

Fall 2009

Under the Oak Tree

News from Gridley Friends of the Library

By Laura Stokes, President

The Gridley Friends of the Library association has been in existence since 1982. According to the bylaws, "The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; to focus public attention on library services, facilities, and needs, and to stimulate gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments, and bequests."

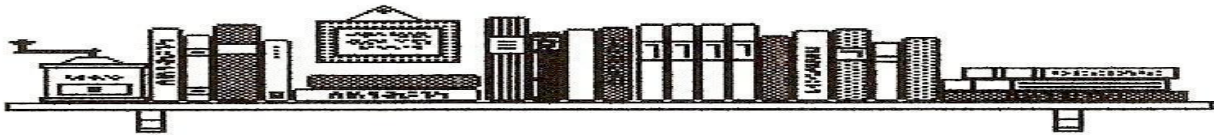
I've only been a member for one year and president for three months. As the rookie of the group, I have spent a good part of the past three months reading through the bylaws, minutes, and treasurer's reports in an effort to get up to speed with the rest of the board, and I vacillate between being amazed and intimidated by what the Friends have accomplished over the years. One amazing fact—I am only the 10th president in 27 years. Our first three presidents were Nora Wiley, Sally Coghlan, and Penny Louton; followed by Colleen Crawford (2 years), Doris Pettersen (2 years), Lynn Bock (6 years), Karen Englander (2 years), and Denise Viscuso, (9 years!). Most of these ladies are still very active board members, and all of the members have been incredibly generous in sharing their knowledge and support. Thank you to all members, past and present, for your contributions to the Gridley Library.

As most of you know, the biggest challenge we face in these tough economic times is funding. Last spring, the library budget was cut 23%, reducing the Gridley branch to 24 hours and Biggs to 6 hours. Rumor had it that the library system was facing additional cuts that would reduce funding a total of 50% when revenue came from an unexpected source. The Butte County Sheriff's Office entered into a contract to house federal inmates, and Sheriff Perry Reniff requested that part of those monies be allocated to the library. The Board of Supervisors approved his request, and we avoided further cuts. Thank you Sheriff Reniff!

The City of Gridley has provided financial assistance to the Gridley branch for many years, and this year they contributed \$7,000. We always appreciate the Council's support, and this year we are especially grateful given the economic challenges of the day. In addition, Rob Hickey and the City Council purchased a WiFi system for the library. The service can be picked up all the way to the CVS Pharmacy parking lot and is also used by the Gridley Police Department. According to Librarian Cynthia Pustejovsky, many patrons are spending more time in the library enjoying the service.

The County recently added electrical outlets to the tables for laptops. An additional benefit is that this decreases demand for the library computers, so more patrons are able to use them as well. WiFi is currently only available during open hours. (We hope this will change in the future.) The user name is 'library' and the password is 'wifi'—all lower case. Thank you to City Administrator Rob Hickey and City Council members: Jerry Fichter, Bruce Johnson, Dan Boeger, Dave Garner, and Owen Stiles!

In addition to our activities in support of the Gridley branch, we are working with the Love Your Library Committee, the four other Friends groups (Chico, Durham, Oroville, and Paradise), and the Library Advisory Board on the "Love Your Library" campaign to create sustainable funding for the library system in the future. You will be hearing more about the campaign in the coming months. Thank you for your past support, and I hope we can count on your support in the future. It is time to renew annual memberships, and we have many, many volunteer opportunities. If you would like to become more involved, we would love to see you at our meetings, which are held the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.



Newly Arrived Titles

Ahern, Cecilia	<i>The Gift</i>
Baldacci, David	<i>True Blue</i>
Barr, Nevada	<i>13 1/2</i>
Beaton, M.C.	<i>There Goes the Bride</i>
Bradford, Barbara T.	<i>Breaking the Rules</i>
Brown, Sandra	<i>Rainwater</i>
Chiaverini, Jennifer	<i>Quilter's Holiday</i>
Connelly, Michael	<i>Nine Dragons</i>
Cornwell, Patricia	<i>The Scarpetta Factor</i>
Cussler, Clive	<i>The Wrecker</i>
Fluke, Joanne	<i>Plum Pudding Murder</i>
Flynn, Vince	<i>Pursuit of Honor: A Thriller</i>
Gabalton, Diana	<i>An Echo in the Bone</i>
Grisham, John	<i>Ford Country</i>
Hill, Reginald	<i>Midnight Fugue</i>
Howard, Linda	<i>Ice</i>
Johansen, Iris	<i>Blood Game</i>
Kellerman, Jonathan	<i>Evidence: An Alex Delaware Novel</i>
King, Stephen	<i>Under the Dome</i>
Kingsbury, Karen	<i>Shades of Blue</i>
Koontz, Dean	<i>Breathless</i>
McCall Smith, Alex.	<i>The Lost Art of Gratitude</i>
Macomber, Debbie	<i>The Perfect Christmas</i>
Michaels, Fern	<i>Vanishing Act</i>
Muller, Marcia	<i>Locked In</i>
Paretsky, Sara	<i>Hardball</i>
Parker, Robert B.	<i>The Professional</i>
Paterson, James	<i>I, Alex Cross</i>
Rankin, Ian	<i>Doors Open</i>
Perry, Anne	<i>A Christmas Promise</i>

Rendell, Ruth	<i>The Monster in the Box</i>
Rice, Anne	<i>Angel Time: The Songs of the Seraphim</i>
Sandford, John	<i>Rough Country</i>
Sparks, Nicholas	<i>The Last Song</i>
Steel, Danielle	<i>Southern Lights</i>
Wood, Stuart	<i>Hothouse Orchid</i>

**Forthcoming Titles:
December**

Deveraux, Jude	<i>Days of Gold</i>
Garwood, Julie	<i>Sizzle</i>
Grafton, Sue	<i>U is for Undertow</i>
Griffin, W.E.B.	<i>The Honor of Spies</i>
Hoag, Tami	<i>Deeper Than the Dead</i>
Hunter, Stephen	<i>I, Sniper</i>
Jance, J.A.	<i>Trial by Fire</i>
Kingsolver, Barbara	<i>The Lacuna</i>
Krentz, Jayne Ann	<i>Fired Up</i>
McCall Smith, Alex.	<i>La's Orchestra Saves the World</i>
Michaels, Fern	<i>Deadly Deals</i>
Robb, J.D.	<i>Kindred in Death</i>
Rollins, James	<i>Altar of Eden</i>
Rutherford, Edward	<i>New York</i>
Woods, Stuart	<i>Kisser</i>

January

Beaton, M.C.	<i>Death of a Valentine</i>
Delinsky, Barbara	<i>Not My Daughter</i>
Higgins, Jack	<i>The Wolf at the Door</i>
Hooper, Kay	<i>Blood Ties</i>
Lescroart, John	<i>Treasure Hunt</i>
McCaffrey, Anne	<i>Catalyst</i>
Preston, Douglas	<i>Impact</i>

Join the Gridley Friends—Support Your Library

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: GFOL, PO Box 356, Gridley, CA 95948
 Donations are tax-deductible: a 501(c)(3) organization
 Checks payable to: Gridley Friends of the Library

Check One:

<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Best Friend	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Super Friend	\$100

We need volunteers:

<input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising
<input type="checkbox"/> Shelving
<input type="checkbox"/> Programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Book sales
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer reading
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Sign-up for a library card; Join your local Friends group

Library hours and services have been reduced severely due to budget cuts.

The Love Your Library Committee, started by the Butte County Library Advisory Board, is committed to building a countywide base of support for the Butte County Library. Phase I is a drive to sign-up 10,000 new library card holders and 2,000 new Friends of the Library members in the next year.

Once a strong base of support has been developed the LYL committee plans to place a measure on the ballot to provide long term stable funding for our library.

Encouraging our friends and neighbors to sign up for a library card gives us an excellent opportunity to inform the public about the many services the library offers and at the same time let people know the problems that our library faces in our up and down economy.

The library card is free. There is no credit check. Just present yourself at a library branch with a valid California driver's license or other recognized governmental identification and the card will be issued to you. It is the ticket that opens the services of the library to the user, the means to check out and borrow materials--not only books but tapes and DVDs at no cost to the borrower. The card also allows patrons to access online services such as databases and reserving and renewing books.

The number of cards issued is a tangible proof of the value a community places on its library. What percentage of the population holds a library card, how many articles have been checked out from each branch during the month and for the year? When it comes to asking for money, whether from the county at budget time or when applying for grants, the decision makers are looking for facts and circulation figures, not feelings.

If asked, almost everyone will say they like the library, but the only way to prove that the support is really there is by the numbers--percentage of cards issued compared to the population of the community and circulation figures to show how much those cards are used.

President: Laura Stokes

VP: Don Wiley

Secretary: Doris Pettersen

Treasurer: Lynn Bock

Newsletter/Library Advisory Board: Penny Louton

Board members: Colleen Crawford, Angie Skuris, Joyce Spence, Jeanie Baker, Denise Viscuso, Katie Leasure

BUTTE COUNTY LIBRARY
BIGGS
464A B Street
Biggs, CA 95917
(530) 868-5724

Tues 12-6
Mon., Wed.-Sun. closed

CHICO
1108 Sherman Ave @ E. 1st Ave.
Chico, CA 95925
(530) 891-2762

Tue, Wed., Thu 9-8
Fri, Sat 9-4:30
Sun, Mon closed

DURHAM
2545 Durham Dayton Hwy
Durham, CA 95938
(530) 879-3835

Tues 12-6
Mon, Wed - Sun closed

GRIDLEY
299 Spruce St.
Gridley, CA 95948
(530) 846-3323

Wed 12-6
Thu, Fri, Sat 10-4
Sun, Mon, Tue closed

OROVILLE
1820 Mitchell Ave.
Oroville, CA 95966
(530) 538-7641

Tue, Wed 12-6
Thu, Fri, Sat 10-4
Sun, Mon closed

PARADISE
5922 Clark Rd.
Paradise, CA 95969
(530) 872-6320

Tue, Wed, Thu 9-7
Fri, Sat 10-4
Sun, Mon closed

Gridley Friends of the Library
PO Box 356
Gridley, CA 95948

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

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Permit #145
Gridley, CA 95948

We need you; the library needs you

If you want to see your library survive and thrive, you can help in three ways:
First of all, get a library card if you don't have one. (see page 3 article)

Second, join the Gridley Friends of the Library. Your dollars go to support library extras and projects.

Third, become active. Volunteer your time and skills.

- Check with the librarian for volunteer possibilities such as shelving, summer reading programs, children's and teen activities.
- Gridley Friends has many opportunities to make a difference
 - We need new board members: our secretary and treasurer have served loyally for many years and would welcome a break
 - There is a need for help with membership, book sales and fundraising

Gridley Welcomes New Library Director

Linda Mielke comes to us from the Montgomery County Public Libraries of Rockville, Maryland. She received her BA degree in business and MS degree in library science for Wayne State University/University of Michigan. She began work with the county library on Oct. 14.

She brings a wealth of leadership experience to the position having served as director of the Carroll County Public Library in Westminster, Maryland; Chief Executive Officer of the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library in Indianapolis, Indiana; and library director of the Clearwater Library in Florida.

She has also acted as a consultant in Illinois and Nevada.

Ms. Mielke visited the Gridley Friends at the Nov. 12 meeting and said she is looking forward to working with Friends groups and the Library Advisory Board. She brings her energy and enthusiasm to the job and has high expectations for the future of the Butte County Library.