

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



*Second hand books are wild books, homeless books;
they have come together
in vast flocks of variegated feather,
and have a charm
which the domesticated volumes of the library lack.*

Virginia Woolf

Charity Book Show!

We open our book storage building behind Old Albertsons for two hours once per week to welcome:

- **Book Donations**
- **Membership Renewals**
- **Hunting the stacks for treasures!**

**Every Saturday
9 to 11 am**

FRIENDS OF THE

RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY

BEHIND OLD ALBERTSONS SW Corner of Center



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is a 501 (c) 3 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 **United Way**
Giving Locally, Helping Locally

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Branch Supervisor
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar
November 17, 2021
January 19, 2022
February 16, 2022
No meetings in June, July, or December

Meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! EMAIL a board member for the Zoom link as the meetings are now held via Zoom due to COVID-19.

Library Hours
Mon. 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tues. 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 11:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. 11:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Fri. - Sun. Closed
Phone: (760) 384-5870

President's Message November 2021

by Brent Clark Palmer

Turkeys are "done". People are "through".

This is what my father would say any time I dared to say I was "done" with something. Some of you, as teachers and educators, will recognize the passion for word usage. Thus, completing tasks in my youth was forever fraught by the threat of being judged as fowl.

Many words in my youth were fraught with the threat of judgement. I remember at some time along the years informing Dad when every book that had won the Pulitzer Prize had a curse word in it, for twenty years in a row! Finally ending that argument. Screw that!!

But the most meaningful distinction my father made was the one his children noted at his memorial service, the distinction between "love" and "charity". Some of you will instantly recognize this quibble as the translation debate from the Bible concerning the book 1 Corinthians 13.

Is the "greatest of these" love or is it charity?

Dad was all about the charity. I promised to him as he was dying that I would try to carry on his legacy. That's how a dotcom era kid ended up here in Ridgecrest to try and help improve the quality of life here any way I can.

It would be impossible to be as great a man as my dad, or his father. I was very fortunate to grow up close to a handful of selfless people. One thing I can say they all shared was a willingness to listen to others, even those with opposing views.

I equate it with the mission of the library, all that knowledge under one roof, and everything said doesn't agree with each other! We are a big enough tent for all points of view. I'm going to be bold enough to say that nobody really knows what is going on. As Socrates said, "I know nothing".

One of the last things my dad, a dyslexic educator who ran a school district and only read one book so far as I know, Don Quixote by Cervantes - one of the last things he said to me was, "People think I'm stupid. But they should be the kind of stupid that I am."

Which is to say, a very charitable man.

I am going to tell you, the deadline for this newsletter snuck up on me, so that's all I got for you! Hope it suits your holidays.

A quick update on our storage building. We have some very generous members, but I don't want our members to pay the cost of earthquake damages that can be funded from other more appropriate sources. But we are moving forward with at least getting more lights on in there!

 Librarian's Corner 

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

We have had a busy season in our branch since summer ended! We started off in October by extending our hours slightly, opening at 11 am instead of noon, still Monday through Thursday. The Buttonwillow Branch Library is now open (11 am to 6 pm on Thursdays and Fridays) with other Kern County Library branches either opening or expanding their hours as soon as staffing allows. Until further notice, our days and hours will remain the same.

The long awaited but phased opening of our makerspace started over the summer with the Oculus Quest virtual reality headset and continues as we offer classes that currently serve as primary training for the equipment. We introduced a monthly sewing class (with staff member Vicki) in September and so far, participants have made a drawstring bag and lined bag with handles. There are plans for flannel scarf making (Nov) and Christmas ornaments/decorations (Dec). Sign up is usually limited to the number of sewing machines we have and the project difficulty. We recently received a third sewing machine (thanks to a generous donation). We also had one volunteer-led Cricut class focusing on paper crafts and have another in November. We hope to offer a Cricut vinyl class in December and are still waiting on the computers for the 3D printers. We plan on having volunteers available for training others in a one on one or small group setting. Users must be trained before they can schedule appointment time in the makerspace and must have a signed liability waiver and user agreement on file.

The One Book Project continued again, with this year's theme focused on a variety of related topics including immigration, first generation college students, identity, and the idea of home. The main read is a memoir titled "A Dream Called Home" by Reyna Grande, with supplemental titles for all ages from picture books to graphic novels to fiction. The branches planned activities related to the themes.

Late Night Library was a special event where the branch was open a little bit later (until 7 pm). We had a Life Size Candyland for families and a Podcasting Workshop with local podcaster and newest FRBL board member, Dane Scharff. The podcasting attendees were very excited to learn from Dane, who will offer a more advanced podcasting class in November. Based on turnout (and if staffing allows), we will offer Late Night Library again in the future, possibly in early 2022.

We introduced new activities this fall. Monthly Toddler Time includes very short stories, songs, and action rhymes to keep little ones moving and learning. Middle School Art Connections is offered in partnership with Heartland Charter School, a homeschool charter program to all students in grades 5-9 and brings an educational component to an art project. We continue our regular programming like weekly Preschool Storytime, monthly Pokemon Trading Card Game play, and virtual Dungeons and Dragons on Discord.

The library was out in the community at a few events in recent months, letting people know that we are, in fact, open and still around. In September, we were at the Veterans Stand Down (handing out the 36 Veterans Care Kits made possible by Summer Reading Challenge participants) and the Community Yard Sale at the fairgrounds. I did a virtual presentation to a parent group with the HOPE Center about the importance of reading to your child. In October, the library had a table at the Lincoln Military Housing family expo and met with over 50 families.

Donations continue being accepted at the branch in quantities of two medium boxes or smaller during open hours (Mon-Thu 11 am to 6 pm). We continue to be grateful to Kathy who moves donations from our branch to the dispensary. We also try our best to encourage people to bring large amounts of donations to the dispensary on Saturdays.

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The new red shelf for the ongoing Friends sale has been received. We will be adding additional shelves and some vinyl (using our Cricut) to complete the look. Once the books are transferred from the existing wood shelf to the metal shelf, the wood shelves will be put to use in the dispensary.

Our newest offering as of November 1 is the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program, funded by the Kern County Library Foundation. Like the name implies, we encourage parents and caregivers to read 1000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten to take advantage of the many benefits of being read to and to increase the bond between child and caregiver. Sign ups receive a lanyard for their library card and achievement pins, plus a special pocket for their library card. There is a special pin awarded for the first 100 books and for reaching 1000 books, with a pin of choice for every 100 books from 200-900. Finishers also get a certificate upon completing the 1000 books goal. This is intended for children 6 and under.

As we get into the season of thanks and gratitude, we continue to remain grateful for your continued support, from borrowing materials, to participating in our reading challenges and other activities, to simply recommending that people use the library. Thank YOU for helping us continue to serve our wonderful community! YOU are appreciated!

Annual Meeting Announcement

The November Board Meeting is also the Annual Membership Meeting. Election of Board Members is held during this meeting. All members are invited to attend, November 17, at 10:00AM via Zoom. (Instructions below). If you are interested in serving on the Board, please **email** any of the Board members listed on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Zoom instructions:

Charissa Wagner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FRBL Meeting November 2021 Time: Nov 17, 2020 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting (using your computer and internet connection):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92820050780?pwd=SEIaME5lQzFzT2hLb0Z4ZFdxM1RXQT09>

Meeting ID: 928 2005 0780

Passcode: 094067

One tap mobile

+14086380968,,92820050780#,,,,*094067# US (San Jose)

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+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 928 2005 0780

Passcode: 094067

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92820050780?pwd=SEIaME5lQzFzT2hLb0Z4ZFdxM1RXQT09>

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Memberships

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group who have joined us this quarter.

William & Debra Brickey

Sean McMurry

Caroline Walker

Whitney Haefele

Sharry Thomas

Teresa Zellner

Denise Kight

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 relay it to us.**

Membership Application for Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

Date: _____ *Memberships are renewable annually*

Miss Ms. Mrs. Mr.

Individual name: _____

Organization/Business Name (Business memberships start at \$50.): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type of Membership (check one):

- Individual - \$10 Family - \$15 New Member
 Sustaining - \$25 Sponsoring - \$50 Renewal
 Benefactor - \$100 Other Contribution - \$_____

*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'd like to volunteer!!. I am especially interested in (check all that apply):

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

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Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
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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.



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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