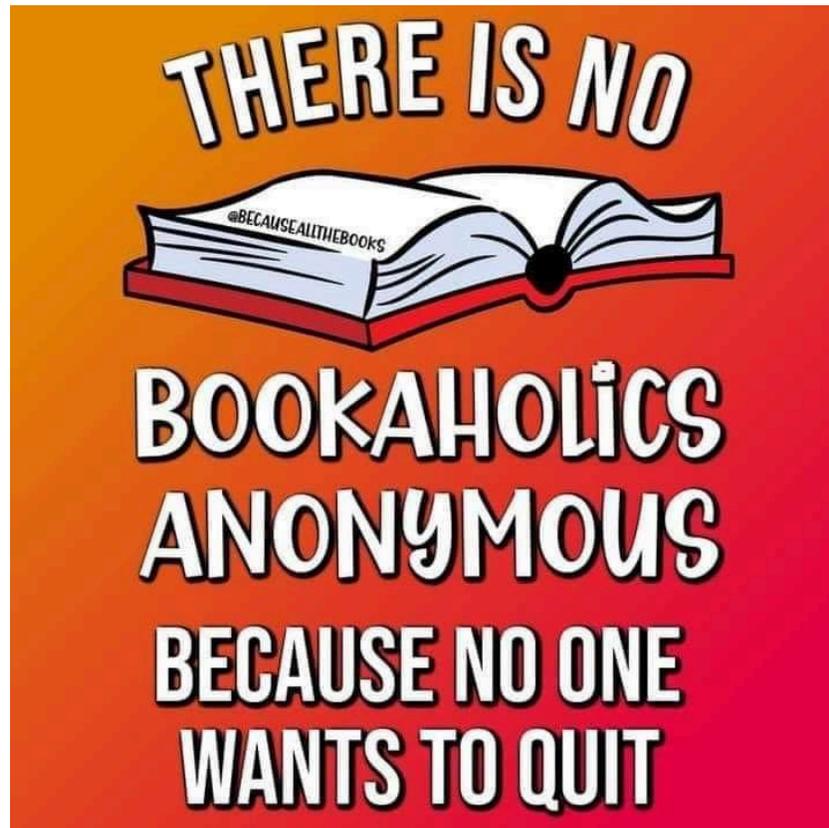


Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



COURTESY OF THE FACEBOOK PAGE OF COFFEE AND A GOOD BOOK, [HTTPS://COFFEEANDAGOODBOOKSTORE.COM](https://coffeeandagoodbookstore.com)

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 August 2022

by Brent Clark Palmer

Friends of the Ridgcrest 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

Board of Directors
President
Brent Clark Palmer
760-499-0762 (text pref.)
netcowboy@gmail.com
Vice President:
Memberships
Carol Pearson
(760) 375-7258
capears66@iwvisp.com
Treasurer

Secretary
Barbara Lupei
(760)375-0304
lupei@verizon.net
Members-at-Large
Peggy Johnson
Book Sales Cashier
Coordinator
peggy.johnson624@aol.com
Dane A Scharff
Makerspace
dane.scharff@gmail.com
Julie Hebdrix
Makerspace
needles394@gmail.com
Branch Supervisor
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar
August 17, September 21,
October 19
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

I realized something recently that I had never quite put my finger on in my six years of involvement with Friends. That nearly all of the active volunteers I work with are clustered in the 70-80 age range.

It appears, to my layman's eye, like so many things in life, the existing support for our library (and libraries in general) has come in generational waves, with a particular synergy occurring among a group of folks now around ages 70-80, and then skipping a generation or two to where the greatest enthusiasm for libraries and physical books now comes from the Millennials and Gen Z, such as has happened too with the vinyl medium. Perhaps 70-80 will turn out to always be the sweet spot, as these are the people with the most extra time on their hands, but I definitely like to make an effort to reach out to younger library supporters and to involve them where possible. Frankly, I've always believed since I ran a Radio Shack when I was 19 years old and a 6 year old came in and solved our computer problem, that the younger you are, the more you know.

Thus, as a guy still in his fifties (retired early), this makes me a cusp figure, not just receiving the call to keep the charity going, but receiving the call to find that next wave of enthusiasts who will continue to support our library into the future. A new synergy will occur, a new wave will form, and that future blessed crew will be the ones making sure our library has everything it needs, and by extension, that our community has what it needs: our future beloved base engineers, our future beloved suburban moms will cherish the safe space the library provides. I can definitely report that I see that wave forming. It bears repeating, libraries are not endangered as they once were. Libraries are not going away.

I am eager to tell you about one of our younger supporters today. We gave our first annual \$500 college scholarship to Isabel Kidner, who is heading off to Cal State Long Beach, with plans to major in industrial design. Isabel has been a key volunteer in keeping the weekly fundraiser going during the pandemic years, as one of our hardest working and most essential sorters.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "I like the dreams of the future better than the stories about the past". So I like to imagine that, through industrial design, she will be able to create things in virtual reality that would not function here on Earth, but that will function perfectly there -- what an amazing opportunity to be on the ground floor of new worlds like that!

However, no pressure Isabel, as I'm certain I speak for all of us older, "wiser" folks when I say, it's okay if you change your mind about your life's purpose while in college. Most of us did. We wish you all good things and hope you'll

visit the booksale again, wherever we land.

Incidentally, the board has decided to look for a new space with plumbing and electricity, and heating and cooling, and a non-leaky roof, as we are ready to ourselves graduate from our storage building, although I confess to being sentimental about our regulars and the wonderful times we've shared there. But New Bat Time. New Bat Channel forthcoming. I'll keep y'all posted here and by putting a sign on the door when we know something. In the meantime, we're still at the usual spot, 9am to 11am on Saturdays.

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Summer greetings from the Ridgecrest Branch Library! I hope you've been enjoying your summer and staying cool. For me personally, it has been a long, six month Summer Reading Challenge season (since I started planning in February) but we have had a busy summer filled with lots of families coming in and appreciating so many things that we offered, which was primarily thanks to funding from the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library!

EVERY day that we were open in June and July, we offered at least one program for kids to participate in. Our Explore sessions featured three activities to rotate through (although a few of them did include a snack as one of the three activities). They were themed around space, nature, reptiles, creatures (real and imaginary), spies, and dinosaurs, offering a variety of hands on activities in a drop in format to allow families to come when it suited them during a two hour afternoon block. We offered 8 weeks each of tween programming on Tuesdays for 10-12 year olds and teen programming on Thursdays for 13-18 year olds. There were 2 weeks social snacking (a chance to eat snacks and chat with old and new friends), 4 weeks of taste testing (jellybeans, marshmallows, Pocky sticks, and Pop Tarts), and 2 weeks of crafts (butterfly suncatchers and dragon eggs). We also offered a few adult crafts like button making, Cricut Mini Maker Training, and Scorch Marker wood burning, but perhaps the timing wasn't ideal as the attendance was quite small.

We kept the Activities To Go bags this summer, which were available weekly for kids and monthly for teens and adults. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc. and the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library (that's you!) we were able to offer our community FIVE big performances! The audience numbers did not disappoint for our first summer of in-person performances since 2019 as we had a full house for every one. The mobile picture book shelving offers us the flexibility of expanding the seating area for big performances (and for Toddler Time and Preschool/Family Storytime). As of this submission, the Summer Reading Challenge is still going but winding down so I don't have final numbers for you yet (stay tuned to the next newsletter).

This summer, Lunch at the Library returned as in person dining for the first time since 2019. It was definitely an adjustment for some families after two summers of drive through pick up that did not require the child to be present. Despite the switched format, we still had an amazing turnout, serving an average of 94 children's lunches per day and a total of 1,978 over the 21 days. Due to staffing shortages and the retirement of the Child Nutrition Services Director, we were only able to offer lunch through the duration of summer school, which ended in early July. (In previous summers, we

were able to extend lunch service for a few weeks into July.) Next summer we should be able to continue to offer lunch due to an established relationship with Sierra Sands Unified School District, and we hope to have a longer lunch period. This summer, we had a classic LEGO set giveaway for Lunch at the Library attendees and people could enter every time they attended. The winner was a little girl who attended lunch regularly with her grandma but only entered the drawing one time!

As our final big performance for the summer and our Finale: Cool Down with La Michoacana (both thanks to you!) have happened, it feels like we are reaching the light at the end of the tunnel. It has been a summer of adjustment back into what feels like a pre-Covid existence. The branch has been busier than ever with regulars along with the added lunch crowds, programming crowds, and performance crowds. We know that all good things must come to an end, and the last day to pick up finisher bags and choose a free book is Thursday, August 11. The bonus finisher drawings were generously sponsored by the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library, with the most popular choice being Ridgecrest Cinemas! We will try to get a few prize donations, but we will be awarding 89 bonus finishers who have read or listened to at least one additional set of requirements. Last summer we awarded 70.

We will again create Veteran Care Kits based on how many books and hours are read or listened to, with the kits being offered to veterans at the Veterans Stand Down in the fall. Kit items will include portable snacks, a bottle of water and drink mix, a notepad with pen, hand sanitizer, and a packet of tissue.

Looking to the future, we will try to continue with monthly tween and teen programming as long as interest exists and we are also excited to offer adult craft programs starting in August based on feedback from a survey and interested volunteers to facilitate. Craft and Chat for adults will be on the second Mon and fourth Tue of the month (8/8 and 8/23) at 11 am. Bring a craft project that you're working on and there will likely be discussion about putting in a regular time and day for an actual adult craft of some kind. We have some exciting new programs and big purchase requests coming up and as always, we greatly appreciate your continued support to make our library branch an important part of our community.

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:

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. Also, I want to remind you that our Board approved the change in membership rates. Individual rates have returned to \$5 and family rates to \$10. Other rates remain the same.

Arcilia Carter

Cheryl Hoyt

Karen & Mike Sanford

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):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining - \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring - \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

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
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!

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Ridgecrest, CA
 Permit #77

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