



# Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report  
For the Library Advisory Board

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## September and October, 2015

### Administration – Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

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Administration has had quite the couple of months:

- In September, **Sarah Vantrease** joined us officially as the new Assistant Director, a position empty since Nancy Brower became Library Director. Ms. Vantrease went to work in July as lead and principal in developing the library's service analysis and saw it to a very successful conclusion. Welcome, Ms. Vantrease. Admin is so glad you're here.
- In September, the library received the unexpected and amazing bequest from Ms. Martha Dunbar for \$330,000. Martha and her brother Paul, from whom much of this money originated, were staunch library supporters and heavy users of the Chico branch.
- The library service analysis itself, as mentioned above, was completed, vetted and revised with enormous help from the CAO's office especially our liaison MaryJo Alonzo and Meegan Jessee. Also, General Services' staff and their director, Grant Hunsicker, were critical jumping in at the last minute and putting aside other work to help us. Even more critical than all this was the input and faithful record-keeping of all the Library staff and managers.
- The library hosted a lunch for all the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Friends of the Library organizations and heard special speaker Art Falconer talk about a Legacy Fund devoted to supporting Butte County Library.
- Finally, on October 27th the County Board of Supervisors, Teeter, Kirk, Wahl, Connelly and Lambert voted 5-0 to support four of the five recommendations given by staff to improve library services and spend the money donated by Ms. Dunbar. The money will be used for some miscellaneous enhancements and providing RFID automation to Chico, Gridley, Oroville and Paradise. Special bonus for LAB members: your assistant, **Heidi Mitchell** will be working full-time assisting with scheduling and literacy as well as keeping you up to date.

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### Overall Highlights:

- Literacy Services is training new tutors to meet the needs of adult learners county-wide.
- New and continuing activities at branches serve many interests. Special events this fall included author nights, financial counseling for veterans, movies for all ages, family art workshops, and 3D printing programs.
- The start of the school year brings different ways to connect with schools and students, both in and out of the library, throughout Butte County.

## **Literacy Services -- Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator**

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- Local famed metal artist Jeff Lindsey and his wife Anna Dove will be creating a portable children's music garden to roll around the County aboard the Literacy Coach. This interactive mechanism is being created as a memorial to Sandra Woodson and lovingly referred to as "a symphony for Sandra".
- September 19th and 26th we enjoyed a well-attended two-day Tutor Training. Literacy Services is happy to have more tutors to match with the learners we have waiting. The next Tutor Training will be a one day offering in Oroville on January 9th. Call 530.538.7198 for more information.
- Literacy Services was honored to host a visit from Camile Maben, the Executive Director of First5 California, aboard our Literacy Coach.
- Staff attended a Northern California Literacy Coalition meeting and a Get Involved training in Eureka, CA.
- Butte County First5 Children and Families Commission approved funding a Music & Movement Part II program with the unspent funds from FY 2014/2015 Jim Gill concert tour.
- The Literacy Coach was present at two community events, Oroville Children's Fair and Youth for Change Resource Fair in Paradise, sharing the message that your library can help adults/parents who may be struggling with their reading and writing.
- We continue to be busy scheduling adult learners for assessments throughout the County who are seeking help with their reading and writing so we can match them with a tutor—which is the very heart of the services we provide.

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## **Paradise Branch -- Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian**

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- Author Night wrapped up October 15th with local authors Ken Young, Roger & Helen Ekins, Joan Goodreau and Bob Harrison.
- The Paradise Branch was honored by the Girl Scouts of Northern California with a Community Partner Award.
- The staff created a display for Banned Books Week:



- The staff hosted a social volunteer brunch for the Branch volunteers and gave away donated prizes.
- **Rhoda Boyd** attended the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- **Paula Tarrant** visited Pine Ridge Elementary School classes to promote our services for school age children.
- **Karen Rigby-Alexander** and **Susie Serrano** hosted the Teen Shopping Spree at Barnes and Noble in Chico on October 17th for Teen Read Week.

- Ms. Tarrant, Ms. Serrano, Ms. Rigby-Alexander and Christa shifted the children's area to create a space for ages 6-12:



### **Chico Branch -- Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian**

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- Over 26,000 patrons visited each month.
- 1500+ used WiFi.
- Over 2100 used public computers each month.
- Preschool programs had 882 attend in August and 1093 attend in September.
- School age programs had 108 attendees in August and 519 in September.
- YA programs had 112 attendees in August and 41 in September.
- Adult programs had 66 attendees in August and 49 in September.
- The 3D Printer programs are booked through to the end of 2015. We are seeking additional volunteers to offer more programs.
- Digital Lab is also popular on Sunday afternoons.
- The return of popular movies is bringing in a mix of children and adults. **Kimberlee Wheeler** is creating monthly display of movies for patron planning purposes.
- Meditation program for veterans in September attracted 11.
- Financial Counseling is a one-on-one program offered to veterans of 9/11. The first session went well for 2 individuals. Another session is in planning for after the first of 2016.
- We are gearing up for changes funded by CFOL to remodel reference, computer lab, Teen Area and media area.

### **Oroville Branch -- Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian**

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- The branch hosted a teachers' breakfast during Library Card Sign-Up Month, connecting the library virtually with over 100 Oroville-area teachers and welcoming seven teachers into the library for an early morning meal, resource demonstration and free goodies. The event was sponsored by the Oroville Friends.
- **Laura-Lyn Burch's** "Second Saturday Storytime" for school-aged children and **Meybel Van Wagenen's** monthly "Family Art Connections" project debuted to growing success in September and October, providing Saturday programming for children and families.
- Ms. Burch has also revitalized the Oroville branch volunteer program, recruiting and training new volunteers to work on many needed projects.
- **Heidi Cress** initiated a classic movie program on Tuesday afternoons, responding to a popular request from older adults, with support from the Oroville Friends.
- **Sarah Vantrease** attended the ARSL conference.
- The Oroville branch now has over 25,000 library card holders!

### **Gridley, Biggs, Durham branches -- Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian**

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#### **Gridley**

- Family Art Connections Project, presented by **Meybel Van Wagenen**, has had a good reception. Families have enjoyed the classes about different art methods/mediums. Posters families have created are on display in the meeting room. Library hosted art exhibit and reception.
- Library partnered with Promotores, Labor Camp preschool programs, and parents for a Day of the Dead (Dia de Muertos) celebration. Ms. Van Wagenen and volunteer Danielle del Rio organized crafts, read stories and gave away books. 142 people participated.
- Branch Librarian, **Cynthia Pustejovsky**, attended a "Wellness Round Table" that included representatives from Public and Behavioral Health, Promotores and local organizations to discuss how we can work together to meet the needs of the Latino community and how to keep them informed of the services and programs available. The group is working on a networking plan to keep members informed of programs and services, and what is working and not working. The group plans to meet quarterly. The round table was hosted by Promotores.

#### **Durham**

- Staff member **Dale Wangberg** made his yearly Ishi presentation at Durham Middle School to three eighth grade history classes. He visits each classroom to give the students a first-hand presentation that allows time for questions.
- DFOL Digitization Project: The Durham Friends of the Library, along with other Durham organizations, have begun the process of digitizing Durham's newspapers and other local history recourses. Team members are Sharon Fisher, Rian Farley, Durham High's Interact Community Service group, and staff member Mr. Wangberg. Sharon Fischer and Rian Farley are doing the scanning and are creating a website for the collections, while the Interact group helps to organize materials. Durham's Adobe Church has generously

offered the small chapel for work/storage space for the project. It is expected to take three years to have most of the resources scanned.

**Biggs**

- With the start of school, visits by school aged children have increased.
- Students are enjoying the board games that were recently purchased.
- September and October WiFi and staff Internet connections have been intermittent, averaging connection loss 8 times per day. IS is working with staff to address the issue.