

find us!

8301 Ming Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93311

www.kerncountylibrary.org

contact us!

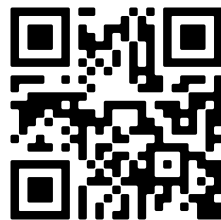
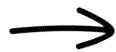
email
info@kernlibrary.org

phone
(661) 664-7716

hours

Monday - Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sign up for
our e-mail
newsletters!



Find us on social!



October 2026

Adults' EVENTS GUIDE

Southwest Branch Library



KERN
COUNTY
LIBRARY



Events For Adults

ALS Network presents: Connection Groups

All Ages Tuesday, October 6th | 4:00pm-6:00pm | Community Room

Connection groups provide opportunities for people living with ALS and their loved ones to share their personal experiences and learn more about strategies for preserving independence and maximizing quality of life.

Volunteer Orientation

Ages 19+ Wednesday, October 7th | 5:30pm-6:30pm | Community Room

Sign-up through the Kern County Library Website to join the Southwest Branch Volunteer Orientation. Learn about what volunteering involves and take a comprehensive tour of the library building!

Loteria

Ages 19+ Thursday, October 8th | 5:30pm-6:30pm | Upstairs Study Room

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a fun game of Loteria. Bring your friends and family and join the fun and maybe win a prize.

Poetry Writing Workshop - One Book Project Edition

Ages 19+ Saturday, October 10th | 2:00pm-3:30pm | Upstairs Study Room

Join us for a special edition of the poetry writing workshop featuring the Poet Laureate of Kern County, Portia Choi. We'll be exploring this year's One Book Project title (We Need To Talk by Celeste Headlee) and considering the place of compassion and empathy in how we communicate.

CSUB 60+ Club

Ages 60+ Tuesday, October 13th | 2:00pm-3:00pm | Upstairs Study Room

Unwind with paper crafts! Perfect for seniors who want to explore their artistic side, this program is an excellent way to stay active, social, and connected through the art of paper crafting.

Knit With Us

Ages 19+ Saturday, October 17th | 10:00am-1:00pm | Community Room

Knitters of all levels, join this social knitting community to exchange ideas and get help from others. Bring your own yarn, knitting needles, and imagination!

Junk Journaling

Ages 19+ Wednesday, October 21st | 5:00pm-6:30pm | Community Room

Join us for an evening of relaxation at the library, where we will enjoy creating art together by archiving nostalgic memories in personalized journals!

Trivia & Mocktails

Ages 19+ Thursday, October 22nd | 5:30pm-6:30pm | Community Room

It's an epic contest to see who knows the most about the mundane! Join us for a fun night of trivia and non-alcoholic drinks!

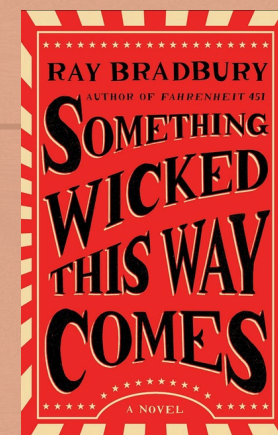
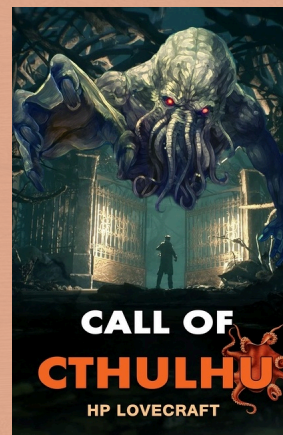
Hand Sewing Club

Ages 19+ Wednesday, October 28th | 5:00pm-6:15pm | Community Room

Join us for an evening of relaxation at the library, where we will enjoy creating art together by archiving nostalgic memories in personalized journals!



Scary Halloween Reads



For more event information, visit our website - kernlibrary.org/events
Library workshops, performances, and events are FREE and open to the public. We're adding more programs all the time! At times, programs may be rescheduled or canceled without advance notice.

THE ONE BOOK PROJECT

FOUNDED 2002

The One Book Project is an annual community reading initiative and partnership between California State University, Bakersfield, Bakersfield College, and the Kern County Library. Each year, one featured book is selected to inspire countywide conversations, educational programs, and community engagement.

Throughout October and November, library branches, local organizations, and community members come together to explore a shared story through book discussions, programs, displays, and special events. By reading the same book, we create opportunities for meaningful conversations, strengthen connections across our communities, and celebrate lifelong learning together.

Award-winning journalist Celeste Headlee explores why meaningful conversation has become increasingly difficult in today's fast-paced, technology-driven world. Drawing from research and personal experience, she offers practical strategies for becoming a better listener, communicating with empathy, and having conversations that foster understanding rather than division.

Filled with actionable advice, *We Need to Talk* reminds us that genuine conversation is one of our most valuable tools for building stronger relationships and healthier communities.

WE NEED TO TALK

HOW TO HAVE
CONVERSATIONS
THAT MATTER

CELESTE HEADLEE

Author Keynote Speech

Thursday, October 29th | 7pm
CSUB Icardo Center

Join Celeste Headlee, author this year's One Book Project read, *We Need To Talk: How To Have Conversations That Matter* for a free book discussion, Q&A, and book signing. This event is open to the public; parking in Lot I will be free after 6pm.



Online Resources



Alexander Street Press Videos

Looking for a good documentary to watch? Alexander Street Press Videos features hundreds of quality programs for you to peruse! Discover and access a wealth of information and insights across various academic disciplines. With a strong commitment to making previously inaccessible content available, their award-winning online platform hosts an extensive range of resources, including a vast library of streaming video, music, and dance performances, as well as unique collections such as full-text, authorized databases of in-copyright film scripts and underground comics.



Udemy

Want to learn about something new? Udemy offers flexible online learning with thousands of courses in business, technology, personal finance, creative arts, wellness, marketing, leadership, and more—designed to fit any schedule. Available on computers, tablets, and mobile devices, courses can even be downloaded for offline viewing through the Udemy app. Sign in with your library card number and PIN number to access a world of fascinating content! Don't remember your PIN number? Contact a library staff member for help!

OCTOBER

2026

			thursday	friday	saturday
			1.	2.	3.
monday	tuesday	wednesday			
5.	6. ALS Network Presents: Connection Groups 4:00pm-6:00pm	7. Volunteer Orientation 5:30pm-6:30pm	8. Loteria 5:30pm-6:30pm	9.	10. Poetry Writing Workshop - One Book Project 2:00pm-3:30pm
12.	13. CSUB 60+ Club 2:00pm-3:00pm	14.	15.	16.	17. Knit With Us 10:00am-1:00pm
19.	20. Free Estate Planning 10:00am-11:00am	21. Junk Journaling 5:00pm-6:30pm	22. Trivia & Mocktails 5:30pm-6:30pm	23.	24.
26.	27.	28. Hand Sewing Club 5:00pm-6:15pm	29.	30.	31.

Southwest Branch Library

Branch Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10am-7pm
Fri. 10am-6pm
Sat. 10am-4pm

