

FOAL Focus

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

FIERY HOT CONCERT LIGHTS UP AUBERRY

On Saturday, September 17th, FOAL held its final outdoor concert of the year. A packed house of over 130 people was treated to a great show by the band *Bootstrap Circus* and the *Mana Fire Dancers* from Mariposa. This was the 94th free concert presented by FOAL. Just like at the August concert when the raffle winner, Wes Qualls, donated his winnings back to FOAL, so did this month's winner, Lori Hodges. FOAL greatly appreciates the generosity of these "Friends".



Music plus fire dancers were a grand finale for the outdoor summer concert series at Auberry Library's Sohm Garden. – *Catchpole photo*

The free monthly concert series will move back indoors on Friday, October 21, from 7-9 p.m. when a great jazz band from San Diego passes through Auberry on their California tour. Acclaimed jazz pianist and composer *Danny Green and his Quartet* with a special guest, mandolinist *Eva Scow*, will be the featured band. Check out <http://dannygreen.net/>

The 10th and final concert of the year will be on Monday, November 7, 7-9 pm. National Guitar Fingerpicking Champion *Chris Proctor*, an Auberry crowd favorite, returns for a third time. You can find out more about him and preview his music at <http://chrisproctor.com/>

GRIZZLIES GAME A HIT!

On August 18th a large contingent from FOAL went to the *Fresno Grizzlies* game vs. the *Omaha Storm Chasers*. The outing was part of a fundraiser offered by the *Grizzlies* in which FOAL got to keep \$5 from every \$14 ticket they were able to sell for the game. FOAL earned \$840 from this event.

Everyone sat together near the right field line. As a special bonus, the 6th annual "Taco Truck Throwdown" took place that night, so folks were able to choose from 34 different taco trucks for their dinner if they wanted.



The FOAL Auberry contingent enjoys the *Fresno Grizzlies* game on Aug 18th.

For those who stayed until the end, the game was an overtime thriller. The home team eventually won it at 10:45 p.m. with a tie-breaking run scored in the bottom of the eleventh inning!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I felt the cool temperatures of our recent Labor Day weekend, I was filled with a sense of gratitude. One reason was, of course, thankfulness for a break in summer's heat and the promise of fall soon to arrive. I was also feeling grateful for summer's sun and fun with friends and family; I have memories of visits and vacations shared with photos, food and laughter. But most of all on that long weekend, I was feeling glad to be a member of a small community in which I have

built a history of relationships. We are knit together here and I am thankful that many people felt the embrace of our community during our recent fire experience. FOAL is an important part of that fabric as we bring a variety of experiences to the foothills for the enjoyment of all. Finally, I am grateful to be a part of this organization and I

“Join our community at FOAL events and share our gratitude.”

appreciate the hard work of the board members and the program director. As the season changes, the pace of our lives increases with fall activities and family holidays. Join our community at FOAL events and share our gratitude.



Jamelie Taylor

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.*

FOAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Kylie with FOAL board member and Sierra High educator Beth Linder Carr.

Congratulations to Prather resident Kylie Simonian, who received the 2016 FOAL Teen Scholarship. On Wednesday, June 1st, at the Sierra High School Senior awards ceremony, FOAL board member Beth Linder Carr was on hand to present Simonian with a \$500 scholarship.

Kylie has shown an ability to excel both inside and outside of the classroom. She volunteered more than 40 hours at the Auberry Library. FOAL is proud to make this award to such a talented, hard-working young community member, who we feel will make the most of this \$500 scholarship. According to Kylie: “My mom suggested that I apply for the FOAL scholarship, and I am so happy she did. The money has

helped me purchase school supplies and books. Knowing that all my hard work was rewarded in the end was amazing and I feel honored to have been chosen.”

FOAL would like to interest other students in applying for the scholarship. Applicants must:

1. Be a Sierra Unified School District resident.
2. Be a graduating high school senior in the year of the award.
3. Be or have been an active member of the Friends of the Auberry Library Teen Program and a regular library user.
4. Volunteer at the Auberry Library and/or for FOAL a minimum accumulation of 40 hours over a four-year period.

“Knowing that all my hard work was rewarded in the end was amazing”

NEW FOAL OFFICE SIGN

FOAL has many friends and volunteers we see at events, but one many of you may not have known about is Peter McKinley. A creative problem solver, one of Peter's jobs about four years ago was to replace the deteriorating signs for Earl Dunn, our landlord at Oakview Terrace. Peter not only replaced the splintered wood, but also paid Outlaw Printing from his own pocket to cut new vinyl letters for both sides which he mounted and poly-coated for weathering.

As part of FOAL's ongoing effort to make ourselves more visible in the community, we decided early in 2016 to expand Peter's sign dimensions by three times for a sign above the office itself. Outlaw came through with more vinyl and once again Peter assembled, weatherproofed and mounted the sign. Our offers of payment were cast aside with, "Thanks, but you do so much for the community that it feels good to give back." Next time you run into this talented and gracious fellow, please tell him thanks from all of us at FOAL.



Our new shiny office sign—thank you, Peter!

At a recent FOAL concert, featuring the *Subterraneans* (which was excellent, by the way!), one concert-goer made a quiet, generous gesture. The concert was well attended, and many had opted to participate in the evening's 50/50 raffle. This particular attendee won, and stood to bring home \$150! But instead, he turned around and re-donated the money to FOAL. The act was greatly appreciated by all who witnessed it.

VISIT "THE VAULT"



The old bank vault holds new treasures for readers! Have you shopped at "The Book Vault" recently? The old bank vault is now the FOAL used-book store, located in the back of the Auberry library. Like-new books, DVDs and CDs are available for a dollar each. The inventory is replenished with new titles weekly. The proceeds help pay for the wide variety of programs FOAL offers. Payment is on the honor system with the cash box located inside the vault. Please note that the library staff is unable to make change for the cash box, so try to have the correct change with you. Thank you for shopping and helping to spread our mission of literacy and lifelong learning!

PAYING IT FORWARD

At the very next concert, the winners again donated their winnings back to FOAL. This is by no means the expectation...we want people to take part and have fun! But for those occasions when someone is willing and able to do so, these actions do have an impact. Thank you, and we on the FOAL board hope to express our gratitude when we pay it forward to the community through our programs!

4 SIERRA SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST

This summer marked the first annual Sierra Short Story Writing Contest, co-sponsored by The Writing Gym and FOAL. When Writing Gym owner Pam Smedley approached the FOAL board with the idea, the board felt a strong connection between her goal and our mission. FOAL donated \$100, as well as provided judges and a venue for the awards ceremony.

Entrants in the contest ranged from 3rd grade through adult. The theme for the contest was to compose a short story which took place in the local Sierra Nevada foothills and mountains. According to judge Charlotte Gordon, the stories were "diverse and creative".

MEET A FRIEND: PEG SMITH

Can you give us a little of your personal history? I was born and raised in Los Angeles. I earned a degree in English at Occidental College, and married young. My husband got a position at Fresno State, teaching philosophy. I was happy, since it brought me close to the Sierras, which I loved (and still do!). Later, we moved with our three children to several other places: Princeton, and Seattle, but again returned to Fresno State. In 1981, I was in the first class graduating paralegals from San Joaquin College of Law, and worked in that field for about 15 years. Conservation was always important to me. I enjoyed studying botany and birds, and became involved in the Fresno Audubon Society. Over the years, I've taken classes at Fresno State, especially in plant taxonomy, that have added richness to my personal life.

And this led to your involvement with non-profits? Well, I had followed the progress of a group trying to protect Mono Lake. They did everything right. Over decades in the 1900s, the Los Angeles Department of Water and

Power diverted more and more water that fed Mono Lake. In the 70s, a small, active group was able to change this policy. So, when I became aware of a proposed housing development in the San Joaquin River bottom, I took action. Initially, two friends joined me in an effort to "make noise", attending meetings to oppose the development. The Board of Supervisors ended up reducing the size of the development to the point where it was no longer attractive for development. Our small group later evolved into the San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust (PACT).

How about the Sierra Foothill Conservancy? Chuck and I married in 1986. We became aware of the Nature Conservancy, headquartered in San Francisco, which owned the Black Mountain and MacKenzie preserves. We became local contacts for them, and actually lived in a house on Black Mountain preserve. When the Nature Conservancy changed its focus to larger projects, Chuck proposed and formed the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, a local non-profit to inherit ownership of those preserves. We were amazed at the level of support in that effort.

Winners received a \$35 gift certificate for first place, and \$15 for second. All entrants were then eligible for a raffle for four \$25 gift certificates from the Pizza Factory. If you see these writers, shake their hand and ask about their story!

Youth	1. Ivy Hines 2. Ariel Thornton
Teen	1. Elijah Rodriguez 2. Celeste Jones
Adult	1. D. Scott Mohney 2. Jennifer Cooper

We look forward to seeing the second annual offering of this contest next spring.



Peg is a 20-year resident of Auberry, and was one of the founding members of FOAL

And finally, our favorite non-profit: FOAL? Anne Neal contacted me, explaining that a local group was forming to manage money donated to the community by Mr. Sohm. I agreed to serve on the board, because I thought this was (and is) important for the community. I spent six years on the board, many as secretary.

What do you wish other people knew about FOAL? I do wish more people were aware of the programs--they are free, and all are welcome. I also love the emphasis on programs for kids and teens.

CONTINUED on p.7

LIBRARY LINK: HAPPENINGS AT OUR FAVORITE LIBRARY

TEEN ACTIVITY GROUP (TAG): BY TEEN CONTRIBUTOR ELIZABETH DENNISTON



The TAG hard at work...having fun!

"I look forward to each Thursday to hang out with my friends and do something new"

-Caleb Denniston

WHERE'S THE DINNER?

Many of our friends are regular attendees at our annual "Friend Raiser" dinner. This event originated as a fund-raiser, with the added goal of hopefully recruiting new members into the FOAL fold—perhaps lured by good food and good company! Although this has been a much-enjoyed event, we found that we were a) not successfully raising much money and b) not successfully expanding our membership. The board decided to take a pause, and consider other means of accomplishing FOAL's two primary goals (funds and new members).

As an alternative, we elected to try one large concert with a door charge and raffle. This would be an outdoor event to accommodate a larger crowd. Therefore, we'll be skipping our annual membership event this year, and targeting next "outdoor season" for this event. We hope, when the time comes, that our members will again turn out and enjoy each other, the event, the evening, and bring a new friend!

Do you have some feedback on this, or any other ideas that might help us reach our two goals? Drop us a line at foalorg@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

There are many words to describe TAG, but here are a few that members of the group thought of: amazing, adventure-packed, fun, creative, exciting, and friendly. What we all enjoy most about this awesome group is that we get to spend time with amazing people! Mrs. Amy Poore, the group leader, is probably the best addition to every week. Everyone looks forward to her happy attitude each week, and knowing there is a new fun-filled activity ahead. I asked a few of the members of the group to give me their input on our weekly TAG meetings.

"It inspires some deep [conversations]. It's a place where friends meet. It expands our friend groups and our genre preferences." –Abigale Jackson

"We get to hang out with people we get to know and have fun." –Sierra Frost

"You get to meet new people and make new friends; you can also participate in the many activities that are fun for everyone. I look forward to each Thursday to hang out with my friends, and do something new." –Caleb Deniston

Those were just a few of the responses, and were "spot on" to how everyone feels about TAG. Each week I, and I know others, look forward to seeing everyone, doing an activity, building our friendships, and just having a great time!

Upcoming TAG Activities

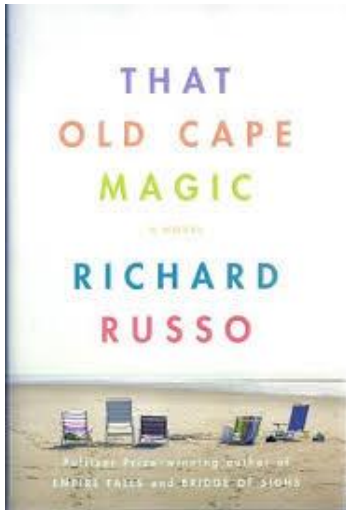
10/6/16 Make it & Take it craft

10/13/16 Henna tattoos*

10/20/16 Book club

10/27/16 Pumpkin carving

* may start early due to Sierra Unified "early release" day.

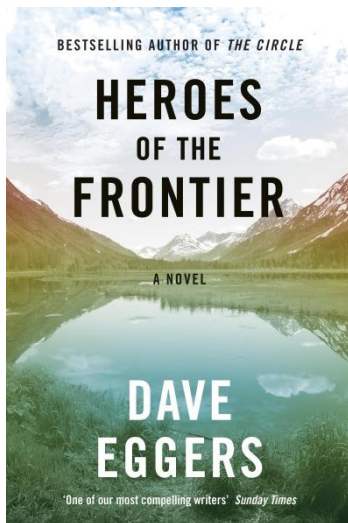


Reviewer: Jamelie Taylor **Genre:** Fiction

***That Old Cape Magic* by Richard Russo**

Sometime last year a friend recommended the author Richard Russo to me. Since then I have read several of his works: *Empire Falls*, *Bridge of Sighs*, *The Risk Pool*, and most recently, *That Old Cape Magic*. Russo is a master storyteller who paints his characters as real people full of flaws we can identify with in situations sometimes humorous and often serious.

The main character in ...*Cape Magic*, Jack Griffin, is struggling with his identity and relationships throughout the book. As the tale unfolds we look with him back at his childhood summers spent on the cape with his parents and at his own married life and parenting. The scenes are so well drawn by Russo that I could imagine this story as a play: scene 1, First Wedding--Cape Cod and scene 2, Second Wedding--Coastal Maine. His memories, though painfully poignant, engage the reader in Griffin's search for self-knowledge. If you would like to explore the craft of a master storyteller and a wordsmith, I recommend anything by Richard Russo.



Reviewer: Anne Neal **Genre:** Fiction

***Heroes of the Frontier* by Dave Eggers**

Josie, an unemployed dentist, has escaped Ohio and her estranged husband by traveling to Alaska with her two children. With a bag of cash and an ancient rented RV, the three of them dodge forest fires and detection, encountering strange, friendly, and sometimes menacing characters along the way.

Eggers' narrative flows easily with clever description and humorous insight into people's foibles and the human condition. Josie's choices hold the reader in suspense with each adventure. Eggers has created characters we won't soon forget.

Reviewer: Stella Velez **Genre:** Young Adult Fiction

***Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio,**



Wonder is the story of August Pullman's first year at public school. Starting a new school is a daunting prospect for anyone and August, or Auggie, has more reason than most to be anxious. August was born with severe facial deformities and until the story begins has been homeschooled due to numerous surgeries. In school he faces typical middle school problems, like finding friends and fitting in, that are not helped by his unusual appearance. Still, Auggie is a fairly ordinary kid, and his and the other characters' jokes and outlook on the world add hilarity to the book. The story is told in seven parts and from several perspectives. Auggie, his older sister Via, his friends, and his older sister's friend and boyfriend each get a chance to lend their own tale and character to the story.

This is in many ways a classic middle school coming-of-age tale but I think any reader who happens to pick it up off the shelf will enjoy the relatable, charming and humorous characters and the honest depiction of growing up that the author captures so well.

MEET A FRIEND CONT'D

What might someone be surprised to know about you? I am a first-generation American. Both my parents were born and raised in Switzerland. I was raised as a good little Swiss girl, and my mother spoke a Swiss dialect of German at home. That may explain why kindergarten was a blur...I didn't really know the language! I still correspond with relatives in Switzerland, and I can identify with being an American who still treasures roots in a different culture.

Do you have a favorite travel destination?

Switzerland, especially the town where my father grew up. We worried about our family in Europe during WW2. Finally, in 1948, when I was 16, we traveled back. We went from New York to Newfoundland to Scotland. We visited London, then Zurich.

What do you like to do in your spare time? Go to the mountains and walk, looking for interesting plants. I have been part of a group that goes walking once a week. This year, I walked on our five acres and made a list of plants I observed—I counted 75 species!

Do you have a favorite book to recommend? Not overall, but recently, I read *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow. I learned a lot not only about Alexander Hamilton, but about how the founding fathers were feeling their way through uniting all these proud colonies into one nation. One of the big debates was whether to have a standing army. It was seen as a tool of tyranny, which they had just escaped. Also, I just read *The Quartet* by Joseph Ellis. The author proposed four people as most influential in the creation of the US government. Of course, one was Alexander Hamilton!



Amy Poore supervises while Beth Carr works at the FOAL snack booth at the Harvest Festival.

COMING SOON: HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

FOAL's Annual Holiday Book Sale will be held on Wednesday, November 30th and Thursday, December 1st, from 2-7 pm. The event will be at the FOAL office which is located in the Oakview Terrace, next door to the library. Just in time for your holiday shopping, now you can give the gift of reading at great prices! Like-new and gently used books, CDs & DVDs will all be sold at 2 for \$1. With hundreds of books to choose from in all types of categories, you are sure to find something for the readers on your gift list. Questions? Please contact our Program Director, Loren Leach at foalorg@gmail.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL BOOTH

Once again, FOAL will have a bake sale booth at the Intermountain Nursery's 24th Annual Harvest Arts & Peace Festival.

Each year, FOAL solicits donations of "home baked goodies" from the community for the festival. The FOAL booth is always a busy and popular spot where people stop to visit and have a sweet snack, taking a short break from perusing the wide variety of artisan wares. It is one of our biggest fund raisers of the year!

If you want to donate baked goods, you can drop them off at the Auberry Library on Thursday, October 13th or Saturday, October 15th, or just bring them by the FOAL booth at the festival any time during the weekend. If you wish to volunteer to work a shift in the booth during the festival contact Loren Leach at foalorg@gmail.com.

Harvest Festival Help

1. Volunteer in booth
2. Make baked goods
3. Purchase and eat baked goods (most popular option)

Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

A registered non-profit since 2005

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FOAL Focus Newsletter

Connie Schlaefer, Editor

RECOGNITIONS

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday & Sunday, **October 15 & 16**. Bake sale booth at the Intermountain Nursery's Harvest Arts & Peace Festival.

Friday, **October 21**, 7-9 p.m. Concert - From San Diego, acclaimed jazz pianist and composer *Danny Green and his Quartet* with special guest *Eva Scow*.

Monday, **October 24**, 7-8:30 p.m. Friends of Poetry Night

Monday, **November 7**, 7-9 p.m. Concert. 3-time National Guitar Fingerpicking Champion *Chris Proctor*.

Monday, **November 28**, 7-8:30 p.m. Friends of Poetry Night

Wednesday, **November 30** & Thursday, **December 1**. 2-7 p.m. Annual Holiday book sale



We're on the Web!

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

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