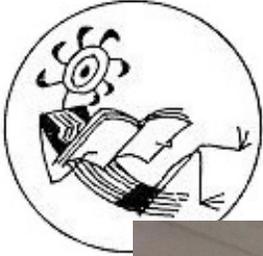


# Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



**Wonderful day at our storage building; people hunting for treasures!**

## *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 February 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](http://www.kerncountylibrary.org)

A Proud Partner of **United Way**  
Giving Locally, Helping Locally

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**Branch Supervisor**  
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar  
February 16, March 16,  
April 20, 2022  
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

It took me a long time to put my finger on what made me uncomfortable about my career. One night recently I realized the wonderful technical efficiencies I created in most instances put people out of jobs.

Then, I realized, to some degree I am still doing it. If 5 people working two hours a week can get more new members and more sales of donated books per year (as happened in 2021) than twenty people working 5 hours a week, etc.

So, here I am, replacing people's minds and hands with barcode scanners and efficient processes, once again.

But I look in the eyes of people donating books and I want those books to be sold so those folks can honestly say they paid for a part of a new piece of furniture, equipment, some supplies or books for the library.

And I look in the eyes of our members, and I KNOW the way you were operating before the pandemic, and before the earthquakes was magical and that what you did was good, very good and I ONLY ever honor the past in positioning to preserve the organization for new times.

Most Friends groups like ours have disbanded in the past few years. After all our members have done, I want to make sure we survive right into the metaverse.

It's a big change, I know, but we need to use these digital world means to preserve our "meat world" brick and mortar library which we all know in our heart of hearts needs to be there in the 21st Century, 22nd Century and beyond. And it will be. Humanity will always want library buildings. But library charities will not always need the foreman/sweatshop model.

Yes, change can be wounding, and I've hurt people every time I brought change into a business or organization, but I look at it as an opportunity to make things friendlier, easier, and less painful in the long term. And to preserve old ways into new times. And to succeed more than before. And to thrive.

I don't have a good transition to the next thought so let's just call it a signoff, and I know how hokey this sounds, but what we need and what everyone really needs in these tragic times, is kindness.

I hope more than anything in 2022, overriding everything else, that our public presence can please be one of kindness.

 **Librarian's Corner** 

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Welcome to 2022! The first month of the year seems to have flown by quickly. We remain grateful to our supportive community and look forward to an amazing year of possibilities. 2021 ended for library staff with another Winter Recess break, which was very nice for me and I was able to do lots of reading between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day!

The 1000 Books Before Kindergarten project is off to a good start after only a couple of months. We have some sign ups and some children have collected the special pins for the first 100 books. We have also had several children select their pins for reaching the 200 and even 300 books milestone! Library staff continue to get the word out and let people know the importance of reading to preschoolers, toddlers, and babies. Library cards and library books are not required and reading the same book over and over counts every time!

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.

January saw the opening of some branches that have been closed since March 2020 and expanded days/hours for a few, already opened branches. Our regional supervisors are working towards hiring enough staff to open all remaining Kern County Library branches this year. Our website ([kernlibrary.org](http://kernlibrary.org)) has a listing of all open branches along with the days and hours they are open.

New programs that started or returned in January include:

- **Book A Book:** available through the ValleyCat app (with a web browser option) to arrange curbside service like grocery store pick up. Try it out today!
- **Zip Books:** returned with funding through June 30, 2022 or until it runs out, whichever happens sooner. Zip Books allows people to request a print book not available at an open Kern County Library branch to be sent for free to their house through Amazon. Once they finish with the book, they simply return it to the library branch. Details and the request form can be found at <https://www.kerncountylibrary.org/zipbooks/>.
- **Winter Olympics Reading Challenge:** paper-based reading challenge themed to some Winter Olympics events. For instance, to "complete" the figure skating event, read or listen to a book with a beautiful or elegant cover. This challenge runs through 2/28/22 with prizes for picture book, kids chapter book, YA, and adult participants. *[continued on page 4]*

• **Wildflower Grant:** The Kern County Library system received a grant to provide wildflower seeds and programming themed around wildflowers, gardening, and pollinators this spring and summer. If you would like to contribute, please contact me.

As we head into Spring, we are hoping for a few steps towards normalcy. We will continue with the In-N-Out Cover to Cover Reading Club for kids age 4-12 in March and April.

Also in March, we will attempt to “read across America” for a second time by asking people to let us know which U.S. states are featured in the books they are reading or listening to. We were close last year and I’m convinced that one of these years we will manage to cover all 50 states!

Planning is underway for the Summer Reading Challenge, themed "Read Off the Beaten Path" this summer. Again this summer, we will have all age participants choose to read or listen to 10 books or for 10 hours. I hope to see YOUR name on the finisher list this summer, even if you don’t want to be eligible for any prizes. (We can always use the finisher numbers!)

Our summer programming will center around themed “camps” which include: Nature, Animals, Spy, Reptile, Space, and Dinosaurs. We hope to include some performances and presenters on topics like geocaching, wilderness, reptiles, and more. If you have any programming, partner, or donor suggestions, feel free to contact me.

We are thrilled to offer Lunch at the Library again, but the format (indoors or drive through) has not yet been determined.

### **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:

Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20, 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

As we begin 2022, we would like to acknowledge the very generous members who contributed \$50 (Sponsor level) or more as they renewed their membership during 2021.

Margaret Anderson

Mary Atkinson

Elizabeth Babcock

Donald Baldwin

Frank Buffum

Richard Carmer

John Clark

Robert Collins

Leroy Corlett

Ike Fujiwara

Martha Garant

Rob & Julie Gervais

Susan Hennigan

Savannah Hinzo

Sharon Juarez

Shirley Kidner

Denise Kight

Kathryn Killinger

Linda Minshew

Merritt & Yasuko Mullen

Tom & Janet Mulvihill

Nguyen, Dim-Son

Naomi Norris

Brent Palmer

Kenneth Pritchard

Linda Rolfs

Victoria Schauf

Paul Dawson

Bob Kirchmeier

Paul &amp; Sharon Smith

Dolores DiPol

Mary &amp; Daniel Kus

Don Snyder

Rod &amp; Judy Ditzler

Elaine Miller

Don &amp; Bartie Stapleton

K A Donohue

Ann Lenz

Williams, Eric &amp; Tracy

Catherine Douglas

Penny Lepome

Eric Laskey

Judy Fair-Spaulling

Barbara Lupei

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 - \$10 Family - \$15 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 Ongoing Magazine 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**  
**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!

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