

Message from the President

— *Marian Milling*

Happy Love Your Library Month, everyone! February is designated nationally as a time to honor libraries. I'm sure you've seen announcements of special programs and happenings at Butte County Branches. Activities for Love Your Library month yet to come are described in this newsletter.

With this letter, you are getting a reminder and an envelope to renew your Friends' membership. We send these out each February and make it our universal renewal time. We are so, so appreciative of your support. Here are some facts about the Friends that show that you are in generous company:

- 📖 Chico Friends currently have 628 active members. Twelve of them serve on the board of CFOL.
- 📖 The Friends sponsor weekly Saturday morning book sales, and "First Friday" sales that are for members only. Nearly 30 new members have joined at Friday sales. Volunteers work all week and at the sales to make them successful to the tune of over \$40,000 in profits each year.
- 📖 The Friends pay for (from sale profits) nearly all new books and magazines the library purchases as well as other materials. Purchases amounted to over \$18,500 for the past six months.
- 📖 The Friends step up financially and physically to support other library needs. They paid for several children's programs last summer and are contributing \$25,000 to the upcoming remodel of the circulation desk area. They give

cash awards at the annual kids' bookmark contest.

- 📖 The Friends partner with other community organizations and events to keep the library in the eye of the public. Besides our own annual Fall Festival in October, we were at Mozart Mile and the Trivia Bee.

There's more I could say, but you get the message that Chico Friends of the Library is an active, vital group because you and so many others join it. We are truly appreciative for your membership. You will note that the membership envelope has several different financial categories, including the rather unusual "\$37.25" club. That number came about in the early 90's when the library had a tax measure on the ballot; \$37.25 was the amount of a parcel tax per home to the library if the measure had passed. Alas, it did in Chico but not in the rest of the county. The reminder of it has stayed with us. Today, a tax measure to fully support the library would cost more. Meanwhile, we'll stick with our \$37.25 option as a membership choice. It shows what a bargain the library is for all the great materials and services it provides.

Thanks for being one of us—it matters as you can see. Please take advantage not only of Friends' special events like First Friday book sales, but also of all programs and new things at our Chico Branch.

Kindles are here

The library is often on the leading edge of technology, and here's a new "hip" service: Interlibrary loan (borrowing books from outside Butte County) is no



It's time to renew your membership!

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."

-- *Broadcaster Walter Cronkite*

Inside this issue:

Bookmark Contest	2
Volunteer Statistics	2
Calendar of Events	2
John Few Biography	3
Buy the Book	3
What We Do	4

— *Kindle, continued*

longer being supported by reimbursement from the state. Therefore, Butte County Library's costs for providing interlibrary loans can't be afforded. Enter a new pilot program among 3 northern California counties where libraries have purchased Kindle e-book readers and are starting to download interlibrary loan books rather than obtaining them through costly mail and delivery service. One of the Chico Friends' board members was the second person to receive an interlibrary loan on a Kindle. A library user checks out the Kindle just as they would a book and returns it when they are finished. This grant program is being introduced now and will continue through the next year or as long as grant funding is available. If you have any questions about this new service, contact Oliver Allen at Chico Branch, oallen@buttecounty.net.

Bookmark Contest

Deadline: Friday, March 30, 2012

The annual bookmark contest sponsored by Chico Friends will take place again this spring.

The purpose of the contest is to encourage use of the Chico Library by students in kindergarten through 6th grade. There are two categories, grades K-3 and 4-6. The winners in each category will receive cash prizes of \$25 for firsts, \$15 for seconds, and \$10 for thirds. The winners will have their drawings printed and distributed in the library as real bookmarks. Entry forms are available at the library and in the schools. There is a space on the entry form to draw an original design in black on white. The rules are: (1) no computers may be used; (2) no help allowed from parents or anyone else; (3) no tracing or copying.

Completed entry forms may be deposited in a box at the circulation desk. All entries are due by Friday, March 30. The contest winners will be announced Saturday, April 14 at 2 p.m. in the Chico Library Childrens' Room. Bookmark contest co-chairs are John Few and Linda Leahy.

Volunteering in 2011

During 2011 we gathered the following statistics regarding our volunteers.

- ◇ 57: Number of volunteers in the book sale
- 73: Number of adult volunteers in the library
- 45: Number of teen volunteers in the library

- ◇ 7,814: Hours contributed by volunteers in the library
- 11,973: Hours contributed by all volunteers.

The hours contributed by volunteers in the library are equivalent to about 5 fulltime employees! The staff members are *very* grateful for the help.

Some volunteers have been contributing for years, and for each 100 hours a volunteer contributes, Chico Friends gives a donation to the library in recognition of his or her contribution. Thank you!

Calendar of Events

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

February, 2012

RECEPTION FOR STEVE FERCHAUD

Avenue 9 Gallery, 180 E. 9th Avenue, Suite 3, Chico

February 18, 2012, 3pm to 5pm

FIRST FRIDAY MEMBER BOOK SALES

Chico Branch Library

March 2, 2012, 2pm to 4pm

April 6, 2012, 2pm to 4pm

May 4, 2012, 2pm to 4pm

BOOKMARK CONTEST

Chico Branch Library

March 30, 2012, Deadline for contest entry at the library

ANNUAL MEETING

Chico Branch Library

May 15, 2012, 7pm

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

Do ye ken John Few?

— Carolyn Dorn

We at Chico Friends of the Library wish to honor one of our best and longest-serving volunteers, John Few, with a short newsletter biography. The self-effacing Mr. Few was reluctant to disclose to me that he had a distinguished professional library career before becoming a CFOL volunteer upon his retirement. He was elected vice president of the Chico Friends of the Library shortly after moving to Chico in 2001 and served in that office for six years. He was editor of the Chico Carrel for six years. He worked on the CFOL Board, helping with fundraising, initiating the bookmark contest and helping with the book sales, children's services and more, until 2011, when he retired from the Board after a total of nine years. He still participates in fundraising for the library. His favorite thing is the children's room, where he has worked for six years. "I love it," he says.

John Few was born in San Diego. He attended the University of San Francisco at night while working during the day, earning a degree in theology. Later he obtained a master's in theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. He earned his library degree from Rosary College in Illinois. He taught at the Graduate School of Librarianship at U.C. Berkeley for 10 years and at City College of San Francisco for 25 years. Fifteen of those years at City College he was department chair and faculty member in their Library Information Technology Program. He worked as a reference librarian at the Stanford School of Business three years and, after "retirement," at California State University, Chico, for five years.

John says he has worked in academic libraries almost his entire adult life. Why did he feel that libraries are important? "They are the epitome of civilization," he says. "I feel I am so lucky because I loved my profession. It was total enjoyment for me."

In addition to volunteering for the Chico Library, John Few has found time to play oboe with the Paradise Symphony and to serve on their Board of Directors. He likes to read novels, all kinds, especially 20th century ones, and non-fiction too.

Thank you, John, for all you do and have done for us. And thanks for sharing your information. I'm glad I don't have to write, "Johnny, we hardly knew ye!"

"Buy The Book" Sales Soar

"Buy the Book for the Library" sales for December 2011 exceeded the previous year by nearly \$500. The total sales were \$1726 according to the CFOL treasurer's report.

This past Christmas season, for the second year, a special selection of 80 to 100 new "gift" books were paid for by patrons in the library, with the books going into the library collection. The patron buying the book designates someone to receive a greeting card saying that the gift was made to the library in their name.

Chico branch librarian Susan Rauen said that all but four or five of the books selected were sold. The most popular category by far was children's Christmas books. The next most popular categories were gardening and cooking for Christmas. This year a few books on CD and a few best-selling fiction titles were included, and these also sold, along with several coffee table books.



Joan Olmstead, Walter Coffey, and Marian Milling, representing CFOL, took second place in the 2011 Literacy Council Trivia Bee.

New Library Books

In no particular order, here is a sample of some of the new books in the library.

- 📖 *Breakdown*, by Sara Paretsky
- 📖 *The Butterfly's Daughter* (large print), by Mary Alice Monroe
- 📖 *Carte Blanche* (large print), by Jeffery Deaver
- 📖 *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, by Daniel Kahneman
- 📖 *That Used To Be Us* (large print), by Thomas L. Friedman
- 📖 *Taken*, by Robert Crais
- 📖 *Halo. Primordium*, by Greg Bear
- 📖 *The Leopard*, by Jo Nesbø
- 📖 *Home Front*, by Kristin Hannah
- 📖 *Garden Pools, Fountains & Waterfalls*, by Debra Pinzing



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

March 2, April 6, and May 4

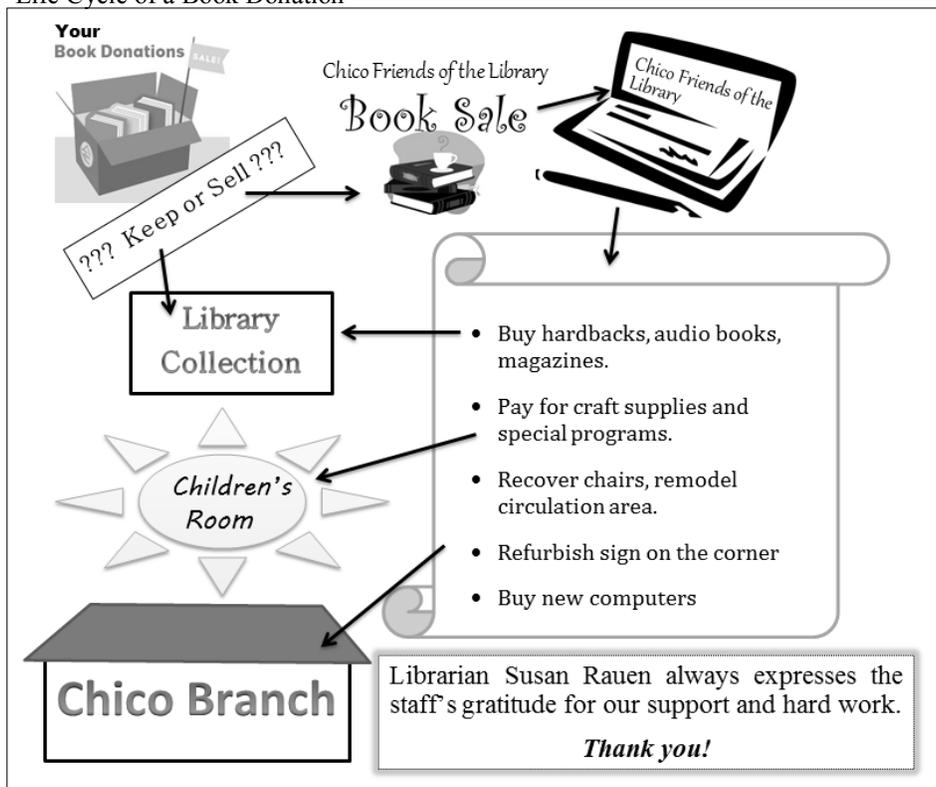
Sales are held on the first Friday of the month before the first public Saturday sale each month. The library remodel may disrupt the regular schedule.

**Chico Friends of the Butte County
Library**
P.O. Box 6952
Chico, CA 95927

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHICO, CA
PERMIT NO. 911

Life Cycle of a Book Donation



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

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— Ann Elliott & Diane Friedman