

Message from CFOL Co-President, Rupert McDowell

Your library belongs to you. By you, I mean all of us who have library cards. And because the Chico Library belongs to us as individuals, we (you) have a responsibility to the library that serves us. By using the library, you help keep it open. And, thanks to the Butte County Supervisors, our library is now open on Sundays from 1 PM to 5 PM - that makes seven days a week, 58 hours a week to serve you.

Look around the library the next time you visit. Take a stroll to the back where people are reading periodicals and catching up on the news by reading any of the several newspapers which are made available. Note also the curious minds thumbing through books to take home in the large children's library. Our new children's librarian, Lydia Neeley, states that more programs are being planned for the coming year. Did you know that each child can check out up to 26 books? It is incumbent on each of us to encourage our children to read.

And, finally, I would personally to take the time to thank all of the volunteers who serve you at our library. Some volunteer a few hours a week while others volunteer more. Each give in their own way, selflessly, not looking for acknowledgement. Thank you, volunteers, for your service, whether it's shelving books, sorting books for our popular book sale, attending to customers (you) or serving on the Chico Friends Of The Library Board. If you have a few hours to spare, why not donate them to the library. Just ask one of our librarians at the front desk for more information. Here's a little well-kept secret: It's fun being a volunteer!

And finally, for those of you who have ideas to enhance the library experience, share them by putting your thoughts on paper and

then into our suggestion box located by the exit door in the library. Want a certain book, DVD, book on CD? Our suggestion box is there for you.

Introducing New Chico Librarian: Brenda Crotts



As a 37-year librarian with Butte County Library, I welcome the opportunity to manage the Chico Branch Library after having run up and down "the ridge" managing the Paradise and

Oroville Branches for many years. My library background began in Louisiana where I completed a MLS degree at Louisiana State University and worked in the university library as a library assistant, graduate intern and professional librarian. My husband, Joe, received his MS in Geography and MLS at LSU; his interest in map librarianship brought us to CSU-Chico in 1974. After relocating, my professional career continued as a part-time evening reference librarian at Butte College and full time manager of the North State Cooperative Library System's Listen-In program housed in the Butte College Library. In 1977 I joined the staff of Butte County Library as their first professional manager of Technical Services.

As the budget ebbs and flows, I have ridden the library down to complete closure and, seen it rebound with new buildings in Chico, Paradise, and Gridley, and begin to adequately staff the branches to allow us to realize the full potential of what we should be providing to the public. Times for the Butte County library system have never been better and con-

Continued on page 2



"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."

— Andrew Carnegie

Don't forget to renew your Chico Friends of the Library Membership!

Inside this issue:

CFOL Message	1
Intro of Brenda Crotts	1
Intro of Lydia Neeley	2
New Books	3
Coming Events	3
Spending YTD	3

— Brenda Crotts, *continued*

tinue improving. I am fortunate and so happy to have the opportunity to be a part of it.

I have and continue to be active in library professional associations from committee work to planning and presenting programs at annual conferences. I am decidedly a people-person and relish opportunities to network with others both local and beyond.

The community of Chico beyond the library quickly drew my interest. I have served on the Airport Commission, Planning Commission, General Plan Task Force and Airport land Use Commission.

Running is an addiction. I have run countless 5K and 10K races throughout Butte County and 31 marathons in Northern California. I was an active belly dancer until my partner, Rapunzel (not a human), had finally had enough. The trails of Bidwell Park stay covered with my footprints. Joe and I spend many summer weekends hiking trails in Lassen Volcanic National Park and along the coast in the Fort Bragg and Pacific Grove-Carmel-Monterey area. We also enjoy visiting museums in Northern California, live theater and movies, symphonies, working in the garden (shrubs and trees but nothing edible), book talks and sitting in the yard under a shade tree or beside the fire reading. And there is nothing better than a bit of shopping and a new pair of glasses.

Please stop by the Information Desk when you visit the branch; I am eager to meet you and hear what you would like to see in your library. Together we can keep the Chico branch a great place for the community, and who knows, maybe even make it a little bit better.

Introducing New Chico Children's Librarian: Lydia Neeley

I have a Master of Library and Information Science degree from San Jose State's School of Library and Information Science. While in grad school I concentrated my degree in youth librarianship with the hope that one day I would be privileged enough to work with children and teens. I discovered a fascination with early literacy, Picture Books, and young adult speculative fiction. Information literacy, and how children, teens, and young adults navigate the waters of the world wide web and information overload, is of particular interest to me.

While still in grad school I began my library career at an academic library, and had the opportunity to build a juvenile curriculum and literature collection from nearly the



ground up. I became the liaison to the Teacher Education department, implementing new Common Core strategies and creating a resource for students who were planning to become elementary teachers. I also worked in the university archives, did reference, and adjunct taught.

But my interests always leaned toward children, tweens and teens. Surprisingly, it was my own library director who sent me the posting about the Children's Librarian position at Chico. He didn't want to see me go, but understood my passions and wanted me to pursue them.

The future: One way I hope to serve Chico families is to build a stellar collection and maintain it well. Having a relevant, meaningful, and entertaining collection that will entice reluctant and fluent readers alike is very important to me.

Before library school I worked as an admission counselor for a university. I spent months out of the year traveling to elementary, junior high, and high schools all over the state promoting the university, and I hope to do the same for the library. I believe the main reason people don't use the library is because they don't truly know what services the library offers. I believe the library to be more than a building full of books, but rather a community space where information access, guided reading, information discovery, literacy, entertainment, collaboration and friendship can all be found. I hope to find methods and opportunities to spread this library message to the community, particularly to families.

I will also be doing the "Babies Love Books" early literacy Storytimes. I can't tell you how excited I am to be able to apply early literacy skills with babies and adults in such a fun, tangible way.

A little more about me:

❖ In undergrad I majored in music. I sing often and can play piano, hand percussion, and dabble in a few other instruments.

❖ My husband and I are avid travelers. I have been to Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Oaxaca, India (Kolkata and Darjeeling), The Kingdom of Bhutan, Singapore, Brazil, and this spring we are taking 10 college students to Cambodia.

❖ I love animals, particular dogs and horses, and I have also kept bees.

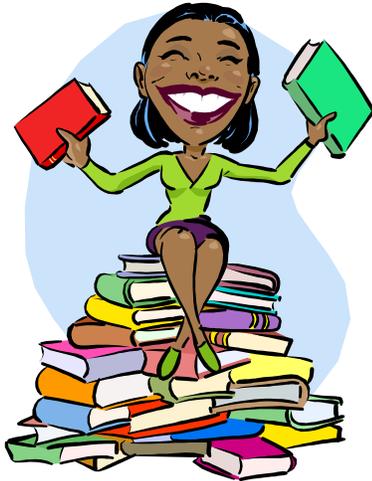
❖ I am an outdoor enthusiast. Camping, hiking, backpacking, off-roading in our Jeep, swimming, kayaking...I do it all. Going a week without a shower doesn't bother me one bit.

❖ I'm a history buff and am particularly fascinated with American history and the Middle Ages.

❖ I've been on "The Price is Right", on the news a few times, and was an extra in the movie "Seabiscuit".

"...Libraries are not child care facilities, but sometimes feral children raise themselves among the stacks." — Neil Gaiman





New Books

Available because of your generous donations!

- ◆ *Waking from the Dream: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the Shadow of Martin Luther King Jr.*, by David L. Chappell
- ◆ *Windfall: The Booming Business of Global Warming*, by McKenzie Funk
- ◆ *Windows 8.1 All-In-One for Dummies*, by Woody Leonhard
- ◆ *Your Life Calling: Reimagining the Rest of Your Life*, by Jane Pauley
- ◆ *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI*, by Betty Medsger
- ◆ *The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom and Deception in the New World*, by Greg Grandin
- ◆ *Essential First Steps for Parents of Children with Autism: Helping the Littlest Learners*, by Lara Delmolino & Sandra L. Harris
- ◆ *Fizz: How Soda Shook Up the World*, by Tristan Donovan
- ◆ *Your Best Brain Ever: A Complete Guide & Workout*, by Michael S. Sweeney (Including "Brain Boosters" by Cynthia R. Green, Ph.D.)

Love Your Library!

(Based on Butte County web page <http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary/SupportYourLibrary.aspx>)

- ◆ · Enjoy your library!
- ◆ · Give a monetary donation designated for books in specific subject areas, purchasing eBooks, sponsoring a children's program, or supporting Literacy Services. Celebrate the memory of a loved one, honor a friend or relative birthday, or recognize other special occasions.
- ◆ · Donate your used books, movies, and CDs.
- ◆ · Volunteer to help tutor an adult learning to read, assist library staff, shelve books, help with Friends book sales, and more. The Library also has volunteer opportunities for teens.
- ◆ · Sponsor the library through your favorite community organization, including service clubs, PTA groups, or many others.
- ◆ · Create a legacy through planned giving in your will or estate plan. Through the North Valley Community Foundation, the Library can accept planned gifts of cash, stocks or bonds, real estate, insurance proceeds, or other personal property.
- ◆ · Let other people know how much you value the Library's services – tell your friends, relatives, state and local elected officials . . . even the person next to you in line at the grocery store.



Don't forget to renew your Chico Friends of the Library Membership!

Spending YTD

Our Treasurer reports that as of December 31 (during the 2013-2014 fiscal year), CFOL spent \$25,265 on books, movies, eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines. Book sale volunteers, patron donations, and book sale customers make this happen!

✂ ✂ ✂

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

March 7th, April 4th and May 2nd

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

**Chico Friends of the Butte County
Library**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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ORGANIZATION
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CHICO, CA
PERMIT NO. 911

Coming Events:

- ◆ Regular Saturday **Book Sales**, every Saturday in the Chico Branch Library meeting room, 9am to 11:30am.
- ◆ **Members-only Book Sales**, the First Friday of every month, 2pm to 4pm in the Chico Branch Library meeting room. Bring your coupon from page 3.
- ◆ February is **Library Lovers' month**. Support your library by renewing membership, volunteering, and promoting the library in your community.
- ◆ CFOL Board Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7pm in the Chico Branch Library meeting room.
- ◆ Members who would like monthly event updates, please send a request with your name and email address to cfolwebmaster@gmail.com .

See the CFOL calendar online at chicolibrary.org/index.php/calendar . See the Butte County Library, Chico Branch calendar online at <http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary/Home.aspx> .