



Fern Ridge Library Foundation
P.O. Box 397
Veneta, OR 97487

You're invited

Writers & Wine

featuring author and artist Emily Poole, catering by Broadway Grill, wine from Bennett Vineyards & Wine Co., and raffle prizes

Sunday, October 18, 3:30-6pm
Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Hwy, Veneta

Purchase tickets and gift bag online or by check or cash at the library. frlffoundation.org/events

\$70 per person - includes 1 book, food, 1 glass of wine/beverage, and 1 raffle ticket for the Getaway raffle

\$110 per couple - includes all of the above plus an additional glass of wine/beverage

Can't make it? Order a gift bag for \$65 - includes 1 book, and your choice of red or white wine, available for pick-up after Oct. 19.

\$10 per additional Getaway raffle ticket
\$5 per fun raffle ticket

WELCOME, RYLIE GRYZCKO!

The Fern Ridge Library Foundation is thrilled to welcome Rylie Gryczko as our new Fundraising Consultant!

Rylie brings a wealth of experience from her work with the Children's Legacy Foundation Network, where she has served as Secretary, Director, 2nd Vice President, and 1st Vice President - and is set to become President in 2027. Throughout her time there, she has successfully led committees spanning Public Relations, Social Media, Newsletter, and Grants. In addition, Rylie serves as the Development Specialist and Human Resources Director at Adventure! Children's Museum, where she has helped design and grow key organizational events, secured thousands of dollars in grants, and supported the steady growth of the museum over the past eight years.



With a strong background in creative writing, paired with a lifelong passion for libraries and reading, Rylie is a fantastic fit to succeed Karen Johnson. To ensure a seamless transition, Rylie spent her first few months shadowing Karen to learn the ins and outs of the Fern Ridge Library Foundation, and how best to serve the Fern Ridge Library. We're excited to have her on board!



Serving Veneta, Elmira, Noti, Walton, and nearby communities

WE (YOU) PASSED A LEVY

Fern Ridge Library District placed a local-option levy on the Spring 2026 ballot, Measure 20-385, for \$0.35 per \$1,000 assessed property value. This continuation of the current funding structure was, thankfully, passed with 55% of the vote.

This is no mean feat in time of economic stress for everyone, government agencies included. The immediate reaction to an election win is to thank everyone who voted YES, and we certainly do appreciate every one of the thousands who did just that. But it is just as important to thank and acknowledge those who voted NO. Libraries have been called, **“Democracy’s best kept promise,”** and we exist because the public has a right to choose what their community will look like by exercising the right to vote. Specifically, we exist because 430 people voted YES in 1994 to create a special district. Again, it’s important to acknowledge the 152 people who originally voted NO. Fern Ridge has a library because the majority of voters decided to fund one.

After the election in May, and indeed, after each election, **the library serves approximately 14,000 citizens** in the Veneta, Elmira, Noti, and Walton area regardless of how they vote, if they vote, or whether they call themselves a Democrat or Republican. We are here to provide information, entertainment, programs, books, stories, and sometimes just a warm or cool place to be. When we place a measure on the ballot, we are not allowed to say “Vote Yes,” or “Vote No,” but simply, “Vote.” Participate in your democracy, and we will serve you as you choose. We’ll even serve you if you don’t participate.

Measure 20-385 should provide the district with the funds to continue day-to-day service to the

Fern Ridge community at the same level as we have for the duration of the last levy, which is five years, but these services are at risk due to rising costs. An increase in new home construction in the area bodes well for our tax base, and we continue to budget wisely for both the present and the future of the district. If all goes to plan, we’re smooth and steady through 2031.

So thank you to everyone. Thank you to YES voters, thank you to NO voters, thank you to everyone who advocated for the library, and thank you to those who continue to support the mission of the district by contributing to the Foundation. **Every little bit counts, and every little bit helps.**

FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR 2026-27

\$10,000

We’re focusing on two projects this year, both in the children’s section of the library:

- 1) Bin shelving to display picture books, empowering children to choose books that catch their attention; and
- 2) A half-sized wall room divider with attached gate, ensuring a safer and more accessible space for families with little ones running around.

How can you help?

- Give online at **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 501c3. Tax ID #93-1198874



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THANK YOU, KAREN!

A little over 18 years ago, a newly re-established Fern Ridge Library Foundation board was searching for a fundraising consultant in anticipation of the first major fundraising effort since completion of the new library addition in 1999. The plan was to remodel the last vestige of the old library building into what would be known as the Chatfield Room.

Our search led to the hiring of **Karen Johnson**. As luck would have it, Karen had an affinity for libraries that I don't think we knew about at the time, having volunteered in various libraries during high school, college, and graduate school. Now, years later, we welcome our new consultant, **Rylie Gryczko**, and have said goodbye to Karen as she moves to full retirement.



A long tenure makes for a lot of continuity and has allowed the board to consistently raise funds and advocate for the library in a very effective manner year after year. Most of the board's ongoing activities were orchestrated on Karen's watch as her position morphed into that of administrator as well as fundraiser. Her legacy includes an annual fundraising program, annual newsletter publication, the Writers & Wine event every fall, maintenance of donor software and web presence, grant writing, annual goal setting, review of bylaws on a regular basis, etc. etc.

Karen now gets to have more time for travel, visits with her granddaughter, working in her flower beds, as well as volunteering at her church and with the Springfield Historic District.

Karen was diligent, humble, and a pleasure to work with. She made my job as President a lot easier than it might have been and I thank her personally as well as on behalf of the Board of Directors. It's been a good and fruitful 18 years.

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

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

Every year, we're honored to welcome new and renewing businesses and organizations to our Community Partner Program. Gifts of \$150 and above receive a shelf tag in the library, and we're thrilled that over 700 shelves have tags with many representing our Community Partners. For the 2025-26 year, we welcomed **Veneta Veterinary Hospital** and **West Lane Fitness** as new Community Partners! Thank you for enriching the lives of the children, youth, families, and patrons of the Fern Ridge Library.

Visit frlfdoundation.org/join to learn more about our contributors and how your business or organization can join the Community Partner Program.

Thank you!

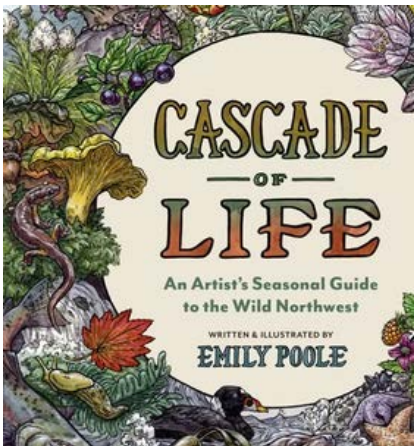
Writers & Wine

A Literary Event and Fundraiser for the Fern Ridge Library



Emily Poole is a Wyoming native who's been exploring the wild spaces of the western United States her entire life. Her work has regularly appeared in High Country News, and she's been the illustrator on six natural history books, including *Northwest Know-How: Trees*. Emily uses engaging and whimsical images to encourage viewers to see the biodiversity around them with a new sense of appreciation. She created the poster artwork for the Oregon Country Fair from 2022-2024, and was voted **2025 Best Artist in Eugene by the Eugene Weekly**.

Emily's latest work, *Cascade of Life: An Artist's Seasonal Guide to the Wild Northwest*, is a vividly illustrated book exploring the Pacific Northwest's ecosystems through the seasons, featuring over 120 species, hands-on activities, and science sidebars. This is her first publication as both author and illustrator, and we're honored to highlight this work at our 14th year of Writers & Wine. She says, "My goal



is to use artwork to engage the public in learning about what's going on in the natural world and what we can do to protect it."

Writers & Wine has been sponsored by the Fern Ridge Library Foundation for 14 years. This is a fundraising event for the library and features a regional winery and a Northwest author with a newly-released book. This year, we're featuring wine from Bennett Vineyards & Wine Co. and catering from Broadway Grill. Admission includes remarks and a reading by the author, appetizers and dessert, a copy of the book, a glass of wine, and one raffle entry into the Getaway prize. Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and we'll see you there!



Writers & Wine 2026

OCTOBER 18TH | 3:30-6PM

Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Hwy, Veneta

All tickets on sale online by card at frloundation.org/events, and by check or cash at the Library.

Tickets: \$70 per person; \$110 per couple (one book per couple). Includes one ticket entered into the Getaway raffle.

Getaway Raffle: \$500 gift certificate to the popular Overleaf Lodge in Yachats, Oregon. Tickets are \$10 each.

Prize Raffles: A collection of delightful gifts and prizes in an assortment of unique baskets. Raffle prizes include tickets to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, handmade items, and prizes from local shops, eateries, and artists. Tickets are \$5 each.

Gift Bag: If you can't join us, don't miss out! A \$65 purchase will get you a copy of Emily Poole's new book and a bottle of red or white wine. Pick up at the library after October 19th.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Thank you to this year's Writers & Wine sponsors for their support, ensuring a successful event: Champion Technologies, Swanson Brothers Lumber Co., Territorial Vineyards and Wine Co., David Floyd & Bets Cole, and Mary Jo Wade & Jack Gray.



David Floyd
& Bets Cole

Mary Jo Wade
& Jack Gray

HISTORIC TIMELINE OF THE FERN RIDGE LIBRARY

June 4th, 1966 - The Harriet Elliott Memorial Library opened and began serving the people of Veneta and surrounding communities. It began in a 12ft by 12ft music room at Veneta Grade School with 200 donated books and a staff of volunteers.

1968-1969 - Land was officially designated for a public library on Territorial Road, donated by Mickey and Gayle Gulick. In the meantime, the Library moved to a refurbished World War II building next to the school, and was renamed the Fern Ridge Community Library.

1972 - The Fern Ridge Community Library District was created in May, serving identical boundaries to the School District but governed by its own five-member board. In July, voters approved a five-year annual levy to finance library operations. This would be deemed illegal under new laws in **1975** and the Library would be governed by the school district (with a library board acting in advisory capacity to set policy) until **1994**.

1973 - The Library had grown to 6,500 volumes and 1,500 patrons. Construction started on the new building, with support from the Building Fund of \$4,200 and a donation from International Paper of \$3,500. Completion of the building was possible with a federal construction grant and volunteer labor. The new library of 3,190 square feet opened **November 17th, 1974**.

1980 - The Library and school district joined their tax bases.

1984 - A second federal Library Construction and Services Act grant supported the purchase of a computer and automated checkout system.

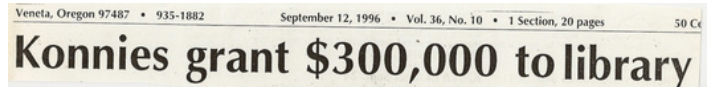
1989 - The circulation system and other upgrades were made with an anonymous patron gift.

1991 - Cheers to 25 years of the Fern Ridge Library! The Friends of the Fern Ridge Library was founded.

1994 - The library had grown to 4,200 patrons, over 30,000 volumes, and annual circulation of over 80,000 items. It was the most cost-effective library in Oregon. The Fern Ridge Library District was officially created with permanent tax base, and assumed responsibility for operating the library from the school district.



1995 - The Fern Ridge Library Foundation was established as a tax-exempt organization to raise funds to benefit the library.



1996 - Sam and Roberta Konnie generously offered to match up to \$300,000 for a new building if funds were raised locally. The Foundation raised over \$1.1 million for a capital project that resulted in the library's current building. More than \$600,000 was raised locally.

1999 - The expanded library opened with more than double the space (10,000 square feet). The community room was named for the Konnie family and remains one of the largest meeting rooms available for public use in the Fern Ridge area.

2008 - A capital campaign to raise money to renovate the oldest parts of the library building



kicked off as "Renovate '08." At the culmination of this campaign, over \$260,000 was raised. The Chatfield Room, named for the early library supporter Ralph Chatfield, was reopened, adding valuable floor space and increasing shelf space in the adult section by 15%. Funds raised increased the library's energy efficiency by replacing windows and HVAC systems, and the renovation was completed in **2011**.

2015-2017 - The library celebrated 50 years, receiving donations and grant funds from local donors, the Foundation, and local organizations to show their ongoing support of the library. Funds were used to purchase new computer equipment, an adaptive workstation, and a brand new outdoor signage reader board.

2019-2020 - The Mobile Library Tricycle, or "Go Trike," mobilized library services. Library staff were able to bring books, story time, technology, and reference services into the community.

LIBRARY LEVY HISTORY

2026 - Today, the library continues to thrive, working with the Friends of the Fern Ridge Library, Fern Ridge Library Foundation, and more to fulfill their mission: *to inspire, empower, and engage our community through discovery and sharing of information.*

Library Directors

Ruth Bishop Ross.....1966-73
 Gloria Walton.....1974-75
 Mary Jane Grediagin...1975-91
 Mark Yerburch.....1991-96
 Wendell Buck.....1996-99
 Rozella Van Meter.....1999-2007
 Colin Rea.....2007-present

Measure #	Date	Yes Vote	No Vote	% Yes	% No	Levy	Notes
20-385	11/16/2026	2633	2176	55%	45%	0.35	Continuation
20-317	11/3/2020	4449	3215	58%	42%	0.35	Continuation
20-272	11/16/2017	1730	1070	62%	38%	0.35	Increase of .10
20-258	11/8/2016	2309	4120	36%	64%	0.50	Doubling of existing levy
20-204	11/6/2012	3933	1680	70%	30%	0.25	Continuation
20-149	11/4/2008	3313	2561	56%	44%	0.25	Increase of .07
20-101	11/2/2004	3767	1989	65%	35%	0.25	Failed due to double majority
20-85	5/20/2003	1849	723	72%	28%	0.18	Continuation
20-80	11/5/2002	1864	1892	50%	50%	0.18	Continuation
20-13	11/3/1998	2094	1687	55%	45%	0.18	First local option levy to pass
20-94	5/19/1998	1367	820	63%	37%	0.18	Failed due to double majority
20-7	5/17/1994	430	152	74%	26%	0.38	Formation of District

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE PAT BARON

Pat has done a great deal for the Library...

Pat Baron has been an extraordinary resource for the Library for many years! Here are just a few of the things she has done:

- She started to volunteer in October 2008, several months after moving to Veneta. From 2011 to 2018, she compiled a weekly column about library activities that was published in our local newspaper, the *Fern Ridge Review*.
- She served on the Library Foundation board from 2011 through 2022. Among the projects she helped with were the Foundation's annual newsletter, Writers & Wine, the adopt-a-shelf project, and fundraising. Pat also assisted with the PAC formed to lobby for renewal of the Library's levy several times.
- In 2013, she was elected to the Library's Board of Directors and served as chair for one year. Another board member and her sponsored the first library booth at the Veneta Harvest Festival.
- In recognition of the library's 50th anniversary in 2016, Pat researched the library's history and compiled a timeline as well as an article that appeared in the Lane County Historian.
- In 2015, Pat became president and book chair of the Friends of the Library, both on a temporary basis and has been doing both jobs since. With the Friends, they started a monthly newsletter for members, started their own website, and expanded the scholarship program. The Book Sale has expanded considerably since 2015 and raised over \$6,800 in 2025.
- Pat has also received the **Leona Schultz Volunteer Service Award** in 2015, **Froggie Awards** in 2011 and 2013, and the **Library's Distinguished Service Award** in 2012.

"Pat is amazing. Her dedication to the library has been inspirational!"
 -Maia Thompson,
 Volunteer Coordinator



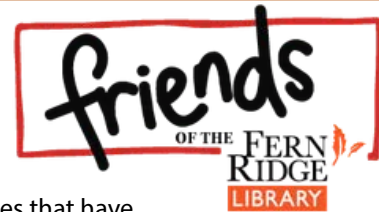
...and we're so luck to have her!

Thank you to Dan Caplis for his contribution to this story.

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE FERN RIDGE LIBRARY

WHO WE ARE

We are an all-volunteer non-profit that has provided support to the Fern Ridge Library for more than three decades. The Friends act as advocates for the library and participate in fundraising through membership dues, donations, and book sales that have become a well-loved staple. Funds raised go towards subsidizing library programs, purchasing materials to enhance the library's different collections, and maintaining library visibility and community outreach efforts. Information regarding our activities are displayed throughout the library and at friendsfernridgelibrary.weebly.com and social media. An online membership option is available to those interested. Feel free to join the Friends for community, fun, and that so very important library advocacy. **We Friends love our library!**



HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Book Sales and Books

Last year, the Friends raised **\$6,850** via three two-day book sales and the everyday stand just inside the library's doors. With this money, we:

- Funded the digital magazines and graphic novel subscriptions the library has taken out for all ages.
- Provided support for the library's **Summer Reading** programs.
- Paid for extra copies of **Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB)** books.
- Provided support for the printing of the library's monthly calendar.
- Made a contribution to the Library Foundation's endowment fund increase project. The Friends have been one of the Foundation's **Community Partners** for the past eight years.

Collaborations

The Friends maintained an enrollment of **45** members. Our book sales saw assistance from 25 volunteers, both members and non-members. We also:

- Joined forces with the library in a booth at the **Veneta Harvest Festival** where both paperback and children's books were sold.
- Kept up a Little Free Library at **Applegate Elementary School** in Crow.
- Filled bookshelves with excess large print books, jigsaw puzzles, and audiobooks for seniors at the Fern Ridge Service Center.
- Donated children's books to the **Love Project** food pantry, local little libraries including the **Goldson Grante**, and the **Fern Ridge Family Resource Center**.
- Donated adult books to the **Oregon Country Fair**.

Books to Kids

In order to get more books into children's hands who might not have any of their own, the Friends also decided to grant \$500 to the library to purchase books for giveaway when a child signs up for a library card. Another \$500 went to the library to purchase books to be given to children attending the weekly summer **Storytime in the Park**. A final \$500 went to the **S.A.N.T.A. Project** (part of **Mid-Lane Cares**) for the annual December giveaway.

Scholarships

Sandra Larson Memorial Scholarships were awarded on June 3rd at the Elmira High School Awards Ceremony and this year, we have a new scholarship! The **Ruby Holloman Memorial Scholarship** honors the grandmother of one of our donors. Holloman was a teacher in rural Texas who touched the lives of many young people over the years. That scholarship was awarded to **Jake Van Damme**, and the Sandra Larson Memorial Scholarships were awarded to **Brett Van Damme** and **Rylee Rice**.



Rylee Rice plans to attend Oregon Institute of Technology where she intends to major in Construction Management with a minor in Civil Engineering.



Brett Van Damme plans to attend Lane Community College and then the University of Oregon where he will major in Accounting.



Jake Van Damme plans to dual attend the University of Oregon and Lane Community College. He wants to major in Psychology and become a children's therapist.

FRIENDS OF THE FERN RIDGE LIBRARY BOOK SALE!

October 23-24 at the library
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days

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



HONOR ROLL OF 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 2025 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, friend, or yourself, or adopt a shelf in memory of a loved one.

A gift of \$50 or more qualifies you for a permanent shelf tag in the library. Contributions of \$150 or more from businesses or organizations is recognized as Community Partner donors.

Visit frlfrfoundation.org/give to make a donation, or ask a staff member at the library for a donation card.

IT'S YOUR LIBRARY - PUT YOUR NAME ON IT!

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROGRAM

Leadership Members (\$500+)

Casalegno-Theisen Legacy Fund-Oregon
Community Foundation
Chambers Construction ♦
Equinox Foundation ♦ ★
Friends of the Fern Ridge Library ♦
Oregon Country Fair ♦
Redtail Fund-Oregon Community Foundation ♦ ★
Swanson Brothers Lumber Co. ♦
Trust Management Services
Veneta Dairy Queen ♦
Veneta Veterinary Hospital

Sustaining Members (\$300-\$499)

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

Associate Members (\$150-\$299)

Broadcom
Dari-Mart Stores ♦
Laughing Stock Farm ♦
Sanipac
Veterinary House Call Service ♦
Wartenbee Trucking ♦
West Lane Fitness

Basic Members (\$50-\$149)

Fern Ridge Events
LuLu, LLC
Veneta Subway ♦

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Paul Atkinson & Sid Baum ♦
Karen & John Andersen
Pat & Bob Baron ★
Kerstin & Orazio Belsito ★
Les Benoy & Joanne Sweeny ★
Margaret & Jackson Bentley ★
Pamela Biggs ★
Kirsten Bolton ♦
Kathy & Will Bondioli ★
Carol Booton
Brittany Brown & Daniel Mundra
Jurgen & Kim Brunner ★
Dan Caplis & Stephanie Powers ★
Julian & Linda Case ★
Elizabeth Chalcroft ♦
Breeze & Suzanne Chanti ♦
Catherine & Kevin Cochran ♦
Pat & Helen Coy ★
Debi Creager ♦
David & Kristi Crowell ♦
William & Gayle DeChent
Chanda Diekotto
William & Cynthia Dietrich
Sarah & Tony Drago ★
Mark & Laura Duvall

Christine & Leo Duwell
Jadzia Engle ♦
Robert Everett & Cathy Gaudin ♦
Barb & Stephen Ewing
Dr. David Floyd & Ms. Bets Cole ★
Ellen Frances ★
Linda & James Frazier ♦
Joe Gibson ♦
Shane Gofourth ♦
Sonia Hall ★
Quinton Hallett & Dennis Gould ♦
Linda Hanchett
Patti Heath
Joseph & Sandra Heitz ♦
Lucille Heitz ★
Ronald & Diane Hellekson
Evelyn & David Hess
Kay Irish
Dusty Johnson
Kathleen Kistler
Lee & Katharyn Klein ★
Zach Konnie ♦
Bill Koss ★
Maynard & Jackie Meadows ★
James & Connie Micarelli ★

Richard & Pepper Miller ★
Nan & Jeffery Muir ★
Nancy & Kenneth Ograin ★
Stephen & Susan Oppenheimer
Barbara J. Paarmann ★
Cheryl Podpeskar ♦
Susan Posner ♦
Chuck & Layne Rear ★
Sandra Rowell ★
Karen & Nick Russo ★
Ronda Shankle & Terry Pier ♦
Ravinder & Curtis Shields ♦
Mary Jo Simone & Ray Pietz ★
Lou Sinniger ♦
Susan Steward ★
Richard Stumpf ★
Margaret Theisen ♦
Devon Trottier, VMD ♦
Cathy Verret & Roy Meddings
Dwight & Ginger Wartenbee ★
Larry & Caroline Wehde ♦
Robyn Willoughby ♦
Michael & Kathy Wilson ★
Victoria & Jeff Wilson-Charles ♦ ★
Angela Witty ♦

2025 WRITERS & WINE SPONSORS

Champion Technologies
David Floyd & Bets Cole
Jack Gray & Mary Jo Wade
Lane Forest Products

Sarver Winery
Swanson Brothers Lumber Co.
Territorial Vineyards & Wine Co.

Key:

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

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.