

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



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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Brent Clark Palmer
760-499-0762 (text pref.)
netcowboy@gmail.com
Vice President:
Memberships
Carol Pearson
(760) 375-7258
capears66@iwvisp.com
Vice President: Book Sales
[vacant]

Treasurer
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760-371-2583
banksck@iwvisp.com
Secretary
Barbara Lupei
(760) 375-0304
lupei@verizon.net
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Dane A Scharff
Peggy Johnson
Patricia Walters

Branch Supervisor
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar
September 15, 2021
October 20, 2021
November 17, 2021
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. 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tues. 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Fri. - Sun. Closed
Phone: (760) 384-5870

President's Message August 2021

by Brent Clark Palmer

Let's start by acknowledging two longtime members and supporters who are either leaving town or who have left town for a stretch:

Flo Eichenberg's four children are helping with her next jaunt. **Flo** has been a tireless contributor and set many standards we will endeavor to keep in regard to handling the book donations. Her counsel and feedback will be dearly missed. **Flo**, with her late husband **Bill**, have left a legacy in our organization and in Ridgecrest that is unmatched in recent years.

John Anderson is already ensconced in Oregon. He has made a tremendous contribution to the stability and growth of our group, not the least of which was his efforts selling books online for many years. **John** could always be counted on to show up at the right place, at the right time, to talk about his love of books. Not just our group, but our entire community was taken to a new level by having a poet among us. **John's** most recent book, an effort he organized, "Scenes from Lives of Service: High Desert Veterans of WWI through Desert Storm" is available to peruse at the new Veterans Resource desk at the library.

I'm pleased to announce our newest board member, **Dane A Scharff**, who takes up the makerspace focus for our group. Dane has tons of enthusiasm for helping us share this new aspect of the library experience with the community, young and old. He has ideas for an orientation video, workshops, and even a fundraiser or two to keep us going! I plan on working with Dane on offering a scholarship for students to combine reading adventures with makerspace activities, called Adventures in Reading: Makerspace Edition.

I have fond memories from my childhood of a Reading Adventures series that took me and my friend Marta through a series of activities tied with reading books about people from other walks of life. Marta became a novelist. And here I am supporting libraries, and I would like to create the same kind of passion for books and libraries in a new vocational/educational/reading program, as we continue to change and re-invent.

I've spent a few months now greeting people in what will be our new community space, but what is now just a storage facility. One member who came in told me about seeing the makerspace at the Chicago Public Library ten years ago! Ridgecrest is just catching up.

It's my privilege to also mention **Mary Kus**, who with her husband, made a significant gift of funds earmarked to help us improve our new community space (all with the purpose of benefiting our library). Also, I would like to mention **Ursula Robb** who has been bringing in her friend to build bookshelves for us and earthquake-proof them.

You've probably noticed we switched the hours at the book building to Saturday morning, to beat the heat. We're still growing into our new spot and finding the right mix of a focus between people's experience of being there, and the books themselves, but it is coming into balance. We have some real superstars helping with that. It won't happen overnight. We will continue to experiment with different formats to see what works best. Currently though, it's hard to find a time [continued on p. 3]

in our records where our sales cash flow has been better than this past summer, and that's thanks to all of you and our many supporters in the community and in the region.

And as for **You**, thank **You**, too!

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

We've had a great summer! Our doors are open with no appointments needed from Mon-Thu, 12-6 pm. Those who are unvaccinated should wear a mask, along with anyone who wants to wear a mask. People have been coming in to check out our newly reconfigured space. We get a lot of positive feedback about the changes (and we are not done yet). Our furniture remains physically distanced and we continue to offer curbside service!

The Ongoing Sale shelf is maintained by **Betty Alely** and **Kathy Donahue**. We accept donations (one box per person per day) but encourage people to take donations to the Book Storage Dispensary on Saturdays from 9-11am. Kathy also stops by regularly to transport donations.

Our **makerspace** is going through a phased opening. The liability waiver and user agreement are available (with one set of forms to cover all available equipment). We first introduced the Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality headset by appointment. Starting in September, we will offer sewing machines and will offer more as we set up training.

The Summer Reading Challenge of "Reading Colors Your World" saw a great turnout. Participants chose to read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours. The breakdown of the Finishers is as follows:

Early Learners (0-4 yrs) 43 finishers, 972 books and 1,245 minutes
 Children (5-10 yrs) 88 finishers, 1,727 books and 8,542 minutes
 Tweens (11-12 yrs) 11 finishers, 114 books and 6,253 minutes
 Teens (13-17 yrs) 9 finishers, 78 books and 4,850 minutes
 Adults (18+) 59 finishers, 493 books and 15,201 minutes
 Total: 210 finishers

We continued our bonus finisher program for those who read or listened to more but made some changes this summer. Due to the pandemic closures, we did not ask for donations and wanted to support the local businesses who supported us before. The bonus finisher logs included a list of local businesses to choose from. We had 70 bonus finishers and decided to reward everyone with a prize using Summer Reading Challenge funds. We bought 60 gift cards for \$10 each from Casa Corona, Classic Burger, Indian Wells Brewing Company, Maturango Museum, McDonalds, Pita Fresh, and Ridgecrest Cinemas. We have a special shoutout to Pizza Factory for donating pizza bread and drink coupons for ALL child finisher bags AND Large 1 topping pizzas to those who selected Pizza Factory. Another shoutout to **Debra Milam** and **Lori Breitengross Cripps** donated some AMAZING rocks! *[pictured on p. 4]*

This summer 3,384 books and 36,081 minutes were logged on Beanstack. At 1 item per 10 books or 10 hours, this translates to 339 plus 61 items for veterans care kits (400 items) for a total of 33 bags. Due to package quantities, we will make 36 kits for the Veterans Stand Down in September. Each kit will have: 1 beef stick/cheese stick combo, 1 trail mix, 1 granola bar, 2 drink mix packets, 2 bottles *[cont. on p. 4]*



of water, 2 body wipes, 1 mini hand sanitizer, 2 disposable masks, 1 pen, 1 blank notepad, 1 chapstick, and 1 sunscreen (with the chapstick and sunscreen donated by local Mary Kay consultants Tina Buck and Deborah Corlett).

Lunch at the Library continued again this summer through our partnership with the Sierra Sands Unified School District in a drive through format and was available Mon-Thu, with double meals being served on Thursdays to cover Fridays. This summer, we served 3,125 meals and many families were grateful for the program. Thanks to a grant, we were able to offer a few days of giveaways, including books for home libraries.

A fun activity we offered in July was a Colorful Animal Hunt, where local businesses put a picture of a colorful animal in their door, window, or sign. Families received finisher bags with some activities along with a hunt list of the locations and wrote in the animal found at the business after seeing what it was. Many thanks to these local businesses who participated: AltaOne Federal Credit Union (TIGER), Balas Montessori Preschool & Kindergarten (TOUCAN), Balas Montessori Toddler Development Center (PARROT), China Lake Museum (DOLPHIN), Eastern Sierra Custom Picture Framing (RAINBOW FISH), Fatboy Ink (BLUE PARROT), High Desert Air Ductor (BALD EAGLE), JOANN Fabric and Crafts (GUINEA PIG), Keller Williams Realty (LADYBUG), Memory Lane Fabrics and Quilts (DRAGONFLY), Pony Espresso Front Walkup Window (SEA URCHIN), Pregnancy Care Center (FLAMINGO), Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce (GOLD LIZARD), and Ridgecrest United Methodist Church Sign (BUTTERFLY).

Kern County Library currently has 12 branches open on various days of the week: Arvin, Beale, Delano, Frazier Park, Kern River Valley, Rathbun, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Southwest, Taft, Tehachapi, and Wasco. You may have heard there is no longer a Shafter branch. Shafter has decided to use the funds previously designated to the Kern County Library towards a city library in partnership with Bakersfield College instead. You may have also heard the county will receive dedicated federal funding to reopen library branches, so stay tuned as branches and hours will be revealed once finalized. As the uncertainty continues during these interesting times, we very much appreciate your support of the Ridgecrest Branch Library and the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library! We look forward to seeing you soon!



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 year.

Shawn Dooley

Joann Moore

Dane Scharff

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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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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