



# Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report  
For the Library Advisory Board

October – December, 2014

## Administration

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Administration has been very busy with daily activities and several projects these past three months. Here are some highlights:

- Completed annual statistical report to the State Library, this report will be provided to the LAB after the approval of the State Library, probably in March
- Hired and completed hiring paperwork for extra help staff members and one new part time staff member for Chico
- Worked with our consultant Beverly Scofield to review and begin to shape the LAB's plan of action.

Beginning late January the budget team **Sarah Vantrease, Caroline Payne and Heather Tovey** will begin working on next year's budget. Lightbody will supervise and provide final review. We are hoping for a stable budget again this year.

Lightbody is the 14-15 Chair of the NorthNet Library System which is a regional cooperative for 41 public libraries and 17 academics located in Northern California. This year, NorthNet will be replacing our provider of administrative services. Lightbody and Heidi Mitchell (your advisory board assistant) have been corresponding with all of the other systems in California in preparation for this transition and will be assisting in the transition.

## Gridley-Biggs-Durham – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

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**Biggs: Pat Nohrnberg** and volunteer scheduled fall and holiday story/craft times for school-aged children Saturdays in November & December, 5 attended each.

**Gridley: Meybel VanWagenen** had Halloween, fall and holiday after school craft times that were well attended; saw some new faces. She also did the craft times at the Labor Camp in addition to her weekly program. She has changed the branch's Spanish story time to 10:00 to give her time to schedule additional visits to the Camp's pre-school programs when requested.

VanWagenen and Pustejovsky attended the fall Children's Services Committee meeting.

GFOL hosted an "Evening with the Author" program with Larry Matthews - "The Building of the Oroville Dam", well attended.

Tween/Teen monthly movie nights in Gridley & Durham have regular attendees - Gridley 6 Durham 4, interest is growing, sometimes competes with school or community events.

Other regular Gridley & Durham programs well attended.

GFOL & DFOL sent fall book sale proceeds to Weed Library.

Three branches participated in Holidaytime Buy the Book. Durham had the most successful program.

### Oroville – Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian

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#### Oroville Branch

October November December 2014

Oroville is finishing the year with over 2000 new library users since the start of 2014! It has been an exciting year of remodels, staff changes, and trying new ways of reaching the community. In October, we participated in the Cal Reads grant project “War Comes Home” through a display of military and veteran resources, book groups reading Karl Marlantes’ *What it is Like to Go to War*, and two programs. November was full of lots of training for staff, and December’s “Holidaytime Buy the Book” fundraiser brought in over 30 brand-new books for the Oroville community to enjoy. Other fall highlights include:

- New weekly adult program: We’ve added a “Knitter’s Night Out” activity on Tuesdays for all knitters, crocheters, and fiber crafters. The low-key program is easy for staff to manage, and easy for the public to join. With interest in crafts always high, we hope to begin circulating craft items like knitting needles and crochet hooks soon. Thank you to the San Pedro Regional Library and the Woodward family of Rocklin for their craft supply donations that helped get this started.
- New materials: Oroville became the first Butte County Library branch to offer board games and card games for check out, thanks to the generosity of Oroville Wal-Mart and the **Oroville Friends of the Library**. The games are available to borrow in the library or for up to four weeks at home, perfect for “kids” of all ages, including adults!
- New convenience: Oroville now offers wireless printing from patrons’ own laptop computers.
- New way to offer retro technology: VHS tapes are now available to borrow only through an honor charge “take one, leave one” process that requires no library card, no due date, and no fines. This enables us to continue providing the VHS format still popular among some folks, while eliminating staff time to manage the collection.

In 2015, by popular demand, Oroville is increasing programs for adults. The “New Year, New Skills” program series in January and February will feature opportunities to develop creative skills like crafting poetry, watercolor painting, and writing songs, along with healthy living and technology learning activities.

“New Year, New Skills” program flier is attached.

In October **Paradise Friends of the Library** hosted a successful Centennial Celebration, Author Night with over 20 local authors and a Paradise Branch Centennial Celebration – Open House with food, speeches and a photo booth. The Paradise Friends sponsored our Teen Shopping Spree to celebrate Teen Read week hosted by **Kimberlee Wheeler** who met the local teens at Barnes and Noble to shop for books that will go into our teen collection.

Wheeler, **Karen Rigby-Alexander** and **Susie Serrano** worked on the Staff Development Day committee and 35 Butte County Library staff members attended in Chico on Columbus Day. The activities for the day included special guest Captain Andy Duch, Jail & Court Security Commander who talked about safety and de-escalation tactics. From the Butte College Training Center Shawn Volland introduced us to strengths training with PACE color pallet activity. The day also included many interactive stations in groups geared towards library subjects and groups went on a lunch excursion observing customer service in action at local eateries. The lunch experience grouped staff together who don't work at the same branch and encouraged conversations about great customer service that can be applied at the library as well as talking about when things go not so well with customers. **Caroline Payne** talked with us about the "afternoon slump" some might feel in the middle of the day and **Sunny Campbell** organized a fun Library Olympics activity that had staff cheering on one another as they maneuvered a truck full of magazines around book shelves and various other fun activities at the end of the day. We had great feedback from the day including: "I'm leaving here a better person than when I came. Thank You!" "BRAVO!! Loved the chance to \*move\* and hear positive, useful work strategies and approaches/Variety!" "I enjoyed meeting with staff from other branches that I don't see very often." "Great reminder of Library Mission."

In November the War Comes Home event finished up at the Paradise Town Hall and was well attended. We are looking at ideas to continue the conversation perhaps once a month or until the month of November 2015.

A second grade class from Achieve Charter School gave a wonderful performance at Friday Storytime. The teacher worked with Wheeler to organize the program bringing the school into the library giving students the opportunity for a class tour and experience performing in public for storytime families. Serrano went to the Chico Branch to learn more about the Seed Lending Library with a member from the Paradise Grange and to help packaged seeds in preparation for the Paradise Seed Lending Library coming this spring. Rigby-Alexander and Wheeler volunteered at the annual Trivia Bee.

In December Wheeler worked with the Junior Paradise Friends of the Library to raise money for children's program's with their annual Holiday Bazaar. Donations were accepted from October until the week of the Bazaar. Local patrons donated homemade baked goods and the Girl Scouts donated handmade items. The Holidaytime Buy the Book started at the end of November and continues to the end of December with books bought in honor or in memory of a loved one for the branch. Ron Serrano and Susie met with the Masonic Lodge members as well as the Director of Butte County General Services to talk about sharing parking lot access and making the lots accessible to all with a walkway and lighting. Serrano attended the PUSD board meeting on

December 10th. Our first Crafting for Adults program took place December 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3pm where adults can create a Mason jar votive and snowflake wreath. We are hoping to have a crafting class twice a month with all staff taking turns running the program.

Chico – Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian

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During the last three months Chico Branch has:

1. Planning for Veteran Resource Station: ordering print materials, study cubicle, display furniture, laptop computer, telephone; advertising for volunteer coaches to assist veterans; attending training with our volunteer coordinator for the station.
2. Ordering Spanish language materials to boost the collection to be there to support our outreach to attract new Spanish speaking patrons to the branch.
3. Hired a new Children's Librarian and working with her to create a plan of service for all youth in the community. This is **Kristine Macalalad**.
4. Teen Services LAS (Library Assistant Senior), **Leslie Botsford**, is working on setting up a 3D printer program for teens. Leslie has received positive feedback from a business in town to assist and the high school will send teens to volunteer time to assist with teaching 3D printer skills to teen patrons.
5. **Ricardo Ramirez**, LAS and Kristine Macalalad, Children's Librarian are working on a plan to offer video editing for teens in the spring of 2015.
6. Hiring a new LAS part-time to replace a LAS who departed for her home state of Alaska. His name is **Lucas Sarcona**.
7. Continue to weed to make room this spring for an expanded Teen area to accommodate new offerings mentioned in 4 & 5 above.
8. Continue to shift in adult non-fiction to make space for a media alcove and more space for public access computers.
9. Offering wifi printing, ability to send print jobs from home via one's cell phone – two services beginning to catch on.

Literacy – Carey Gross and Heather Tovey, current and former Literacy Coordinators

***Whew! It was a busy and exciting quarter for Literacy Services! Here are some of our favorite highlights:***

As shared in our past report, California Library Literacy Services, a program of the State Library that assists with funding and providing technical support to Literacy Services, turned 30 years old in 2014! In addition to the filming and compilation of *Greg's Story* and a presentation to the Board of Supervisors, we also held **an Open House** in celebration. The Open House was attended by adult learners and tutors and community members and featured deliciousness from Roots Catering **thanks to the generous support of the Oroville Friends of the Library**. During the Open House guests were welcome to mill about and enjoy our **new learner/tutor area at the Oroville Branch in the backroom that has been outfitted with new furnishings, thanks to our Drive for Adult Literacy LSTA (Library Services and Technical Act) grant funds**.



It's a wrap! Another exciting accomplishment as a result of this grant was **the wrapping of the Literacy Coach to better highlight the existence of the Library's Adult Reading Program**. The wrap was unveiled at the Open House by our wonderful Champion of Literacy, Parke Colbert, who much to his surprise discovered that he is, larger-than-life, featured in the new artwork with the inspiring message, "It's never too late to learn to read." If you haven't seen the new Learner/Tutor meeting area or the Literacy Coach, we hope you'll drop by to take a peek. We'd love to see you!

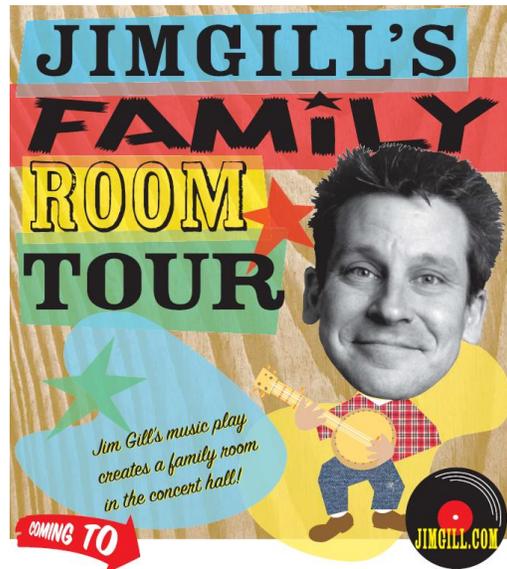


**And** in another significant extension of the Drive for Adult Literacy grant, we now have two new additional drivers added to our cohort of Literacy Coach drivers: **Heather Tovey** and **Thu Tran** have completed driver's training and will join **David Jewell** and **Sandra Woodson** on our driving team! If you see the Coach out and about, be sure to give a wave!

**More good news!** This quarter we **welcomed JoJo Mantle to the Literacy Services team**. JoJo attended tutor training years ago. We have been fortunate to continue to cross paths. She brings an extensive background and passion for serving young children and their families, and

above and beyond, is simply a delight to know and be around! Drop by the office sometime and say hello!

**Even more good news!** This quarter we learned that Literacy Services was in receipt of a \$100,000 grant award from our local First 5 Butte County Children & Families Commission that will serve to bring **Jim Gill, the extremely popular musician, author and child development specialist, to Butte County to present parent/teacher/library staff workshops and family concerts in Chico, Gridley, Oroville and Paradise the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.** Be sure to mark your calendars and spread the word – it is not to be missed! While the actual presence of Jim Gill is the icing on the cake, this is a deep, multi-faceted grant that will involve extensive outreach as well as working with multiple community partners, including our local Strengthening Families Network. The project will rely in great part on the expertise and leadership of Heather Tovey. **We couldn't be more thrilled for this opportunity thanks to First 5! It's going to be great!**



**Chico, Gridley,  
Oroville and Paradise!  
May 11-14, 2015**



**'Bee'-lieve it!** The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Bee for Literacy held November 15<sup>th</sup> at Manzanita Place was **the** most successful yet! The food was delicious, and the gift baskets beautiful and plentiful, thanks to generous contributions from the community. Our wonderful emcees, John Blacklock and Emmett Pogue were back in action amid 21 teams taking to the stage (including **the Chico Friends of the Library** and **the Paradise Friends**) \*and\* an array of spirited team shenanigans! Thanks to our fabulous volunteers and the enthusiastic support of the community, the result of this evening of trivia and good cheer - **\$13,783 in support of Literacy Services! We're so grateful to all!**



# New Year... New Skills!

## Art, Music & Poetry

**Songwriting** Jan. 15th, 11am-12pm

**Poetry Workshop** Jan. 22nd, 11am-1pm

**Watercolor Painting** Jan. 31st, 1-3pm

## Health & Wellness

**Good Food, Great Plate** Jan. 29th, 11am-12pm

**Fitting in Fitness** Feb. 5th, 11am-12pm

Attend both health & wellness workshops to get a free t-shirt & apron!

## Basic Help

**Social Security** Jan. 13th, 11am-1pm

**Covered California** Feb. 13th, 2-5pm

## Technology

**e-Reader Rescue** Wednesdays 3-4pm

**Computer Comfort** Thursdays 10-11am

Sign-ups required for Computer Comfort for beginners—starts January 15

**Free workshops at**

**Butte County Library—Oroville**

1820 Mitchell Ave. Oroville, CA 95966

(530) 538-7641—[www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary](http://www.buttecounty.net/bclibrary)

