



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board

November – December 2017

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Administration – Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

The end of the year was full and productive in and out of the library. We held over 280 programs inside the branches and dozens offsite during these last two months, including visits to after-school programs through a new partnership with Butte County Office of Education, initiated by our county children's librarian, **Ashley Cane**.

New opportunities also include the start of MakerSpace construction in Chico, popular new programs in Paradise, and an upcoming grant project: congratulations to Chico branch Library Assistants **Joseph Rodgers** and **Alex Chen** who won a competitive grant for the "Libraries Illuminated" program.

Library Administration moved forward with preparations for the new high-speed broadband Internet through connection to the CENIC network, continued to support successful use of self-check by our patrons and worked on improvements to the self-check system which will soon allow patrons to pay fines at self-check kiosks.

Staff updates:

- Chico Branch Librarian **Brenda Crofts** announced her retirement effective 1/31/18 after more than 40 years of service to Butte County Library. Brenda leaves a legacy of creativity, innovation, service and compassion shared with staff, colleagues and the public over these many decades.
- **Susie Serrano**, currently Paradise Branch Librarian, will transfer to Chico effective 2/1/18 to take Brenda's place. Susie is a capable, talented library professional who originally started her career with the Library as a teenager. She worked first at the Chico branch, and then eventually at a variety of other Library positions/locations as she completed a bachelor's degree at CSU Chico and a master's degree in Library Science at San Jose State University. We are excited that Susie will return to the Chico branch!
- An active recruitment is in progress for the new Paradise Branch Librarian.
- The library is also recruiting a new Financial Technician. **Mariah Robertts** served in this position during November and December 2017.

Literacy – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

- Literacy Services enjoyed providing 27 early literacy experiences to multiple preschool Family Events and classrooms.
- The Trivia Bee for Literacy on November 17th at the Sierra Nevada Big Room was a success with 25 teams competing to be the Trivia Champions of Butte County. Thank you LAB for your continued support!

Chico Branch – Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian

- **Brenda Crotts** and **Kimberlee Wheeler**, Children’s Librarian, headed to Riverside for the Annual California Library Association Conference. Both were involved with committee programs. Brenda was able to gather quite a bit of information on kits to set up for a new LSTA grant - Innovation Stations – which will benefit both Butte and Tehama County Library.
- CFOL Book Sale Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.
- Holiday music program by Yule Logs brought about 700 to the branch for an hour of fun and seasonal songs.
- The structure for the new MakerSpace was set up by Facilities Services and Juvenile Hall youth under the instruction of welding instructor Gerry Joiner, who works with the youth.
- A holiday craft and bake sale organized by Japanese Storytime volunteer, Chieko Page, and her many helpers, brought in over \$800 for new Japanese bilingual reading material for youth and funds for a spring 2018 youth cultural program.
- Sold 90 Holiday Buy the Book titles ranging in price from a few dollars for paperbacks to \$125 for an atlas.

Gridley, Biggs, Durham – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Biggs

- 2 after-school programs with **Ashley Cane**, Countywide Children’s Librarian.
- WiFi has been restored and is getting more use.
- Created display for recently purchased bilingual children's books.

Durham

- DFOL purchased newly-released DVDs requested by patrons.
- Rearranged shelving to create room for and better visibility of recently purchased bilingual children's books.

- Senior Library Assistant **Christy Cooke-Williford** has assumed countywide ILL duties.

Gridley

- GFOL are purchasing newly-released DVDs that patrons request.
- Newly purchased bilingual children's books on display, shelves adjusted to make them more visible.
- GFOL purchased more graphic novels for children and young adult collections.
- Staff weeded adult mysteries.
- Gridley High, Butte College and Chico State had information booths.

Oroville Branch, Sarah Vantrease Asst. Dir and Branch Librarian

- Now that RFID self-check use is fully implemented, the branch has been transitioning to a customer service model meeting the needs of library users away from the circulation desk. The staff work on a list of rotating public service tasks in order to keep the focus on helping library users – offering more in-depth help at the public computers, being proactive with customer service when passing through a public area, and showing/teaching patrons how to use self-service technology while making clear that staff are here to help.
- In November, Library Assistant **Regina Griffiths** led the branch's participation in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) for the second year, this time including a visit from an author in addition to weekly "Write-Ins" to encourage community members to write a novel.
- Senior Library Assistant **Patty Young** noticed that families in the library on Saturdays were looking for something fun to do at different times during the day. She started putting out LEGO bricks all day so that families have a creative outlet to enjoy together.
- Children's Librarian **Ashley Cane** continues to visit area schools. She also recruited a new Reading HERO volunteer. Her afterschool children's STEAM programs have been growing in popularity. An "architecture" program (Gingerbread House building) was one of the Library's most popular programs this fall.
- Another popular program was an all-ages drop-in craft program for the holidays.
- The Oroville Friends of the Library sponsored a "Joyful Noise" Bell Ringers' concert for Veterans Day, filling the library with beautiful and patriotic songs.
- The branch planned two Open Data workshops as part of alpha-testing a new curriculum; however, attendance was minimal at the first workshop and the second was cancelled.
- Staff finished weeding adult non-fiction and fiction.
- **Sarah Vantrease** attended the California Library Association annual conference as well as a workshop on emergency preparedness for cultural institutions.

Paradise Branch, Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian

- Senior Library Assistant **Karen Rigby** is transitioning from handling county-wide Inter-Library Loan (ILL) to learning OCLC Cataloging with the Library's Technical Services Specialist **Rhonda Werner** in 2018.
- Staff are getting a head start on planning the 2018 Summer Reading Program.
- **Popular new programs:**
 - Teen Video Game Design on Wednesdays at 3:30.
 - Kids Cribbage on Tuesdays at 3:30.
 - Playtime once a month in place of Thursday Storytime.
- **Fundraisers:**
 - Holiday Bazaar raised over \$600 this year.
 - Holiday Time Buy the Book program gifted 19 new titles to the Library.