



Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org

**FRIENDS OF THE RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY
FUNDRAISER MOVIE SHOWING**

Toy Story 5

SATURDAY, JUNE 27th
SHOWTIME: 9:20 AM
TICKET PRICE: \$5.00
LOCATION: RIDGECREST CINEMAS
1631 TRIANGLE DRIVE, RIDGECREST CA

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
* **BOOKS AND MORE, 1513 N. NORMA**

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
fields517@yahoo.com

Members-at-Large

John Freeman
Kim Metcalf
Debbie Pio

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

May 20, 2026
August 19, 2026
September 16, 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

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

Phone: (760)

384-5870

President's Message May 2026

Book Store and Online Sales – The Books & More store continues to grow sales, with February being one of our best months. Donated collectable Star Wars Lego sets, plus books and items from the Janet Westbrook estate helped boost sales in April. We expect traffic to increase with the recent opening of Savage Shakes next door and the upcoming opening of Ale's Steak and Seafood restaurant in the adjacent old Sizzler's restaurant. We are also working on getting more signage to advertise the store more effectively.

We now have an Amazon and an AbeBooks site setup to sell collectable books online. So far, we have only sold two books, but we hope these sales grow as we increase the number of listings and learn more about online sales.

Storage Space – We cleaned out and painted the storage shed behind the store, (thank you John Freeman and Debbie Pio), and are now using it for overflow storage. We are investigating options that might eliminate the need for our rented storage locker. However, we are still interested in any other free or low-cost options that might be available. Please contact any officer or board member if you learn of any such space.

Donations & Fundraisers – We completed our first fundraising dinner on February 21st at the Maturango Room at Spring Hill Suites. This event sold out and was a great success. Many thanks to Kim Metcalf for her organizational skills, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital for use of the room at no cost, and Mediterranean Flavors for the excellent meal. We're planning to have a similar event next year.

On June 27th, the Friends and Ridgecrest Cinemas will be hosting Toy Story 5. Tickets will be only \$5.00 and will be available at Books & More and on our website at <https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org>.

Donations are running below last year but are still strong. 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 the Books & More store and at our website at <https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org> by clicking on the large "Donate" button. You can also mail or drop off a check made payable to FRBL at the Library (131 East Las Flores Ave.)

Thanks – On April 28th the board sponsored a "thank you" luncheon at the Library for all of our wonderful volunteers. Thanks to Deb Fields and Julie Gervais for making this happen. And thanks in advance to all of our donors. Remember, all of our funds go to help keep your library functioning.



Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

We were thrilled to open our doors on February 24 to welcome the community back into the library after almost 4 months of being closed to the public with limited public services! In addition to previously mentioned projects, we got a fire alarm and a security system installed and new doors and windows. Of course, we cannot wait until the renovations are completed and appreciate your patience when contractors are making extra noise on some days.

We have enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of people coming in, whether they are coming back or are new to the library and discovering what we have to offer. A generous donor has provided funding for the new chairs in our adult reading area and window blinds that will be coming soon.

The **In-N-Out Cover to Cover Club Challenge** finished in mid-April. We met our goal of increasing finishers by 5% from 2025. In 2025, we had 156 finishers and in 2026, we had 168 finishers (an 8% increase)! This can be a challenge for us to participate in due to the nearest In-N-Out Burger being approximately 90 miles away. For this challenge we ask 4-12 year olds to read or listen to 5 books or for 5 hours to earn a free hamburger, cheeseburger, or grilled cheese. Each child can earn up to 3 burgers. We are fortunate that **Immanuel Christian School** students participate in this yearly spring challenge.

Speaking of challenges, for adults we have the **Ridgecrest Recommends** challenge which consists of a list of 30 books suggested by our Facebook followers. We are asking adults to read or listen to any 10 of the 30 books to be a finisher. People can choose a small prize for every book they finish and when finishing the 10 books, they can get a free mini 1 topping pizza courtesy of **Pizza Factory** and are entered into a drawing for a prize basket which will be done in December.

We have been working on a Seed Library which will be unveiled to go with our **Summer Reading Challenge** theme of *"Plant a Seed, Read"*. ALL ages can read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours to be a finisher and get a free book choice from the Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc. and a finisher bag (as supply lasts). Continue reading or listening to be a bonus finisher and enter to win prize drawings. We were asked to increase our finishers by 5%, so we need your help! Read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours to be a finisher and help our numbers! We continue planning for our Summer Reading Challenge which will be packed with programs.



Lunch at the Library returns. Lunch is served from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, Tue through Fri starting 6/2-7/10 (NOT 6/19 and 7/3). FREE to ages 2-18. Adult lunch \$6 (exact change please). We will have visitors and guest readers (princesses return on Fridays). Thanks to Sierra Sands Unified School District for providing lunches!

[cont. p.4]

We recently added new programs for adults and teens. Every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm, a clinician from River Sage Revival is here for **Life After Loss**, a grief support group aimed at all types of loss (divorce, chronic illness, becoming a caregiver, and more, not just death).

On some Thursdays from 5:15-6:00 pm, we have **Bubble Qigong**, which uses small, repetitive motions compared to the longer sequenced tai chi motions. The certified instructor is not yet certified to work with pregnant women or youth under 16.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our library branch! We hope to see you in the library soon to explore everything we have to offer to our community.



Book Store Information

Julie Gervais, VP Sales & Book Store Manager

BOOKS & MORE

1513 N Norma

Open: Wed-Sat 10am-2pm

Sales from the store continue to edge up each month but we still have some very slow days. If you haven't visited the store, please stop by; if you have visited, spread the word about our little gem of a store!

We have received several amazing donations recently. We received books and tchotchkes from the Janet Westbrook estate; many of the books were of local interest and the tchotchkes were from her world travels. We also received a very generous donation of Star Wars Lego sets; they have all sold and greatly helped us provide support to the library. We continue to receive books from the China Lake Museum, most covering history, military history, and military aircraft, ships, and weapons. All of these donations sell well in our community!

If you are interested in working at the store, please contact me. We can always use more volunteer workers!

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.

Joe Bugni Jennifer Wildridge Heather Wynn Sierra Yost

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 member-ship 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/>

 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION		
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY		☐ New Member ☐ Renewal
Date: _____		
☐ Miss ☐ Mr. Individual Name: _____ ☐ Ms. ☐ Mx. _____ ☐ Mrs. ☐ ____		
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
☐ Individual (email): ...\$5.00 ☐ Sustaining:\$25.00 ☐ Individual (print): ...\$15.00 ☐ Sponsoring:\$50.00 ☐ Family (email):\$10.00 ☐ Benefactor:\$100.00 ☐ Family (print):\$20.00 ☐ Other Contribution: \$_____		
Volunteer Opportunities [check all activities that you are interested in]		
☐ Annual Book Sale ☐ Sort Books for Sale ☐ Answering Email ☐ Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale ☐ Writing for the Newsletter ☐ Becoming a Board Member ☐ Online Book Sales ☐ Special Events ☐ I don't know yet – please contact me!		

The Friends Thank These Donors Who Have Contributed, as of May 2, 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)

Jerry & Sandy Bradley
 Rotary Club of China Lake**

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

Barbara Lupei
 Billy Campbell
 Deborah Buffum
 James & Barbara Vijay
 James & Tamara Tucker
 John & Charlotte Freeman
 Libby Vincent
 Peter & Elaine Wiley
 Richard Carmer
 Ridgecrest Cinemas **
 Ridgecrest Hospital**
 Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation**
 United Way of IWV**
 WACOM**

\$250-\$990 (Over 5 years)

Alta One**
 Anonymous 3
 Barbara Bane
 Cathy Douglas
 David & Molly Cooley
 Don & Eileen Shibley
 Dr. Victoria Schauf

Elaine Miller
 Fidelity Charitable**
 Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Fair**
 Gregory & Ann Lenz
 Ike Fujiwara
 Judy Fair-Spaulding
 Kathy Donahue
 Kathy Killinger
 Ken & Nani Banks
 Kenneth Pritchard
 Kim Metcalf
 Linda Minshew
 Linda Rolfs
 Lindgren & Heydlauff
 Liz Babcock
 Mary Atkinson
 Mary Lundstrom
 McDonald's**
 Mojave Pistachios**
 Naomi Norris
 Nguyen & Laskey
 Peggy Johnson
 Kern Recovers Nonprofit Grant Covid**
 Peck Family Foundation
 Pizza Factory **
 Ridgewriters**
 Rob & Julie Gervais
 Robert Collins
 Robert & Susan Parker
 Rod & Judy Ditzler
 Tom & Carol Sakai

**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, May 20
and June 10
Mention the Friends when you order.



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Ridgcrest, CA. 93555
Return Service Requested