

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



RIDGECREST ROCKS!



Photos by Charissa and Richard Wagner

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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sandy.bradley@verizon.net
- Branch Supervisor**
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

- August 21, 2019
- September 18, 2019
- October 16, 2019
- 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



Regional Library Supervisor Shalyn Pineda's girls on the cover of the Los Angeles Times.

Three days after the 7.1, thanks to the staff and many helpful volunteers.



Photo by Brent Clark Palmer

President's Message August 2019

by Brent Clark Palmer

My job, whether there are earthquakes or not, is to promote and to support the library. So in putting out a call for cleanup volunteers, I was just doing what I do every day. When we got so very many volunteers to help with reshelving books (#weshallreshelve) I didn't want any chance of turning people away that the library couldn't use. If you have ever offered to help someone and been rejected, you know how much it hurts. If you have never been in that situation, remember in junior high when you liked someone and they didn't like you back? It feels like that. (continued on page 3)

So I got in touch with our friends at other cultural hubs and in the non-profit arena, and we sent volunteers to them.

Everyone who wanted to help got to help somewhere. After that, drawing from our small army of volunteers, we were able to do some pretty cool stuff for anyone who asked, which continues to this day -- And which has been both fulfilling for those helping and helpful for those asking.

#thegreatestoftheseischarity (see picture and details below)

I admit my default mode is also in communications and publicity. Much of what I did was consider the needs of the media markets we were able to reach and send encouraging subliminal messages: libraries spearhead social change and growth, libraries are on the front lines of helping the less fortunate, resilience is possible after a historic disaster, helping others heals you, and last but not least for booklovers: the stories you focus on and that you tell yourself are important and can define who you are.

Even though I was prolific on social media, the part our little library charity played is only a small part of the recovery happening all over town.

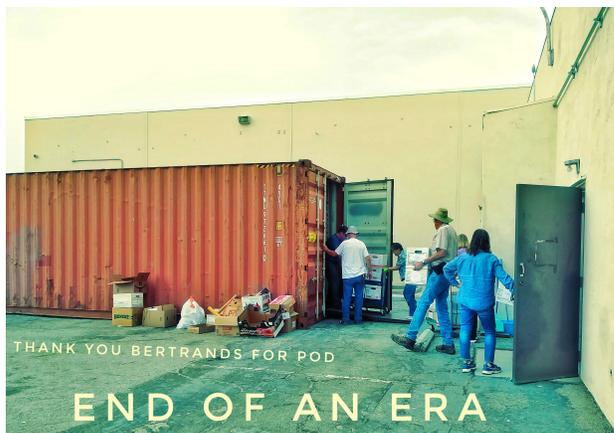
Everyone in Ridgecrest did their part and fulfilled their role proving once again that we are a unique and special town where we take care of each other. That's what we do.

As mentioned above:

A crew of 25 volunteers, gathered over facebook and through justserve.org, met in the library parking lot to head to Trona, where our little library charity checked on members of the Senior Center, some of whom had not had anyone check on them 4 days after the big quakes. It was an emotional day. Special mention to the LDS missionaries who represented 1/3rd of our Trona crew and provided some heavy lifting putting Trona residents back aright. If you want more details, Brent Clark Palmer will talk your ear off. Photo by BCP



End Of An Era



On July 25, 2019 we were told by SSUSD that we would be displaced from our facility at the Sierra Vista Shopping Center to make room for essential district functions.

We are still taking book donations Wednesdays 1-3pm as usual thanks to the 40-ft POD donation from Bertrands.

As of this writing, having a new storefront seems imminent. When we re-open, we will very likely take this opportunity to consolidate our operations to a single location.



Librarian's Corner



Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

What an eventful few months we've finished! As if the (good) chaos that is Summer Reading Challenge plus Lunch at the Library was not enough, we had some shelf shaking earthquakes on top of that! The next newsletter will detail more about Summer Reading Challenge and Lunch.

We experienced fortuitous timing for the largest earthquakes experienced in Southern California in 20 years. The branch was closed (like many other places) on July 4 for Independence Day, when approximately 60% of our books were shaken off of the shelves (which would have happened just before we opened). Our staff, including Regional Supervisor Shalyn Pineda's adorable twin daughters (L.A. Times front page!) and a small army of volunteers got the books put back on the shelves on July 5 and we were set to open for business as usual on July 6. The branch was again closed (along with many other local businesses who were still working to get cleaned up) when "the big one" hit, this time shaking approximately 80% of our books off of the shelves. After a building inspection, staff and a small army of volunteers gathered once again on July 8 and got the library put back together in time for re-opening on July 9 and we've been open ever since. Many thanks to library lovers who donated their time or money during the aftermath!

After the successful debut of an amnesty program last summer (week-long sessions in June and August), we're bringing it back for all of August. Adult accounts (not in collection) can have all overdue fines waived with a library supply donation. Juvenile accounts (not in collection) can have all overdue fines waived by reading. Lost items (on accounts not in collection) can be returned or replaced with like items (hardcover mystery replaced with hardcover mystery) published in 2018 or 2019. Accounts in collection may qualify for partial amnesty. Last year, thousands of accounts were cleared across the Kern County Library system and we hope to encourage even more people to return with this year's amnesty program.

We are still working towards creating the makerspace and are looking for people who might want to volunteer time in the makerspace with the various machines.

We now offer these groups (*new) for various ages, which will continue as interest exists:

- Inspire Readers: youth book discussion (4th Tue at 3:30 pm)
- Let's Talk Vermiculture: gardening/composting related topics (2nd Wed at 6:00 pm)*
- Baby Bounce: very short story/activity/play for babies (non-Flex Thur at 10:30 am)
- Inspire Writers: workshops for tweens and older (2nd Thu at 3:30 pm)*
- RC Book Lovers: book discussion (4th Saturday at 12:30 pm)
- Great Decisions: brief video and discussion of Foreign Policy Association topics (4th Sat at 2:30 pm)*

In outreach-related news, the library will have a table at the Ready Set Back to School event put on by the Kern County Dept. of Child Support Services at Kerr McGee on August 1. I've had some inquiries about library tours from homeschool groups and public school classes as well. In September, I'm speaking to a group of teachers about library services and our branch hosts the Ridgecrest Young Professionals Network meeting on Tuesday, September 24 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, open to the public.

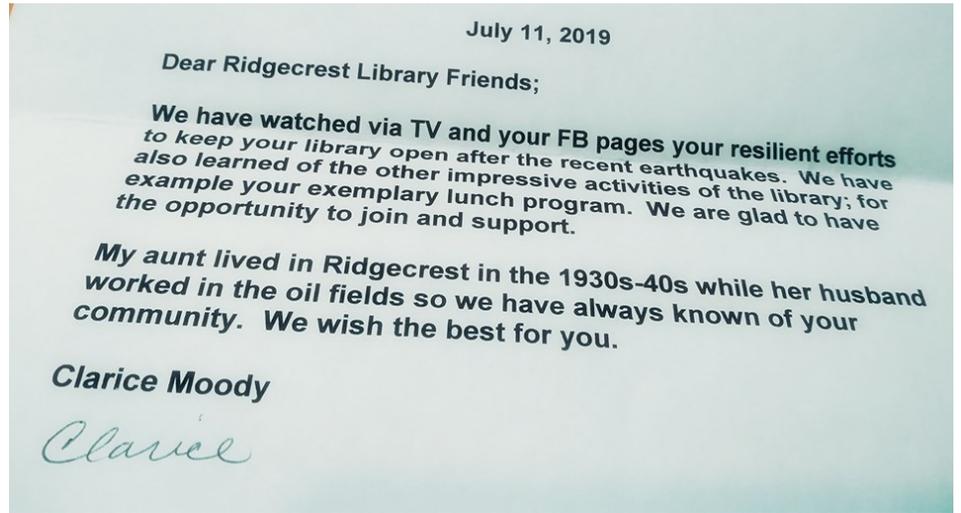
Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Memberships

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group. They have joined us since May of 2019.

Cindy McCormick Charles & Clarice Moody Rosalie Ostrander Karen Haden

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 quickly route 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
- I don't know what I'm interested in, please call me
- Internet Book Sales
- Special Events
- Answering E-mail
- Becoming a Board Member

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

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 Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.
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 Nancy George Estate
 PackWrap
 Pizza Factory

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

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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