

# Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library



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



## **MICHAEL ALBERT POP ART EXPERIENCE! DIRECT FROM NEW YORK!**

Michael on the left in the top picture! Ridgecrest Branch Library was his first stop in California! This event was paid for by the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library!

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**

August 21, 2024  
September 18, 2024  
October 16, 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 10am-7pm  
Friday 10am-6pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Curbside service still available

**Phone:** (760)

384-5870

# President's Message August 2024

**MOVIE FUND RAISER** – On July 20th, the Friends sponsored a Saturday morning at the movies fund raiser event. We sold over 100 tickets to Despicable Me 4 and generated in excess of \$700 to help the library. We thank Julie Gervais and Nani Banks for making this happen and we thank Ridgecrest Cinemas for generously allowing us to keep all ticket revenues plus a percentage of their concession stand sales.

**TOTALLY TABLES FUNDRAISER** – The Friends were selected by the Rotary Club of China Lake as their non-profit organization to support at this year's event, Totally Tables to be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Springhill Suites Conference Center. This event features a yummy catered dinner, an auction of 10 special items and a 50/50 drawing. Tables are encouraged to select a theme and decorate their table accordingly. Price is \$85.00 per person, of which \$50.00 is a tax deductible donation. If you are interested in buying a table for eight, please contact Betty Miller at 760-382-8295. If you want a seat or two at the Friend's table, please let me know at 760-608-3452.

**BOOK FACILITY** -- We continue to search for an affordable facility that meets our requirements. Board Member John Freeman and I recently met with Cody Criswell, assistant to Kern County Supervisor for District 1 Phillip Peters, to request their assistance in finding a new facility. We continue to pursue a great possibility that would meet our requirement for a storefront in which we can sort, display and sell books. We hope to gain access to this space by the end of the year and begin selling books on a weekly basis. This would allow us to resume accepting limited book donations. We also continue to search for an affordable storage space. Again, if any of you are aware of possible facilities, please let us know.

**ONLINE BOOK SALES** – To supplement our local book sales, we are investigating multiple options to sell books online. This approach offers several advantages – a much broader buyer pool, 365 days a year to sell, and an alternative outlet in case we cannot find a suitable storefront. We have had discussions with candidate book vendors and plan to finalize our approach at our August Board meeting.

**DONATIONS** -- As you know, most of the funds that we use to support the library come from book sales and donations. Starting with the last newsletter, we added a new section honoring major donors. Hopefully, this section will remind us all to make a donation to the Friends. By the way, if you wish to donate now, please send a check or log onto our website ([Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library](http://Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library) [ridgecrestfriends.org](http://ridgecrestfriends.org)) to donate via credit card, debit card or bank transfer.

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES** – With assistance from volunteer Gary Arnold, we installed a LFL in Pearson Park. Board member Nancy Saxton will serve as steward for this LFL, which was relocated from Inyokern. The previously vandalized LFL located near the DART Thrift Store on Gold Canyon has been repaired and restocked with books. If anyone is interested in helping to repair and *[continued on page 3]*

maintain LFLs, please let me know at [ridgecrestlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:ridgecrestlibraryfriends@gmail.com).

Your Board and I thank you for your continuing support of the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library. Please let us know of any suggestions you might have regarding how we may better serve our members and the Library. Kern County Libraries continue to be woefully underfunded at a level that is less than 20% of the median funding in California. That is why the support provided by the Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library is so vital.



Charissa Wagner, Branch Supervisor

An incredibly busy summer at the Ridgecrest Branch Library is coming to a close soon, along with our Summer Reading Challenge (official end date of 7/31 but we will let people pick up finisher bags and choose finisher books until the end of the day on Saturday, August 10). See the next newsletter article for a complete recap of the Summer Reading Challenge!

We hope YOU have been logging books read or listened to so we can add them to our finisher numbers. (If not this summer, we hope you can help us next summer.) We want to briefly mention the following generous sponsors who have donated Summer Reading Challenge prizes or funds for prizes: **Conveying Awareness with Jessica David, Ridgecrest Lions Club, Ridgecrest Pizza Factory, Ridgecrest Toys for Tots, Ridgecrest United Methodist Church, Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation, and Schu Fu Martial Arts Dojo #119.**

LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY returned for part of the summer, thanks to our food partner Sierra Sands Unified School District (since 2018). Lunch was offered at no cost to ALL children 18 and under from 6/6-7/12. This summer, we served 1,672 lunches to children in 20 days. Every Friday, we had princesses from Sierra Academy of Dance read to families and offer children tattoos or stickers. We had other visitors during Lunch at the Library including Waste Management with a recycling truck, CERT, RidgeWriters, Children's Burn Foundation, Liberty Ambulance with hands only CPR, Ridgecrest Fire Department Station 84, Navy Federal Credit Union, and PACT Child ID. Thanks to a generous Lunch at the Library grant, we were able to offer all children a book to build their home library EVERY DAY THAT WE SERVED LUNCH! We also received some prize donations for a weekly attendance drawing along with larger prizes (from Ridgecrest Toys for Tots) for both attending and for filling out a survey. *[pictures on page 4]*

We have a collection box for plastic bags and plastic wrap through mid-Feb 2025 to help the Ridgecrest Lions Club collect 1,000 lbs. of plastic to place a bench near the veterans memorial park at the Sgt. John Pinney Pool Complex. Drop off CLEAN plastic bags and overwrap any time the library is open (Tue-Thu 10 am to 7 pm, Fri 10 am to 6 pm, and Sat 10 am to 4 pm). Save your grocery bags, produce bags, newspaper bags, plastic overwrap on cases of bottled water/paper towels/toilet paper, shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, air pillows, and bread/tortilla bags (please empty crumbs first). To see what is (and is not) accepted, visit <https://nextrex.com/view/educate> for more info.

You might have noticed that some other library branches are closed (or will be closing soon) temporarily for their infrastructure grant updates. We have not received any updates on when it will be our turn or all of the specific projects that we will have done to improve our branch, so stay tuned for updates.

We remain grateful for the ongoing support of our Friends of the Ridgecrest Branch Library members that allow us to offer such a wide variety of programs for all ages!



**Expanded hours!**  
Tue-Thu 10 am to 7 pm  
Fri 10 am to 6 pm  
Sat 10 am to 4 pm


# Membership News

By Carol Pearson, Vice President-Membership

We have revised our membership structure to save bulk mail costs for our newsletter. Please see the new form below for details. Where possible, we will send you our newsletters via email. For those who do not have an email address or prefer the mailed paper version, we are requesting an additional \$10 in the Individual and Family categories. If you have an email address that you did not submit on your membership application, please email it to me at [capears66@iwvisp.com](mailto:capears66@iwvisp.com) If you have questions about this you can also phone me at 760-375-7258.

For members who receive our printed newsletter via USPS your renewal date should appear on your mailing address. I will send renewal notices via postcard or email to remind you but it helps a lot when you notice it and respond. **When you do renew, please address it to our library and include “Friends” on your envelope address so library staff can quickly route it to us.** For email newsletter members I will email you a notice re renewing. You may also renew your membership on our website:

<https://www.ridgecrestfriends.org/>

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</h2>		
PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY		<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Date:		
<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"/> ___		
Organization/Business Name:		
Mailing Address: _____		
Email:	Phone:	
<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"/> Ongoing Book/Magazine Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Online Book Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Sort Books for Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Writing for the Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Answering Email <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know yet – please contact me!

**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:**

**\$10,000 + (Lifetime)**

Anonymous  
 Elizabeth Starr Estate  
 Nancy George Estate  
 Sierra Sands School District\*\*

**\$5,000-\$9,999 (Over 5 years)**

Mary & Dan Kus  
 United Way of IWV\*\*

**\$1,000-\$4,999 (Over 5 years)**

Barbara Lupei  
 Deborah Buffum  
 Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Fair\*\*  
 Jerry & Sandy Bradley  
 Kern Recovers Nonprofit Grant Covid\*\*  
 Peck Family Foundation  
 Pizza Factory \*\*  
 Richard Carmer  
 Ridgecrest Cinemas \*\*  
 Roadrunner Ridge Community Foundation\*\*  
 WACOM\*\*

**\$250-\$990 (Over 5 years)**

Alta One\*\*  
 Ann Lenz  
 Barbara Bane  
 Bob Kirchmeier  
 Cathy Douglas  
 Charles & Clarice Moody  
 Dr. Schauf  
 Elaine Miller  
 Ike Fujiwara

James & Tamara Tucker  
 Jean Wu  
 Judy Fair-Spauling  
 Karen Haden  
 Kathy Donahue  
 Kathy Killinger  
 Ken & Nani Banks  
 Kenneth Pritchard  
 Libby Vincent  
 Linda Anderson  
 Linda Minshew  
 Linda Rolfs  
 Lindgren & Heydlauff  
 Liz Babcock  
 Mary Atkinson  
 McDonald's\*\*  
 Naomi Norris  
 Nguyen & Laskey  
 Pearson's Recycling\*\*  
 Peggy Johnson  
 Ridgewriters\*\*  
 Rob and Julie Gervais  
 Robert Collins  
 Rod & Judy Ditzler  
 Sharon Juarez  
 T.J. Frisbee Bicycles\*\*  
 Vincent Avalos (Edward Jones)\*\*

\*\*Organization

**NOTE: If you see an error on this list, please contact our treasurer at (760) 371-2583 so we can make corrections before the next newsletter.**



**2024 Pizza Factory fundraiser.**

The fundraiser is every third Wednesday of the month:

August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18!

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