

FOAL Focus

A Quarterly Newsletter from Friends of the Auberry Library

A Perfect Night for FOAL's 5th Annual Benefit Concert



The Mana Fire Dancers gave a sizzling performance to the tunes of blues artist AC Myles and his band

Saturday September 9th was a gorgeous day to spend out in the Sohm Garden, listening to great music, watching the thrilling skills of the Mana Fire Dancers, and perhaps savoring an artisan popsicle. That evening, an audience of 130 people came together for the annual benefit concert to enjoy the event and support FOAL at the same time.

FOAL has a long history of providing free events for the community, but once a year, we ask the community to buy a ticket to attend the annual benefit concert. The benefit concert is the primary fundraiser for FOAL, and thanks to generous sponsors (listed on p. 4) as well as attendees who purchased a ticket, this event raised nearly \$7,000--enough money to fund all the other free concerts, plus a large part of the student music outreach *(cont'd on p. 2)*

Holiday Book & Bake Sale

The Holiday Book Sale, with gift-quality books for sale, will begin on December 1st.

A wide variety of adult and children's books, movies and puzzles will be available for the month of December in the Book Vault, FOAL's book store located in the old bank vault in the back of the library. The inventory will be restocked as space allows, so people can return more than once and find new items for sale. Items are purchased with cash on the honor system.

But wait, there's more! On Saturday Dec 16th, FOAL will be hosting its annual Holiday Bake Sale from 10 am to 5 pm in the Auberry Library. Everything from cookies, brownies, breads and muffins to Vickie Maxwell's famous apple pies will be available for *(cont'd on p. 3)*

Chat From the Chair



Jamelie Taylor, Chair

What a gorgeous sunny morning, unusually warm for mid-November. But what's usual anymore? The older we get the more we notice that nothing stays the same and the pace of life, traffic, the calendar seems ever faster. Wasn't it just September?

One of the methods I've discovered to slow time just a bit is to look back

and remember some of what's already passed by. To review FOAL's year, I like to take the time to look over all the flyers we've hung in our new office.

In each of the post-pandemic years 2022 and 2023 FOAL has offered 20 free programs and one fundraising benefit event to the community. The various themes range from comedy to astronomy and bluegrass to a string quartet. FOAL selects performers who are accomplished and professional. During Ray Moore's concert in July, I remember that the power went out. Unruffled, Ray plopped down on the stage and engaged the audience in some a cappella sing along until power was fixed. We just got a Facebook post from him in San Antonio where he is

performing in a huge venue. <https://www.facebook.com/ray.moore.31521/videos/1320635405480554/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

Imagine his expertise— from our garden to the Tobin Center!

2023 ended up being a busy year. Not only did it take two people to replace Loren when he retired in June, but the FCPL Auberry branch's facelift was completed this year from lighting to siding and signage. FOAL is ready to face the new year with a variety of programs, outreach at the schools and creative fundraising ideas. Help us expand our group of friends by bringing someone new to an event or sharing this Focus with them.

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.*

Benefit Concert (cont'd from p. 1)

at Sierra High School. Blues rock guitarist, songwriter and singer AC Myles along with bassist Phil Santellan and drummer Brian Bischel set the mood with irresistible song after song. Just watching Myles with the guitar is completely engaging, as his fingers are flying during each song. Later in the evening, three fire dancers performed to the music individually, as a duo, and as a trio for the grand finale.

Please take a look at the sponsors list on p.4 and if you get the chance, thank them and support their businesses!



Part of the fiery finale at the benefit concert

Anne Neal Speaker: Chris Velez Shares CA Native Plant Expertise



Velez and his buddy Stipa

An enthusiastic audience attended Chris Velez' slide presentation at the Auberry Library on November 7. He had generously stepped in when the scheduled speaker was unable to come. The word spread that Chris would be talking so people came to hear about gardening with native plants.

Chris moved to the Prather area in 2000, working with Ray and Bonnie at the Intermountain Nursery. Chris credits Ray with teaching him about propagation of native plants. Chris and wife Jamie later established a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm nearby with local members benefiting from the organic produce they harvested. He now works as a land steward for Sierra Foothill Conservancy.

He shared tips on gardening such as: always dig your planting hole and fill with water first. Observe the drainage or lack of, never planting in a place with no drainage. Observe where successful plants grow. Freeze wildflower seeds before sowing and plant just before the rains begin. Pour boiling water over Redbud and Lupine seeds to encourage sprouting. In pruning shrubs, take them back no more than a third at a time. He recommended several websites such as CalScape.

Submitted by Anne Neal

Book and Bake Sale (Cont'd from p. 1)



your holiday wishes! Regular baked goods, vegan, gluten or sugar free, there's something for most anyone's tastes or dietary needs. Come by, pick up some tasty treats, and some food for your mind in the form of books!

If you would like to donate baked goods, please contact Office Manager Susan E. Smith at foalorg@gmail.com. Donations can be dropped off at the FOAL office on Friday the 15th from 11-2, or brought directly to the sale.



*"My Best Friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read."
— Abraham Lincoln*

Library Link: Auberry Branch Update

The Fresno County Public Library is one of 50 U.S. libraries selected to host a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The exhibit is titled *Americans and the Holocaust*. It is currently on display at the Central Library in downtown Fresno until December 30, 2023.

The exhibit is based on extensive new research of that period and addresses important themes in American history, exploring the many factors that influenced decisions made by the U.S. government, the news media, organizations, and individuals as they responded to Nazism. This exhibition will challenge the commonly held assumption that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and genocide of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded.

In addition to the exhibit, FCPL and other community organizations will be hosting a series of related special events:

December 3, 2023

Survivors Stories: Central Library, 2pm (2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno CA 93721)

Hear personal stories of families and individuals during genocide through a moderated panel and Q&A.

December 5 and 6, 2023

Author Talk with Dr. Bradley W. Hart, PhD

December 5: Woodward Park Regional Library, 7pm (994 E Perrin Avenue, Fresno CA 93720)

December 6: Zoom (virtual)

Meet author Dr. Bradley W. Hart, Ph.D and discuss his book *Hitler's American Friends: The Third Reich's Supporters in the United States*.

Submitted by Jamie Kurumaji, FCPL

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Reviewer: Jamelie Taylor

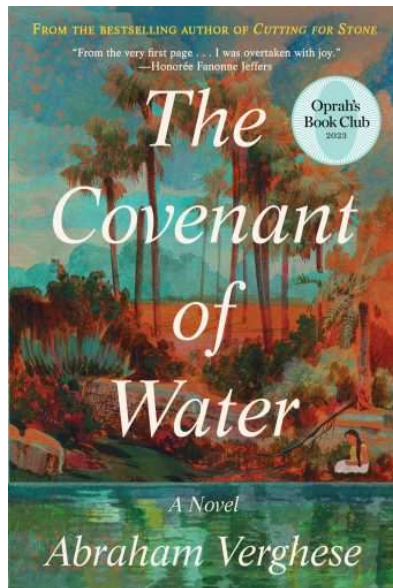
Genre: Suspense, Thriller

How can I Help You by Laura Sims (2023)

This is a very frightening book that involves the lives of two librarians in a small-town library. The author builds the back story of the two women as she reveals a few of their idiosyncrasies.

Margo, who is hired first, fits in well helping people with a willing, charming, and friendly attitude. When Patricia is hired to fill the reference desk, Margo becomes more tense and interactions begin to rattle her. Patricia takes note and as a reader, tension mounts.

If you like a twist at the end and don't mind a bit of the darker side of human nature, this book is a page-turner. Publishers Weekly described it as "a brilliant slice of psychological suspense."



Reviewer: Anne Neal

Genre: Fiction, Historical

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese (2023)

A family has been cursed for generations with a mortal fear of dying in water. For good reasons: many have drowned or even died lying face down in a puddle of water. It is not until the end of the novel that the reason is revealed.

Verghese is a masterful storyteller who takes the reader on a journey through three generations of a family in Southwest India while we experience changes in medicine and society. His characters become real and we root for them, holding our breath as the story unspools. He is also a physician who wrote the novel "Cutting for Stone" which many readers cite as the best book they have ever read. Indeed, both of these novels fulfill this category for me.

Save the Date: Community Shred Event March 16th

Although spring seems far away, here's a preview of an occasion to help with your spring cleaning—a free shred event for the community. FOAL is partnering with Central Valley Community Bank and Big Sandy Rancheria to hire a shredding truck to come up to Auberry. Bring your old documents and rest easy that they will be quickly shredded right before your eyes. The event will be held in the parking lot of the Auberry library from 11am to 1pm on Saturday March 16th. Volunteers will be on hand to help transfer your boxes or bags to the truck. Look for more details in our e-mail announcements as the date approaches.

Winter Calendar

December 1st – 24th. **Holiday Book Sale.** During library hours, indoors at the Auberry Branch Library.

Saturday December 16th. **Holiday Bake Sale.** 10am – 5pm, indoors at the Auberry Branch Library.

Saturday March 16th. **Community Shred Event.** 11am – 1pm, Auberry Branch Library parking lot.

Don't worry...we'll have lots of events in 2024! As always, keep an eye out for flyers and e-mail announcements, and check out our website at www.friendsofauberrylibrary.org

About Us

Friends of the Auberry Library (FOAL)

A registered non-profit since 2005

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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:

The AHS Foundation

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

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