



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2016 - April 2016

Book Sales Volunteer Shortage Help Wanted (and badly needed)

By Victoria Schauf, Vice President of Book Sales

Members of Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library support our library with our very low dues. We also provide a lot of support through various book sale activities. These activities are very labor intensive, but generate funds for new books and for critical items, such as chairs, that Kern County Supervisors cannot or will not support.

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE WORK OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS PERFORM. HOWEVER, WE NEED ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS TO HELP CO-ORDINATE AND PERFORM THE WORK.

This article is to describe volunteer activities that we hope you can join with us. Since you are busy people, it is possible to commit but also to have back-up for when you need to travel, etc.

Volunteers staff the library's community room where books are sold. They answer questions and collect money from buyers. Shifts are for two hours and the work load is light most of the time. You get to see your friends and neighbors.

Our sales in the library's community room generate good income, but keeping the shelves filled with books of interest requires a team effort. We are looking for someone to organize and lead the team. The work consists of filling the shelves with new inventory and removing books that are not selling. This work is done when the library is closed to the community on Monday mornings. Others work while the library is open to restock the community room and also the shelves near the library entrance.

Other volunteers receive, transport, sort, and price books to prepare them for sale. Some of this involves heavy lifting. Most of it involves handling books which is easy and fun if you love them like many of us do. Books that cannot be sold are taken to a thrift store by volunteers with trucks.

Some of us evaluate books for sale as collectibles on Amazon. This activity requires some expertise, so takes some training.

Twice a year we try to sell all of our huge collection at large community sales held in a building in the mall with the old Albertsons. For this, we intensify all activities and request help in all areas. Specifically, we need additional volunteers to keep displays stocked and to attend to lookers and buyers for two-hour shifts for two Saturdays in a row. For these events, we need more volunteers than in the past because the sale lasts for two weeks. It is possible to volunteer for both Saturdays or just one. Our next sale will be March 5 and March 12, 2016.

We hope you will be joining us for as much of our work as interests you. Please call Bill and Flo Eichenberg, 760-375-8798, or Vickie Schauf, 760-384-8042, to volunteer. We thank those who are already working on sales.



HELP WANTED: Book lovers to sort and price books for sales. Work Wednesdays 1-3 pm.



HELP WANTED: Team leader and members for stocking our sales shelves in the library Mondays.



HELP WANTED: Strong people to move boxes of books, Monday and/or Wednesday 1-3 pm.

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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Carol Pearson
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Vice President: Book Sales

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Barbara Lupei
(760)375-0304
lupei@verizon.net

Members-at-Large

Peggy Johnson
Vicki Siegel

Past President

Roy Parris

Acting Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

February 17, 2016
March 16, 2016
April 20, 2016
May 18, 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



Hello friends.

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and the start of our El Nino year. The Fall was eventful for the Friends thanks to the hard work of many. The book sale earned the most funds ever, and we signed up many new members thanks to Vickie Schauf, Flo and Bill Eichenberg, and Carol Pearson. Our book sale room continued to contribute additional funds and we were supported by contributions from WACOM and the United Way. The Peck Family Foundation grant brought beautiful new shelving to the Children's area. We had a volunteer luncheon on December 4 to thank our many volunteers, which Vicki Siegel organized beautifully.

The Median Art sculpture "Reading Shaman" was approved by Caltrans and the City of Ridgecrest. We hope to see it placed on China Lake Boulevard near the library building soon. There are many people who made this possible. First was Milt Burford, who created the sculpture, completed the massive amounts of paperwork required for approval, and even donated beautiful note cards of the sculpture which are now for sale in the book sale room. Matthew Alexander, the city planner, was a huge help in getting the approvals through the city, county, and state process. The monument is significant as a petrolyphic work of art that reflects well on the library and the community.

The Kern County Chief Administrator (CAO) held 24 meetings at libraries in the Fall to assess public sentiment about libraries and funding. There is a complete report available online at <http://www.co.kern.ca.us/libraryfeedback.aspx#.VqVwecfp5kM>. The results were significant in that the majority of individuals support libraries and oppose outsourcing library services. Another important finding was that the majority would favor a 1/8 of one cent sales tax if that tax were used only to support libraries. The Ridgecrest Meeting was held on 16 December and was well attended with standing room only. The results were almost unanimously the same as the rest of the county – no privatization, and support for a small tax.

The results of the meetings will be reported on 2 February at the Board of Supervisors meetings. Many of you will attend the meeting from Ridgecrest via VTC. At the meeting, the Advocates for Library Enhancement (ALE) will present a measure for the tax that they will request the BOS place on the June ballot. Nancy Kerr, the library director will present a plan for improvements the tax would bring. As I write this, I do not know the results of the meeting, but we are all cautiously optimistic. We will share more with you as we learn it. As the old Asian proverb declares – "May you live in interesting times."



HELP WANTED: Strong people with trucks to pick up and deliver boxes of books weekly and/or at end of semiannual sales.

Occasionally, we need to collect donations from individuals unable to transport their donations to our annex.



LIBRARIAN'S

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By Charissa Wagner, Acting Branch Supervisor

Welcome to 2016! Some exciting changes have been recently made to the Ridgecrest Branch Library with more in store for the coming year.

The shelving for our Juvenile Fiction area, so generously donated by the Peck Family Foundation, was finally delivered in December! Some wonderful volunteers (Jerry and Sandy Bradley, Dave Burdick, Bill and Flo Eichenberg) worked with staff members Curtis Sarad and Charissa Wagner to get the books off of the existing shelving, the existing shelving moved, the new shelving assembled, and all books put on the shelves in one day. This was no easy task, so the help (and the sandwich lunch provided by Bill) was greatly appreciated.

Please come in and see the giant paper cranes that now adorn the Children's Room. Naruto (orange), Aslan (red), Alice (blue), and Oz (green) were created by Curtis Sarad and Barbara Robertson, with paper provided by the library's Marketing Department. The county is also providing us (and a few other branches) with ADA-compliant front doors and an ADA-compliant circulation desk. We also have a Wish List of items we'd like for the branch, so you will hopefully see more new changes this year.

There were lots of staff changes last year, with the retirements of Librarian Marsha Lloyd and Assistant Director Georgia Wages, and Assistant Director Sarah Bleyl's promotion to Library Director for a different library system. Both Assistant Director positions were left vacant. Two Regional Branch Supervisors have been hired (Sherry Wade and Carla Mason) and they are each responsible for half of the branches. Sherry Wade, former librarian at the Southwest Branch is our Regional Branch Supervisor. She will be making a tour of her branches soon and plans to attend a future FRBL meeting.

VOLUNTEER ALERT!

We are looking for volunteers for specific tasks! If you are able to help out, please contact Charissa Wagner.



Preschool Story Time readers- You would be placed on a list and commit when available. Story Time is on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. and can (but does not have to) include songs, finger plays, gross motor activities (Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes), games, crafts, or coloring pages. Everyone does it differently.



Basic Computer Class instructor- You would teach basic computer skills on an individual, as-needed basis. The target is those needing help with basic computer tasks (mainly seniors). You would be given the student's contact info to set up an appointment and are welcome to use the library's computers.



Library Holds processor- We get shipments on Tuesday and Thursday from other libraries. Someone needs to check the holds in (so we know who requested it) and put them on the hold shelves for pickup. Ann Lenz is our "Thursday person". We need one person to do this weekly (or two people to alternate) on TUESDAYS. You'd start around 12:30 p.m. and could still be working until 2:30 p.m.



Kids Craft volunteer- You would run the craft in the Community Room at 3:30 p.m. during the week or on a Saturday afternoon. I want to offer a kids/family craft every other month if not more often. I try to pick low-key crafts, and most kids bring a responsible adult to help out if needed.

Volunteers are a crucial part of our library! If you are interested, please let me know.

Pizza Factory Fundraiser Success

We are happy to report that the monthly fundraisers held at Beansters and Pizza Factory have brought new funds to the Friends. As a result, we are continuing to hold them this year. The fundraisers are held on the third Wednesday of each month and last all day. To contribute, you can visit either Beansters or Pizza Factory for takeout or to eat in, and just mention the Friends of the Library. Dates this will be in effect are February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, etc. There will be reminders at the library, but all you need do is mention the Friends. Thanks for your past and future support.



This 'n That

By Vicki Siegel

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday, and welcome to 2016!

The Volunteer Holiday Potluck Luncheon was a lot of fun - we sure do have some great cooks in FRBL! After enjoying all the food and libation we played charades (book titles of course!) and Jo Lish won a gift certificate to the Friends' bookshop, Ed Middlemiss won a package of note cards with Milt Burford's reading shaman on the front, and Betty Aley won a coveted Friends' tote bag. Looking forward to our next holiday party in December!

Please keep in mind that our bookshop sells gift certificates in any amount \$5 and over (and you can buy a whole lot of goodies for \$5 in our bookshop). Along with T-shirts and tote bags (\$12 each), we're selling Milt Buford's wonderful note cards—6 cards nicely packaged and only \$5 each. Perhaps when you need a thoughtful, local, and reasonably priced gift for friends or family you will consider our bookshop items.



HELP WANTED: Staff sales room for 2 h/w.



HELP WANTED: Sales staff for semiannual book sales for 2 h shifts.

Board of Supervisor's Meeting on February 2.

The BOS met on 2 February at 2:00 p.m. They heard from ALE, who had requested time to present the case to put the library tax measure on the June ballot. John Nilon gave a brief summary of the results of their meetings and surveys. About 30 residents of Ridgecrest attended the meeting via VTC in the County building. It was standing room only, and a few people told me they came too late and left because there was no more space. Ridgecrest had at least a dozen speakers, and most spoke in favor of placing the tax on the ballot. They were joined by others in Mojave, Lake Isabella, and many more in Bakersfield who also supported the tax measure. A smaller minority were against any measure that would add a tax.

In the end, after all discussion, the supervisors decided to have John Nilon, the CAO, work with ALE on "final" language for a proposition that they will vote on 1 March. Their motion also includes a push-poll and preparation for an RFI – Request for Information – which would open the door to vendors to express interest in the library.

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice-President–Memberships

As we begin 2016, we would like to acknowledge generous members who contributed \$50 (Sponsor level) or more as they renewed their membership during 2015.

Margaret Anderson
 Mary Atkinson
 Vincent Avalos
 Donald Baldwin
 Ken & Nani Banks
 Annie & Bill Blanc
 Jerry Broaker
 Debby & Frank Buffum
 Dave & Jo Burdick
 Ruth Cooper
 Don & Erma Cortichiato
 W R & Judy Ditzler

Irene Dodson
 K A Donahue
 Iva Jeane Driggers
 Peggy Howes
 Pat Kleinschmidt
 Mary & Dan Kus
 Kim Lincicum
 Marsha Lloyd
 Barbara Lupei
 Anthony & Dorilee Magliari
 Elaine Miller
 Merritt & Yasuko Mullen

Naomi Norris
 Teresa Pastor
 Roger Peck
 Kenneth Pritchard
 Alexander Rogers
 Linda Rolfs
 Vivian Ryno
 Nancy Saxton
 Sharon & Paul Smith
 Don Snyder
 Jane VanAken
 Phyllis Wise

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.

<u>FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</u>													
Date: _____													
Memberships Are Renewable Annually													
Organization/Business Name: (Business memberships start at the \$50)													
Individual Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr.													
Mailing Address: _____													
Phone: _____	Email: _____												
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<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal													
I am interested in helping in Friends of the Ridgcrest Branch Library activities. I am especially interested in (check all that apply):													
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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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