

Message from the President

Marian Milling

Ahh—another beautiful autumn in Chico. The Friends had two lovely days to participate first as a partner in Mozart Mile on Oct. 3 and then to host its own Fall Festival on Oct. 15. The First Friday and weekly Saturday book sales are going well although a huge loss was suffered with Rob Atkinson’s passing in October (see “In Memoriam” on p. 2). The library is just buzzing with activity as you know if you stop by almost any time. But what’s really exciting is something soon to start in late November.

Perhaps you’ve seen the donation watering can (“Watch us grow!”) at the front desk or the design board showing colors and materials. Both of these things are about a remodeling project for the front area of the library. This has been planned for the past year and is finally to become reality. The library, built in the early 80’s, has had few changes since it was new. With the amount of library transactions, the front desk is inadequate for current needs—it is too congested by the entrance door, the work space is inconvenient, and carpeting is wearing out. Thanks to a joint venture between the county’s public works and the Friends of the Library, a major redesign is about to start. The Friends are providing funding for a new circulation/service desk; the county will recarpet the area and manage the project.

We are really thrilled about how much better the front area will function and look. There is bound to be some inconvenience along the way, but it will be worth it. The staff will keep us all informed about changes during construction such as a temporary circulation area or relocated book sale. Stop by the reference desk and take a look at the map and layout designs. This is progress!

Just like at our homes, one project leads to another: after the front area is remodeled, the public computers and central reference

desk will be rearranged, improving the look and functionality of the main part of the library as well.

Before remodeling gets underway, the annual Friends’ Craft Fair will take place in the Conference Room on Saturday, November 19, 1 to 5 p.m and Monday, November 21, 9am to 5pm . The colorful quilt donated by Annie’s Star Guild is on display now, and raffle tickets are being sold. The drawing for the quilt will be on Saturday, December 10, at noon.

No surprise so much is going on at the library and with the Friends. If you want to stay up-to-date between newsletters, you can find library news items on Facebook (“Butte County Library” or “Butte County Friends of the Library”). Also watch for occasional emails sent to Friends’ members who have provided email addresses. You make the library a thriving place, and we want you to be in the know! ❖

Craft Fair

Joan Olmstead

November 19, 2011, 1-5pm

November 21, 2011, 9am-5pm

We are excited about our upcoming Craft Fair to be held in the library conference room Saturday, November 19, 1pm to 5pm following the book sale...and again on Monday the 21st, 9am to 5pm. We’ll have a bake sale (Sat. only), white elephant sale, books, art and hand knit items for sale ... lots of scarves, hats, and doll clothes. All proceeds go to the library so please come and be prepared to shop for some wonderful bargains. Many items are \$5 or less.



The next fundraiser for the Chico Friends is the Christmas Craft Fair.

“Libraries are not made; they grow.”

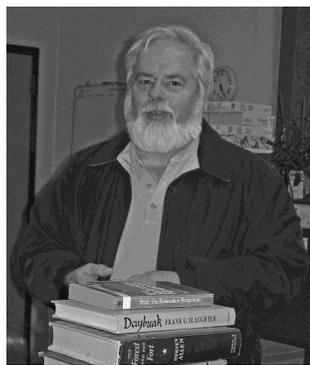
— *Augustine Birrell (1850-1933)*

Inside this issue:

Rob Atkinson	2
Quilt Raffle	2
Anne Nordhus	3
Library Director	3
Buy The Book	3
Trivia Bee	4
What We Do	4

In Memoriam

Marian Milling



Chico Friends lost a very best friend of all when Rob Atkinson passed away October 9. Rob was manager of the “back room” part of the Friends’ Saturday morning book sale for the last 8 years.

Without Rob, the hugely successful sales that have become standard would not have happened. Rob treated

his volunteer work at the library as a paid job; he was there almost every day the library was open. He either personally sorted and packed all the thousands of donated books or trained a few others to help him. What Rob brought that was special was true caring for the work he was doing and for the sale. He had high standards for what could be put out, wanting only quality books in good or excellent condition. He made sure sorted books were packed in ways that were efficient and easy for all the volunteers to handle. He spent every Friday afternoon setting up and every Saturday morning overseeing and taking down the book sale at the 45-48 sales each year.

What many people may not know about Rob was that he was a “soft touch,” going out of his way to help others. He saw to it that books not wanted for or sold at the Chico sales went to good homes: other libraries’ book sales, to U.S. soldiers abroad, the county jail, and to local clubs and businesses needing books. If the Friends asked for kids’ books for Fall Festival or paperbacks for the community market, Rob would see that neatly packed and carefully-selected books were ready. He would come in extra time to meet folks at the back door and make sure they got books saved for them.

All the people on the receiving end of Rob’s work enjoyed visiting with him and appreciated his quiet but capable handling of all the details and physical effort involved. Besides doing demanding and difficult work, Rob also had fun with his co-volunteers and book sale customers. He participated on the Friends’ Trivia Bee team the past 3 years and was looking forward to this year’s event.

The Saturday book sales and the Trivia Bee will go on, but Rob’s special touch will be missed, as will his presence in the back room.

The Friends offer condolences to Rob’s family and are so grateful for his time with us.

A memorial service for Rob was held at the CARD Center on Sunday, November 6. ❖

Craft Fair, continued

If you have items to donate please bring them to the library when it is open. Hope to see you there! Some of us have been knitting all year, so we’ll be glad to find new homes for our items! ❖

2011 Quilt Raffle

The 2011 *Wonderful Wild Animals* quilt is in the library display case. It’s a perfect size for children to snuggle in. The quilt raffle raises money for the children’s library. The quilt was donated to us by Annie’s Star Quilt Guild, and was quilted by Judy Johnson, Sydney Dickson, Nancy Henry, Judy Casey, Megan Johnson, Nancy Mahler, Maryhe Valencia, and Tina Wilson. *Go buy a raffle ticket or ten!* (1 ticket for \$1; 6 for \$5; 13 for \$10.) ❖

Calendar of Events

TRIVIA BEE

The Palms, 2947 Nord Ave., Chico

November 18, 2011. Doors open at 6pm.

CFOL CRAFT FAIR

Chico Library, November 19, 2011, 1pm to 5pm.

Chico Library, November 21, 2011, 9am to 5pm

FIRST FRIDAY MEMBER BOOK SALES

Chico Library

November 4, 2011, 2pm to 4pm

December 2, 2011, 2pm to 4pm

January 6, 2012, 2pm to 4pm

QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING

Chico Library

December 10, 2011, Noon

See <http://chicolibrary.org> for up-to-date information.

Anne Nordhus Retires

Carolyn Dorn

Anne Nordhus served the Chico Library as a volunteer for approximately 20 years. She began upon her retirement from Chico State University in 1990 and ended her volunteer work in 2010. Former Chico librarian Linda Thompson gave Anne the special job of checking the library holdings for desirable works of fiction, using a standard tool that lists the best fiction for library collections. If she found a title in the tool that was lacking in Chico's (formerly) card catalog, she would make out an order for that book and give it to the librarian (This work is being continued by volunteer Leanne Ulvang.)

Anne also helped with book sales and other fundraisers. Her long term commitment to the library and the quality of her work insure that she will be long remembered by the staff and Friends.

I asked about the source of her dedication. "During the Depression as I was growing up, we could not buy books," she said, "but we could still get them from the library. So libraries have always been important to me. They still do so many things for people." She referred me to a flyer in the Chico library listing 50 things your library can do for you.

Books were important in her family life, too. "We read to our three children," she said, "and the younger ones read to the older ones."

Anne attended Kalamazoo College in Michigan and Middlebury College, Vermont, where she earned her master's in English. At Chico State she taught freshman English and supervised student teachers. Fifteen years of her work were administrative.

She maintains her interest in books: "I have to have books around me; I grew up with books. When I went to Turkey to teach"—[in her 20s]—"I took a trunk full of books with me. I still haven't read them all." It was on that three-year teaching job at a girls' college that she and Phil met. They were married in London, England.

I asked her personal opinion on the best way to keep the Butte County Library open and serving the community. She replied, "It would be unthinkable not to have a library. It is vital to so many people, even to those who can't use it. It may not be lavish, but we will always keep it going." Although Anne can't get to the library often because neither she nor her husband, Phil Nordhus, drive any longer, this gentle but strong spirit has been and still is an advocate for our library. ❖

Library Director is Moving On



Butte County Library Director Linda Mielke's last day of work for the Butte County Library was October 31, 2011. She has accepted the directorship of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System and the James Prendergast Library Association in Jamestown, New York. The library system is a cooperative serving 36 libraries in the two counties of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus, New York.

Ms. Mielke will be director of both the Prendergast Library and the two county (Chautauqua-Cattaraugus) library system. You may have heard of the Chautauqua Institute that is held annually in Chautauqua County. ❖

Please note: The Saturday morning book sale is having a month long sale in November. Big savings to reduce inventory ahead of the library remodel.

"It would be unthinkable not to have a library."

— Anne Nordhus

Buy the Book for the Library

Between Thanksgiving and Dec.23, the Chico library will again offer the "Buy the Book" program. About 40 books of various kinds, ranging from holiday cookbooks to fiction, will be on display in the library. You can buy one of these books and add it to the Chico collection by paying for it at the circulation desk. Then a holiday postcard will be filled out by you and sent by the library to any individual that you designate, honoring them with your purchase of this book for the library. This could be the perfect remembrance for someone on your list who has everything. Inside the book it will be noted that the book has been acquired through the holiday gifting program, with no personal names. Last year the "Buy the Book" program sold approximately \$1500 worth of books. ❖



This coupon admits you, a Chico Friends of the Library member, to the "First Friday" Members-Only Book Sale on ...

November 4, December 2, and January 6.

Sales are held on the first Friday of the month before the first public Saturday sale each month. The library remodel may disrupt the regular schedule.

**Chico Friends of the Butte County
Library**

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TRIVIA BEE IS A “FUN- RAISER” (sic)

The 5th annual Trivia Bee fundraiser for Butte County Library Literacy Services again promises a lot of fun for spectators. It will be held this year on Friday, November 18, at The Palms, 2947 Nord Ave., Chico. The Bee includes refreshments, a silent auction and raffle prizes. Doors open at 6 p.m. ❖

New Wii Games for Seniors in the Library

The library has three new electronic games, purchased by Chico Friends of the Library, for seniors to try out on the library's gaming machine, reports Chico librarian Susan Rauen. You can choose from “Donkey Kong Country Returns,” “Speed Racer,” and “Petris Party Deluxe.” The dates set for senior gaming at the library are: Nov. 14, 9-10.30 a.m., and Dec. 12, 9-10:30 a.m. ❖

What Chico Friends of the Li- brary Does

From the web site: <http://chicolibrary.org>

Volunteer activities that enhance the overall health of the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library include:

- 📖 raising community's awareness of our library,
- 📖 shelving books,
- 📖 sorting and classifying donated materials for our weekly book sale,
- 📖 conducting the Saturday book sale,
- 📖 assisting at various stations in the library,
- 📖 and raising money to buy books. ❖



***Bear with us during the
library construction
work. Book sale
schedule is subject to
change.***

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