



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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

A vibrant poster for a Mediterranean Dinner Experience. The background features a scenic view of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, a white building with a blue dome, and a blue body of water. In the foreground, a wooden table is set with various Mediterranean dishes, including a grilled fish, a bowl of hummus, a plate of pita bread, and a glass of wine. The table is decorated with fresh grapes and olive branches. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

MEDITERRANEAN DINNER EXPERIENCE

Library Fundraising Event

Join us for an enchanting evening
of flavors and culture!

Date: February 21st | **Time:** 6:00 pm

Location: Maturango Room,
Springhill Suites, 113 East Sydnor

Tickets: \$75.00

BUY TICKETS AT:
Books & More 1513 N. Norma
Mediterranean Flavors 237 N. Balsam
Online at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/mediterranean-dinner-experience>

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

V.P. - Memberships

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

Vice President - Sales

Book Store Mgr.

Julie Gervais
julger67@gmail.com

Treasurer

Nani Banks
760-371-2583
banksck@iwvisp.com

Secretary

Debra Fields@yahoo.co,

Members-at-Large

John Freeman
Kim Metcalf
Debbie Pio

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

February 17, 2026
March 17, 2026
April 15, 2026

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

11/5/25-2/23/26

Closure services from available doors. Look for signs!

Express (walk up)

Wed-Sat 11:30 am-3:30 pm

Curbside (call ahead & on arrival)

Wed-Fri 11:30 am-6 pm

Sat 11:30 am-3:30 pm

Phone: (760)

384-5870

President's Message February 2026

Book Store – The Books & More store has been open for just over six months. Each month revenue has increased as word about the store gets out. We are now breaking even and making more money to support the library. Savage Shakes just opened next door, and we are seeing some increased sales in the store from their customers dropping in. So far, donated books and other items are tracking closely with sales. Thus we have an ongoing need for donations. If you have any quality books or other items to donate, please drop them off during open hours of 10 til 2, Wednesdays thru Saturdays. Please limit your donations to a box or two. If you have a larger donation in mind, please contact Julie, our store manager, at julger67@gmail.com. Watch our Facebook page for upcoming special events and sales. We have a few collectable books worth several hundred dollars each and are setting up an Amazon account to sell these items online. We hope to have that capability operational in early February.

Storage Space – We are now completely out of the old Sears facility in the North Albertson's shopping center. Because space is limited at the store, we have rented a small storage locker near the store. Although this is an added expense, we will save money by not carrying insurance on the large Sears store. In addition, we have gained access to a storage shed directly behind the store at no cost. We are also looking at the possibility of placing a "Sea Container" on County land near the library. However, we are still interested in any other free or low-cost options you might be aware of.

Board – Election of officers was held at the November meeting. New Board Members are:

Secretary – Debra Fields

Member at Large – Debbie Pio

Also, Store Manager, Julie Gervais, was elected as VP for Sales, which replaces the VP for Book Sales.

Board meetings are at 1:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month. Our February meeting will be held in the County supervisor's Conference room. We will resume meeting in the library conference room once the library re-opens. Members are always welcome at these meetings.

Donations & Fundraisers – We have finalized the planning for our fundraising event for February 21st at the Maturango Room at Spring Hill Suites. A flyer for the dinner is included in this newsletter. We have an upper limit of eighty places and more than half of those are already sold. So please buy your ticket soon! Tickets are available online on the Friends website, at the Books & More store, and Mediterranean Flavors on Balsam. There will be lots of great food and fun auction items. Don't miss out.

Donations were great in 2025, and we hope this trend will continue this year. I thank all who have donated for their generosity. These donations help offset the ongoing reduction in interest income due to falling interest rates and reduced revenue from book sales. You can donate at our website at <https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org> and clicking on the large "Donate" button. Or, you can mail or drop off a check made payable to FRBL at the Library (131 East Las Flores Ave.)

Thanks -- Again, thank you to all of the volunteers that work at the store. And thanks in advance to all of our donors. Remember, all of our funds go to help keep your

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Welcome to 2026!

Due to delay in materials, the reopening of the library to the public has been pushed back to Tuesday, February 24. Library staff are grateful to continue working and offering limited services to the public during this time. So far, we have had fluorescent lights switched to LED lights, light switches installed (goodbye to using 16 breaker switches twice a day for lights in the public area!) and work has started on the doors and windows along with the flooring in/near the public restrooms. We appreciate everyone who has stopped by to pick up library materials, carryout activity bags, or use library services.

We are currently working out of our FRONT entrance but that will change once another door is available so they can work on the front doors. Please follow signs to see which door to use.

On Wednesdays through Saturdays with nice weather, we have staff outside from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm for people to walk up.

On Wednesdays through Fridays from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm, people can call ahead for curbside service, where we come out to your vehicle after you call to let us know you are in the parking lot. Library staff look forward to welcoming everyone back into the library even though renovation work will continue after we reopen. We will have a grand reopening celebration after all work is complete.

A limited number of off-site programs continue during the closure in different locations. We have programs at Kerr McGee Center (MANY THANKS to the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library for providing funds for the space), Maturango Room at Springhill Suites, Fistful of Cards Toys, Games & Comics, Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union Community Resource Center, and the California Welcome Center.

We are looking forward to (and starting to plan for) our **Summer Reading Challenge**, themed "Plant a Seed, Read" so expect to see programs related to gardening (indoor and outdoor), plants, farms, and pollinators (birds, butterflies, and bees). If you have any suggestions for presenters or programs, please let me know. Our schedule will be finalized in late March or sooner. We will bring back favorites and new programs/performers. We hope to have our Seed Library established before then (ideally in time for our reopening to the public).

We have some other changes planned to coincide with the reopening, such as the installation of the large **community collaborative art canvases** in our Children's Room, the introduction of **Teen VIP Time** in our Young Adults area, and hopefully new **blinds** for the Community Room and **seating** in the Children's Room and the adult reading area. We invite you to stop by once we reopen towards the end of February! [cont. p. 4]



Recycling Fundraiser



Do you have CRV recycling (beverage cans and bottles) that you don't want? Donate it to the Friends! It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Bring CRV recycling items to:

Dave Pearson's Recycling Center
1536 N Mahan St, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
M-F 8 am-4:45 pm, Sa 9 am-1:45 pm

2. Tell them you want to donate it to the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library.

3. The Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library receive a check.



Even though we are starting off 2026 being closed to the public for longer than anticipated, we hope that 2026 brings new experiences to our community, whether we are welcoming people back or seeing them for the first time. With the continued support of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library, we look forward to a wonderful year!

FREE Digital Library Available 24/7



The Palace Project

Simultaneous use or wait your turn depending on title. App for San Joaquin Valley Library System's shared digital library with access to Palace Project specific titles.

Overdrive or CloudLibrary titles can be downloaded in respective app. Can transfer (read with) Libby to ereader (MUST use Adobe Digital Editions to open and transfer).

MAY have to wait for your turn



eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines



CloudLibrary

eBooks

NO WAIT (simultaneous use)



movies, documentaries, TV series, Great Courses, kids shows & books (no download; requires internet connection)



eBooks, eAudiobooks

Visit kerncountylibrary.org/elibrary for more details

Book Store Information

Julie Gervais, VP Sales & Book Store Manager

BOOKS & MORE

1513 N Norma

Open: Wed-Sat 10am-2pm

THANKS - Continued thanks to our volunteers who ensure the store remains open - cashiering, sorting, researching, hauling, etc. We couldn't do this without you!!

SALES - We saw a nice increase in sales through the holidays followed by a decrease in January. In several months, the board will need to decide whether or not to renew the lease for the store. We need more sales for the store to be sustainable - and you can help with that!

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP - Please continue to stop by and buy books and other items, donate gently-used books (and puzzles and games), and most importantly tell others about the store! Help us get the word out about this little gem of a store!

FEBRUARY SALE - For the month of February, all Romance books will be \$1.00! Check our Facebook page (Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library) and our Instagram (ridgecrest_friendsofthelibrary) for more deals and upcoming events.

MEMBER APPRECIATION - We will have another Members Only Sale event on Sunday, March 1. The store will be open 1:00pm - 4:00pm to FRBL members who will receive 25% off their purchases.

Membership News

Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

We welcome the following new members who help to support our mission of providing resources to our local library.

Nita Bates
Eldon Berrier
Sandra Derryberry
Debra Fields

Bryan Harper
Bev & Bryan Hill
Belen Lloyd

Silvia Segura
Kayla Solorzano
Ashley Thompson
Jennifer Wildridge

Where possible, we will send you our newsletters via email. 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. **When you do renew your membership, please address it to our library and include “Friends” on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.** For email newsletter members I will email you a notice re renewing. You may also renew your membership on our website: <https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org/>

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</h2>	
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY	
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<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]	
<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: \$ ____	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
Volunteer Opportunities [check all activities that you are interested in]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Book Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Sort Books for Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Answering Email <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Online Book Sales <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know yet – please contact me!	

The Friends Thank These Donors Who Have Contributed, as of February 1, 2026:**\$10,000 + (Lifetime)**

Anonymous 1
 Anonymous 2
 Elizabeth Starr Estate
 Mary & Dan Kus
 Nancy George Estate
 Sierra Sands School District**

\$5,000-\$9,999 (Over 5 years)

Rotary Club of China Lake**
 United Way of IWV**

\$1,000-\$4,999 (Over 5 years)

Barbara Lupei
 Billy Campbell
 Deborah Buffum
 Dr. Victoria Schauf
 Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Fair**
 James & Barbara Vijay
 James & Tamara Tucker
 Jerry & Sandy Bradley
 John & Charlotte Freeman
 Kern Recovers Nonprofit Grant Covid**
 Peck Family Foundation
 Peter & Elaine Wiley
 Pizza Factory **
 Richard Carmer
 Ridgecrest Cinemas **
 Ridgecrest Hospital**
 Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation**
 WACOM**
\$250-\$990 (Over 5 years)
 Alta One**
 Gregory & Ann Lenz
 Barbara Bane
 Bob Kirchmeier
 Cathy Douglas
 Charles & Clarice Moody
 David & Molly Cooley

Elaine Miller
 Fidelity Charitable**
 Ike Fujiwara
 Jean Wu
 Judy Fair-Spaulling
 Karen Haden
 Kathy Donahue
 Kathy Killinger
 Ken & Nani Banks
 Kenneth Pritchard
 Kim Metcalf
 Libby Vincent
 Linda Anderson
 Linda Minsheu
 Linda Rolfs
 Lindgren & Heydlauff
 Liz Babcock
 Mary Atkinson
 Mary Lundstrom
 McDonald's**
 Mojave Pistachios**
 Naomi Norris
 Nguyen & Laskey
 Pearson's Recycling**
 Peggy Johnson
 Ridgewriters**
 Rob & Julie Gervais
 Robert Collins
 Robert & Susan Parker
 Rod & Judy Ditzler
 Sharon Juarez
 T.J. Frisbee Bicycles**
 Tom & Carol Sakai
 Vincent Avalos (Edward Jones)**

**Organization

NOTE: If you see an error on this list, please contact our treasurer at (760) 371-2583 so we can make corrections before the next newsletter.



2026 Pizza Factory/Beansters
Fundraising Date: Wed, Feb. 17
Mention the Friends when you order.



Friends of the Ridgcrest Branch Library
131 East Las Flores
Ridgcrest, CA. 93555
Return Service Requested