



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue  Ridgecrest, California 93555
Home Page: <http://rcfriends0.tripod.com>

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2015 - January 2016



Successive Saturdays Spell Success!

By Bill Eichenberg and Victoria Schauf

Our recent Fall Sale, which spanned two weekends and the months of September and October, proved to be our most successful yet. The first Saturday sale on the 26th of September netted slightly over \$3,000 and the second on Saturday, October 3, realized \$2,146.

Extending our sale to a second Saturday proved to be a good move. Essentially, all of the “heavy lifting” of setting up for the sale was already

accomplished so all we had to do was to schedule more volunteers to cover the additional day. Many of the patrons on the second Saturday had also attended the previous weekend and they found new material because we were constantly replenishing our books and other media. In addition, having a second sale day enabled those who couldn't make it the first time to attend.

Obviously we could not have pulled this off without the dedicated participation of our many volunteers, who included. **John Anderson, Helen Baker, Kathy Boomer, Pat Boyd, Sandy Bradley, Tina Deal, Bill Eichenberg, Flo Eichenberg, Marjory Fairfield, Anna Garback, Mary Garback, Kathy Jacobs, Peggy Johnson, Mary Kus, Mary Lechuga, Jo Lish, Ann Long, Penny Loper, Barbara Lyle, Terri Middlemiss, Linda Minshew, Barbara Murray, Rebecca Parker, Sue Parker, Roy Parris, Carol Pearson, Lucette Poulin, Don Raef, Jim Reilly, John Rongish, Vickie Schauf, Robert Shaw, Vicki Siegel, Karen Sizemore, Jeannette Smith, John Taggart, Carole Tobias, Jeff Tobias, Peter Wiley.**

We also were fortunate to have the services of several sailors from the Branch Medical Clinic on base. They were a huge help in terms of moving boxes and tables in the process of setting up for the sale and taking down afterwards. We are grateful for their support. We are also especially thankful for the support of our members and patrons without whom we could not function. Thank you one and all.



REMEMBER, BOOKS, MAGAZINES, T-SHIRTS, AND BOOK BAGS ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR
ONGOING SALE AT THE LIBRARY.

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Friends of Kern County Library since 1986. Visit the County Library web site at

www.kerncountylibrary.org

A Proud Partner of



Giving Locally, Helping Locally

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Vicki Siegel

Past President

Roy Parris

Acting Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

November 18, 2015
January 20, 2016
February 17, 2016
March 16, 2016

No meetings in June, July, or December

Meetings are held in the Library's Community Room at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Use the Community Room entrance on the west side of the Library

Library Hours

Mon. Closed
Tues. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Wed. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sun. Closed

Phone: (760) 384-5870



President's Message

By Sandy Bradley



The old adage, "May you live in interesting times," is certainly appropriate for the Friends of the Library board these days. We have been busy with a very successful book sale that lasted two weekends and brought in the most money we have ever made. We sponsored a thank-you luncheon for our terrific library staff, and are planning another for the wonderful volunteers. The building itself is getting a new roof and undergoing additional work due to some minor rain damage. We requested a library median art spot, and got the one closest to the library. (For the exciting plans, see the article on page 4.)

But our most challenging efforts are spent watching the efforts of LSSI, the company that hopes to acquire the Kern County Library System, and the opposing efforts of the Advocates for Library Enhancement (ALE), who hope to improve the library system and oppose its privatization. In the middle is the Board of Supervisors, and the Kern county citizens and the various groups (Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, School Boards) who are being lobbied by LSSI. LSSI has also hired a publicity firm which is presenting their point of view to a variety of groups.

The county conducted a survey in August that showed that the majority of the citizens are against contracting out the library and are in favor of a small tax to support the library. The survey is too long - 138 pages - to include here, but it can be seen at the County Board of Supervisors' website. The groups who support LSSI are sending articles to newspapers to suggest the opposite (The DI published such an article two weeks ago - it had no byline.) The ALE group is also presenting their side to the public; they will present to the Chamber of Commerce here on November 10.

In addition, the Kern County CAO is holding meetings in the library areas to solicit public opinion. Meetings have been held in Rosamond, Mojave, etc., but the Ridgecrest meeting has not yet been scheduled. We believe it will be held in early December. We value your input as library supporters, and hope to see you at the meeting. We will send out an email as soon as we learn of the date.

Thank you all for your support of the library and your help at the book sales. You make a difference to the library and the community. It is appreciated.

If you have a couple of hours to donate, the friends can use your help. We are looking for someone to help restock books and magazines on Monday mornings between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Contact Bill Eichenberg if you are willing to help



LIBRARIAN'S

By Charissa Wagner, Acting Branch Supervisor

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By now you've seen the temporary air conditioning units at the library. The outside unit has been called an octopus, an alien, or a play area slide by our youngest patrons. The re-roofing project started in mid-August and is not finished (for various reasons). It is near completion and I am assured that leaks will be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, we had two rainstorms in October that led to leaks. The first happened in early October when the roof was still flat. Inches of standing water caused some damage in the public area (ironically, our Banned Book display was right under those leaks) and our staff work room (holiday books). Slope was put on the roof which meant no more leaks on the flat roof. During the mid-October rainstorm, the slope directed all the water to the existing (faulty) drainpipe. Of course it had not been replaced yet, which led to a shower in the corner of our staff work room. The drainpipe was replaced the next day. The contractor will take care of the damages. We are definitely looking forward to the Bon Voyage party for the temporary air conditioning units in November.

Danny Foster (former Teen Advisory Board member) kindly set up a Video Game Play Day in September, which was a real treat for some of the attendees (like my son, who does not have a video game system at home). He brought in some large screen TVs and two video game systems (one of which was the original Nintendo system). Also in September, the Ridgecrest Branch Library was represented at the Veteran's Stand Down by Bill Eichenberg, Penny and Richard Loper, and Roy Parris.

In October, the Ridgecrest Branch Library held a Local Author Showcase in conjunction with the Ridge Writers group. Julianne DiBlasi Black did a lot of the legwork in getting the local authors on board, which was very much appreciated. The event featured some of our local talent: C.R. Rowensen (fantasy), Deborah Mills (investigative journalism), Theresa Goldstrand (contemporary romance fiction), Terry Pierce (children's author), Chautona Havig (Christian fiction), Julianne DiBlasi Black (children's author and illustrator), April Hayman (NaNoWriMo), and Daniel Stallings (mystery). Vicki Siegel and Peggy Johnson volunteered to sell books by the authors (Kern County Counsel policy states that direct selling by vendors is not allowed) and a few items were purchased, which brought in some donations for FRBL. We are already looking at having another one in the Spring.

The board members thoughtfully provided a Staff Appreciation Luncheon using their own personal funds in mid-October. It was very unexpected and definitely appreciated by all of the staff members. We ended up choosing lunch from China Express, and the delicious food was enjoyed by everyone. Vicki Siegel, as usual, set up a nice table with some wonderful little added touches (like the brownies). Thank you, FRBL, for helping us serve the patrons of Ridgecrest and surrounding areas!

The shelving for our Juvenile Fiction area generously donated by the Peck Family Foundation has been purchased, so there will finally be public acknowledgement. It will take at least 45 business days to arrive, but that gives us more time to make sure everything will be ready when the shelving is delivered. There is still no official word on any of our other Wish List projects, but I will keep working on them.

November and December will be slower months for us overall as we take a break and get ready for the busy holiday season. The library will have some extra closed days and fewer activities. FRBL is again paying for the Omnipresent Puppet Theater to make their third December appearance in Ridgecrest. This is always a fun performance enjoyed by all.

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice-President–Memberships

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group. As usual, our sales provide a boost in new members joining us.

Don Baker
 Carol Burge
 Dan & Brenda Burnett
 Rebekah Cash
 Nicholas Chafin
 Loralynn Chrostowski
 Marla Cosner
 Leonas Firme
 Dean Hall
 Helen Jackson
 Linda Jackson

Richard Long
 Robert & Virginia Mills
 Challice Neipp
 Albert Nicholson
 R R Skinner
 Lynn Speer
 Mary Jo Urseth
 Darlene Wheeler
 Phyllis Wise
 Erin Zobell

Please note your renewal date that appears on your mailing address of this newsletter. I will send renewal notices via postcard or e-mail to remind you, but it helps a lot when you notice and respond. When you do renew, please include “Friends” on your envelope address so that library staff can quickly route it to us.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: _____

Memberships Are Renewable Annually

Organization/Business Name:

(Business memberships start at the \$50)

Individual Name: Miss Mrs.
 Ms. Mr.

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type of Membership (check one):

- Individual..... \$5.00
 Family \$10.00
 Sustaining \$25.00
 Sponsoring..... \$50.00
 Benefactor \$100.00
 Other Contribution..... \$ _____

- New Member
 Renewal

Please make check payable to:

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Please mail or bring to:

**Ridgecrest Branch Library
 131 E. Las Flores
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555**

I am interested in helping in Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library activities. I am especially interested in *(check all that apply)*:

- Annual Book Sales Writing for the Newsletter Answering E-mail
 Ongoing Book Sale in the Library Internet Book Sales Becoming a Board Member
 Ongoing Magazine Sale in the Library Special Events I don't know what I'm interested in, please call me
 Pricing Books for Sale

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

**AltaOne Federal Credit Union
Heritage Montessori School
Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.
McDonald's of Ridgecrest
PackWrap
Pizza Factory
Ridgecrest Automotive**

**Ridge Writers
Rusty Warren's Automotive
Sierra Sands Unified School District
TJ Frisbee Bicycles
TOBOCO Traders
Vincent Avalos, Edward Jones Investments
WACOM**

Please let these generous contributors know that you appreciate their support of our Library.

BOOK STORE HOURS

MONDAY—CLOSED

TUESDAY—11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY—11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY—1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY—CLOSED

SATURDAY—9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

SUNDAY—CLOSED



Check the date on your mailing label! Is it time to renew your membership? If so, please take a moment to fill out and return the application on the other side. Not time to renew yet? Pass the application on to a friend!

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