



**Friends of the Klamath County Library
Quarterly Membership Meeting Minutes
26 June 2024
in person at library and via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order by Judith Izzo at 14:00. About 2 dozen guests including several FOL board members made up the audience at the library. Others joined *via* Zoom.

Polly Strahan, former FOL Board member, introduced Nate Ganong, her nephew, who grew up in Klamath Falls spending time climbing peaks with Polly. Nate now lives in the Bay area.

Nate began his talk with a first-person narrative about one of his experiences on a climb on Aconcagua in Argentina. He pointed out that he isn't a particularly gifted athlete but that he does keep himself in good physical shape and opined that anyone in relatively good condition can accomplish what he's done. He continued with his first mountaineering attempts with Polly as they attempted Mt. Shasta in northern California when he was a youngster. He included a slide of the huge load of gear needed to camp and then get up the mountain in the "old days" before the development of modern, light-weight equipment; there were many chuckles from audience members.

Nate detailed several of his adventures to various peaks in South America before he attempted Aconcagua. He attended climbing schools, worked with guides, perfected ice and snow techniques and learned to use all the needed equipment for those high altitude adventures. Not every attempt was successful – weather at those elevations often throws a monkey wrench into the best laid plans. And occasionally, a South American volcano, namely Cotopaxi, chooses to erupt just when a climb is planned. He accompanied his talk with slides of some very precarious but beautiful mountain landscapes.

Nate talked a bit about why he undertakes these climbs, bringing up the famous line by George Mallory about why he wanted to climb Everest: "Because it's there." Nate finds he enjoys the friends he makes on these group climbs and the satisfaction of meeting a challenge; he noted folks who climb together are "helpers", looking out for others on the trip instead of trying to best them. He concluded that as long as he's able, he'll continue taking on these challenges; Denali in Alaska in among the peaks on his list but first, he and Polly are scheduled to make another climb of Mt. Shasta this summer.

After Nate's talk, a short business meeting of FOL members voted to accept the nominating committee's slate of names for the FOL Board: Jacek Berka, Gail Brock, Elaine Deutschman, Judith Izzo, Fran McDermott, Lawrence Powers, Betty Shaw and Lindsay Silver.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:52

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Deutschman, Secretary, Friends of the Klamath County Library