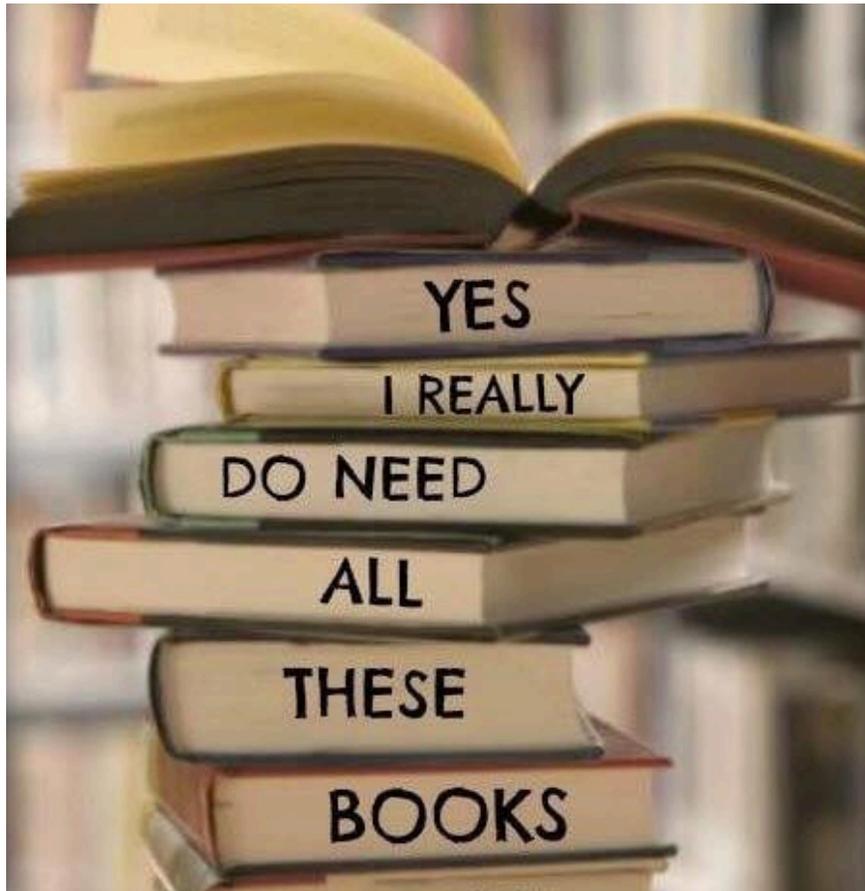


Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



courtesy of The Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS). a voluntary association of 34 public libraries in Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties.

Charity Book Show!

We open our book storage building behind Old Albertsons for two hours once per week to welcome:

- Book Donations
- Membership Renewals
- Hunting the stacks for treasures!

**Every Saturday
9 to 11 am**

**FRIENDS OF THE
RIDGECREST BRANCH LIBRARY**

BEHIND OLD ALBERTSONS SW Corner of Center



President's Message May 2022

by Brent Clark Palmer

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is an independent 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization.

Visit the County Library web site at
www.kerncountylibrary.org

A Proud Partner of
United Way
Giving Locally, Helping Locally

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760-499-0762 (text pref.)
netcowboy@gmail.com
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Julie Hebdrich
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needles394@gmail.com
Branch Supervisor
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar
May 18, August 17,
September 21
No meetings in June, July,
or December

Meetings are held at 10:00
a.m. on the third
Wednesday of each month.
YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
EMAIL a board member for
the Zoom link as the
meetings are now held via
Zoom due to COVID-19.

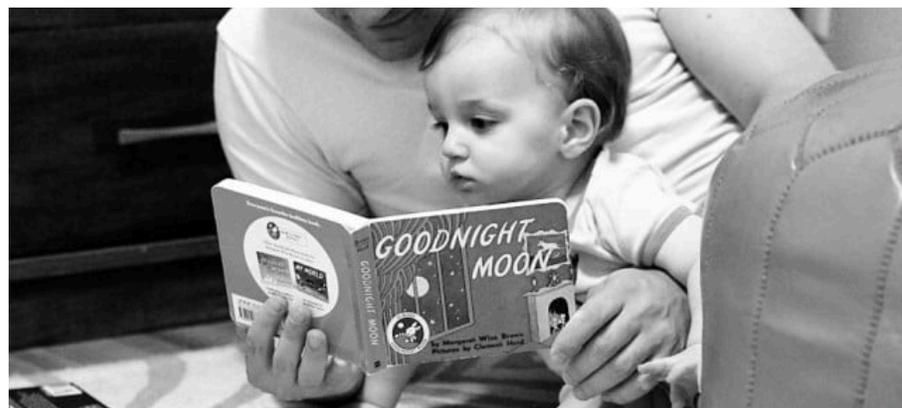
Library Hours
Mon. 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tues. 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wed. 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Fri. - Sun. Closed
Phone: (760) 384-5870

Not everyone who receives our paper newsletter received my editorial pieces on social media, so I am reproducing my most recent piece from April 2, 2022:

Today we had a bag of children's books donated to the library charity waiting for us when we arrived at our storage building. As Nena and I looked through the bag, distinctive because it was a diaper bag, we found a bible with a cloth cover, but also two photo albums of children, and a high school diploma. At first, we thought about contacting her regarding these personal items through social media, but I felt some discomfort about the personal items in this donation and so I called the police to ask for help returning the items.

In the legendary spirit of our small town, an officer came down quickly, and looking at the diploma, he actually knew who our benefactor was. He explained to us that they'd had to take her children from her due to her drug abuse, and that she had since "fried" her brain, and could be found around town collecting children's books and photos of children (not hers) with the belief that she was collecting these to benefit children, hers and others.

After processing this, and shedding a few tears, I offered to take the books and treat them with the spirit with which they were intended. And I sent back the bag and personal effects. I let the officer know to tell her when he sees her that this year we are buying a new love seat for the children's area in the library, so a parent and child can sit together and read. And that we also buy supplies for the children's programs, which the County is not able to pay for, and that she had helped with that as well. I also asked him to tell her that she is always welcome to come sit in the library.



Friends and family, this charity work that I've fallen into since retiring has been such a blessing. Not for my contribution, but to be blessed by the good will and good wishes from people like this, who for whatever reason seek to make the world better for all children and their parents. It is my honor [cont. p.3]

to learn that people like this exist, who have this pure generosity in their hearts and who think of our group as a way to help make the lives of children more fun and meaningful. Whatever her mental state, she is our benefactor and on the same page with us in seeking to benefit the children in our part of the world and I post this to honor her.

If you think you know her, please thank her for her contribution to our community.

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

I wanted to update you on a couple of things from the previous newsletter:

The Winter Olympics Reading Challenge let participants “complete” events like figure skating by reading or listening to a book with a beautiful cover. Each event completed was a drawing entry for a prize basket. We had 13 kids read or listen to 117 picture books (**Grace** won), 7 kids read or listen to 38 chapter books (**Aerial** won), 1 teen read or listen to 9 YA books (**Breydon** won), and 4 adults read or listen to 13 books (**Rebecca** won).

This past March, for “Read Across America” we were able to travel to 24 states (Ohio x2, South Carolina x2, New York x4, California x3, Virginia, Louisiana, Massachusetts x2, Kansas x2, Illinois x2, Tennessee, Florida x2, Pennsylvania x2, Michigan x2, Colorado x2, Texas, Arizona, New Jersey x2, Nevada, Missouri, Alabama, Georgia, Wisconsin, Washington, and Connecticut). Hopefully next year we will get through more states. (My goal is to get through all 50 states one of these years!)

Summer Reading Challenge starts soon (June and July) and I hope to see YOU logging 10 books or 10 hours (your choice). Last summer, 59 adults logged 493 books and 15,201 minutes and we hope to increase that. The Friends will purchase gift cards for bonus finisher winners to support the local businesses who supported us with donations over the years.

We will assemble Veteran Care Kits again based on books and hours logged. Last summer we made 36 kits (I rounded up due to package quantities). I anticipate making more kits this summer as they will be slightly smaller. Having two water bottles in each kit really added to the overall weight!

We have some big performances and fun programming this summer so stay tuned to our calendar.

Lunch at the Library is in person for June and the first week of July Mon- Thu from 11:30am-12:30pm.

We will continue our weekly Activities To Go bags for kids this summer and will have a monthly bag for teens and adults.

We look forward to seeing **you** in the library this summer!

New databases are available through September 2022 that target adult learners with funding from the CA State Library provided through the American Rescue Plan Act. These databases (along with our regular databases) are FREE to Kern County Library cardholders.

- **EBSCO Learning Express** provides interactive tutorials, practice tests, ebooks, and flashcards for academic skill-building, standardized test preparation, career development, and more.
- **LinkedIn Learning** provides online training in a variety of technical, business, software, and creative topics.
- **Coursera** offers six month access to online courses from world-class universities and companies from a variety of topics (time management, personal resilience) and for specific occupations (administrative assistant, market research, software coding).
- **Northstar Digital Literacy** has online, self-guided modules that assess basic skills for computer use and online navigation. This is a resource for even the absolute beginner and starts with identifying computer components (such as a keyboard and monitor).
- **Skillshare** offers three months access to an online learning community where people can take or teach classes. Classes include self-care, hand sewing, productivity, music, photography, web development, communication, and creative writing topics.
- **GetSetUp** is very different because courses are not available on-demand and have specific dates and times. It is marketed for older adults to learn, connect, and share with peers. There is a code for free access and classes include technology, exercise, travel, food/nutrition, art, and music topics on different days and at different times.

GOOD FOOD for a GOOD CAUSE!

Pick up pizza, lunch, dinner, a sandwich, or coffee at Pizza Factory or Beanster's Espresso and support the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library!

On the third Wednesday of the month, when you order, mention the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library at checkout, and 20% of your purchase will be donated to us.

Here are the dates for immediate entry into your calendar, datebook, tablet, refrigerator reminder, or handy scrap of paper:

May 18, Jun 15, Jul 20, Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, and Dec. 21!



Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Memberships

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group. They joined us this year. Also, we are pleased to report that our Board approved a change in membership rates. Individual rates will return to \$5 and family rates to \$10. Other rates will remain the same.

Camille Anderson

Lisa Burchett

Kimberly Perkins

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 relay 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 - \$5 Family - \$10 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
 Pricing Books for Sale
 Writing for the Newsletter
 Internet Book Sales
 Special Events
 Answering E-mail
 Becoming a Board Member
 I don't know what I'm interested in, please call me

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

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Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union
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Heritage Montessori School
In Loving Memory of John Starr
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Nancy George Estate
Pack Wrap

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

Please let these generous contributors know that you appreciate their support of our Library



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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