



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue 📖 Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org

Quarterly Newsletter

May 2017 - July 2017

Spring Book Sale Was a Success

By Sandy Bradley, President



The spring book sale was held on two Saturdays, March 4 and 11 of this year. The two-day total was \$3,710.20. We sold many fiction and nonfiction titles in hardbound and paper, as well as magazines, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and even a few vinyl records. Some special gift items (i.e., t-shirts, book bags, note cards, posters, and more) collectible books and sets also sold. Other attendees took advantage of the opportunity to become members or renew their memberships.



There were many volunteers who helped make the sale a success – It does take a village. **Flo and Bill Eichenberg** performed their usual magic to make sure that all was organized and the set up was complete. **John Anderson** and **Sue Parker** found, researched, priced, and advertised the special books. **Helen Ferguson** and **Jo Lish** kept the cash flow straight and **Carol Pearson** handled memberships. **Pat Boyd, Janice Norcross, Angel Thompson, Ann Lenz, Ann Long, Mary Kus, Roy Parris, Dave Burdick, Marj Fairfield, Trisa Philbrick, Vickie Schauf, Don Stapleton, Peter & Elaine Wiley, and Dan Burnett** helped with the set up and the sale itself. **Betty Aley, Gary & Maryanne Arnold, Carol Burge, Peggy Johnson, Penny Loper, Barbara Lupei, Terri Middlemiss, Becky Parker, Robert Shaw, and John Taggart** provided additional support for the sale. All of these and other people helped and deserve worlds of thanks from us – we could not have done it without you.

Some of the highlights from the sale included finding new and old treasures. As we watched, children found great books, movies, and even new puzzles. Their parents and grandparents found the same for themselves as they explored their favorite authors and genres. It is always a joyful time with rewards for both the buyers and the sellers. We thank you for your support and hope to see you at the next book sale on September 23rd, and 30th. **Janice Norcross** has kindly volunteered to run the fall book sale. We give thanks to Janice for volunteering.

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

Friends of the Ridgcrest 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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Roy Parris

Acting Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

May 17, 2017

August 16, 2017

September 20, 2017

October 18, 2017

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



Hello again friends. We celebrate our season with wildflowers and green hills, and watch as the birds build nests. We hope the winds die down so we can enjoy more of our beautiful weather. The spring book sale was successful, and we received support from WACOM, United Way, and Pizza Factory. With the finances we receive from memberships and additional donations we are optimistic that we can succeed with our plans to grow our library, even if only in small ways.

We have explored the possibility of growth in many different ways, by adding on to the existing space, or acquiring land and/or buildings. We have looked into different empty buildings in town. There are simply no easy solutions without a large amount of money. We have been careful to collect and grow some funds and we are working with contractors to see if there is a way to add some useful space.

We have also begun to seek support from other organizations in town. If a business or non-profit group becomes a member, that helps us grow as well. We hope to add some "Little Free Libraries" to our community as a way to bring books and literacy to more people. One major goal is to develop a maker space where library members can use tools to create and build. Another area we want to grow is with outdoor signage to share library offerings and publicize events.

We invite all of you who want to share in our plans to offer ideas and let us know what is important to you in the library. We learned from visitors of the book sale that there are questions we can answer and problems that may need solutions. If you have questions, problems, or solutions and ideas, we are happy to hear them. Together we help make the library better.

Book Donations

We wanted to thank all of you who are kind enough to donate your used books for the sales. As a reminder, large donations are better taken to the annex location where the sales are held. Please call for pickup if needed.

Books in very poor condition, water damaged, or infested with bugs should not be donated. They cannot be sold and must be discarded. Please check books that have been in long-term storage. Many have suffered from water or bugs, and we cannot sell them. **THANK YOU** for helping us sell only books in good condition!

GIFTS GALORE IN THE FRIENDS STORE!

Did you know that the FRBL bookshop (aka the Community Room) in the library has many items that make great gifts for you and book-loving friends and relatives? We have adult T-shirts in beautiful colors for only \$12 (children's sizes coming soon), high-quality book bags for only \$12, and beautifully sketched note cards depicting the Reading Shaman for \$5 for a pack of 6. And a great gift for any age is a gift certificate for any amount \$5 and over. They come with a colorful envelope and can be used for anything found in the book shop area and at our Big Sales too!



LIBRARIAN'S

By Charissa Wagner, Acting Branch Supervisor

CORNER

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Ridgecrest Branch Library is one of three Kern County Library (KCL) branches receiving funds from the IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Science) and LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) for the "We Tech So You Tick" grant. There are several components to this grant, one of which was described last time (the Digital Literacy classes). May starts the final round of the series (May 6: Computer Basics, May 13: Setting Up and Using Email, May 20: Microsoft Word Basics, and May 27: Mobile Devices & Downloading eBooks). On a related note, our branch will be working on putting together additional courses in the future. Topics include: Facebook 101, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and more specific eBook related courses (such as one session for Kindles, one session for iPads, and so on).

The grant also provided funding for books. We have a LOT of books on Windows 10, iPads, iPhones, Android tablets, Raspberry Pi, Facebook, Python, blogging, and more! The books are displayed on the half circle part of the wood display cart previously donated by FRBL. Another component provides "wired" furniture throughout the library. We have two wired chairs in Adult Fiction, a wired collaboration table in Adult Non-Fiction, and a Quick Charge mobile device charging station in the back corner of Adult Non-Fiction. We will place more items as they arrive and we have the space for them.

Some of our new programs have really been taking off and we hope to continue that momentum! The biggest one is Pub Trivia, an evening event where teams of 3-5 answer trivia questions (in 5 rounds and 5 lightning rounds). The members of the winning team select a \$10 gift certificate from local businesses such as Maturango Museum, Starbucks, Ridgecrest Cinemas, Bear Hugs, Walmart, Red Rock Books, and more. Bakersfield has been doing it monthly for over a year now. The first one in Ridgecrest was in October 2016 at Casey's Steaks & BBQ with 20something participants. Attendees wanted more, so we've committed to the second Tuesday of the even numbered months for 2017. February's fell on Valentine's Day and was attended by 30something participants. The one in April was attended by just over 40 participants, so it is definitely growing. We have had some repeat attendees but we have also had a lot of new people. We have a nice arrangement with Casey's and they have agreed to give us a larger room if we can guarantee a larger crowd. The next one is June 13 at 6:00 pm.

Another newly introduced, successful program is "Baby Bounce," which is a very short story and play time for babies and toddlers. It happens on a Thursday morning at 10:30 am (before we open to keep the noise levels to a minimum). For years I've been asked about a program for babies/toddlers. Due to decreased staffing, it is not possible to devote staff time to plan or run it. A volunteer stepped up and the first Baby Bounce was held in March. One of the moms in attendance asked about the next one and volunteered to help run it. We are now doing two every month (on the Flex Thursdays).

Last August, the library partnered with Ridgecrest Addiction Awareness and the Desert Empire Fairgrounds to put on a Glow Run, which was an evening family friendly 3K Run/Walk. It was successful, earning \$900 for each group. The \$900 to the library is earmarked for teen programming. To date, the funds have gone towards a teen craft, game day snacks, a Teen "T" Party (where all the things started with the letter "t"- tacos, tape ball, tea, and treat making), Anti-Valentine's Day Party, Teens Only Teen Tech Week After Hours Party, and Teen Tech Week event. This year, the library and the Desert Empire Fairgrounds are teaming up with the Maturango Museum to raise funds for youth programs. We are looking for potential sponsors of various levels, ranging from cash for upfront costs (T-shirts and course supplies) to items (such as bottled water, snacks, and glow items to sell) and volunteers (to help sell the items or provide course support).

We are gearing up for a big Summer Reading Challenge with the theme of "Reading By Design" which will feature lots of art, crafts, and STEM related projects. We are making some changes to better suit our borrowers. They liked the variety of days and times for activities so we are being consistent and providing activities at the same times on the same days. We have great visitors already lined up (Folk Band Caliches of County Kern, Omnipresent Puppet Theater, Wild Child Adventures bubble show, The Magic of Christopher Lopez, and participation storyteller Jim Cogan) and will be adding a few more. Local businesses are again, stepping up to donate finisher prizes as well as bonus finisher drawing prizes. The satellite location at Inyokern Elementary School is scheduled to run this summer as well, which saw significantly higher numbers in 2016 than in 2015. There were 37 sign ups and 14 finishers in 2015 but 77 sign ups and 43 finishers in 2016! The Inyokern program will also see two shows (Wild Child Adventures bubble show and The Magic of Christopher Lopez) in conjunction with their appearances at the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

Summer Reading Challenge is NOT just for children and teens! The California Library Association has a goal of 1 million Summer Reading sign ups. Every year they have been getting closer. Last summer they recorded 801,000 sign ups. Let's help them make this summer the one that reaches their goal. KCL is one of many library systems in California using an online Summer Reading Challenge system, which requires an email address. They are putting all adults who sign up into a drawing for some prizes. Last summer, our borrowers got to choose an extra free book and received some In-N-Out burger gift cards. An email address is required to sign up for Summer Reading Challenge BUT we will have people available to help with the signing up and/or recording of the books read. Locally, we will challenge our adult readers to try and read more books than last summer. Last summer, 27 adults read 626 books. (I know the numbers don't add up but we had some confusion with our bonus finisher reading logs, which led to a change for this summer). They won prizes from Maturango Museum, Red Rock Books, Pure Healing Foods, Roaming Dog Kitchen, and High Desert Fitness (last year's theme was "Read for the Win").

Short term/Low commitment ways to help the Ridgecrest Branch Library!

- **Volunteer at Pub Trivia as a scorer (from 6:00-8:30 pm) June 13, August 8**
 - **Help gather sponsors (who want to benefit youth activities) for the Glow Run**
 - **Volunteer to help with the Glow Run (ask about the various opportunities)**
-

The Three Ps: Purpose, Profit, and People!

by Brent Clark Palmer

In an age of ever-new layers of reality, from reality TV, to augmented reality, to virtual reality, the library represents a cultural meeting place where meaningful face-to-face interactions can occur. As such, other community meeting spots such as parks, fairgrounds, and shopping centers, as well as the library, need to look at the importance of strategic alliances in the community which foster an interdependency of purpose and profit and, most importantly, people!

Partnering needs to take the form of activities which draw on the products and resources of local businesses in ways that benefit the community and enhance the library as a cultural meeting place. Every business or organization should have at least 3 unique ways they are involved with the library in any given year.

Just using a tire & service company as an example: 1) ask them to park their tow truck for a "Touch A Truck" event, 2) ask them to offer a 10% discount to library card holders, and 3) partner with them to cross promote a used tires and used books sale. "Books Get You Where You Need To Go!" All it takes is one new strategic alliance to dramatically increase traffic and participation... and fun!

The preceding is an excerpt from the forthcoming ebook "Cultural Meeting Spaces".

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice-President-Memberships

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group.

Mary Anne & Gary Arnold
Alex Conway
Linda Dorfman

Wesley Elmore
Helen & Robert Ferguson
Susan Hennigan

Sandy Stuhaan
David Watt

Your renewal date should appear on your mailing address but I will not have the opportunity to highlight it if you need to renew. As always, I will send renewal notices via postcard or email to remind you but it helps a lot when you notice it and respond. **When you do renew, please include "Friends" on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.**

The Ridgecrest Branch Library Friends wishes to thank our business and organization supporters

**AltaOne Federal Credit Union
Heritage Montessori School
KP PRODUCTIONS
Graphics/Banners/Signs
Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.
McDonald's of Ridgecrest
PackWrap
Pizza Factory**

**Rusty Warren's Automotive
Sierra Sands Unified School
District
The Swap Sheet
T J Frisbee Bicycles
Vincent Avalos, Edward Jones
Investments
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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)*:

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

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

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Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.
McDonald's of Ridgecrest
PackWrap
Pizza Factory

Ridge Writers
Rusty Warren's Automotive
Sierra Sands Unified School District
The Swap Sheet
TJ Frisbee Bicycles
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—CLOSED through end of summer to accommodate library programs

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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