

FOAL Focus

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

Benefit Concert Brought Fun and Fire to Auberry



The Mana Fire Dancers performed to the music of Hope Garcia and the Gs--- a hot combination!

FOAL hosted the 7th Annual Benefit Concert on Sept 13th, and it was a perfect night for the event. The band, Hope Garcia and the Gs, played a mix of R&B music that really engaged the crowd, and was a perfect accompaniment to perennial favorites, The Mana Fire Dancers. The evening was warm and comfortable, and a crowd of about 120 fans of all ages gathered in Sohm Garden to enjoy the show.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was some great food from Loretzeria Pizza and Madera Taco Truck. Guests also perused and bid on a variety of silent auction items donated from both businesses and individuals to help the cause.

This annual fundraiser is the one time a year when FOAL charges an admission fee to attend an event, which helps sponsor our free programs throughout the rest of the year. This year, we had many great individuals, businesses and organizations who made direct donations to support the event, especially our Platinum Sponsor Big Sandy Rancheria and Gold Sponsor Lite on the Land. A full listing is included on page 2. With everyone's support, the concert was our most successful ever, raising 154% over last year! We look forward to using these funds to bring even more value and enrichment to our community and library.

Chat From the Chair



Jamelie Taylor, FOAL Chair

The smoke has cleared, healthy rains have dampened the soil and the acorns are rolling off the roof. Time to repair that roof, put the garden to bed, plant some bulbs and move into the longer nights with a good read. I've been enjoying the benefits of listening to books using Libby

which provides free downloads from the Fresno County Public Library site. Whether in the kitchen, on the roof or in the yard my story can be with me in my pocket. Try it next time you are searching for a book.

FOAL appreciates all of the sponsors, donors and attendees who were part of our benefit event in September. It is always fun to see old friends and meet some new ones. The weather was balmy, the music a perfect match to the audience and the fire dancers, and the food choices were delicious. Thank you to everyone who helped make our yearly fundraiser a success.

FOAL's events now move into the library where we can share

speakers and music in a warm environment. This month we had an artist coming to the high school's art classes and then speaking in the evening. Later this month, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Chris and Tina Galfo, Eva Scow entertained an evening audience after spending the afternoon with Sierra's music students.

Our community is so fortunate to have a local library branch staffed with friendly faces to help find a book, get a library card, use a new service or print something.

People gather there for book clubs, children's story time and to play games. Take advantage of this resource and become part of the library's network.

FOAL Wishes to Thank Our 2025 Benefit Concert Generous Sponsors

Platinum \$1,500



Gold \$1000

Lite on the Land

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Thomas Catchpole

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Student Outreach and Concert: Eva Scow and Friends



Luttrell, Guzman, and Scow performing for Sierra's music students; Sierra students performing for the guests

On October 17th, Eva Scow performed both at Sierra High School for a student outreach, and at the Auberry Library as part of the FOAL concert series. She brought with her guest musicians Jacob Luttrell on the keyboards and Nathan Guzman on percussion. Scow has been a guest performer at the Auberry library nine times, and each time, her style has evolved. She is now playing mostly R&B, and continues to refine a love for jazz.

The musicians played for three different classes at the high school, and shared their thoughts and experiences regarding life in music. One key message that they all shared was the need for practicing fundamentals (scales and chords) to the degree that they become muscle memory and make improvisation easier. In an interesting exchange with the students, they asked how many of the students hoped to be playing music in some capacity when they were “their age” (ie the age of the guests). At least 80% of the students raised their hands. The musicians took the opportunity to re-emphasize practice and “learning how to listen”, as well as just playing as much as you can.

This was the first time the musicians had played together as a trio, and the common factor was Eva Scow. She has known both Luttrell and Guzman for decades, and were all from the Fresno area but had not performed together. Luttrell is a self-taught musician, singer, songwriter, and producer. Like Scow, he now lives in Los Angeles. Guzman remains in Fresno, where he is an active part of the Fresno music scene.

Scow really connected with the students when she shared that she had spent her early years at Balch Camp, which was a one-room schoolhouse where her father was the teacher. She studied classical music on piano, violin, and eventually found the mandolin. She mentioned to the students that one great thing about learning music today versus even 30 years ago is the availability of backing tracks, which allow a person to create their own accompaniment to songs they want to play.

One of the three classes that were included in the outreach was for the choral group, and the musicians invited them to share their work. The students performed “Blue Skies” and that seemed to relax the students into asking more questions. It was especially heart-warming to see how excited the students were to engage with the musicians after the bell rang, asking for autographs and taking selfies with the guests. The outreach this year was co-sponsored by FOAL, who made the arrangements, and Sierra Unified, who paid for the visit with voter-approved Prop 28 funds, which supplement the arts in schools.



Scow, Guzman, and Luttrell rocked the house (or the library) during their visit with a variety of music

Later that evening, the trio performed indoors at the Auberry Library for an enthusiastic crowd of about 30 attendees. This performance was sponsored by Chris and Tina Galfo, who have donated funds to FOAL to foster classical and jazz music in the foothills.

According to FOAL Chair Jamelie Taylor, one of the many special parts of the concert was when the audience requested something Brazilian, but Luttrell wasn't familiar with the chords. "Eva called them out to him, one after another, until he could improvise them enough to do a whole piece. It was very interesting."

Tom Catchpole, who also attended the concert, shared "It was good to have Eva Scow back on the FOAL concert stage. Many of her foothill fans have followed her music career since she was in high school and watched her grow and thrive as a professional musician in the LA area. She usually talks about her roots at Balch Camp where she first learned to play piano at age four and progressed to violin and mandolin. She started playing professionally in the eighth grade. She is also good with the SHS Music Department students when they do the FOAL music outreach to the music students. Many thanks to FOAL for such great concerts and to Chris and Tina Galfo for sponsoring the Eva Scow concert."

Next Student Outreach & Concert: BigFoot & the Moon 14 Nov

Visalia-based musicians BigFoot and the Moon will be visiting the high school and performing at the library on Friday, 14 November. Per [this profile](#) in the Visalia Times Delta, "The lead singer describes the music as swampy jazz-rock 'n' roll". You can preview some of their music on their website: [here](#)

Art Outreach at Sierra High: Artist Erin Webster



FOAL helped host a special guest for Sierra High art students on October 3rd: Erin Webster. Erin is a professional artist and art teacher at Washington Union. She is also a 1995 graduate of Sierra High, so it was a very special homecoming for her. She was a Coarsegold resident who transferred to Sierra specifically to study art with Robert Ogata, who was a long-time art teacher at Sierra.

Erin discussed her background and process with the students, and led them in a project. Her art is highly influenced by nature, and she incorporates both nature and symbolism in her work. She also shared how art had helped her through mental health issues. Her honesty and grounded perspective struck an important note with the students. She shared some of her past works and explained

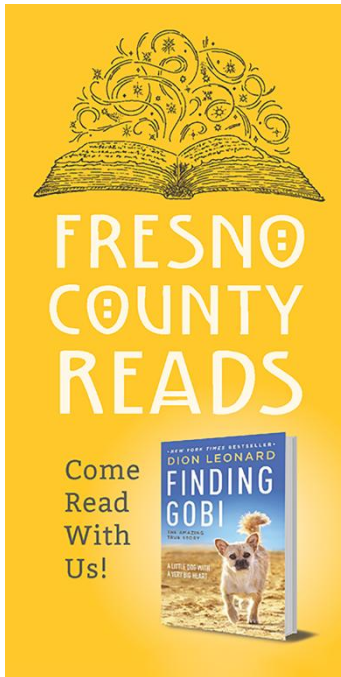
the symbolism in them, and then invited the students to experiment with some of her favorite tools. Students were given India ink to create a background, and leaves to draw as foreground. The hour went fast! Many of the students were so intrigued with the intensity of the ink colors that they paused to explore there, creating some beautiful color schemes.

This event was one in a series of new partnerships with Sierra Unified. In the past, FOAL has funded both art and music outreach, with artists later featured in evening FOAL programs. Since the passage of Prop 28, which supplements funds for the arts in schools, Sierra sponsors the artists for the school visit, which FOAL coordinates in conjunction with its evening programs. This has been a winning partnership for all as part of FOAL's mission to increase knowledge in our community. Erin went on to be a guest in the Anne Neal Speaker Series later that evening, which was very well received.

I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way—things I had no words for.

— Georgia O'Keeffe

Library Link: Auberry Branch Update



[Editor's Note: Apologies that a delay in publication meant that some of these great events already happened.] Fresno County Public Library is continuing the yearly fall reading challenge, Fresno County Reads. The program runs from October 1st to November 30th. The book this year is Finding Gobi by Craig Borlase and Dion Leonard about "the amazing untold true story about extreme ultra-runner Dion Leonard and Gobi the Chinese stray desert dog. (<https://www.findinggobi.com/>). This is a great book for dog lovers, runners, and travelers, and those who are interested in their stories. Learn about the heartfelt journey one man will take to bring home his little dog. The book contains themes of friendship, adversity, and compassion. The book is an adult autobiography but is also available as a picture book or in a young readers' edition (recommended age 8-12 years old). This is a book that will be good for the whole family!

You can sign up for the reading program under the Library Club links on the library website (fresnolibrary.org) or through the Beanstack app. There will be an assortment of programs for kids, teens, and adults that will correspond with Finding Gobi. The calendar of events can be found on The Fresno Library website under the Events & Programs button of the homepage.

Mr. Leonard and Gobi from the book will be visiting three of the libraries in Fresno County as part of the Fresno County Reads: Woodward Park Library October 16th 7:00pm-8:00pm, Betty Rodriguez Library October 18th 2:00pm-3:00pm, and Kingsburg Library October 22nd 11:00am-12:00pm. Registration via our website is encouraged if you are interested in attending any of these free library events.

Auberry Library will have a book club discussion on October 22nd at 10:00AM. Other programs include story times related to Fresno County Reads for children, crafts for pet-related decor, presentations about pet care, and pet adoption events. While reading the book is encouraged, it is not mandatory to participate in any of these programs and events. If you have any questions, call the Auberry Library at (559) 855-8523.

Fall Book Sale

FOAL has received some lovely donations this fall and will be offering them for purchase, along with many other books, at a book sale at the FOAL office

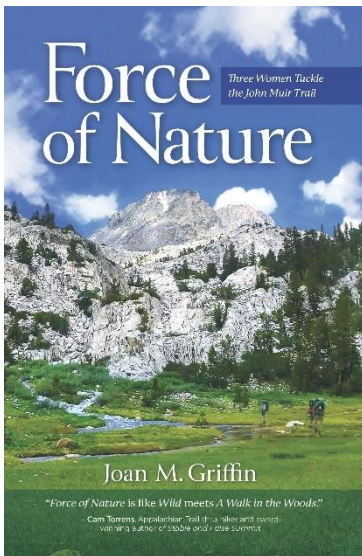
November 14 & 15
 Friday 10 - 4pm
 Saturday 10 - 5pm

Stop by and collect a bag of books to add to your holiday gifts. Can't make those dates? Stop by the office on Tuesdays between 9 and 3. Also check out the book vault in the library. These high-quality books make especially great gifts! Volunteers needed and welcomed. Contact foalorg@gmail.com

Holiday Bake Sale

Keep an eye out for the FOAL Bake Sale in December. We'll be at the library with an assortment of goodies to help with your holiday hosting needs (or just a personal celebration). Date is TBD but we will be sending out an e-mail with the details. This event is always a fun, casual opportunity to say hello, provide support, and treat yourself in one fell swoop. Thank you in advance for the donors who volunteer their time, energy, materials and expertise to share goodies for this event. If you are willing to donate a baked good, or serve at the sale, please contact us at foalorg@gmail.com.

A Friend Recommends: Book Review



Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail

By Joan Griffin (2023)

Genre: Non-Fiction

Reviewer: Anne Neal

Three friends, all over 50 years of age, set out to trek the John Muir Trail from Yosemite to Mt. Whitney. The reader is immediately immersed in a harrowing description of huddling on a mountainside while lightning blasts all around. The story takes us up and down the famous passes of the Sierra Nevada and we feel the blisters, the leg cramps, and the exhaustion of the hike. But we are also treated to the wonder of the flowers and star-studded nights, the careful rationing of food supplies, and the thrill of summiting yet another high Sierra pass. Griffin brings us along on her journey and I am so grateful for the experience.

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.***

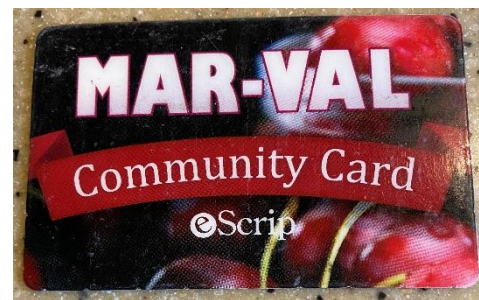
Mar-Val Community Card Donates to Non-Profits—like FOAL!

If you shop at Mar-Val, you can donate to some of your favorite non-profits—and of course we hope you will keep FOAL in mind. Mar-Val has a Community Card which, if scanned during your purchase, donates a percentage to your designated non-profits through the EScrip program. If you don't already have a card, ask for the application at Mar-Val. You will get a card to scan at checkout, and a percentage of your purchase will go to your designated non-profit(s). If you DO already have a card, break it out at checkout! This is a generous service that Mar-Val supplies, and we all should be using it. According to the EScrip website, the percentage of the donation varies: Up to 5% on all purchases based on the following:

- 1% between \$0 - \$99
- 2% between \$100 - \$199
- 3% between \$200 and \$299
- 4% between \$300 and \$399
- 5% between \$400 and \$2,499

That is meaningful money to your favorite non-profit!

We are thankful to Mar-Val for providing support in this way.



Autumn Calendar

Friday, Oct 17th. Student Outreach: Eva Scow. Sierra High School, 12:30-3:00 pm.

Friday, Oct 17th. Concert: Eva Scow. Indoors at the Auberry Library, 7:30-9:00 pm.

Friday, Nov 14th. Student Outreach: Big Foot and the Moon. Sierra High School, 12:30-3:00 pm.

Friday, Nov 14th. Concert: Big Foot and the Moon. Indoors at the Auberry Library, 7:30-9:00 pm.

Friday-Saturday, Nov 14-15. Book Sale. FOAL Office in the Oakview Terrace. 10 - 4pm Fri, 10 - 5pm Sat

Friday, Nov 21st. Anne Neal Speaker Series: Musician Jim Schmidt on Creating Specialized Instruments. Indoors at the Auberry Library. 7:30-8:30 pm.

Bake Sale TBD--We will keep you informed via e-mail

About Us

Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

A registered non-profit since 2005

Tax ID #: 20-2834496

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FOAL Focus Newsletter

Connie Schlaefel, Editor

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

The AHS Foundation

Valley Iron Inc.

Bonner Family Foundation

Fresno Arts Council

Anne and Stan Neal

Chris and Tina Galfo

TWO BROTHERS
LANDSCAPE

Official Landscape Contractor for Auberry Branch Library
Grounds and Sohm Garden

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