

## Message from the President

— *Marian Milling*

Lots of good changes for the library and the Friends are described in this newsletter—new furnishings and new officers! I've been CFOL president for 2 years, the term length of all officers. The time has gone quickly, has been fun and at times challenging, and has also been especially rewarding as the Chico Branch has sustained hours and flourished.

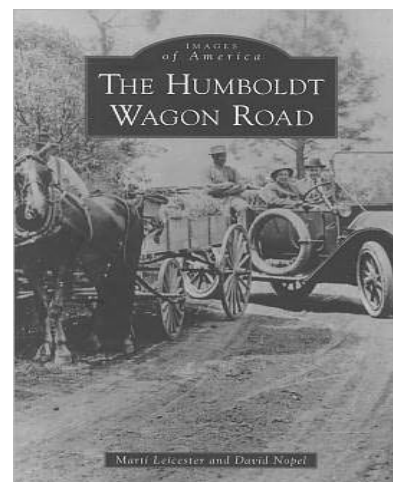
I'd like to explain a little about how the Friends and its board work in the hope that more of you will get involved. As you probably know, CFOL is a registered (with the state) nonprofit organization. It has bylaws and standing rules. The bylaws state "Membership... shall be open to all individuals and organizations wishing to support its purposes... and may be initiated by payment of dues, in an amount(s) set annually by the Board of Directors, and shall expire on the last of February each year." You contribute and support the library by stepping forward to join the Friends. Current membership stands at about 670 people. The dues paid go into the budget for books and other materials, programs, and furnishings for the library.

How do the good things happen?—by having a set of officers (president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary) and a Board of Directors. Again, the bylaws say "The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than seven nor more than nine members." In reality, anyone who wishes to serve on the board is accepted, and the size has ranged from 17 people several years ago to the current 12. The board meets

once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the library conference room. An agenda is followed that includes reports from the library manager, the Friends' treasurer, on the book sale, and by the county library director if present. Then current and future projects and activities are discussed, planned for, and appropriated if needed. Meetings are informal and move quickly.

Where am I going with this information? Well, the current 12 people on the board are active and involved but have served for many years. More people and "new blood" are needed. Since many board members have already served as officers, it is very difficult to recruit new ones each year. Yet the work that the Friends do is vital to the library in providing items like the new circulation desk, newly-upholstered furniture a few years ago, money for special children's programs, and annually at least \$30,000 for new books and magazines.

Somehow each year people do step up to be president, vice-president, or secretary. But the Nominating Committee has a hard job and gets many rejections in the process. You contribute to the Friends by simply joining each year. Please consider becoming more involved with this worthwhile group. Attend a few meetings to see what it's all about. Bring a friend. The upcoming Annual Meeting on May 15 is a perfect chance to socialize and enjoy an entertaining program too. I would like to see more faces around the table at my final meeting as president on June 19. The incoming officers would like that too! ❖



The Annual Meeting is coming, May 15th.

*"Thank you for being a Chico Friend of the Library. It was an honor for me to be president of this large, active, caring organization."*

-- *President Marian Milling*

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## Annual meeting:

### LOCAL AUTHORS TO SHOW EARLY BUTTE COUNTY PHOTOS

David Nopel and Marti Leicester are the authors of *The Humboldt Wagon Road*, a new book just out this year from Arcadia Publishing. Nopel and Leicester are the featured speakers at the Chico Friends of the Library annual meeting, to be held May 15, 2012 at 7 p.m. in the community room of the Chico Library.

The authors have called the Humboldt Wagon Road “the road that built communities.” They will be showing slides depicting the pioneering families who lived and worked along the road, from a collection of historical photographs. Most of the book is pictures, with the text as captions. Anyone interested in Butte County history or in early California history will have a visual feast with the pictorial approach of this book. Copies will be on sale at the meeting.

The Humboldt Wagon Road was developed in the mid-nineteenth century, and then it declined into present disuse, except that parts of the route are incorporated into Highway 32 and Humboldt Road. Chico pioneer John Bidwell was the principal financier and entrepreneur behind the original road. The book tells us on page 15,

*“By age 39, John Bidwell had traveled most of California by horse and on foot, became wealthy during the gold rush, owned a prosperous ranch and planned to start a new city. When miners struck gold in Nevada, and later in Idaho, the idea of a trans-mountain road to these places of wealth and new markets seemed a good investment risk. He knew the terrain, had the fortune and good reputation to attract other investors, and he had the land on which new businesses could be built. He surveyed the route of the Humboldt Wagon Road, raised money, supervised its construction, and provided for its maintenance. What he did not bet on was the future of transportation going to the railroads. Nevertheless, the Humboldt Road remains a living legacy.”*

In the early 1860s, Bidwell improved Indian trails into a wagon road. A big gold and silver strike was made in Silver City, Idaho, and John Bidwell with the aid of his partners began building the Chico to Susanville section of the Humboldt Wagon Road, with the aim that someday it could stretch as far as Silver City. One hundred Chinese laborers were recruited to work on it. The Bidwell Ranch generated income enabling its owner to continue financing the Humboldt Wagon Road. On page 65, the authors tell us,

Bidwell and his partners raised \$40,000 investment capital and built toll stations, rest stops, and places to get water along the road. Stage operations began in 1865...In 1865, Capt. E.D. Pierce and J.B. Francis worked with John Bidwell to extend the Humboldt Road from Susanville to Ruby and Silver Cities.” [Sic.]

Commercial hauling began over the road in the days before automobiles and trucks. Teamsters drove four and six

horse teams pulling loads of everything from timber to fruit. After the turn of the twentieth century, they had to share the road with motorized trucks and cars. ❖

## Be a CFOL Board Member

The Chico Friends of the Library Board needs members who want to serve the community in a significant way, and who place the Butte County Library high on their list of priorities. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Chico library community room. We asked some of our current Board members this question (answers follow):

*What do you do as a Board member, and what personal satisfactions do you get from serving?*

**Rupert McDowell**, co-president elect, says his main task is to make the public aware of the library and its ever-growing and changing array of services. He also does committee work and currently serves as vice president. He gets satisfaction from giving public service; he also enjoys being able to help CFOL raise money to fund the library’s book purchases and childrens’ programs. He likes to watch families exiting the library, each person loaded with books.

— Continued on Page 3

## Calendar of Events

### ANNUAL MEETING

Chico Branch Library

May 15, 2012, 7pm

### SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Chico Branch Library

June 1 through July 31

### CFOL BOARD MEETING

Chico Branch Library

3rd Tuesday of every month, 7pm

### Chico Library Fall Festival

Chico Branch Library, October 20, 2012

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



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

**June 1, July 6, and August 3 (2 to 4 pm)**

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

*Coupon expires August 4, 2012.*

*Continued from Page 2...*

**Diane Friedman**, secretary, does many jobs for the Friends. She puts together a quarterly newsletter. She serves as a book-buying agent for the Chico branch librarian, using funds supplied by CFOL. She prepares the Board minutes, keeps the membership records, and finds time to volunteer as a book sale clerk. Her satisfaction is the joy of seeing a thriving library for our community.

**Linda Leahy** has served on the Board since 1995. She attends the meetings regularly in order to promote wise use of the large sums CFOL raises with the weekly Saturday book sale. She is proud to fund special events as part of the summer reading programs for kids, and major purchases such as the new circulation desk at the Chico branch.

**Ann Elliott** acts as liaison between the weekly Saturday book sale, which has its own staff of volunteers, and the CFOL Board. Ann likes the pats on the back and thanks she gets for her work from other people in the organization. She enjoys helping the County provide great library service. A lifelong library user, she appreciates not having to buy and store books herself because the library does it.

**Fe Howard** is the historian. She keeps a book of records of CFOL fundraising events and notices in the papers. She gets satisfaction from belonging to an outstanding organization with hard-working supporters.

**Mary Wahl** volunteers for everything that is needed, especially as a liaison with the community. She also helps with fundraising events. Her favorite is CFOL's Fall Festival, which promotes children's reading. She takes satisfaction in the fact that there has been continuity throughout her lifetime, along with her husband, Larry, of support for the library, especially in years when library hours were cut and it was in danger of closing.

**Margaret Bomberg** says that for the past seven years her work with CFOL has been to attend meetings and to vote expenditure of funds for library needs. She feels the money needs to be spent for the library and not allowed to accumulate, and in this all Board members appear unanimous. Her satisfaction comes from seeing people happy with their library.

**Susan Davis and Gerald Davis** are a wife

and husband team who keep all the financial records and make the disbursements for CFOL. Susan is treasurer and does all the bookkeeping and accounting. They say their satisfaction comes from working for a truly worthy organization. ❖

## Summer Reading Program STARTS JUNE 1.

The Library's children's room has a full calendar of story times and special events this summer to enhance library use for children. After signing up, the young readers keep a log of the books they read and receive stickers for each one. They also post the titles they read on a joint bulletin board. Extra shows are funded by CFOL.

- 📖 The special events start with a **kickoff party** on Friday, June 1 at noon with a **"Yo-Yo Palooza"** demonstration by the Yo-yo Club.
- 📖 On Saturday, June 9, **Uni and her ukulele** will entertain all ages.
- 📖 On Thursday, June 28 at 10 a.m. **"Wild Things!"** is an exciting live animal show.
- 📖 Wednesday, July 11 at 9:30 a.m. there is a **library playtime** for ages 0-3 years.
- 📖 Thursday, July 12 at 10 a.m. is a live animal show featuring **"Norcal Bats."**
- 📖 Every Thursday in June and July from 3-5 p.m., ages 10-17 years can enjoy **Wii**, that is, electronic games.
- 📖 **Regular story times** for toddlers and preschoolers will continue through June and July.
- 📖 There will be a **new story time in Spanish**, on the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Another change: **Chinese story time**, formerly at 3 p.m., will be at 10:30 a.m. on the third Saturday.

Finally, the summer reading program ends on Tuesday, July 31 with a **pajama party** starting at 10 a.m. (Children's Librarian. Sheryl Hubbard assures us that this is not a sleepover.) ❖

## Annual Meeting Agenda

The annual meeting will begin at 7pm, May 15, in the library meeting room. Refreshments will be served. Before our guest speakers, the annual report will be given and board member elections will be held.

**Nominations for the CFOL board for fiscal year 2012-2013** are:

Co-Presidents: Rupert McDowell  
& Don Kidd

Secretary: Diane Friedman

Marian Milling for the remaining year of Rupert McDowell's Vice Presidency.

Susan Davis will finish her term as Treasurer.

Members At Large: Margaret Bomberg, Debbie Cobb, Gerald Davis, Ann Elliott, Fe Howard, Linda Leahy, Joan Olmstead, and Mary Wahl.

*We need more board members.*

## New Library Books

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

- ☑ Dark Dreams : [A Commander Jana Matinova investigation] / Michael Genelin.
- ☑ The blood sugar solution : the ultrahealthy program for losing weight, preventing disease, and feeling great now! / Mark Hyman.
- ☑ Birds of a lesser paradise : stories / Megan Mayhew Bergman.
- ☑ Calico Joe / John Grisham.
- ☑ Come home / Lisa Scottoline.

To find the complete list of new books, Browse "New Items" in the catalog, or ask for help in the library.

**Chico Friends of the Butte County  
Library**

**P.O. Box 6952  
Chico, CA 95927**

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## **NEW CIRCULATION AREA COMPLETED IN APRIL**

The Chico branch has an attractive new front desk and a remodeled circulation area. The furniture was purchased by the Chico Friends of the Library (CFOL), and Butte County paid for the labor to install it. The remodel took three weeks, and there was no interruption of library services or the weekly book sales.

Motivated by CFOL's purchase of the furniture, the County has agreed to re-do all the floor covering in the library with a combination of carpet squares and vinyl plank flooring. Bids came in on April 17, and installation will probably start within two weeks of that date. The vinyl, which looks like wood, will be used in the high traffic area between circulation and the reference desk. The children's room already has vinyl flooring and custom rugs and will not be re-carpeted.

Branch librarian Susan Rauen said that the library will have to close for two or three days until the flooring is done; however, the Chico

staff will be working in other branches during that time.

As you enter the Chico library, you notice a number of changes. The new desk has a space in front of it where people can stand, making it more accessible and reducing congestion, as service is now available on four sides instead of the former three. As many as 30 people can stand at the new desk at once.

The desk is designed with angled, ergonomic checkout stations, enabling staff to serve the public without twisting their bodies to reach their computers. There are five new computers with keyboard trays, and one more is planned. There are two new self-checkout stations including one for people in wheelchairs. The new computers were purchased with funds coming through CFOL from the Soroptimists.

The new furnishings include: the handsome wooden desk with cleanable blue and green mottled surface; pull-out drawers instead of open cabinets; new returned book carts that can spin around in small spaces; and two tall,

pyramid-shaped carts on rollers for displaying new book titles.



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