

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library



131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555

Home Page: www.ridgecrestfriends.org

Spring Sale Success!

Jil Richards, Vice-President, Book Sales

Our Spring Book Sale was a great success. Thanks goes out to the many volunteers that jumped in to set-up, tear-down, and cashier during the sale. I was no help and only in everyone's way because I broke my ankle and was hobbling with a walker in a black boot.

Kathy Donahue, Sharon Smith, and Julie Gervais organized the sale, created bookmarks and flyers, and coordinated volunteers in my absence. With added new memberships and renewals, we were able to make over \$2000. Great funds to help the library. We were also able to add to the coffers by selling 100 boxes of sale books to a private buyer for \$500 after the sale. April was a good month for selling books!

Spring Book Sale Volunteers (in no particular order)

- Jackson Goebel Tom Sakai
- Bob McGowan
- Mary Kus Jerry Bradley
- Gary Cheadle
- Terri Middlemiss Annie Ngo
- Gunnar Gervais
- Ann Long Sandy Bradley
- John Freeman
- Barbara Lupei Tamanh Nguyen
- Peter Wiley
- Kathryn Killinger Katie Brouchoud
- Irma Medina-Silva
- Robert Shaw Julia Rindt
- Xitlali Arriaga
- Jo Lish Ying-Ming Lee
- Eleanor Gervais
- Donna Rosenthal Jack Davidson
- Nancy Saxton
- Carol Pearson Naomi Norris
- Nani Banks
- Those I Forgot!



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

Vice President:

Memberships

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

Vice President: Book Sales

Jil Richards
booksandcatsohmy@gmail.com

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Members-at-Large

Terri Middlemiss
Jack Davidson
John Freeman
Nancy Saxton

Branch Supervisor

Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

May 15, 2024
August 21, 2024
September 18, 2024
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)

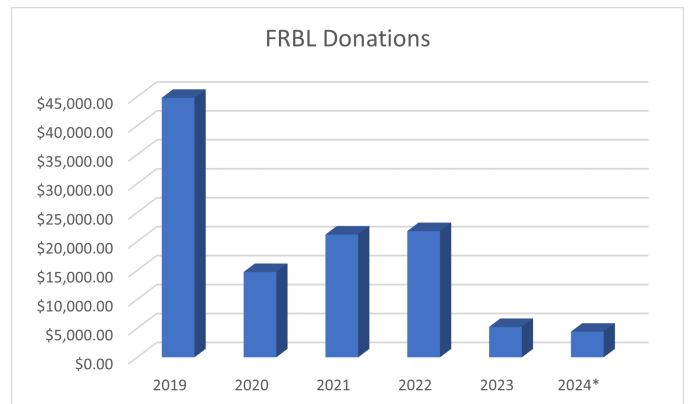
384-5870

President's Message May 2024

BOOK SALE -- We just completed our very successful Spring Book Sale. Preparation, setup, and teardown required a tremendous amount of volunteer labor. I want to thank everyone that bought books and all those wonderful volunteers that made the sale possible. We greatly appreciate each and everyone of you. You are the reason we are able to support the library.

BOOK FACILITY -- We continue to search for an affordable facility that meets our requirements. We have found many vacant spaces available in Ridgecrest that would meet our requirements. However, the cost to rent or purchase any of those spaces is far too high for our modest budget. We recently identified a great possibility that would meet our requirement for a storefront in which we can sort, display and sell books. However, storage space at that facility is minimal. We hope to gain access to this space by the end of the year and begin selling books on a weekly basis. This would allow us to resume accepting limited book donations. We will continue to search for an affordable storage space. Although operating from two locations is less desirable than a single facility, it should be easier to find a storage space because there will not be a need for easy customer access and parking. If any of you are aware of possible facilities, please let us know.

DONATIONS -- As you know, most of the funds that we use to support the library come from book sales and donations. Our donations have dropped off in the past few years. The graph shows how donations have gone down over the past 5 years. 2019 was exceptional in that we received a large donation from the Starr family. A few generous donors kept donations at a



healthy level through 2022. Then we saw a big drop in 2023. The amount shown for 2024 is for a partial year, so we hope it will be better than 2023 and reverse this trend. Our expenses will likely increase as we transition to new facilities that will require that we pay utilities and possibly rent and/or maintenance costs. So, donations will be even more important. To better recognize those that provide significant donations, I have added a new section to the newsletter. [p. 6]. Perhaps this section will remind us all to make a donation to the Friends. By the way, if you wish to donate now, please send a check or log onto our website ([Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library \(ridgecrestfriends.org\)](http://Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (ridgecrestfriends.org))) to donate via credit card, debit card or bank transfer.

READING AID – A patron donated a Merlin Enhanced Vision Video Magnifier. This device sits on a table or desk and projects a magnified color image of a book or document onto a 21” screen. These sell new for \$2000 to \$4000. The library does not have sufficient space for this device. So, we want to make it available (hopefully for a modest donation) to someone with poor vision. Please let us know of anyone in need of such a device. [continued on Page 3]

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES -- I want to thank Julie Gervais for taking over for Peggy Johnson as the steward of the Little Free Library (LFL) in Upjohn Park. Also, thanks to Nancy Saxton for assuming stewardship for the LFL that was previously located in Inyokern. (We were asked to remove it from the park next to the Senior Center due to vandalism.) We hope to install that LFL in Pearson Park within the next week or two. The LFL located near the DART Thrift Store on Gold Canyon was recently vandalized. I hope to have it repaired and restocked with books by the time you read this newsletter. BTW, if anyone is interested in helping to repair and maintain LFLs, please let me know at ridgecrestlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

Your Board and I thank you for your continuing support of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library. Remember that Kern County Libraries are funded at a level that is less than 20% of the median funding in California. That is why the support provided by the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is so very, very important.

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

We are approaching another fun (and busy) summer and are excited to continue to serve our community by providing programs and ways to connect people with information, ideas, and each other.

Narcan continues to be available for FREE at ALL Kern County Library branches when they are open. Stop by to get some for your first aid kit because anyone taking an opioid can suffer from an overdose. Our partnership with High Desert Training Services has helped expand accessibility in our community to those who attend their training sessions or outreach events.

ValleyCat Mobile App IS BACK! You can use it again or download it if you did not have it before or if you deleted it when we said it wasn't working and we weren't getting it back.

The **Kern Public Health Mobile Health Clinic** is here monthly in the lot next to the library with routine child and adult immunizations, family planning services including IUD and implants, STD testing/treatment (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV), and TB interviews and QuantiFERON blood draws for TB testing. They **DO NOT** offer sick visits, injury assessments, chronic disease management (asthma, diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure), or cancer screenings. Appointments are NOT needed but can be made by calling 661-321-3000.

Beanstack is our reading challenge tracker software. Please participate to help our branch finisher numbers! If you don't want to log online, let us know and we can log it for you. You do not need to use library materials (though doing so helps our circulation numbers to keep us the third busiest branch in the system). For our **Color of the Month** challenge, read or listen to a book with a cover that is primarily the color of the month. May is black, June is purple, July is white, and August is orange. We also create a small display for ideas. **Spring Into Reading** asks for 135 minutes to be read or listened to in April and May.

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is to read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours. Ridgecrest has consistently had good adult participation and we want to keep it that way! Don't forget that we can log it for you. Bring in a list (your due date receipt works great) and staff can log on Beanstack.

The **Building Forward Library Infrastructure Grant** administered by the California State Library awarded \$12.8 million for safety upgrades and infrastructure improvements to the Kern County Library system from Budget Act of 2021, Senate Bill 129. We were awarded just over \$1 million with proposed improvements: replacement of door and window glass, installation of a security system, lighting and HVAC updates, and concrete repair. Anticipated project dates are April 2025 through November 2025 with scope and timing subject to change. *[continued on Page 4]*

Stay & Play has been successful and we are in the second six-week series. We purchased more items to encourage imagination, interaction, and early literacy concepts, with our newest and biggest item being a Create-It Station! It is currently a bakery but we have plans to make it into a grocery store, veterinary office, restaurant, doctor's office, and farmer's market. We connected caregivers to these resources: services for families (Jay Nolan and Oasis Family Resource Center), car seat safety, burn and scald prevention education, hands-only CPR, nutrition, pediatric occupational therapy, vision screener, dental tips, stress management, Kern Regional Center, and Community Connection for Childcare.

Summer Reading Challenge (already mentioned) is our biggest and busiest time of the year! We remain grateful to the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library for providing most of the funds for the multiple programs we are offering every day and for two of the big performances this summer. The Friends of the Kern County Library Inc. and Lunch at the Library grant will also provide several big performances this. If you want to support us directly, check out our Amazon Wish List and purchase supplies for upcoming programs. Items currently on the list are for our popular scavenger hunt (we have a monthly theme and a weekly list to look for with a small prize for completion) and our summer programs (for these crafts: wind chimes, zen gardens, no sew caterpillars, and journals along with sand mandalas, farm, and butterfly crafts).

Lunch at the Library returns thanks to our partnership with Sierra Sands Unified School District. Everyone 18 and under can get a FREE lunch (\$5 for adults) from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on Tuesdays through Fridays from 6/6 through 7/12, no questions asked.

Zip Books continues through June 2024 as funds last. Library cardholders can request up to 5 print books at a time that are **NOT** owned by ANY Kern County Library branch to help build a community driven collection. Books are sent to the patron's home via Amazon at no cost. When finished, the patron **returns the books to library staff**. For more info and to request books, go to <https://kerncountylibrary.org/zipbooks/>

We have a **collection box for plastic bags and plastic wrap** through mid-Feb 2025 to help the Ridgecrest Lions Club collect 1,000 lbs. of plastic to place a bench near the veterans memorial park at the Sgt. John Pinney Pool Complex. Drop off **CLEAN** plastic bags and wrap any time the library is open (Tue-Thu 10 am to 7 pm, Fri 10 am to 6 pm, and Sat 10 am to 4 pm). Bring in your grocery bags, produce bags, newspaper bags, plastic overwrap on cases of bottled water/paper towels/toilet paper, shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, air pillows, and bread bags (please empty crumbs first). For more info on what is (and is not) accepted, visit <https://nextrex.com/view/educate>

As always, we **appreciate you all** because FRBL funds enable us to provide all of the different programs that we offer the community. I have heard multiple times from different sources that our Kern County libraries provide more programming than other larger libraries with larger budgets. We currently offer something for someone (primarily youth) to do every day that we are open and often have multiple programs every day. We have been trying to offer more programs for adults as requested, but haven't been able to find a good day and time or activity yet with "good" attendance, so feel free to share any ideas. We hope to see **YOU** using the library this summer!

Expanded hours!
Tue-Thu 10 am to 7 pm
Fri 10 am to 6 pm
Sat 10 am to 4 pm

Check out our branch Amazon Wish List!
Most of the items are for Summer Reading Challenge projects
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1ZK6C1MYCSAZK>

Note: All items are sent to Bakersfield first.
Donation letters available on request.

Membership News


By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

We have revised our membership structure to save bulk mail costs for our newsletter. Please see the new form below for details. 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.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group. These folks have joined our group since late last fall.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Jessica Annos | Peter Dexter | Kalyn Shubnell | Windy Ward |
| Virginia Blakie | Beverly Estis | Cliff Sime | Dan Warren |
| Janey Brown | Ray Guerrero | Renard Smith | Celeste Wood |
| Ellen Bryant | Jerry Hinman | Krista Soriano | Desiree Young |
| Brenda Cathey | Nicholas McGaha | Christina Stout | |
| Marla Cosner | Kelly Mendenhall | Angela Trinkle | |
| John Davidson | Nancy Saxton | Angela Unpingco | |

Your renewal date should appear on your mailing address. I will send renewal notices via postcard or email to remind you but it helps a lot when you notice it and respond. **When you do renew, please address to our library and include "Friends" on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.**

 <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]										
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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]										
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FRBL THANKS FOR FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

\$10,000 + (Lifetime)

Anonymous
 Elizabeth Starr Estate
 Nancy George Estate
 Sierra Sands School District**

James & Tamara Tucker
 Jean Wu
 Judy Fair-Spaulding
 Karen Hayden

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

Mary & Dan Kus
 United Way of IWV**

Kathy Donahue
 Kathy Killinger
 Ken & Nani Banks
 Kenneth Pritchard

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

Barbara Lupei
 Deborah Buffum
 Desert Valleys Employee Foundation**
 Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Fair**
 Jerry & Sandy Bradley
 Kern Recovers Nonprofit Grant Covid**
 Peck Family Foundation
 WACOM**

Linda Anderson
 Linda Minshew
 Linda Rolfs
 Lindgren & Heydlauff
 Liz Babcock
 McDonald's**
 Mojave Pistachios**
 Naomi Norris
 Nguyen & Laskey
 Pearson's Recycling**

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

Alta One**
 Ann Lenz
 Barbara Bane
 Bob Kirchmeier
 Cathy Douglas
 Charles & Clarice Moody
 Dr. Schauf
 Elaine Miller
 Ike Fujiwara

Peggy Johnson
 Pizza Factory**
 Richard Carmer
 Ridgewriters**
 Robert Collins
 Rod & Judy Ditzler
 Sharon Juarez
 T.J. Frisbee Bicycles**
 Vince 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.



2024 Pizza Factory fundraiser.

The fundraiser is every third Wednesday of the month:
May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18,
October 16, November 20, and December 18!