

# FOAL FOCUS

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

## BOOTSTRAP CIRCUS & MANA FIRE DANCERS THRILL CROWD



Mariposa-based Bootstrap Circus and Mana Fire Dancers on a perfect summer night in Sohm Garden

The Friends of the Auberry Library threw their first-ever benefit concert Saturday evening September 16th, featuring headliner band Bootstrap Circus. Joining the band were the Mana Fire Dancers, also well known throughout the greater Yosemite area. Mi Ranchito tacos and Ooh De Lolli frozen treats added to the festivities.

FOAL, which has treated the community to more than 100 free concerts, charged \$10 (children under 10 free) per ticket for the event which drew a crowd of over 100. Several local supporters contributed to the fundraiser, including Big Sandy Rancheria and the Rotary Club of Auberry Intermountain, as well as The Leach Family Trust in memory of Dale Leach, which paid for the entertainment. The benefit event also featured a 50/50 raffle and a raffle of art, goods and services donated by generous mountain locals.

Bootstrap Circus, (Adam Burns, guitars, lead vocals; Kristin Ramsey, violin, keyboard, guitar, vocals; Mark Albosta, drums; Greg Archer bass guitar) were on the stage early and warming up to deliver their unique

blend of folk and gypsy balladry which did not disappoint. The band performed from 7:00 to 9:00 pm with a brief intermission, allowing the raffle winners to be announced. From their album Freedom (2009) in addition to the title track, they played Shadowboxer, and Ballad of Billy Green. From their album Painted Face (2011) they performed Dirty Water, Down in the Alley, and Sunsets and Shooting Stars. From their most recent album The Elegant Life (2014) they did The Greatest Show on Earth, The Blackbird, To Be Loved, and Mad.

The band reserved its most exotic dance rhythms for the finale which enticed the Mana Fire Dancers to enter the grass area in front of the stage and swirl their gyrating flames only a couple feet from an entranced and cheering audience. FOAL director Loren Leach stated that the event netted the community benefit organization \$4,400 which will help allow it to continue its many services for the mountain community. Check out the video [here](#)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Jamelie Taylor

If you have been to a concert or an Anne Neal speaker evening this year you have been asked to fill out a survey for data collection. FOAL is hoping that with some numbers to work with we may qualify for additional grant money.

After collecting from ten events since February—five of each type—we think it is time to share some gleanings. Based on 212 responses, here are a few of the facts we have gathered. Thirty-four percent of our attendees live in Auberry while 17%

reside in Tollhouse and 14% in Prather with the other 35% coming from other places, primarily valley towns of Fresno, Clovis, Sanger and others. It was interesting and encouraging to know that announcements of our events reach beyond the foothills.

Age and ethnicity numbers reflect the make-up of our community for the most part. Fifty-six percent of our attendees are over 62 while only 15% are between the ages of early childhood and 45. We realize that we need to reach out to the local youth and their parents with our programming. Eight percent of those surveyed are Latino while 71% are Caucasian. The remaining 11 percent are spread between American Indian, Asian, African American and other. Ideally we'd like to see more diversity in our

audience in both categories of age and ethnic background.

Membership expansion is another goal for FOAL. According to survey results 38% of those who attend are members while 58% are not. Because of those numbers 64% have attended only 1-5 programs and merely 6% have been to ten or more. Although the most frequent method of finding out about programs was electronic either through Facebook, email or the website, those users do not join our community benefit organization.

These results are not surprising but help reinforce the goals FOAL has set for 2017/18: build membership, diversify programming and grow our funding base. If you believe in our mission, what can you do to help?

## FOAL Co-SPONSORS HARVEST ARTS FESTIVAL

Many of us in the community look forward each autumn to the annual art/music festival which was held for twenty-four years at Intermountain Nursery. Due to parking issues there, the event is moving on October 14 & 15 to Sierra High School's softball field and the museum grounds next door. It is changing from a privately-run weekend to one organized by community benefit organizations—Friends of the Auberry Library, Auberry Intermountain Rotary, the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society & museum, the Sierra Oaks Senior Center--as well as Intermountain Nursery.

This 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Arts Festival will be the same and different from those held before. Instead of paying for parking, parking will be free on the high school campus. Handicapped parking will be at the dorm and closer to the museum. Instead of music by the creek, the music will be on the museum stage with plenty of seating for listening and eating because the food booths will be

nearby. Instead of booths near each other on the nursery paths, vendors will enjoy grass underfoot in the shade of big trees.

As in previous years, many of the same artists and musicians will be there so you can find your favorites. There will be plenty of room to get together with friends on the grass under the trees. A second small stage will be hosted by the library for 'spoken word' presentations. There will be demonstrations of blacksmithing, spinning and birds of prey on the museum grounds as well as a therapy pony for petting on Sunday.

Bring your friends and family, plan to spend several hours and enjoy the changing season among members of our community. FOAL will still have its traditional baked goods booth, the only fundraising aspect of the event for FOAL, so we hope to have your continued support there. See you at Sierra High School on October 14 & 15!

## ANNE NEAL SPEAKER SERIES: A HISTORY OF TEMPERANCE FLAT



The beautiful San Joaquin River winds down through the foothills, past Temperance Flat toward Millerton Lake. Photo: kmph.com

On Tuesday, September 12, the Anne Neal Speaker series featured Anita Lodge talking about Temperance Flat. The audience listened carefully as Mrs. Lodge described a bit of the history of this part of the San Joaquin River Gorge as well as current issues. Five generations of her family have lived on the ranch at Temperance Flat, starting with an ancestor who swapped a rifle for a gold claim. The history of Friant dam was touched on before the lecture moved to current proposals for damming the river near Millerton Lake. The large audience seemed quite engaged, and had many questions for the speaker at the end of the presentation.

## GLEN DELPIT DELIVERS 1ST CLASS BLUES TO AUBERRY

On Saturday, July 22, FOAL hosted Glen Delpit and the Subterraneans to its 102nd free concert. Delpit (lead guitar and vocals) and the band (Dean McDonald, guitar; John Suhr, keyboards; Chris Eacock, Bass; Joe Luppino, drums) has been a Fresno area icon for 30 years and has nine albums dating from 1994 to 2014 with a wealth of material. The band changed pace throughout sets of soulful blues, up-tempo boogies, to all out old time rock 'n' roll. Delpit, who hails from New Orleans, keeps his tunes and lyrics firmly rooted in American soil. Of particular note

were polished band favorites: Let it Roll and New Pony, from the album Sleepin' Late on Judgement Day (2009); Writing on the Wall, from Lean Times in the Land of Plenty (2010); Champaign and the title track from Life is Like Shakespeare, (2013).

A perfectly "cool" (for July) evening accompanied the event and coaxed a crowd of about 80 people out from under their air conditioners. Several dancers of all age groups took advantage of the lively beats to "cut some lawn" at Sohm Garden. Local photographer and writer Tom Catchpole won the 50/50 raffle.

Check out the video [here](#)



Delpit and The Subterraneans brought great sound to Sohm Garden



Introducing Brittany Cameron

Hello, I am the acting teen librarian for Auberry Library and the entire Sierra Gateway cluster. Currently, I am a librarian trainee studying to get my Masters in Library and Information Sciences from San Jose State University. I will be graduating in December and will go on to be a full-fledged librarian. Working with teens is a passion of mine, and getting to plan engaging programs and crafts for the teens is one of my favorite things to do (besides actually doing the activity).

Here at Auberry, I host Teen Time every other Thursday, as well as a Teen Council on the third Thursday of each month.

During Teen Time, teens get to make different crafts like slime and tie-dye, as well as play board games and make ornaments! During the Teen Councils, whilst snacking, the teens can be seen doing team building exercises, discussing recently read books, and sharing their thoughts on what the library can or should do for teens and their community.

In my spare time I do arts and crafts at home, read or listen to books when I can (young adult books are my favorite), visit the outdoors, stargaze, and cook! Random fact: I am SCUBA certified and have seen nurse sharks in their own habitat, swam with a turtle, and have gone diving in the wide open sea, at night, with nothing but black water and tiny, pelagic, larval life around me. I look forward to sharing these experiences and more with the teens of Auberry!

## FOAL TEAM CONDUCTS STRATEGIC PLANNING OFFSITE

Each year, the FOAL Board steps back from the month-to-month topics of the regular meetings to look at the big picture. Is FOAL headed in the right direction? How can FOAL be more effective in its mission? The board members, plus the executive director and librarian liaison, pool their thoughts and hopefully reach a consensus on the answers to these big questions.

This year's offsite was particularly productive for two reasons. First, several of the members had attended governance training this past spring, and part of the day's agenda was to share lessons from the training so all could benefit. Second, the board received some great input at the annual meeting, when Beth Linder-Carr led a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Since many of our most active members were at the annual meeting, the SWOT analysis was an insightful and extremely valuable product. The team posted the SWOT analysis as they reviewed the existing strategic plan. The group decided that the strategic plan really needed to be updated to help define new goals

and highlight actions and measures so the board can tell whether progress is being made.

Common themes which are being incorporated from the SWOT analysis to the strategic plan are:

- Partner with other local organizations
- Increase public awareness/engagement
- Grow volunteer pool
- Balance the budget

The team was excited to note that progress on some of these items is already happening. FOAL partnered with the Eastern Fresno County Historical Society and the Sierra Oaks Senior Center to host the Harvest Arts Festival, hopefully bringing even more of our community into the mix. Also, the first annual benefit concert had some wonderful sponsorships from local businesses, the Rotary Club, and Big Sandy Rancheria.

The team will continue to refine the plan over the next few meetings, and will continue to share how members' inputs help shape new actions for FOAL.

# THANKS TO OUR BENEFIT CONCERT SPONSORS

In addition to our wonderful volunteers, and participants, FOAL would like to provide an extra special thanks and recognition to the following sponsors and donors:

Entertainment sponsor (\$850):

- Leach Family Trust in memory of Dale Leach

Gold (\$500) Sponsors:

- Big Sandy Rancheria
- Rotary Club of Auberry Intermountain

Silver (\$250) Sponsors:

- On the Mark Remodeling
- Anne and Stan Neal
- Mountain Flame Propane
- Dave's Auto
- John and Vickie Maxwell
- Regency Investment Advisors

Best Friend (\$50)

Foothill Physical Therapy

Bronze (\$100) Sponsors:

- Janzen Dental
- Laurel Doud & Tom Stern
- Ponderosa Telephone
- Beth & Michael Carr
- Sierra Mountain Dentistry
- Loren Leach
- Jeff Covey CPA, MBA
- Ponderosa Market
- Remax Gold Real Estate
- Wes & Lynda Qualls

Raffle prize Donors:

- Jerry Sewell: 2 art photographs
- Shaver Lake Marina: Houseboat Rental
- Bev Karau: Quilt
- Big Sandy Rancheria: 2 \$50 certificates to Broken Arrow Restaurant at Mono Wind Casino

## **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.*

## **FOAL Tours Presents:**



Stageworks Fresno's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m.

\$25 per person (\$2 less than if you buy the ticket yourself).

We will meet at the Fresno Art Museum's Bonner Auditorium. Seating is together as a group.

Space is limited to 12 people.

For more information, contact foalorg@gmail.com.

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERMOUNTAIN **Harvest Arts Festival** NEW LOCATION!

at Sierra High School  
and Eastern Fresno County Historical Museum

Sat Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-5pm & Sun Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm

Underwritten by Friends of the Auberry Library  
Sponsored by Auberry Intermountain Rotary Club

Live Music + Dance • Art + Fine Crafts • Local Farm Booths • Artisan Food Booths  
Children's Activities • Community Non-Profits  
Free Parking

Kern Family Farm Kids Booth • Cat Krosschell and her Birds of Prey • Performing Arts Stage

**Music Schedule - Main stage at the Museum**

Saturday, Oct 14		Sunday, Oct 15	
10-11am	Singer/Songwriter Dean MacDonald	10-11am	Sierra High Jazz Band & Mountain Choral Company
11am-12pm	Violinist Patrick Contreras	11am-12pm	Bluegrass/String Band The Gilly Girls
12:15-1:30pm	The Shap-Hill Jazz Project	12-1:00pm	Gypsy Jazz Band Le Petit Strings w/ violinist Eva Scow
1:45-3:15pm	Zydeco Band Jemmy and the Lunatics	1:10- 2:15pm	Jazz/Funk/Soul Band The Experience w/ Ray Moore & Eva Scow
3:30-5:00	Americana Band Lance Canales & The Flood	2:30-4pm	Roots Rock Band Glen Delpit & the Subterraneans

Larger Venue, Over 60 Great Vendors - More Activities & More Fun!

Free Community Event

FOAL - PO BOX 157, Auberry CA 93602 - 559-779-3625 - www.FriendsofAuberryLibrary.org - foalorg@gmail.com

## REMEMBER THE FOAL BAKED GOODS BOOTH!

Even though much is changing with the Harvest Arts Festival, one thing remains constant: FOAL will have a bake sale booth at the 25th Annual Harvest Arts 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 coffee and 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 12th or Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, or just bring them by the FOAL booth right by the stage 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](mailto:foalorg@gmail.com)

### Harvest Festival Help

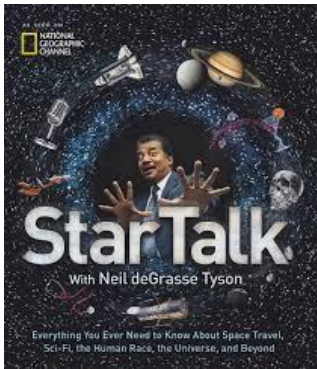
1. Volunteer in booth
2. Make baked goods
3. Purchase and eat baked goods (most popular option)



**Reviewer: Rick Sexty**

**Genre: Science**

**Star Talk by Neil deGrasse Tyson, Charles Liu, Jeffrey Lee Simons, (2016)**



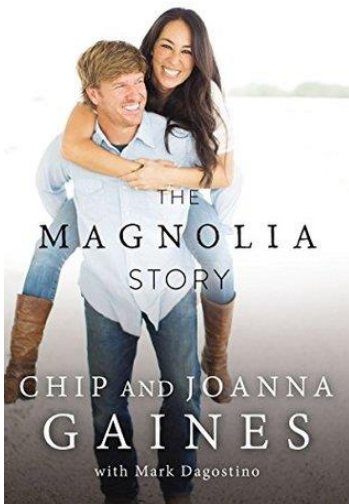
Loosely based on the recent Star Talk podcasts and the National Geographic Channel series of the same name, this fascinating book addresses a wide range of topics involving space, science and popular culture. The highly-illustrated volume of 302 pages, published by National Geographic, divides into four sections: Space; Planet Earth; Being Human; Futures Imagined.

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, heir to the late Carl Sagan of the famous Cosmos series on PBS and narrator of the Star Talk podcasts and TV series, is the major contributor and influence of this book. He orchestrates information, Q&A segments and humor, with an eye to open inquiry, hypothesis, and probability as they pertain to scientific method. Can I legally buy and own an asteroid, including its mining rights? How does the athletic wear industry influence superhero movie costumes? The answers to these and a myriad of other thought-provoking questions playfully engage readers of all ages. Science geeks will love this book, but geekdom membership is not required. There's something here for everyone with an inquisitive streak.

**Reviewer: Julia Deniston**

**Genre: Biography, Young Adult**

**The Magnolia Story by Chip and Joanna Gaines with Mark Dagostino (2016)**



Chip and Joanna Gaines host a very popular television show called, "Fixer-Upper." Because of its increasing popularity, people have wanted to know more about the couple. They decided to write a book.

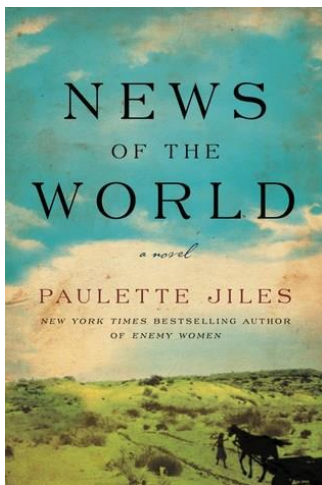
The book begins with their childhoods and jumps back and forth from Chip's perspective to Joanna's. They talk about growing up and how they met in their hometown of Waco, Texas. The book tells about their early marriage and how their television show almost didn't happen. The book is filled with humor and pictures of their lives.

Even though this book isn't a typical "Young Adult" book, if you are interested in the show "Fixer-Upper" or enjoy biographies, this would be a great book to read. I would highly recommend it if you enjoy books about business struggles, or just for the humor. I loved this book and would recommend it to anyone!

**Reviewer: Anne Neal**

**Genre: Historical Fiction**

**News of the World by Paulette Jiles (2015)**



Civil War veteran Captain Kidd makes a living traveling across northern Texas, reading newspapers to small town audiences for a 10-cent admission. The burden of returning a child who was recaptured from the Kiowa Indians to her relatives is thrust upon him, changing his life.

In the 400 mile journey to San Antonio, the old man and the 10 year old girl face bad guys, Indians, floods, and narrow-mindedness to form a bond of friendship. Jiles writes with elegantly spare prose to paint a portrait of the Texas countryside and people of the time. Captain Kidd and Johanna will stay with the reader long after the book is finished.

## AUTUMN/WINTER CALENDAR



Every Tuesday, Chess Club, All ages/abilities, Auberry Library, 3:30 - 5:30 p  
 Saturday, Oct 14, Harvest Arts Festival @ Museum/Sierra High, 10 am-5 pm  
 Sunday, Oct 15, Harvest Arts Festival @ Museum/Sierra High, 10 am-4 pm  
 Sunday, Oct 22, Tour--Stageworks Fresno's *Little Shop of Horrors*, 2-4:30 pm  
 November concert, details to be announced  
 December concert, details to be announced

We're on the Web!

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

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## ABOUT US

### Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

*A registered non-profit since 2005*

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#### Library Liaison

Raelene Fleming

#### Program Director

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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:

- The AHS Foundation
- The Bertha & John Garabedian Charitable Foundation
- The Downing Planetarium
- The Rotary Club of Auberry Intermountain
- Southern California Edison

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