

# Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library



131 E. Las Flores Avenue Ridgecrest, California 93555  
Home Page: [www.ridgecrestfriends.org](http://www.ridgecrestfriends.org)

## *It Takes a Village!*

**Jil Richards, Vice-President, Book Sales**



The Fall Book Sale, November 4 & 5, was a great success for buyers and sellers alike. Mother Nature cooperated, and many people pulled together to let the community know about the sale.

The "**Organizers**" sorted, categorized, and priced the books for sale. The "**Designers**" created flyers and advertising promoting the sale, while "**Runners**" distributed sale material throughout the community. The "**Muscle**" helped pack and unpack books, set-up and take down tables, and put up the overnight fencing keeping the books safe.

The "**Cashiers**" handled all the money from book sales, memberships, and donations. AND, our wonderful "**Patrons**" bought scores of books and media, made generous monetary donations, and gave us super positive support.

We gave away 6 Reading Shaman figures to those donating \$25 or more. We also gave away Friends T-Shirts (16) to those patrons who purchased \$20 or more. Many shirts were donated back to the Friends.

Our Spring Sale is scheduled for **April 20 - 21**. Please let me know if you would like to help!

### *Fall Sale Villagers - Thank You!*

#### **The Fall Book Sale Village**

Susan Tipton  
Mary Kus  
Jo Lish  
Nani Banks  
Robert Shaw  
Penny Loper  
David Norcross  
Donna Rosenthal  
Barbara Lupei  
Ann Lenz  
Karen Sizemore

Terri Middlemiss  
Ann Long  
Matsumi Frastaci  
Peggy Johnson  
Kathy Donahue  
Jack Davidson  
Jerry Bradley  
Gunnor Gervais  
David Burdick  
Eleanor Gervais  
Barbara Bane

Sharon Smith  
Julie Gervais  
Gary Cheadle  
Pat Boyd  
Naomi Norris  
Sandy Bradley  
John Freeman  
Carol Pearson  
Peter Wylie  
Bob McGowan

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](http://www.kerncountylibrary.org)

**Board of Directors**

**President**

Jerry Bradley  
(760) 371-3590  
[jerry\\_bradley@verizon.net](mailto:jerry_bradley@verizon.net)

**Vice President:**

**Memberships**

Carol Pearson  
(760) 375-7258  
[capears66@iwvisp.com](mailto:capears66@iwvisp.com)

**Vice President: Book Sales**

Jil Richards  
[booksandcatsohmy@gmail.com](mailto:booksandcatsohmy@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Nani Banks  
760-371-2583  
[banksck@iwvisp.com](mailto:banksck@iwvisp.com)

**Secretary**

**Members-at-Large**

Terri Middlemiss  
Jack Davidson  
John Freeman  
Nancy Saxton

**Branch Supervisor**

Charissa Wagner

**Board Meeting Calendar**

February 21, 2024  
March 20, 2024  
April 17, 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](mailto:sandy.bradley@verizon.net)

**Library Hours**

Tue-Thurs 11am-7pm  
Friday 11am-6pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Curbside service still available

**Phone:** (760)

384-5870

# President's Message

# February 2024

The holidays are behind us as we move forward into a new year. The Friends elected four new board members at our November meeting. They are **Jack Davidson, John Freeman, Terri Middlemiss, and Nancy Saxton**. They bring fresh viewpoints and new ideas to the board and I look forward to working with them, along with the returning board members, this year.

As I have mentioned in the past, we still need a permanent facility in which to store, sort and sell books. Accepting donated books and reselling them has been our primary source of funds to support the library. However, operating out of our current facility has limited us to a few sales per year and thereby limited our income. For example, last year book sales from our facility generated only \$5047.25, while we donated \$11,382.26 to support the library. Fortunately, other sources such as grants, donations, and dues helped: we ended the year with a small loss of \$1,203.10.

To date we have a few leads on a permanent home for the Friends, but nothing concrete. Because this is our primary problem, I am asking our members, the community, and local businesses to contribute to our **Book Facility Fund**. Our goal is to be in a long-term facility by the end of this calendar year. Ideally, someone will donate space for us, however we cannot depend on that. So, the more likely solution will be to initially rent space, then build or purchase a building. Obviously, all of those options will be expensive. We need at least 2000 square feet of well lit, heated and cooled space. Commercial spaces rent for around \$8 to \$12 per square ft per year. When you add in utilities and insurance, the cost is around \$25,000 per year.

Fortunately, we are not starting from zero. Over the years, the Friends (while continuing to meet the needs of the library) have been saving money to help expand our undersized Library. Unfortunately, building costs have increased faster than our funds have grown, and there is no evidence the County is interested in expanding our library, so now we feel that these funds, combined with funds raised for the **Book Facility Fund**, can better be used to find a more permanent home for the Friends. Over the years we have accumulated \$111,111.32, mostly from a few major donors and accrued interest. However, we will need considerably more than this to lease, or hopefully purchase or build, an adequate facility. My goal is to double that amount this year through increased donations.

Having a stable, functional book facility offers several benefits. It will be easier to attract volunteers to work in a safe, well lit, and comfortable space. With more volunteers, we will be able to open the facility to the public more hours to increase sales. With increased sales, we can again accept books to refresh our collection. And, of course this will allow us to further support the library.

To help kick off this campaign my wife and I have donated \$1000.00 to the **Book Facility Fund**. Please join us in getting the Friends their needed facility. You can 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.

Your Board and I thank you for continuing support of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library!

 

# Librarian's Corner

 

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

## Welcome to 2024!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year that we want to make even better than the last one.

We ended 2023 with **extra programming** for kids because of the winter break for SSUSD. We were fortunate to receive programming supplies for 3 fun programs along with books to give away to help build home libraries from the Toys for Tots Foundation (NOT the same source where gifts for families come from). Branch staff enjoyed the Winter Recess time off to relax and prepare for an amazing 2024.

**Narcan** remains available for free at all Kern County Library branches when they are open. In Ridgecrest, we have expanded accessibility to our community through a partnership with High Desert Training Services to provide Narcan for attendees of their relevant training sessions as well as at outreach events.

**ValleyCat mobile app** users have noticed that there are some issues. The mobile app no longer works as it did before and SJVLS is looking for a replacement app. The only thing you can use the mobile app for is to scan the library barcode that you saved at self checkout.

**Senator Grove's office** will not be continuing regular mobile office hours in Ridgecrest. Instead, they will arrange to be in Ridgecrest in conjunction with already established events and encourage interested parties to contact their office for an appointment.

**Kern Public Health** is bringing their Mobile Health Clinic monthly on a Tuesday to the dirt lot next to the library. They offer 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.

Did you know that the library offers a variety of **periodical subscriptions**, paid for by the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library? Come in and see what we have for you to browse! We also offer access to a larger selection of digital magazines with your linear card through the ProQuest eLibrary. Reading magazines will count for our current and upcoming challenges.

**Beanstack**, our reading tracker software, is offering monthly challenges, so stay tuned. Please participate to help our finisher numbers! If you don't want to go online, just let us know and we can log it for you when you come in. We will offer a special challenge from February through December called the *Color of the Month Book Challenge*. Each month has a color and people are asked to read or listen to a book with a cover that is primarily that color. All completed entries at the end of the year will be placed into a drawing for prizes.

The Ridgecrest Branch Library has **intake forms for the free tax preparation services** offered through Ridgecrest Regional Hospital's Senior Services. Intake forms can be picked up when the library is open and should be filled out before attending the appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the phone number on the form. On a related note, tax forms for the IRS and CA state were ordered. Feel free to call 760.384.5870 to see if they have come in and save yourself a trip.

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 the Budget Act of 2021, Senate Bill 129. Some libraries will undergo upgrades specifically to address life-safety and critical maintenance needs. The Ridgecrest Branch Library will have infrastructure improvements within the next year or so. At this time, the details of the work are not known to branch staff. {cont.p.4}

The Southwest and Lamont Branch Libraries are currently closed and the Bakersfield branches will follow at different points this year.

Another exciting update is the expansion of an existing program called **Play & Chat**, which offers toddler-friendly toys to help children build social skills while caregivers can chat with each other to build relationships or interact with their children. We received a grant for **Stay & Play**, which allows us to expand the items that we offer for building social skills and enhances the experience with nutritious snacks for the children. Additionally, a representative from a resource for the caregivers. This program will run for two six-week sessions from March through May and will feature resources like nutrition for youth and adults, car seat safety tips, burn and scald prevention education, oral hygiene for children, hands-only CPR, and of course, services offered by the Kern County Library.

### Be a Summer Reading Supporter!

We are looking for organizations, businesses, or individuals who want to donate:

- Finisher bag items
- Bonus finisher prize items
- Lunch at the Library attendance prize
- Funds for programs
- Funds for prizes
- Funds for performances

We will give as much publicity as possible, depending on when the donations are received:

- pre-SRC summary flyer
- Signage in branch
- Calendar for program or performance (soonest deadline; March 1)
- FaceBook posts for program or performance
- Sponsor graphics listing all sponsors

Even though we are just starting February, the second month of the year, planning has already started for our **Summer Reading Challenge**, the busiest time of the year, where we feature MORE things for people to do every day we are open! We are confirming dates for performances and programs for all ages. Look for the “ad” in this newsletter that lists how you can help. (Hint: if you are aware of a business, club, group, organization, or individual who wants to help by donating items (for finisher bags or bonus finisher drawings) or funds to sponsor programs, performances, or prizes, in exchange for publicity in our marketing materials both online and in the branch and/or a letter for tax deductible purposes please let us know!)

We hope your 2024 has started off well and we look forward to seeing you this year!

## More Announcements!

### *A LITTLE HELP!!*

Looking for a volunteer to take over stocking the Little Free Library at Upjohn Park starting the first of April. I will be happy to tell any person that has an extra hour a week all the particulars of where to get the books to use to stock, how often, where it's located, etc. Please contact Peggy Johnson, 760/590-7438, or [peggy.johnson624@aol.com](mailto:peggy.johnson624@aol.com).



2024 Pizza Factory fundraiser. The fundraiser is every third Wednesday of the month for the year. February 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18!

# Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

As we begin 2024, we would like to acknowledge generous members who contributed \$50 (Sponsor level) or more as they renewed their membership during 2023.

Liz Babcock  
 Ken & Nani Banks  
 Pat Boyd  
 Jerry & Sandy Bradley  
 Debbie Buffum  
 Richard Carmer  
 John Clark  
 Robert Collins  
 Leroy Corlett  
 Rod & Judy Ditzler

Catherine Douglas  
 Florence Eichenberg  
 Judy Fair-Spauling  
 Karen Haden  
 Denise Kight  
 Mary Kus  
 Ann Lenz  
 Barbara Lupei  
 Mica Mawhirter  
 Elaine Miller

Linda Minsheu  
 Naomi Norris  
 Terry & Roger Peck  
 Kenneth Pritchard  
 Linda Rolfs  
 Victoria Schauf  
 Don & Bartie Stapleton  
 Tamara & James Tucker  
 David Watt

Your renewal date should appear on your mailing address if you receive the printed newsletter in the mail. I recently sent email renewal notices to email members whose membership expired in 2023. Some of those folks have already sent their renewal fees. I will need to receive your renewal fee by April 27 if your membership expired prior to 2024 in order to send you the next May newsletter. You may also renew on our website - <https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org/>

If you renew via mail to 131 E Las Flores Ave in Ridgecrest, please include "Friends" on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.

 <b>FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>			
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY		<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	
<b>Date:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <b>Individual Name:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mx. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> ____			
<b>Organization/Business Name:</b>			
<b>Mailing Address:</b> _____			
<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>		
<b>Type of Membership:</b> [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	
<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: \$_____			
<b>Volunteer Opportunities</b> [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!			

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

AltaOne Federal Credit Union  
Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union  
Elemental Equine Massage  
Heritage Montessori School  
In Loving Memory of John Starr  
KP PRODUCTIONS Graphics/Banners/Signs  
Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.  
McDonald's of Ridgecrest  
Nancy George Estate  
Pack Wrap

Pizza Factory  
Ridge Writers  
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital  
Rusty Warren's Automotive  
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