

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library

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



Fall Semi-Annual Sale October 12th, 2019

By Brian Wall, Vice-President, Book Sales

The Friends of the Ridgecrest Library held its Fall Semi-Annual sale this year, on October 12th from 9am – 3pm, at the Ridgecrest Branch Library. The sale took place within the Library salesroom, as well as the adjacent outdoor area on the west library lawn. It was a beautiful, calm weather day for the event. Revenue from the book sale totaled \$1230.12.

The numerous volunteers made this year's sale a success due to their involvement with operating outside of their usual indoor facility (The old Annex). Also the flexibility and assistance extended by the many "temporary" helpers that helped over the two day set up and breakdown of the sale was tremendous. Preparations included temporary sorting/pricing within donated space at room at The Swap Sheet, processing and prepping stored items in Sea containers behind "old" Annex, and transporting sale items to and from the Library by U-Haul/help from volunteer POV's. The efforts to move tables and sale items into place quickly and efficiently were a singular accomplishment. Some sale items had to be retrieved from inside the "old" Sears building that is currently helping to serve as a storage area for The Friends of the Library. Pre staging ahead of time was a significant time saver. The collaboration to put together a layout and approach was huge, especially due to our time constraints.

Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization affiliated with the Friends of Kern County Library since 1986. Visit the County Library web site at www.kerncountylibrary.org

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Branch Supervisor
Charissa Wagner

Board Meeting Calendar

November 20, 2019
January 15, 2020
February 19, 2020
No meetings in June, July, or December

Meetings are held in the Library's Community Room at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. **YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!** Use the Community Room entrance on the west side of the Library

Library Hours

Mon. Closed
Tues. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Wed. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sun. Closed
Phone: (760) 384-5870

Among the many who assisted along the way in collaborating and providing support were the Friends of the Library president Brent Clark Palmer, the Friends of the Library Board, Friends of the Library Volunteer preparers, Sale Day Event Volunteers, Event Cashiers, the Sea Cadets, and local community residents.

The event was greatly supported by the following Ridgecrest businesses: The Ridgecrest Public Library (use of property facilities), Bertrand Enterprises (donation of Sea Containers), The Swap Sheet (work space use), The School District Office (provided of access to secured storage area), Home Depot (donation of Canopy), and American Dream Auto Sales (discounted U-Haul truck rental rate).

Volunteer work is so important and it was wonderful to see so many step up for this event and contribute their time, energy, and enthusiasm.

President's Message November 2019

by Brent Clark Palmer

Sometimes something can be in black and white. It can look like the outcome is 100% assured; and not just an assured outcome, an already done deal.

Such was the case with the will for the estate for Elizabeth "Elise" Starr, sister to our former treasurer, John Starr.

I refused to believe when I read to whom she had left money, that she would not have included us. I'm going to tell you guys though that, in the beginning, absolutely no one I consulted with agreed with my assessment.

But having grown up hearing my grandfather and uncles talk shop as attorneys, I knew that our legal system exists if for no other reason, to make things as they obviously are into their opposite.

And so I recruited a law firm to represent us pro bono and we began the attempt to get the folks to whom the check was going to sign it over to us instead. The check was going to be written to the County of Kern Business Office in Bakersfield. I was certain the Starrs intended the money to go to our charity, where our local library would control the disposition of the funds. Additionally, I was certain they would want the money to go to a charitable organization and not to a government organization.

After five months of rounds, and building our case, and largely thanks to former President Dave Burdick and also our great longtime supporter Robert Alan Shaw, who were both around during the Starr years, and their testimonials and evidence, everyone agreed the money was indeed intended for us! The check came this week for \$29,792.77. We will be able to save and gain interest on these funds until they are needed -- another reason for us to have fought to have them.

I know there isn't always a moral to the story, but I want us to have one anyway. The moral is that sometimes when you fight for what is fair, you win, even if everything and everyone insists the opposite of what you want is true. A legal struggle can reveal the truth. And not everything we do through attorneys is as awful as typically portrayed. But whether through attorneys or not, we should
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always have hope in fair outcomes, but more important than hope, we should always be willing to fight for fair outcomes.

In my small way, in this small role, I am fighting for what is fair for libraries and library charities. Our library staff are on the front lines of social problems such as homelessness, elder care, drug addiction, mental health issues, and caring for veterans. My hope is that soon people everywhere begin to acknowledge that library staff should be included whenever first responders are mentioned.

Because of our wonderful staff, the Ridgecrest Branch Library is on the cutting edge of becoming more and more of a hub for social service guidance as more and more folks in need are showing up at our door. We want our friends in the community who provide social services to feel free to arrange to have office hours here moving forward. I don't want our library staff to have this on their shoulders alone.

With your membership, and by your volunteer work and your legacy, you are helping our local library to have the resources it needs to fight this good fight. May our outcomes in our community in every way be the opposite of our fears and always be the fulfillment of our hopes.

—Ed. note: Remember to specify “Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library” on any legal documents to make sure your legacy requests are clearly understood.

Annual Meeting Announcement

The November Board Meeting is also the Annual Membership Meeting. Election of Board Members is held during this meeting. All members are invited to attend, November 20, at 10:00AM in the Meeting/Sales Room of the Library. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please email or call any of the Board members listed on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Librarian's Corner

Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

Many thanks to those who participated in our Summer Reading Challenge as a reader, listener, volunteer, or sponsor. Our branch had 78 early learners (babies through 4 years old), 125 children, 43 tweens, 33 teens, and 150 adults finish! We are incredibly grateful for generous donations from Casa Corona, City of Ridgecrest Parks and Recreation Department, Classic Burgers, Ephen Tacos, Friends of the Kern County Library, Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library, Indian Wells Brewing Company, Infinite Movement Academy, Jack in the Box, Maturango Museum, McDonalds of Ridgecrest, Pita Fresh, Pizza Factory, and Ridgecrest Cinemas. We also appreciate Infinite Movement Academy (soft obstacle course), Ridgecrest Police Department's K-9 and Traffic units, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital Community Outreach (Smoothie Challenge), Roaming Reader Ana Lester, Roaming Reader Erin Zobell, and Waste Management for their time.

We had another successful Lunch at the Library, with a full 8 week schedule (last summer was 6 weeks) AND the only day we missed was July 4! On July 5, we had Lunch at the Library despite being closed because we already had the lunch items. We served an average of 55 children per day, slightly higher than 2018. We also piloted Summer Lunch in Inyokern during their Summer Reading Challenge (once a week) but the earthquakes appeared to have impacted the turnout. I have confirmed that SSUSD is willing to serve lunch in BOTH locations during summer 2020!

For the second year, the Kern County Library offered amnesty. Borrowers could return lost or damaged items, kids/teens could read, and adults could donate a “library item” from a suggested list to have fines waived on qualified accounts. It was popular last summer and this year we had Amnesty August. Approximately \$31,000 in fines were waived and 349 items were returned for Kern County Library. For our branch, approximately \$2,100 in fines were waived and 36 items were returned. Our waived fines ranged from \$.50 to \$209.

We partnered with the Desert Empire Fairgrounds and asked kids and teens to “Read Your Way to the Desert Empire Fair” for a free fair entry for finishing books or reading 20 minutes a day for 20 days. We gave out 83 tickets!

We were awarded two veteran-related grants. Community Conversations with Veterans (CCWV), through the CA Center for the Book and Veterans Connect @ the Library AND a Veterans Resource Center (VRC), through Veterans Connect @ the Library and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. CCWV provides about 60 related books and funding for two veteran-centered events between January and June 2020. Veterans Connect @ the Library provides material of interest and relevance to veterans and will transform a space into a VRC for volunteers to connect veterans with info about benefits and resources.

Due to the great success of our Summer Reading Challenge (and since we pay for the Beanstack software), we are having our first county-wide Winter Reading Challenge for ALL AGES from November 1 through January 31! Requirements to be a finisher are the same as for the Summer Reading Challenge. Our branch will be offering a small prize choice to all finishers.

The census is coming! We will have a computer kiosk for people to provide their info and will offer monthly programming related to family history, genealogy, and local history. We want a special display in our display case of branch history or general local history (or both depending on the display case schedule), so if you have items or photos to lend, please let me know.

The library still has lots to offer for all ages! From Baby Bounce to LEGO Build It to Pokemon Trading Card Game to Fandom Fun to Great Decisions (foreign policy discussion), China Lake Toastmasters, Composting/Gardening Club, and the Piece by Piece community puzzle, there really is something for everyone. Check out our Facebook page (search “Ridgecrest Branch Library”), the library website (narrow it down to the Ridgecrest Branch only), or come in and get a printed events brochure.

Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Memberships

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our library support group. They have joined us since August of 2019.

Linda Bement

Kathryn Killinger

Kris Siebenthal

Trisha Taulbee

Pat Boyd

William Said

James Simmons

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 quickly route it to us.**

Community Yard Sale, September 21, 2019

The Friends of the Library Volunteers had a booth this year. Many thanks to the helpers that came in on Friday: Sharon Smith, Kathy Donahue, Barbara Roberts, and Craig Stump. Set-up took about 3 hours. Also, Teresa Lloyd (Independent seller with booth of her own) was instrumental in helping us get two adjacent booths (total size of new area was 10ft X 20ft). This provided a space for four tables with adequate space to walk around all sides. We were not charged this year for either space. Revenue from the Community Yard sale totaled \$117.10.

The process of staging Friday involved a combination of books brought directly from the Sea Containers behind our Old Annex and a collection that had been sorted/priced ahead of time at the Ridgecrest Library. Dart took the books culled from the books that remained at the end.

The sale booths were attended by Janice Norcross, Sally Frankin, Flo Eichenberg, Barbara Roberts, Peggy Johnson, Sharon Smith, and Kathy Donahue. Thanks to them, we were able to greet yard sale attendees and distribute our upcoming Semi-Annual Sale flyers (thanks to Barbara Lupei for creating on short notice and to Charissa Wagner for printing and cutting them).

All the volunteers extended themselves beyond the norm and their help provided in making the day an excellent, successful one. (*Brian Wall, Vice-President, Book Sales*)

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 - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$15 | <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):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Book Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Book Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Book Sale in the Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Magazine Sale in the Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Answering E-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pricing Books for Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Board Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Newsletter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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
 Heritage Montessori School
 KP PRODUCTIONS Graphics/Banners/Signs
 Literacy Council of IWV, Inc.
 McDonald's of Ridgecrest
 Nancy George Estate
 PackWrap
 Pizza Factory

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

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

BOOK STORE HOURS

MONDAY – CLOSED
 TUESDAY – 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY – 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 THURSDAY – 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 FRIDAY – CLOSED
 SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
 SUNDAY – CLOSED



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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