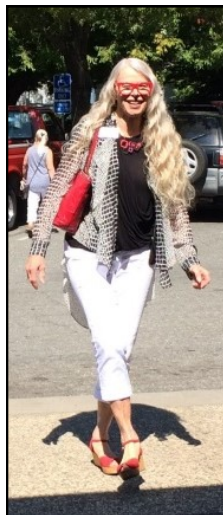


### Good Luck, But Not Good -Bye to Brenda Crofts

Marian Milling



Chico Library Branch Manager Brenda Crofts retired January 31. Officially she will no longer be at the library daily, but unofficially she will be around and contributing to local library culture as she has for years.

Brenda came to Butte County in the early 70's when her husband accepted a library position at Chico State. Her library career started at Butte College; then she went to work

fulltime for the Butte County Library system in 1977—and stayed for the next 40 years! Brenda was the County's first professional technical services manager and instituted changes and practices that were used not just countywide but throughout northern California where she demonstrated innovations and trained library staff.

Eventually Brenda worked in public services and then library management. She was administrator at various times at Butte County's three largest branches: Paradise, Oroville, and Chico. When asked about highlights of her career she said, "There was always something new." She saw the advent of online catalogs, cataloging locally, and many other progressive practices. This pattern continued right up to the last year as she oversaw installation of the RFID circulation system and inauguration of Virtual Reality and the new Maker Space at Chico.

Just as Brenda and her husband Joe Crofts arrived in North State together to start library careers, they ended them on the same day, a



unique event. Brenda's active and innovative style and her colorful appearance will be missed at Chico Branch. But she's not going away. She plans to engage in new learning opportunities such as OLLI classes and to make book suggestions regularly. She has served on the local Book-in-Common selection committee for 10 years and will continue in that. We wish her the best on new endeavors and thank her for her many contributions.

### New Chico Branch Librarian is Homegrown

Diane Friedman

We are fortunate to have **Susie Serrano** as our new Chico Branch Librarian.

Susie is an old friend with a great deal of experience. Susie started at the Chico Branch in 1994 as a Private Industry Council (PIC) summer worker while still in high school. She would have preferred a more "exciting" job placement, but the library won her over. After high school, she started as a part time employee that led to a full time job as a library assistant. While working full time, Susie continued her education until she received her Masters in Library & Information Science from San Jose State in 2009. Yes, libraries really do change lives!



Since then she has become a leader, starting with being the county-wide Children's Librarian. In 2014, Susie became the Paradise Branch Librarian. During her time in Paradise, she worked with the staff and Paradise Friends of the Library (PFOL) promoting the library in the community, participating in community events, and improving the function of the branch. Among other endeavors in the Paradise Branch, they added more tables and computer carrels,



"I'm of a fearsome mind  
to throw my arms  
around every living  
librarian who crosses  
my path, on behalf of  
the souls they never  
knew they saved."

— Barbara Kingsolver



### Inside this issue:

Brenda Retires	1
New Librarian	1
Makerspace Grants	2
New Virtual Reality	2
Trivia Bee	2
Barbara Seawall	2
Love Your Library	3
Volunteer Luncheon	3

Continued on page 2

— *New Chico Branch Librarian, continued*

rearranged the children's area, implemented RFID, held live concerts, hosted Book Club Socials, and helped start a Seed Lending Library. Susie enjoyed helping the people of Paradise working alongside the wonderful staff, volunteers, and the PFOL.

We look forward to working with Susie here in Chico!

## Successful Grant Writing by Staff Benefits Maker Space

*Alex Chen*

Butte County Library recently received two competitive technology related grants from Southern California Library Cooperative totaling \$20,000: the Libraries Illuminated grant and the Innovation Station grant. In this upcoming year, projects and programs from the two grants will gradually roll out to the public, please stay tuned!

Funds from the Libraries Illuminated grant will allow the library to purchase technology upgrades, robotic kits, media streaming equipment, and additional VR gear. These expand our STEM programming at the library and enrich the use of the Makerspace.

The Innovation Station grant will facilitate the idea of "Makerboxes" - boxes with different themes that can be checked out by patrons or organizations. The Innovation Station grant is a joint effort between the Butte County Library and the Tehama County Library, as well as several local organizations and schools providing support letters.



## New Virtual Reality Equipment and Content

*Alex Chen*

Patrons are enjoying the opportunity to explore and play in a virtual world with Chico Library's Virtual Reality Experience. The library recently received a HTC Vive

(headset and controller) in addition to the Oculus Rift set, as well as some more platform-specific content.

HTC Vive provides a slightly different experience from the Oculus; the headset is more comfortable to wear and more adjustable for smaller heads and the handsets are larger. Exciting new content for Oculus includes: theBlu - Deep ocean experience, close encounters with sea turtles and giant whales; Fruit Ninja - Fun and good workout; Mars Odyssey - You are the astronaut to explore Mars, weld the hull of a Martian base, and pilot a Mars rover.

Please keep yourself posted with our upcoming VR sessions on <http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary/calendar.aspx> Teens and older are welcome.

## Bibliomaniacs Place Third in Trivia Bee

*Nancy Leek*

Who was the first man in space?

Earth has four geologic layers. What is the name of the layer beneath the crust?

What scale is used to measure the heat of hot peppers?

What name was the mother of President Jimmy Carter known by?

What is the only continent with land mass in all four hemispheres?

What two state capitals lie on the Mississippi River?

In military lingo, what is HALO an acronym for?

In her comedy routine, what name did Phyllis Diller use for her husband?

Which New York borough was the birthplace of hip-hop?

On November 17th, 2017, more than twenty teams competed for the title of Trivia Champions of Butte County. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Bee for Literacy took place at the Sierra Nevada Big Room, and the room was packed with trivia buffs. The contest is a fundraiser for Butte County Library Literacy Services. Teams answered questions that increased in difficulty as they advanced through three rounds, all in pursuit of the coveted title and bragging rights.

Representing the Chico Friends of the Library were the "Bibliomaniacs," a team consisting of Nancy Leek, Jean Ping, and Phil Midling. The "Bibliomaniacs" came in third place, after 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners "Three Men and No Baby" and the North State Symphony.

*Answers: Yuri Gagarin, mantle, Scoville scale, Miss Lillian, Africa, St. Paul and Baton Rouge, High Altitude Low Opening, Fang, Bronx*

## Chico Library Loses Jewel

*Debbie Cobb*

The City of Chico has lost a treasure. Barbara Seawall passed away December 18, 2017 at the age of 97. Barbara was a longtime library supporter stemming from her love of books and sense of civic responsibility. After moving to Chico with her husband, she served as a Library Assistant at Chico State



**Yule Logs Fill the Library to Bursting with Youngsters, Oldsters, and Cheerful Holiday Music** *Photo by Alex Chen*

Meriam Library from 1970 until she retired in 1985.

Seawall continued her love of libraries and books long after retirement. She was a big supporter of the new Chico Branch of the Butte County Library and was active in the Chico Friends of the Library (CFOL). Barbara was efficient, enthusiastic, and charming. Her wittiness brought her great sense of humor to our CFOL Board Meetings every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. She channeled her abundant energy organizing the CFOL Book Sale and wrote a valuable history of the branch and CFOL.

In 2007 Barbara moved to be closer to family in San Mateo, but her heart was always in Chico. She kept in close contact with library staff and the CFOL and frequently contributed to the Chico Library, even sharing a portion of her trust with the Friends. We will miss her dearly.

## Love Your Library Month

*Mary Wahl*

If you love to read, this is the month to show your love for the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library. CFOL continues to purchase books, magazines, DVDs, audio books, e-books and much, much more for the branch with your donations and book sale proceeds. CFOL funds craft supplies for six weekly children's story hours, movie license fees for Sunday afternoon family movies, book club sets for the library book club, supplies for adult knitting and coloring programs, and special programs (Yule Logs, storytellers,

magicians).

When you come into the Chico Library you will notice a large area in the middle of the library that is our Makerspace. How exciting it will be to see all kinds of things going on in this space as it gets up and running. (3D printer - computers and graphic programs, sewing machines, places for small group activities making all kinds of ideas come to life.) CFOL is paying for construction of this space and many of the fun things inside.

In the past few years, we received wonderful donations from the broader Chico community through the Annie B's Campaign of North Valley Community Foundation. This year that program was discontinued with no replacement, so we are hoping that our members donate generously and encourage other Library lovers to do the same to make up for that deficit.

Remember that with membership comes our newsletter *The Carrel* and admittance to our "Members Only" book sale on the **First** Friday of the month. Members who provide us with an email address get monthly updates on current happenings at the library.

A membership envelope is included in our paper newsletter for your convenience. You may drop the envelope at the library or send your membership to

Chico Friends of the Library  
P.O. Box 6952  
Chico CA 95927

You may also donate online at [chicolibrary.org](http://chicolibrary.org)

We have the following membership categories, although we appreciate donations of all sizes. Please renew your membership to the CFOL and encourage your friends and family to join in support of reading materials for all.

\$1000 Circle of Friends  
\$250 Sponsor  
\$100 Patron  
\$50 Friend  
\$37.25 Club member  
\$15.00 Member/Donor

## Volunteer Potluck Celebration

*Ann Elliott*

Do you volunteer in the library or help at the CFOL book sale? If so, come to the annual



volunteer potluck in the library conference room on **Thursday March 1, from noon to 2**. If not, come to the potluck and find out why we all love the library. Bring something yummy to share with the rest of us. Library staff hosts the celebration with support from the Friends for supplies.

**This coupon admits you, a Chico Friends of the Library member, to the "First Friday" Members-Only Book Sale on March 2, April 6, May 4**

Sales are held on the first Friday of the month before the first public Saturday sale each month.



Chico Friends of the Butte County  
Library

P.O. Box 6952  
Chico, CA 95927

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## Coming Events

- The regular **Book Sale** is open every Saturday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Chico Branch Library, corner of East First Avenue and Sherman Avenue. This is CFOL's primary fundraiser.
- **First Friday Members-only Book Sale**, March 2, April 6, May 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chico Branch Library, corner of East First Avenue and Sherman Avenue.
- The **CFOL Board Meetings** are the 3rd Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m. at the Chico Branch Library, Corner of East First Avenue and Sherman Avenue.
- The **Chico Library Book Club** meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. and at 6 p.m. at the Chico Branch Library, corner of East First Avenue and Sherman Avenue.
- **Late Breaking News:** New York Times bestselling author J.A. Jance to stop by Chico Library on book tour with her latest Ali Reynolds adventure *Duel to the Death*. Tentative appearance date March 25th

See the CFOL calendar online at <http://chicolibrary.org/index.php/intronewsflash/calendar>

See the Butte County Library online at <http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary>