



Carrel: noun...a small recess or enclosed area in a library stack, designed for individual study or reading



Join Us on May 21: Eric Miller, StoryTeller at CFOL Annual Meeting

Brenda Crotts, CFOL President

Greetings and Happy Spring!

We thank you for your book sale donations and visits to purchase reading material. Your membership is greatly appreciated as are your many reasons for using the library in person and online.

We hope to see you at our annual meeting on May 21st at 6:30p.m. at the Library.

What can you look forward to? We will have a brief business session to elect a slate of officers for 2024/2025 and a vote on a few revisions to our Bylaws. We are proposing an increase in the maximum number of Board of Directors from nine to 13. Please visit www.chicolibrary.org to view the Bylaws including these updates.

I am pleased to announce our speaker this year, Eric Miller. An article about him and the program he will deliver follows. We will top off the evening with refreshments.

Why Write? Because it's Cheap Therapy

Guest Speaker Eric Miller

Eric Miller began humor writing in the early 1990s with the column *Garbage Talk*, which appeared in several gerbil-powered Northern Sacramento Valley newspapers before Al Gore invented the internet. Eric worked in the garbage business at the time and wrote strange but true landfill stories. The landfill humor gig stopped when he moved to Chico because upper management said he wouldn't be taken seriously.

Eric rebooted his humor writing in 2012 with the Chico Enterprise-Record's *North State Voices*. His columns focused on family life, ranging from adult acne to misplaced car keys. Then came the *Etc. Guy* blog in 2013 and his book "Let Me Tell You a Story" in 2014.

Eric's blog consistently holds last place on the entire internet. Is he fazed? Naah. *Etc. Guy* unabashedly shares the tales of a father in the sandwich generation. He aims to stay out of trouble with his daughters and parents, and lives to tell the story. He's a dreadful handyman, terrible mechanic, and has-been athlete with tired lungs and weak knees.

Several of his stories were recorded and archived on Nancy's Bookshelf on NSPR, KCHO 91.7 FM Chico. Eric has co-emceed the Butte County Library's *Trivia Bee for Literacy* fundraiser since 2015. An Air Force brat originally from Colorado Springs, Eric lives in Chico. Visit his site at www.etcguy.com or contact him at eric@etcguy.com.

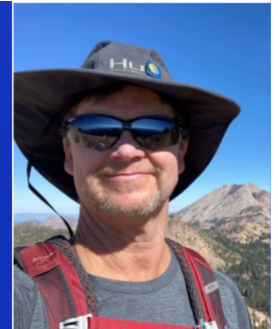
On May 21, he'll discuss what inspires him and how he develops stories.

CHICO FRIENDS OF THE
LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING

**ERIC
MILLER**
MAY 21, 2024

OUR PRESENTER: LOCAL HUMORIST
AND FOUNDER OF ETCGUY.COM

6:30 PM AT THE CHICO LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
1108 SHERMAN AVENUE ON THE CORNER OF SHERMAN AND EAST 1ST AVENUE



CFOL Has A New Treasurer

After many years of service, Diane Friedman has retired from the CFOL Board and her Treasurer's position. Diane has passed the torch (or the computer mouse) to a new CFOL Board member, whose first Treasurer's Report follows.



Hello! My name is Jennifer Ellingson. I'm an attorney and a mother of four. I grew up in Chico (as did my mother and grandparents). I remember going to the Carnegie Library as a child and using the card catalogs in our "new" Library as a young student. I enjoyed

taking my kids to the reading programs when they were little and sharing my love of the library with them.

I'm pleased to share that thanks to the support of our community, CFOL's finances are in great shape! We collect income through memberships, donations, and the Saturday book sales. We support the Library by purchasing books for general circulation and for book clubs, ebooks, and magazines. We also support many of the special programs provided by the Library. We very much appreciate the help of all of the members of the Chico Friends.



Consider Your Legacy

Merle Burbridge, CFOL Membership Chair

You have an opportunity to help assure a robust future for the

Chico branch library. Consider including a bequest to Chico Friends of the Library (CFOL) in your estate plans. The Friends support the Chico branch library with program materials for all age groups served by the library. Furniture, new books and media purchases are also funded by CFOL. Remain a part of the library's future by arranging your bequest with the assistance of your estate planner. Future generations of library patrons will appreciate it.

Scholarship to be awarded to Local High School Student Volunteer

Linda Elliott, CFOL Scholarship Chair

The Chico Friends of the Library has offered a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a local high school student who has volunteered at the Chico branch of the library. Qualifications for the scholarship include:

- A GPA of 2.75
- Has received acceptance to a post-secondary education institution with plans to attend in the upcoming fall semester
- Is in good standing with the Butte County Library System
- Has provided at least 20 hours of volunteer service
- Shows potential in leadership and community involvement

For 2024, scholarship applications were due March 31. A committee will meet to select the recipient, with the award being presented at Senior Awards Night at their high school. We will announce the winner in an upcoming newsletter after the awards ceremony.

CFOL is very excited to have established this award to honor our hard working high school volunteers and to encourage their further education. Members of the committee are: Linda Elliott, chair, Jennifer Ellingson and Reta Rickmers.

The application and guidelines for the 2025 award will be available on the CFOL website, www.chicolibrary.org in January of 2025.



...from the CFOL Historian

Linda Elliott, CFOL Board

Yep, let's time travel back 40 years to 1984 to see what was happening at the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library.

As you may already have read, we have our membership meeting in May every year. Well, back in 1984 we had a great program presented by W.

L. Hutchinson, professor emeritus at that time and author of "Oil, Land and Politics," a two volume epic nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1965 (Items available for reference, Chico Branch Library—not for loan). He was referred to as "Old Hutch" and his book: "Tales From Old Hutch" is still available to check out of the library: just head over to the 979.44 section. There are quite a few more books written by him found in the library's collection.

Try to come to this year's business meeting so you can participate in another historic program presented by Eric Miller. Hope to see you there!

JUNE

Saturday June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29: Public sale 9:00-11:30am

Friday Jun 7: First Friday sale (members only, or come and join on the spot) 3:00-4:30pm

JULY

Saturday July 6: No sale

Friday July 12: First Friday sale (members only, or come and join on the spot) 3:00-4:30pm

Saturday July 13, 20 and 27: Public sale 9:00-11:30am

Chico Branch Library Hours

(530) 552-5652
1108 Sherman Ave
Chico, CA 95926

Tuesday: 10:00am-6:00pm

Thursday: 9:00am-6:00pm

Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am-5:00pm

This coupon admits you, a Chico Friends of the Library member, to the "First Friday" Members-Only Book Sale at 3 PM on:
 May 3, June 7 and July 12!



All About Little Free Libraries

Elizabeth Bergthold, CFOL Board

Little Free Libraries (LFL) are popping up all over town and all over the world! CFOL maintains 11 LFL in Chico alone. So just what can they do for you? Besides encouraging literacy, LFL can help the environment. It's an opportunity to teach children how to reuse items. Paper waste is reduced when books are reused and shared with others.

Feel free to take a book or two, even if you have no books to contribute at that time. Then, sometime in the future, place a book or two in that LFL or in another one.

What a good opportunity to teach kids about sharing and returning borrowed items.

Many kids have trouble getting to the library, so these LFL can open up their world! To get more information or to find a LFL, go to www.littlefreelibrary.org.

Book Sale Schedule

MAY

Friday May 3: First Friday sale (members only, or come and join on the spot) 3:00-4:30pm

Saturday May 4, 11 and 18: Public sale 9:00-11:30am

May 25: No sale on Memorial Day holiday



A Letter from the Interim Butte County Library Director

Misty Wright, Interim Director

Greetings, Chico Friends

Butte County provides a variety of community services to our residents, making it a great place to live, raise a family and retire. In recent years, the County has taken several steps to maintain transparent and open government, while controlling costs to make services to our residents more efficient. However, our County has lost millions of dollars annually from State clawbacks and unfunded mandates,

Chico Friends of the
Butte County Library
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CHICO, CA 95927

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hurting the County's ability to provide services at the levels residents want and need. In addition, catastrophic fires, floods, and droughts have provided challenges to our County.

Currently many of our rural and remote fire stations have below the number of recommended firefighters needed to respond when more than one emergency happens at the same time, and our sheriff's patrols need greater support- there are times when only five deputies are on duty to patrol more than 1,200 miles of County roads.

In addition, Library hours have been cut! And many of our other county services, including but not limited to programs impacting the County Assessor, Probation Officers, District Attorney and Development Services, have been reduced or eliminated.

The county's priority is protecting the safety of our residents and maintaining the quality of life we all value in our communities. To provide stable, local funding to help close the budget gap and meet our needs, County staff are exploring placing a 1¢ sales tax measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot.

This would provide funds to support general government uses, such as wildfire protection and response, retaining and attracting qualified sheriff deputies and reducing crime, supporting local businesses, addressing homelessness, **restoring library hours**, and supporting veterans' services. Any local funding measure would include fiscal accountability requirements, including required public disclosure of all spending. Essential purchases such as groceries, prescription medicine, diapers and feminine hygiene products are exempt from sales tax.

As we chart the course for the future of Butte County, we want to ensure that the voices of County residents are heard. The perspective and priorities of our community members are invaluable as we plan for the allocation of resources and funding to meet the needs of our community. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts and insight by completing this online survey. Together, we can shape a future that serves us all. Thank you for your participation!

Survey Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxjt6z8c>

Elizabeth Quivey: Newsletter Design
Keith Herritt: Newsletter Editor