the elementary school. All students will have a chance to look at the books during library time, with an opportunity to buy both during that class time and at recess. Proceeds from the sale will be divided between the PFA and FOAL, with both organizations working to benefit our local community.

The FOAL board is always looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations to create greater momentum and further our mission which includes encouraging literacy and lifelong learning. This partnership project seems a perfect fit. According to project originator Burke, "Our goal is to encourage and support literacy for all the students at Foothill Elementary and this will give every student access to affordable books they can call their very own."



Jasper Burke, part of our target audience as a happy book owner and reader.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Jamelie Taylor

“Out with the old and in with the new.” As we pack 2018 behind us it helps to look at what we did in the last year so we can move on.

As in years past we had a variety of free programs offered to the community from astronomy to concerts and speakers to outreach at SHS in art, music and drama. This year we hope to continue in all of these areas but increase our

community’s attendance at all events. We would also like to expand our outreach to the elementary schools when possible.

As in years past we have accepted lovingly-used book, puzzle and video donations from the community when people are reorganizing. Thanks to FOAL’s fantastic ‘book team’ who sort, evaluate, list on Amazon & EBay, and organize boxes of donated items, our sales in that area have increased tremendously. Thank you to all of the donors and especially to our hard-working team. This year we hope to continue this process.

As in years past FOAL has partnered with other local

organizations to offer programs and festivals which bring our community together. In 2019 we hope to expand these efforts by planning more events that could bring added involvement in overlapping circles.

As in years past FOAL cherishes the dedication of its volunteers who help us in so many ways. This year we need to find a few more to help with our social media presence, our website and our FB page. We have come to realize that the best volunteer is someone who finds a niche that matches their expertise or area of interest with something FOAL needs to accomplish. If you have an interest please let us know.

### **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.*

## VOLUNTEER PICNIC

On a sunny Sunday afternoon last fall, the FOAL leadership team hosted their annual picnic to honor the volunteers who help our mission in a multitude of ways. The team provided homemade salads, sandwiches, assorted beverages, and ice cream with Stan Neal’s famous hot fudge sauce.

Taking advantage of the beautiful Sohm Garden lawn, there was also a beanbag “cornhole” game, which several enjoyed. However, the most popular activity was simply chatting with fellow attendees, some new, many longstanding, all of whom share a common bond in stepping in to help.

FOAL Chair Jamelie Taylor took some time at the meal to thank everyone for their contributions and share her hopes for another exciting upcoming year.



FOAL Chair Jamelie Taylor sharing a heartfelt “Thank you” to guests

## ANNE NEAL SPEAKER SERIES: LOCAL AUTHOR LAUNCHES 2<sup>ND</sup> BOOK



Books were available at the launch, and many guests were happy to get a personalized copy! (Catchpole photo)

Donna Croy Wright, a retired educator and principal, shared her latest book with an enthusiastic crowd of over seventy people on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Auberry Library. Presented through FOAL's Anne Neal Speaker Series, Wright led the audience along the path of her writing process from genealogy studies to specific travel itinerary goals and finally to "making up" the stories that now comprise the first two books in the Maggie Chronicles.

The evening began with book purchasing and author signing. Wright offered a raffle opportunity for guests as well; a book as a prize and the proceeds to benefit FOAL's First Grade Book Program. At 7:30 Ms. Wright began her well-organized slide show presentation 'My Journey from Family History to Historical Fiction' which highlighted her roots and the actual connections to the characters in her books. She stressed the importance of research to her development of a sense of place in which she could ground her characters using actual anecdotes from historical records to which she added her own fictional ideas.

Afterward friends socialized with cupcakes Donna had baked, more books were signed and the raffle prize was awarded to a new member of our community. The event was a great success. Look for both of Donna Croy Wright's titles, *The Scattering of Stones* and *The Forging of Frost* on Amazon.



Wright described her research/writing process (Catchpole photo)

## QUILT SHOW PLANNED WITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY



This quilt, titled "Popping Poppies" will be raffled this spring

In 2018 FOAL received a fabulous donation from quilter Bev Karau, one of FOAL's dedicated volunteers, when she moved from the area. Designed, pieced and quilted by Bev between 1993 and 2017, each of these fifteen creations demonstrates her interest in color, unique sense of humor and exacting work.

To celebrate the breadth of this collection, FOAL has partnered again with the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society to host a quilt show from February 16 thru March 30 in the old dorm section of the museum. All fifteen of the pieces will be on display and accompanying the free quilt show will be a raffle of one of the quilts from the collection. The show will be open each Saturday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. The other 14 quilts will be offered on a silent auction basis for appraised value.

On Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, FOAL will host a reception honoring Bev and her gift to the Friends of the Auberry Library with refreshments from 11:00 to 1:00 in the dorm building. Please plan to come to admire the quilts, meet with friends and purchase raffle tickets.

## DANNY GREEN JAZZ TRIO RETURNS TO AUBERRY

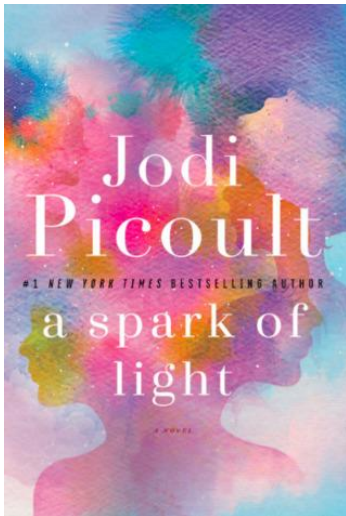
On November 11, FOAL hosted a packed house performance by the Danny Green trio at the Auberry Library. The group previously conducted a Sierra High school outreach program and performed a concert at the library in 2017. The trio, comprising Danny on keyboard, Justin Grinnell on bass and Julien Cantelm on drums was joined by special guest and local musician Eva Scow on mandolin. Danny and Eva provided the leads while Justin and Julien maintained the rhythms. The musical fare of the evening featured everything from the jaunty "Time Lapse to Fall" from Green's most recent album *One Day It Will*, to a unique cover of the Beatles' "And I Love Her."

The group's five albums; *With You in Mind* (2009), *A Thousand Ways Home* (2012), *After the Calm* (2014), *Altered*

*Narratives* (2016) and *One Day It Will* (2017) have all been either nominated or have won "Best Jazz Album" at the San Diego Music Awards. In addition to his work as a respected composer and arranger, Danny is dedicated to music education. He is a private piano instructor who also participates in an annual summer jazz workshop and is an adjunct faculty member at Grossmont College, El Cajon. Danny and his group have appeared with many musicians around the country including local talents Eva Scow and Dusty Brough.



Jazz artists sharing their talents at the library.



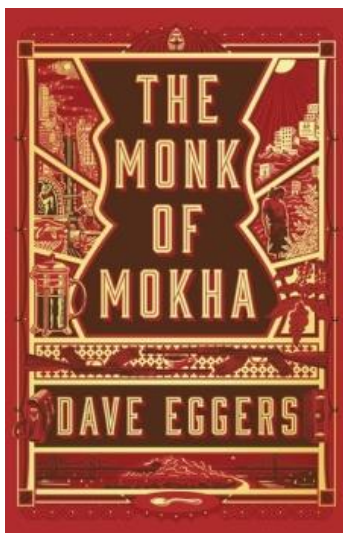
**Reviewer:** Michelle Whaley  
**Fiction**

**Genre:** Contemporary

**A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult (2018)**

Picoult once again tackles a controversial subject by addressing the pro-life or pro-choice movement that at times can heighten opinions on both sides of the coin. The story is told backward hour by hour and staged at a women’s health clinic where services are provided for all who enter. One morning a gunman enters the clinic taking hostages; the hostage negotiator realizing his daughter is a hostage, along with the others inside the clinic and out, reveal reasons why they have come to be at the clinic.

Amazingly, Picoult shows both sides of the abortion controversy and does this through the characters’ story line. Picoult’s story will keep her readers engaged to the bitter end. Readers will find Picoult’s ability to take a sensitive subject matter and bring it to light in this story. This book would be a strong choice for a book club and hopefully lead to gentle discussion and debate.



**Reviewer:** Anne Neal

**Genre:** Biography, History

**The Monk of Mokha by Dave Eggers (2018)**

Mokhtar, a Yemeni-American, dreams of resurrecting Yemen’s coffee industry. He had learned that Yemen is the original coffee-producing region of the world and he wants to restore it to prominence. Mokhtar’s story is one of incredible determination and courage amidst war and piracy.

This exciting true tale is especially relevant to us because of the news of Yemen’s civil war and suffering. The characters you meet in the book become people you come to care for and coffee production becomes a topic of personal interest.

*The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read.*

*Abraham Lincoln*



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

## WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR



**January – February 28** – Children’s Book Drive. Drop points @ FOAL office, Foothill Elem., Sierra High, Freight Station

**Saturdays, February 16 – March 30.** Quilt Show. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Eastern Fresno Historical Society Museum

**Saturday, February 23** – Concert: The Bluegrass Element. 7-9 p.m., Auberry Library

**Sunday, February 24** – Reception for Bev Karau Quilt Show. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Eastern Fresno Historical Society Museum

**Tuesday, March 5** – Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Party with Lonesome Jem and the Lunatics, Sierra High Jazz Band, and Mountain Choral Company. 7:30-9 p.m., Auberry Library

**Tuesday, March 12** – Anne Neal Guest Speaker Series: Jeff Irwin presents “The Archeology of the Sierra National Forest”. 7-8:30 p.m. Auberry Library

**Early April** – PFA/FOAL Book Fair Bazaar. Foothill Elementary

## 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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