

## ...and then, they came for Public Libraries



In March of 2025, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) placed its entire staff on administrative leave. This followed an executive order from the president shrinking the already small federal agency (about 70 employees) tasked with awarding grant funding to museums

and libraries across the United States. What does this mean for libraries in Oregon, and for your library in particular? The answer is complicated and situationally dependent, but there is good news and bad news.

### First, the bad...

The Oregon State Library, which provides services that impact all libraries in Oregon, has 12 staff positions paid with funds distributed through IMLS. These positions will be funded through June of 2026, but beyond that there is uncertainty. If you've ever used Answerland (24/7 reference,) Northwest Digital Heritage (historical photos, documents, and archives,) Oregon School Library Information System, or the many Gale databases available through most libraries in the state, you've been helped by IMLS funds. If you have a student who participated in the Oregon Battle of the Books, you've been supported by IMLS funds. Libraries are funded in a variety of ways, and grant support at the federal level has long been a part of this complex puzzle.

A library is more than a structure filled with books. Little Free Libraries, those ubiquitous birdhouse-sized collections, are a fun way to share books with neighbors. But they are no more a library than a bucket of water is a fire station. Libraries are people. Libraries are services. Libraries are ideas, missions, and spaces.

### Now, the good...

Fern Ridge Library District is fortunate to have that last word in its name. As a District, our funds are fully dedicated to library services. We do not share a pot of money with city services like police, fire, and recreation. This means we can budget more directly and effectively as we move into an uncertain future. But as with all

things, that money can only take us so far. New homes and businesses provide the district with increased funding, but this funding does not keep pace with the costs of running a library.

How can you help? If you've received this newsletter, you're probably already someone who supports your library. But there is always more you can do. You can contact your members of Congress to express support for all library services. You can donate money to Fern Ridge Library Foundation. You can donate time by volunteering at your library.

Even making sure that your library card is active shows support. Check out material. Often. We're not your high school teachers...if you don't finish the books you borrow (or start them, for that matter) we're not going to call you on it. Want to judge a book by its cover? Go for it! Want to read the first and last chapter of a mystery just to see if you can guess the ending? Awesome! Just as we'll never tell you what to read, we'll never tell you how to read it. Or listen to it or watch it. We just want to make sure you CAN do all those things if you want. We're cool like that.

## FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR 2025-26

**Goal: \$20,000** There are **two** projects this year—one inside the library and the other outside.

- 1) The goal is to replace the drop box located outside the entry to keep library materials dry and safe.
- 2) FINALLY, with the replacement of entry doors coming this fall, we will soon add two study rooms inside the library. Our fundraising dollars will provide the furniture and technology to make these useable for anyone who needs to study or use a quiet space.

### How to help?

- Give online at [www.frlfoundation.org/give](http://www.frlfoundation.org/give)
- Mail check payable to Fern Ridge Library Foundation
- Transfer IRA or retirement funds directly

The Fern Ridge Library Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization under the IRS Code 501 (c) 3. Tax ID # 93-1198874. E-mail: [info@frlfoundation.org](mailto:info@frlfoundation.org)



## President's Message

*In prior newsletter columns, I have outlined ways in which the Fern Ridge Library has been able to change, adapt, and add new services in response to outside forces.*

*Climate change, the pandemic, changes in the political landscape, and the digital revolution and internet, of course, are among those forces.*

*Perhaps the most significant challenges have come with the digital world. Over the years, the library has responded by providing multiple computer workstations for public use, then Wifi access, digital media such as DVDs, and more recently, tablets and Wifi hotspots that can be checked out as one would a book. We can only speculate about where Artificial Intelligence will take us in the future and in which ways the library will need to respond.*

*However, the most important asset the library has is the space itself—for some a place to access information, for others*

*a quiet haven in which to read a good book or magazine. But group activities are also provided with the Konnie Room and the conference room being available for events and meetings as well as the display of artwork.*

*The Library will soon be adding two new smaller meeting rooms for use by the public. Large enough for two to four people, they will be used for small meetings, Zoom calls, and tutoring/teaching while not disturbing other library patrons. These rooms, however, will not require expanding the Library's square footage. They will be created by what one might call "inspanding"—they will be constructed inside the Library's largest room, increasing the variety of space needs the library can offer its patrons.*

*Look for construction to begin in the fall and be completed next year. This "inspansion" will be the next example of the Fern Ridge Library's ongoing effort to stay relevant and adapt to the changing needs of the community.*

David Floyd, M.D. | President, Fern Ridge Library Foundation | doctafloyd@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

# Thank you!

THE FERN RIDGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION THANKS OUR **2024-25 COMMUNITY PARTNER MEMBERS** FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FERN RIDGE LIBRARY.

New and renewing Community Partner businesses and organizations convey a strong message of support for the Fern Ridge Library. Each year, loyal donors renew their support and new ones join the ranks of the Community Partner program. Thank you!

Welcome to the newest members, Timber Products and Orchid Health Fern Ridge Clinic. Orchid Health Fern Ridge Clinic serves health care needs of our region and the free health care to students and adolescents in the Fern Ridge School District. Jonny Cantrell, Sr. Marketing Director for Orchid Health shared their reason for giving, "Orchid Health is proud to support the Fern Ridge Library Foundation, driven by our shared commitment to fostering community health and wellness."

Olivia Gannon from Timber Products wrote to us and said they received our donation request in the mail and wanted to sign up. Olivia said, "The TP Charitable Giving committee was very excited to "adopt a shelf" inside the library with their gift." All Community Partner donors with gifts of \$150 and above receive a shelf tag in the library. Timber Products adopted 4 tags!



Visit [www.frlfoundation.org/join](http://www.frlfoundation.org/join) to learn more about our contributors and the Community Partner program. Thank you!

# Writers & Wine

*A Literary Event and Fundraiser for the Fern Ridge Library*



Featured author **Miriam Gershow** is a novelist, flash fiction and short story writer. An Oregon Book Award finalist, Gershow will share her newest book at the 2025 Writers & Wine event for the Fern Ridge Library on Sunday, October 19 from 3:30-6:00 p.m.

Her latest work, *Closer*, published by Regal House, takes place in a fictional Oregon town. An altercation in a high school library creates unexpected and cascading consequences for a handful of students, faculty, and families across a community. Released in June 2025, author David Bradley reviews the book and shares these insights, "In her powerful prose vignettes that read like poems,



Gershow rounds up the usual suspects—race, gender, generation, religion, income, disability, sexuality—but gives voice and perspective to characters who insist on being human—often maddeningly so." We welcome Gershow to our library and look forward to her story telling. She says "I see readings as the public celebration after the long, lone process of writing. I love sharing the work."

Initiated in 2012, this is the 13th year that Writers & Wine has been sponsored by the Fern Ridge Library Foundation. Writers & Wine is a fundraising event for the library and features a regional winery and a Northwest author, with a newly—released book. Held at the Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Hwy in Veneta, Writers & Wine will host Miriam Gershow and a reading from her book, wine from Sarver Winery, and catering by Broadway Grill. Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and join us!



Admission to the library's 2025 event includes remarks and a reading by our author, appetizers and dessert, a copy of the book, and a free glass of wine or other beverage of your choice. One raffle ticket will be entered in your name for the "Getaway" raffle. Admission is \$65 per person, \$100 per couple. Tickets are available online at [www.frlfoundation.org/events](http://www.frlfoundation.org/events) and at the Fern Ridge Library.

If you can't join us, be there in spirit. The Writers & Wine gift bag purchase costs \$60 and includes the book and a bottle of red or white wine of your choice. Pick up at the

library after October 20.

Raffle ticket purchases may be made independently from event tickets. The "Getaway" raffle costs \$10 each and is a \$400 gift certificate to Overleaf Lodge and Spa in Yachats. The Fun Prize raffles are a collection of delightful gifts and prizes and cost \$5 each.

Raffle prizes will be drawn and winners announced at the event. You do not need to be present to win raffle prizes. Additional raffle tickets may be purchased online, at the library, or at the event. Visit the website at [www.frlfoundation.org/events](http://www.frlfoundation.org/events) to purchase online using credit card. Library sales may be made by check or cash for all ticket purchases.

## Writers & Wine 2025

Join us for a fun afternoon and celebration of the literary arts with a reading by award-winning author Miriam Gershow, your copy of her newly-released book, wine from Sarver Winery, catering by Broadway Grill, and raffle prize drawings.

**Sunday, October 19, 3:30–6:00 p.m.**

Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Hwy, Veneta

**W&W tickets:** \$65 per person; \$100 per couple (one book per couple). Includes one ticket entered into the Getaway raffle.

**Getaway Raffle:** \$400 gift certificate to the popular Overleaf Lodge in Yachats, Oregon. Tickets \$10 each



**Fun Prize Raffles:** A collection of delightful prizes and gifts in 10 unique baskets. Raffle prizes include tickets to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, gift certificates, and prizes from local shops, wineries, restaurants, and artists. Tickets \$5 each.

**Gift Bag:** If you can't join us, don't miss out. A \$60 purchase will win you a copy of Gershow's book and a bottle of red or white wine of your choice. Pick up at the library after Oct. 20.

Tickets for the event, raffles, and the gift bag are on sale online for card purchase at [www.frlfoundation.org/events](http://www.frlfoundation.org/events). Tickets may be purchased by check or cash at the Fern Ridge Library. For questions, contact [info@frlfoundation.org](mailto:info@frlfoundation.org).

## Thank you Sponsors!



DAVID FLOYD  
& BETS COLE

Many thanks to Champion Technologies, Lane Forest Products, Swanson Brothers Lumber Co., Territorial Vineyards and Wine Co., and David Floyd and Bets Cole, for their support.



“Thankfully, the current staff is just as capable, eager, and patient as the staff I have out-worked.”

# Community Passages



*By Colin Rea, Library Director*

I've been the Director of Fern Ridge Library now since the fall of 2007. That's (checks calendar) 18 years. EIGHTEEN YEARS! I'm really not sure how that happened, because it sure doesn't feel close to two decades since I became part of the Fern Ridge community.

I've seen a lot, though. I've watched Fern Ridge grow. I've watched Fern Ridge struggle, succeed, and change. I walk a lot, especially on my lunch break. I try to keep my eyes open both inside the library and outside. I've watched babies become teens (I'm looking at you Sophie,) kids become adults, and adults become, well, older adults. I've also seen a few older adults pass away, and in all this I realize that I've literally spent a generation at the helm of the FRL.

And not just a generation in terms of the patron population, but a generation in terms of the staff at the library. With the retirement of long-time Assistant Director Laura B. in February, I now am the sole remaining staff member from that day in

September when I walked through the front door and poked around the reference section for hours because there was no one to train the new Director.

Thankfully, the current staff is just as capable, eager, and patient as the staff I have out-worked. I even have another Assistant Director named Laura, which is convenient for someone who has been around as long as I and has never had the greatest head for names. Now I just have to refrain from saying 'new Laura' and 'old Laura,' because that gets me into trouble. And trust me, you do not want to be on the receiving end of the side-eye from 'Original Recipe Laura.'

So my tenure at Fern Ridge Library is now old enough to vote, and soon enough will be old enough to buy a decent whisky. While there is no telling what will happen in a day, a week, or a year, I have no plans to leave this fantastic island of books in western Lane County. I look forward to more words, more stories, more programs, and more services to the very fine people of Fern Ridge.

## **FERN RIDGE LIBRARY MISSION AND VISION**

*The MISSION of the Fern Ridge Library District is to inspire, empower, and engage our community through discovery and sharing of information.*

*The VISION of the Fern Ridge Library District is to grow an inclusive physical and virtual space where the services provided are responsive to the needs of our community.*



# A Story of Trees

For nearly nearly two centuries, the Oregon White Oak trees along Territorial Highway anchored the front walk of the Fern Ridge Library. After being diagnosed with advanced age and disease by professional arborists, the oak trees had to come down. Today, just inside the library's entry doors, there is a large round slab from the 192-year-old oak. Donated by Sperry Tree Care, there are significant event dates noted on the slab. Some highlights on the many tree rings include when Veneta was founded and the first moon landing. Take a look closely and admire the passage of time in the life of a tree.

Soon after these trees were gone, changes began as the new courtyard space took shape. Even the wood from the oaks were cut and planed and made into benches to adorn the courtyard space. Now, in 2025, comes more changes for the library and courtyard grounds.

Planted in February 2025, we added two new shade trees. Thanks to Oregon nursery J. Frank Schmidt and Son for the generous donation of our two new 'High Peaks' maple shade trees. The trees were recommended by Prof. Dan Blanchard, Curator of Living Plant Collections at the Oregon State University Campus Arboretum, who also picked up and delivered the trees to Fern Ridge Library from the nursery in Boring, Oregon. Thank you Prof. Blanchard and J. Frank Schmidt and Son for making these additions to our landscape possible.

Soon you will be able to sit in the shade of the maple trees on the wooden bench from the heritage oaks and admire the life of a tree.

*Thanks to Pat Baron for her contribution to this story.*



➤ **FERN RIDGE LIBRARY**  
88026 Territorial Road  
Veneta, OR 97487  
541-935-7512  
[www.fernridgelibrary.org](http://www.fernridgelibrary.org)

➤ **LIBRARY HOURS**  
Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Tuesday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.  
Wednesday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.  
Thursday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m.–7 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sunday CLOSED

➤ **TO MAKE A DONATION OR DISCUSS AN ENDOWMENT GIFT, CONTACT:**

**FERN RIDGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION**  
P.O. Box 397  
Veneta, OR 97487  
541-935-7512  
[www.frlfoundation.org/legacy](http://www.frlfoundation.org/legacy)  
[info@frlfoundation.org](mailto:info@frlfoundation.org)

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# News from the Friends of the Fern Ridge Library

## Who are the Friends of the Fern Ridge Library?

We're an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that's been supporting the Fern Ridge Library for more 30 years. We advocate for our library and raise money through the book sales you know and love. The funds we raise help to fund library programs, purchase materials to supplement the library's collections; and assist the library with visibility and outreach events in the community.

## Everyday Sale Stand and Book Sales

Our most popular and visible activity is our book sales. We typically hold two-day sales in the library twice each year. Our every-day book sale stand, near the library entrance, means patrons can purchase books whenever they visit the library. Donations are accepted of gently used books and media. Visit our website to learn more.

## What Else Do Friends Do?

We share a booth with the library at the Veneta Harvest Festival in September. With the funds raised over the past year, we continued our support of the summer reading program, printing of the library's monthly calendars and purchased extra OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books) books for kids and teens. In addition, we contributed to the project to get new entry doors for the library and contributed to the Library Foundation's endowment fund. We also continued to fund subscriptions to the popular digital graphic novels (Go Comics) and digital magazines.

In other community contributions, we continue to stock the book exchange box at the Applegate Elementary School in Crow and stock the shelves at the Fern Ridge Service Center with large-print books for seniors. We also donated books for kids to the Fern Ridge Family Resource Center, books for kids and teens to the SANTA Project and the Love Project food pantry, audiobooks and puzzles to the Fern Ridge Service Center as well as adult fiction to the Oregon Country Fair.

Information about all Friends' activities is posted in a number of places in the library as well as on the Friends' website at [friendsfernridgelibrary.weebly.com](http://friendsfernridgelibrary.weebly.com) and on social media. You can e-mail us at [friends.fernridgelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friends.fernridgelibrary@gmail.com) and you can become a member of the Friends online. Join us for fun, community, and library advocacy! We LOVE our library!

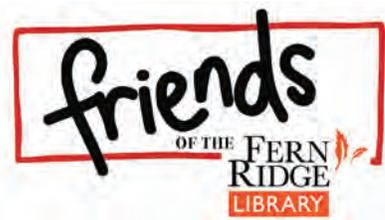
## FRIENDS OF THE FERN RIDGE LIBRARY BOOK SALE!

October 17–18 at the library!

10 a.m.–4 p.m. both days.



*Members of the Friends are admitted at 9:30 a.m. on Friday.*



## Sandra Larson Memorial Scholarships

For the eleventh consecutive year, the Friends awarded scholarships to five local high school seniors, recognizing their outstanding academic achievement and service to the community. The 2025 Sandra Larson Memorial Scholarships of \$750 each were awarded to Lydia Drago, Elias Michel, J.T. Myers, Ananda Puff, and Fernanda Valle-Arvizu. All of these students were active volunteers in the community. Over the past eleven years, we have made more than 40 awards totaling over \$25,000. These scholarships were made possible by donations from generous members of our organization.



**Lydia Drago** will attend Linn-Benton Community College in the first step toward a career in veterinary sciences.



**Elias Michel** plans to pursue a career in nuclear engineering, beginning with studies at Oregon State University.



**J.T. Myers** plans a career in environmental sciences and environmental law and will attend the University of Oregon.



**Ananda Puff** plans to attend Linfield University to pursue a career in nursing with a focus on labor & delivery.



**Fernanda Valle-Arvizu** will attend Carleton College in Minnesota and major in psychology and then pursue a law degree with a focus on social justice.

# Honor Roll of Donors 2024–25

- Annual Fund Donors
- Fern Ridge Library Foundation Endowment Donors



The Fern Ridge Library Foundation acknowledges the generous financial support of these individuals, families, businesses, community organizations, and foundations. Business and organization donors are recognized as members of the Foundation's Community Partner Program for their annual gifts. We express our gratitude to the Equinox Foundation and the Redtail Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation for their generous grants and to our Endowment Fund donors for their gifts. We deeply appreciate the support of our 2024 Writers & Wine sponsors.

Your gifts make it possible for the library to meet the needs of our community. *Thank you!*



## ADOPT-A-SHELF

Honor a family member, a friend, or yourself; or adopt a shelf in memory of a loved one. Show your support for the Fern Ridge Library.

A gift of \$50 or more qualifies you for a permanent shelf tag in the library. A contribution of \$150 or more from business and organization donors is recognized as a Community Partner donor.

Visit [www.frlfoundation.org/give](http://www.frlfoundation.org/give) to make your donation or ask a staff member for a donation card.

**It's your Library—put your name on it!**

### Community Partner Program

#### Leadership Members

(\$500 and above)

- Chambers Construction ♦
- Equinox Foundation ♦ ★
- Friends of the Fern Ridge Library ♦
- Oregon Country Fair ♦
- Redtail Fund-Oregon Community Foundation ♦ ★
- Swanson Brothers Lumber Co. ♦
- Timber Products ♦
- Veneta Dairy Queen ♦

#### Sustaining Members

(\$300–\$499)

- Emerald Secure Storage ♦
- Orchid Health Fern Ridge Clinic ♦
- Veneta Chiropractic Corp. ♦

#### Associate Members

(\$150–\$299)

- Banner Bank ♦
- Champion Technologies ♦
- Dari-Mart Stores ♦
- Green Streak Automotive ♦
- Laughing Stock Farm ♦
- Veterinary House Call Service ♦
- Wartenbee Trucking ♦

#### Basic Members

(\$50–\$149)

- Dodeca Art Farm ♦
- Fern Ridge Education Association ♦
- Fern Ridge Library ♦
- Veneta Subway ♦

### Individuals & Families

- Anonymous ♦
- Paul Atkinson & Sid Baum ♦
- Mark Avery ♦
- Pat & Bob Baron ★
- Kerstin & Orazio Belsito ★
- Les Benoy & Joanne Sweeny ★
- Jackson & Margaret Bentley ★
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- Victoria & Jeff Wilson-Charles ♦ ★
- Angela Witty-Bawyll ♦

### 2024 Writers & Wine Sponsors

- Lane Forest Products
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- David Floyd & Bets Cole

#### Key:

- ♦ Denotes Annual Fund Donor
- ★ Denotes Endowment Fund Donor

## FERN RIDGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION ~ MISSION AND VISION

The **MISSION** of the Fern Ridge Library Foundation is to serve the community through advocacy and support of the Fern Ridge Library.

The **VISION** of the Fern Ridge Library Foundation is to be a vibrant, sustainable, collaborative organization that works to enhance the library's service to the community.

Fern Ridge Library Foundation  
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*YOU'RE INVITED*

## Writers & Wine

- Featuring Miriam Gershow • Catering by Broadway Grill
- Wine from Sarver Winery • Great raffle prizes

**Sunday, October 19, 3:30–6:00 p.m.**

Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Hwy, Veneta

Purchase tickets and gift bag online or by check or cash at the library. [www.frlfoundation.org/events](http://www.frlfoundation.org/events)

\$65 per person includes 1 book, food, 1 glass of wine/ beverage, and 1 raffle ticket for the Getaway raffle

\$100 per couple includes 1 book, food, 2 glasses of wine/ beverage, and 1 ticket for the Getaway raffle

Don't Miss Out? Order a Writers & Wine Gift Bag for \$60. Includes 1 book, your choice of white or red wine. Pick up at the library after Oct. 20.

Additional raffle tickets: \$10 each for Getaway raffle and \$5 each for Fun Raffle Prizes.

# I LOVE MY LIBRARY

## Welcome Laura White

Hi there! I am thrilled to be serving as the new Assistant Director of the Fern Ridge Library. Books, libraries, writers, storytellers, bookstores and readers have always been among my most favorite things. Having worked in bookstores for most of my adult life, I've been fortunate to collaborate with libraries and many other community organizations on literary projects over the years, from author readings and book fairs, to community reads and festivals. Still, I have long felt my real home to be in a library.

Libraries are magic to me, because

they are for everyone, even for people who don't read books! Most of us *are* here for the books, but libraires today have even more to offer. Making sure people know what is available to them, how to access their local library, and ensuring everyone feels welcome (even if they don't think of themselves as a "library person") is what I am most excited about.

I've always been drawn to stories of people whose lives were impacted by books, either by reflecting and validating their own experience or by their ability to help understand



another person's experience and perspective. We know that books save lives. People come to the library seeking information, wisdom, entertainment, community, safety, or perhaps only a wi-fi signal. I'm proud to be a part of a place that anyone can visit for access to the riches within.

I look forward to meeting more of you and learning what you'd like to see more of in **your** library.