

Winter 2008

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Chico Carrel

Governor Cuts 2007-08 Funding for Libraries

The Governor has slashed the State budget for public libraries by about \$14 million. This will result in reduced library services, and less access to library materials from libraries outside their home communities via interlibrary loan and State Cooperative Library systems. The California Library Association suggests several ways you can help.

Phone the Governor's Office of Constituent Affairs at 1-916-445-2841 and select Option #5. Be prepared to leave your name and home city name. We might suggest that you leave a message that contains the following:

Let the Governor know how disappointed you are about the \$14 million in funding cuts to Public Library Fund (PLF). Explain that these funds are critical to California public library services and collections. Let the Governor know that cuts to PLF mean reduced library services with less access to library materials from libraries outside their home community.

Write to Rick Keene and encourage him to sign-on to the letter that Assemblymen Mike Eng has drafted to restore funding to PLF and TBR (Transaction Based Reimbursement supports statewide resource sharing) for FY2008/09. You can reach Assemblyman Keene locally at (530) 895-4217, 1550 Humboldt Suite #3, Chico, CA 95928, or at the State Capitol, Room 2054, 1315 10th Street, Sacramento 95814.

Email Address:

<http://republican.assembly.ca.gov/members/a3/Index.aspx?page=SForm&key=sub> or you can find him on the Web by typing in his name "Rick Keene" in quotes.

When his website comes up you can click on the "contact" button at the top right of the site.

From the Desk of County Librarian Derek Wolfgram

Every year the California Library Association, in conjunction with the CA School Library Association and the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC), promotes an event called Day in the District, during which library staff and supporters throughout

California meet with their local Assembly members and State Senators to share information about the impacts libraries are having on their communities.

If any of you would be interested in attending any of these meetings, I would love to see you there! Instructions for how to register are available in the message below.

Senator Sam Aanestad's Senior Aide Preston Dickinson will meet with library supporters in Chico on January 25 at 10 a.m.

Assemblyman Rick Keene's Senior Field Representative, Steve Thompson, will meet with library supporters in Chico on February 1 at 2 p.m.

Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa has not yet set a meeting date, but the website below will include his information once a meeting is set. To register for an appointment with your legislator go to the Library Legislative Day in the District Online Database at www.legiday.net

City Council Vote

Thanks to the CFOL and local Chico community, the City Council voted December 18 to fund \$160,000 to keep the library at 2007 levels. A campaign was waged on the home front to make the council members aware how much the citizens of Chico need, use and love their

library. Through various media outlets, meetings and flyers, the town was barraged with information regarding the proposed library budget cuts for fiscal year 2008/09. These cuts would have been disastrous for patrons and staff alike as they would have reduced service by twenty-five hours per week.

Led by CFOL board members Mary Wahl and President Macy Kelley, our strategy worked in favor of the library. Various CFOL Board members handed out flyers in the lobby of the library on a daily basis for about a month prior to the council meeting encouraging all library users to contact a council member either by phone, mail or email to register their interest in keeping the library open for 60 or more hours per week. Each council member reported having received hundreds, if not thousands of calls, email, letters from the citizens of Chico regarding the library. It was reported that one council member opined that he/she would like to have the CFOL as their campaign manager for the next election.

The council chamber was SRO on the evening of February 18 with various community contingents hoping to impress the council with their support. The library was well represented with supporters, as were the police and fire departments and the arts community. When

funding for the library budget item was opened for citizen comment, seven were called upon to speak. Among them were two teen volunteers, Hannah Moravec and Anna Guiles, who spoke from the heart and earned the applause of not only the audience but doubtless the council as well.

Membership Renewal

In the last issue of *The Carrel* it was mentioned that the Board changed the membership renewal date to February in order to coincide with our new bi-annual membership campaign. Therefore we did not alert you to renew your membership this last October, formerly our month to collect dues. At this time we would like to thank all members for their continued support. Through your membership we have been able to accomplish the following during the past calendar year (partial list):

- Extension of Book Sale hours
- Introduction of Classic Film Nights on the 2nd Wednesday of the month
- Approval of a new surround sound system in the Community Meeting Room
- A license to show films to teens, children and adults

- The purchase of most books of fiction for the library
- Several periodical subscriptions for the library
- A successful campaign that ended with the Chico City Council approving full City funding of the Chico Branch of the Butte County Public Library
- Providing thousands of paperback books to women and men in the Armed Forces serving overseas via our Book Sale Captain Rob Atkinson.
- First annual Bookmark Contest for children
- Provide funds for various materials and/or guest performers for programs sponsored by the library
- A successful membership drive that resulted in 300 new members.
- The Annual Fall Festival

We hope you consider carefully continuing your membership in CFOL by renewing your membership this February. An envelope has been enclosed with a renewal application printed on it for your convenience.

Fall Festival

A perfect weather day and an abundance of attendees made for the best Fall Festival yet. Artists, KZFR storytellers, Literary Council winners, author Debbie Cobb, artist Steve Frechaud, EMT personnel along with their vehicle, scavenger hunts, and various other events and performers provide a filled event schedule last October. Thanks again to the incredible efforts of Ann Elliott and her merry volunteers that included CFOL members, Brownies to senior Girl Scouts, teen volunteers, PV High Key Club, among many others. The three hour event raised \$250 which will go into the General Fund.

CFOL Member Publishes Second Book

Debbie Cobb, CFOL Board Member and local television news commentator, continues the story of the moppet Gracie with the publication of her second book entitled *Gracie's Big Adventure with the Misfits*. Illustrated by Steve Frechaud, this new work of Cobb's is more colorful in bringing Gracie to life. A tot who has no fears and a heart bigger than her house, Gracie introduces us in this story to her little brother, a duck and a

mouse. Copies of the book can be purchased at Barnes & Noble, Bird In Hand, CSUC Bookstore, Creative Apple, Lyon Books and Made In Chico.

Gifts and Bequests

During the past quarter the following individuals or organizations have given gifts to the Chico Friends of the Library. All donations are earmarked for the General Fund. We thank all for their support of our organization and the Chico Branch of the Butte County Public Library. The donors are as follows:

- \$500 gift from the Hulley Family Trust
- \$500 gift from the Plumbing Supply Group
- \$1,000 gift from Sue Volpe
- \$3,000 from an anonymous donor

We would like to thank all who participated in the Library's Christmas-Buy-The-Book. The library raised \$1,954 in books purchased for the collection.

Classic Film Night

On the second Wednesday of each month the film series will continue with the following classics:

February 13
Singin' in the Rain
March 12
Dr. Strangelove
April 9
Mr. Smith Goes to
Washington
May 14
All about Eve
June 11
North by Northwest

The theater will be dark during the summer months of July and August. Join us again on September 10 for our next season.

Bookmark Contest

Once again the CFOL will sponsor a Bookmark contest in the Children's Room. The rules this year will be somewhat different, but all youngsters are encouraged to participate.

Website

The CFOL website www.chicolibrary.org is your best resource for getting current information regarding the events that are sponsored or proposed by the Friends. You might get in the habit of checking it on a weekly basis to be up to date.

Ongoing Events

BOOK SALE

Every Saturday 9:30-11:30

THE CFOL BOARD meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Community Room of the library. The public is welcome to attend any or all of the meetings.

CHECK the library departments for various schedules of programs and events. For example, Baby Story Time in the Children's Room