

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library



131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555
Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org

FRBL-sponsored Summer Fun! (Full story on page 3)



Juggler David Cousin



Tutu's Shave Ice



Be sure to check
inside this newsletter for new membership guidelines!

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization.

Visit the County Library web site at www.kerncountylibrary.org

Board of Directors

President

Jerry Bradley
(760) 371-3590
jerry_bradley@verizon.net

Vice President:

Memberships

Carol Pearson
(760) 375-7258
capears66@iwvisp.com

Vice President: Book Sales

Jil Richards
booksandcatsohmy@gmail.com

Treasurer

Nani Banks
760-371-2583
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Secretary

Barbara Lupei
lupei@verizon.net

Members-at-Large

Peggy Johnson
Julie Gervais
Barbara Bane

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

August 16, 2023
September 20, 2023
October 18, 2023
No meetings in June, July, or December

Meetings are held in the Library's Community Room at 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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

To attend via Zoom, call Sandy Bradley at (760) 371-3590 or email at sandy.bradley@verizon.net

Library Hours

Tue-Thurs 11am-7pm
Friday 11am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Curbside service still available

Phone: (760) 384-5870

President's Message May 2023

I hope everyone enjoyed our unseasonably cool June and survived our much warmer July. Although the FRBL Board is not meeting during the Summer, there is still a lot going on.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that we were working on improving our website and Facebook page. To that end, we began using a free online organization called Zeffy. Using Zeffy, we created a more user-friendly on-line Donation page and Membership page. Now you can easily donate or renew your membership using a credit card. In addition, we are using Zeffy to sell tickets to a fundraiser movie at Ridgecrest Cinemas. If you haven't logged onto our website or Facebook Page, you might want to check out the improvements.

Another important change is that we are transitioning to email delivery of our newsletters. This change is necessary due to increasing costs of printing, folding and mailing paper copies. If you elect to receive your newsletter via email, then the cost of individual and family memberships will remain \$5.00 and \$10.00 respectively; a real bargain. If you feel the need to receive a paper copy, you will pay an extra \$10.00 per year for that option.

We continue to explore different ways to generate funds to support our library. We had two book sales this Spring, participated in the Community Yard sale, sold a couple of valuable books through an auction house, sponsored a Saturday Movie (*see report on our success on page 4*), and sold almost 500 boxes of books to a person planning to open a book store.

We still need a permanent facility in which to store, sort and sell books. Operating out of such a facility has traditionally been our primary source of funds to support the library. We have been pursuing several facility possibilities, with no success to date. We are also making inquiries with the City for possible assistance. However, we need to also prepare for the possibility that we will not be successful at finding a new facility. We have been working to reduce our book inventory. Over the past year, we have reduced our inventory by approximately 60% and have sorted most of the remaining books to identify the most desirable volumes, in case we need to vacate our current facility and further reduce our inventory. Unfortunately, we still cannot accept donations of books from the community.

Among other duties, I have been relocating and repairing three Little Free Libraries that the Friends have helped acquire and continue to supply with books. I am looking for a younger and stronger individual to take over this activity. If anyone is interested in this, please contact me. I can provide them with free training and supplies.

Enjoy your Summer and stay tuned for more news about the Friends!




Librarian's Corner




Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Have you been keeping cool this summer? We have had another busy and fun-filled summer at the library! Our Summer Reading Challenge offered programming for all ages, with something for kids to do EVERY DAY, along with a variety of other programs for early learners, tweens/teens, AND adults. We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors and partners who allow us to provide a robust variety of programming to our community. Some of our sponsors gave generously towards prizes.

Sponsors:

- East Sierra Branch California Writers Club (Omnipresent Puppet Theater “Puss in Boots”, DIY Magnetic Poetry Kits)
- Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (Reptiles with Maturango Museum, Magic Napoleon, Juggler David Cousin, Tutu’s Shave Ice)
- Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc. (The Magic of Josiah, Nathalia bilingual performer)
- Lunch at the Library grant (Singalong with Rudy Parris)
- Anonymous donor (prizes)
- Ridgecrest United Methodist Church (prizes)
- Schu Fu Martial Arts Dojo #119 (prizes)
- AK Zer0 Gravity (prizes for Unofficial Pokemon Tournament)
- Desert Valleys Employee Foundation (bonus finisher prizes)

Partners:

- Rukiyah Polk (Retirement Planning and Long Term Financial Security)
- Will Fink (electronic music and synthesizers)
- Rachel Kimbler (Cricut Projects/Mini Maker Training:Cricut)
- Bree Lewis/Ridgecrest Youth Symphony (music instrument showcase)
- Brian Cosner/BHS Jazz Band (music instrument showcase)
- Sierra Amateur Radio Club (lunch display, Radio Kids Day)
- Eric Bruen (Meet the Mayor)
- Owens Valley Career Development Center (Navajo Code Talker presentations)
- East Sierra Branch - California Writers Club (Junior Writers Boot Camp)
- Lori Morris (Zentangles workshops)
- [RIDG]Gaming (Family Video Game Time)
- Mama Mia’s Cakes and Treats, Very Good Baking Company, Plane Cupcakes, and Black Velvet Bakery (So You Want to be a Baker?)
- Kern Dance Alliance (Books in Motion featuring Heather Benes and the East Kern Ragtag Revels “Stone Soup”)

With our Summer Reading Challenge theme of “Find Your Voice” we tried to showcase ways that people could find and express their voice besides the obvious singing (though we did have some singers perform). We had musical instrument programs (string instruments, brass instruments, and electronic music), writing programs (including poetry), the usual line up of craft opportunities, and during cooking/baking week, we had programs featuring a few of our local, cottage food licensed bakers as well as a no bake snacks and a chocolate tasting (Lindt milk chocolate from Switzerland was deemed the winner).

Lunch at the Library successfully continued this summer, every Tuesday through Friday in June and July. We served 2,897 lunches to children this summer! *[continued on page 4]*

Earlier this year, we received a large Lunch at the Library grant, which provided funding to hire two extra help Departmental Aides (**Rees Ratliff**) with one being a teen Youth Development Intern (**Lilah Benckendorf**) who also planned and implemented two programs in July. The funds also provided our branch with a food warmer, milk cooler, performances, general lunch service supplies, and books for children to build home libraries. This summer, we had two partners for Lunch at the Library. Sierra Sands Unified School District was our usual lunch partner from June 1 through July 7 and Kern County Superintendent of Schools was our new lunch partner from July 11 to July 28.

This summer, we were fortunate enough to have multiple lunchtime visitors who set up displays or otherwise entertained our lunch attendees: Sierra Academy of Dance (princess readers on Fridays from 6/2 through 7/14), Sierra Amateur Radio Club, Erica Beeler (backyard beekeeper), Grossman Burn Center (Bernie Burn story and burn/scald prevention), Ridgecrest Regional Hospital/Liberty Ambulance (nutrition info/hands only CPR), Navy Federal Credit Union (financial info), the Workman sisters (Red Riding Hood and the Wolf as Grandma), and Liberty Ambulance (stories and ambulance tour).

We also had the assistance of the following teen lunch volunteers: **Emaan Ahmad, Samuel Malone, Andrea Monsalud, Monica Monsalud, Isabella Nordyke, Vincente Rubino, Sophia Sy Qui, Amanda Workman, and Emily Workman**. Without them to give generously of their time to help with set up, This or That sticker voting, giveaways, survey collection, side dishes, and clean up our Lunch at the Library would not have been successful.

As our deadline for Summer Reading Challenge of reading or listening to 10 books or for 10 hours is not until the end of July, our next installment will include the number of finishers, how many veterans care kits we will be assembling based on books and hours logged this summer, and possibly a list of prize winners (as space permits).

MOVIE FUNdRaising REPORT

The Friends are extremely grateful for the generosity of Ridgecrest Cinemas. They sponsored a "Morning at the Movies" event on Saturday, July 29th. Ridgecrest Cinemas allowed us to sell up to 160 tickets (one theater's capacity) to a morning showing of the new Disney Haunted House movie. The Friends retain 100% of the ticket revenues, plus a percentage of the concession stand proceeds. We sold a total of 92 tickets (includes 2 sold at the door). That's \$460.00! We were also given a \$5 donation by a person at the library.

8 tickets were sold as a result of the flyer which was passed out at the library. Ridgecrest Cinemas was very supportive, waiting for us this morning and cleaning the theatre last night. The check-in process was easy since Zeffy, an online fundraising website, allows the data to be sorted by last name.

Our thanks goes to Debbie Wood, our movie fundraiser and Zeffy "consultant", for her help and for sharing our Facebook posting with Mama Bears and other Facebook children-related sites in Ridgecrest.

Thanks also to Charissa for the fundraising suggestion, to Leilani for managing the flyers and their distribution, and to everyone else who contributed to the success of this project.

We are currently awaiting our portion of the concession sales. Although this event did not generate as much as a book sale, the effort needed was a small fraction of the effort needed for a book sale.

Because this event was such a success, we hope to have more movie fundraisers in the future.

*Remember when you buy something from **Pizza Factory** or **Beansters** on the third Wednesday of any month, be sure to MENTION that you are participating in the FRBL fundraiser. They will donate a percentage of your bill to FRBL.*

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership


We have revised our membership structure to save bulk mail costs for our newsletter. Please see the new form below for details. Where possible, we will send you our newsletters via email in our next newsletter cycle. For those who do not have an email address or prefer the mailed paper version, we are requesting an additional \$10 in the Individual and Family categories.

If you have an email address that you did not submit on your membership application, please email it to me at capears66@iwvisp.com If you have questions about this you can also phone me at 760-375-7258.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group. These folks have joined our group since our last newsletter.

Noemi Avila Trevor Matlock Carla Metelko Hannah Urquhart

Your renewal date should appear on your mailing address. 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 address to our library and include "Friends" on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.**

 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY		<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Date:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Individual Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mx. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> ____		
Organization/Business Name:		
Mailing Address: _____		
Email:	Phone:	
Type of Membership: [select one, along with preferred newsletter format]		Mail or bring check/cash to: Ridgecrest Branch Library 131 E. Las Flores Ave Ridgecrest, CA 93555 Make checks payable to: Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (email): ...\$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining:\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (print): ...\$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring:\$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family (email):\$10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor:\$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Family (print):\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Other Contribution: \$ ____		
Volunteer Opportunities [check all activities that you are interested in]		
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Online Book Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Sort Books for Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Answering Email <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know yet – please contact me!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

AltaOne Federal Credit Union
 Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union
 Elemental Equine Massage
 Heritage Montessori School
 In Loving Memory of John Starr
 KP PRODUCTIONS Graphics/Banners/Signs
 Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.
 McDonald's of Ridgecrest
 Nancy George Estate
 Pack Wrap

Pizza Factory
 Ridge Writers
 Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
 Rusty Warren's Automotive
 Sierra Sands Unified School District
 TJ Frisbee Bicycles
 Vincent Avalos, Edward Jones Investments
 United Way
 WACOM
 Walmart

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

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