

## Greetings from the Chico Friends of the Library

In this issue, our first Carrel of 2022, see some of what the dedicated members and volunteers of Chico Friends of the Library do to support the Library.

February is called Love Your Library month. Can you show us some love by making or renewing your membership gift? See enclosed envelope, send us a Valentine if you wish!

Remember, virtually all the books and other materials added to the Chico Library collection are purchased with funds raised by CFOL! We also maintain and stock a number of "Little Free Libraries" around town, and fund special programs at the Library for children and adults.

How does this happen? With funds raised by our weekly Book Sales, in part. The other part is simple generosity: your membership, and other gifts to CFOL.

We're always also on the lookout for kind folks with free time, to assist at the Book Sales. You may drop us a written note in the enclosed envelope, or email CFOL via our website: <http://www.chicolibrary.org/contact/>



## Chico Welcomes a New Librarian

Hello! My name is Jessie Spragge and I'm so excited to be the new Branch Librarian (manager) at Chico.

As a librarian, I'm passionate about story times, reference/readers advisory, outreach and collection management. I love meeting all the Friends of the Library members at all the libraries I have worked at,

and working with them to provide the community with more resources. I also love browsing the Friends' sales for myself, and I can't resist old, pretty books :)

As an individual, I love genre fiction (particularly Fantasy/Romance/Cozy mysteries), manga, children's fiction, DIY and Marie Kondo. I'm a coffee addict and bullet journaler and love to hike, bike and run. I speak English and Japanese fluently, and "study" Korean via kdramas :) I'm always down for a book conversation and look forward to meeting all the members of the CFOL.



## CFOL: We Are Library Advocates and Benefactors

*Diane Friedman*

Our job is to advocate for the library in the community, which we do by updating social media, sending email updates, radio interviews, and this quarterly newsletter. (You can advocate for the library on social media or by sending a letter to the ChicoER editor: [letters@chicoer.com](mailto:letters@chicoer.com), PO Box 9, Chico, CA 95927).

We also support the library financially. Butte County doesn't have the funds to purchase all the books and other materials we need, and the county doesn't have funds to purchase supplies for Children's Programs. So... Chico Friends of the Library (CFOL), spent \$79,000 on the library in 2021 (it was a slow year). We purchased books, movies, music, subscribed to newspapers and magazines, and children's program supplies.

However, we received only \$73,000 in donations and book sale income, which means we are spending money faster than it is coming in. We do have investment income, which helps. But we can always use more, and promise to put your money to good purposes.

If you wish to make an extra donation, in addition to your membership dues, think about the library's value to you. Estimates of library value to each patron range from \$200-500 per year. (Google "ala.org library value calculator".) Your advocacy and donations matter.

Your donation of time is important too. The regular CFOL Used Book Sale is our biggest source of income and is run totally by volunteers. Volunteers maintain and stock Little Free Libraries. The CFOL volunteer board of directors meet monthly (attendance is open to anyone). We have no employees, so the dedicated volunteers do it all, and make friends along the way.

Volunteers for the library itself also come in to shelve books, find books, and help the staff members. We all have something unique to offer: some of us are good with children. Some of us are good with computers. Some are good at communication or leadership. We can each bring something special to CFOL. Some of us do a lot, some do a little, all of it meaningful.

Consider volunteering with CFOL:  
<http://chicolibrary.org/contact/>  
email: cfolmail@gmail.com



## Book Sale Reports

*Nancy Leek*

The book sale sells used books, current magazines, audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs and puzzles. Hours are from 9AM till 11:30, every Saturday except holiday

week-ends. CFOL members are also invited to a monthly "Members Only" sale.



You can drop off donations whenever the library is open. When you donate a book, it starts on a journey to a new home. From Tuesday through Saturday, dedicated volunteers sort, price, and box donated books (and other items), and take the boxes to our storeroom.

More volunteers set up the sale on Friday, staff the sale Saturday mornings, and then put away everything that didn't sell until the next Saturday. It's a team effort and we are proud of our volunteers.

Income from the book sale increased each year until 2020. In 2019 we earned \$73,575.33, a record high. With the pandemic shutdown, the book sale was put on hiatus, although some sales continued in the library foyer and on the internet. The regular Saturday book sale resumed in July 2021. Sales for the half-year of July-December 2021 total \$28,395.04.

The book sale team is headed up by Helen Sutton, who took over from the late Rob Atkinson almost 10 years ago.



*Helen Sutton, Book Sale Manager and Nancy Leek, CFOL Board Liaison*

Helen initiated the use of colored dots to keep track of inventory: books taken in during the month are given a small colored dot on the spine. The color is changed each month. After three months in the sale, unsold books are put in the library foyer for 50 cents each. Quality paperback books, music CDs, travel books, and 25 cent items are also available in

the foyer whenever the library is open. Books that haven't sold after a week in the foyer are donated to other library book sales or to Little Free Libraries, or are recycled.

It takes over 30 volunteers to put on the CFOL Book Sale every week. We can't list all the volunteers, but some of our stars are set-up/take-down leader Terry Pantel (pictured below), cashier coordinator Liz Granskog and Saturday sale organizer Pat DeFrate.



Whether they help out for an hour a week or much more, CFOL book sale volunteers make it happen every week!



## CFOL Maintains Little Free Libraries Throughout the Community

*Elizabeth Bergthold,  
CFOL Board*

This Little Free Library (next column) is at Community Park, on Cleveland Avenue.

It saddens me to report that vandals are convincing us to switch to solid wooden doors. Plexiglass is just too big a temptation! Since these wooden doors



were pretty lackluster, I asked Christine MacShane to work her magic, yet again. And did she ever!

Other Little Free Libraries that have been painted by Christine are located at DeGarmo Park (Doors only), Has Beans Coffee and Tea, the Dorothy Johnson Center, and Oak Way Park. We also supports LFL at Peterson Park, Boucher St. Market, the church at 574 E. 12 St., Rotary Park on Broadway, Baroni Park, and Hancock Park.

Please give a shout out to our team of woodworkers: Loren Dunlap, Lowell Hanks, Terry Koslofsky, Sam Smith, and Joe Steck. Our stewards are also indispensable: Bonnie Chapman, Lowell and Phyllis Hanks, Hilary Herman, Janice and Ray Horn, Debbie Lovett and Michael Ramos, and Spring Toms. (If you are a steward, formal or informal of one of these LFLs, please notify me, so I can add you to my list.)

Emma Wilson and Neal Dow Elementary Schools have been very generous with book donations for our Little Free Libraries! Sincere thanks to you both!

*(continued on back page)*

Chico Friends of the  
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Elizabeth Quivey: Newsletter Designer  
Keith Herritt: Newsletter Editor

*This photo came from the internet; I'm not ready to expand in this direction. Little Free Libraries are such a good idea, even the dogs are getting in on the action!*