

## FRIENDS OF THE ARROYO GRANDE LIBRARY

# The Library Insider

Volume 31, Issue 5

October 2024

*I stepped up to the big librarian and asked for a book on stars.... It was that library, reading that book, that the scale of the universe opened to me.—Carl Sagan*

## LIBRARY NEWS

A very happy Fall to everyone. You have probably noticed that Arroyo Grande Library got in the spirit of things with our participation in the 2024 Harvest Festival Activities. Arroyo Grande Library staff created scarecrows for the Annual Scarecrow competition with the theme: “The Library is a Building Block for the Future of our Community.” Keep your fingers crossed that our amazing scarecrow entries have already won a prize by the time you read this. Thanks to AG Library staff, especially Brabara Leaders, Robert Peirce, and Megan Bruenning-Vanartsdalen, for this amazing entry.

Arroyo Grande Library staff also participated in the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival Parade on September 28<sup>th</sup> with our little blue outreach van. FOTAGL members were invited to walk with us in this wonderful event.

### Parking Lot Updates

Starting at the end of September, and going through the month of November, the Arroyo Grande Library parking lot will be under construction in a series of phases. During each phase one section of the parking lot will be closed, but at no time during this project will the entire AG Library parking lot shut down. The AG library and book drops will remain open during this entire project, but please be aware that there will be highly limited parking during some parts of this project. Please call the AG Library at 805-461-6162 if you have any questions or concerns during construction. We hope to provide as much access to Library services as possible during this project.

### Fall Library Programming

The Arroyo Grande Library has launched a few staff led programs that have tapped into the creativity of our staff and Library patrons. Starting in September, Kate McMillen launched a weekly “Sit and Stitch” program. This program invites folks that like to knit, crochet, embroider, or sew to join a community of like-minded folks every Wednesday from 4-5pm. Stitchers just bring their own projects and join in.

AG Library has also launched a monthly “Adult Coloring Club” every second Friday of the month from 1-2pm for adults to color adult coloring books in a stress-free environment.

Remember to check the Library Calendar for other South County Library events:

<https://tinyurl.com/LIBEvents2024>

### Library Remodel Updates

The Arroyo Grande Remodel plan went before the Board of Supervisors on September 10, 2024. The remodel start date has been delayed until Spring of 2025 but is still moving forward slowly but surely. Please continue to check in with Library staff for the latest news on this exciting project.

### Library Holiday Closures:

**All County of SLO Public Libraries will be closed on the following winter dates:**

- **Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 - Thanksgiving**
- **Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas**
- **Wednesday, January 1 – New Year’s Day**

*-Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer,  
South County Regional Manager*

## Banned Books Week – A Request for Action written For Banned Books Week – 2024

“This article was written by the Banned Books Week Coordinator and the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom ([oif.ala.org](http://oif.ala.org)) in partnership with the Banned Books Week Coalition. For questions concerning this article, please e-mail [coordinator@bannedbooksweek.org](mailto:coordinator@bannedbooksweek.org)”

Censorship won't stop just because Banned Books Week does — **you can take action any day of the year!...**

**If you have 5 minutes...**

**Register to vote.**

Register to vote, or make sure your voter registration is up to date.

**Take the Freedom to Read Voter Pledge.**

Commit to voting for the freedom to read. Support policies and policymakers up and down the ballot that support the right to read for everyone in our diverse communities. Take the pledge.

**If you have  
15 minutes...**

**Find out what's on your ballot.**

Are there positions in your local government or school board up for election? What about propositions or ballot measures that might impact schools, libraries, or booksellers? Download a sample ballot from your state election office or use a resource like [BallotReady.org](http://BallotReady.org) or [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) to find out what's happening in your local elections.

**If you have  
30 minutes...**

**Ask your candidates about where they stand on book bans.**

Want to know what a candidate thinks about censorship? Ask them! Contact your local candidates and ask them to respond to questions about where they stand on book bans. Unite Against Book Bans has a sample questionnaire that you can use in whole or in part to evaluate your candidates.

*Tip: Send your questions to candidates as early as possible and set a deadline for a response.*

**If you have an hour or more...**

**Attend a town hall or rally.**

What better way to learn about where candidates stand on book bans than to ask them in person?! Town halls and rallies are good ways to find out about the issues and what your candidates plan to do to address them.

**Help your community prepare for elections.**

Host a nonpartisan in-person or virtual event that promotes voter registration, informs the community about the voting rights, or fosters conversation about elections. The Voter Engagement Guide from Reader Voter Ready has several event suggestions.

*Tip: Libraries, community centers, and bookstores can be great locations for — and partners in — voter engagement activities. Reach out to see if they want to collaborate!*

There is a lot of useful information at [unitedagainstbookbans.org](http://unitedagainstbookbans.org)

Here are key dates for your calendar: **October 7-11:** National Voter Education Week |

**October 19:** Freedom to Read Community Day of Action |

**November 5:** VOTE for Libraries & Intellectual Freedom!

## YOUTH CORNER...

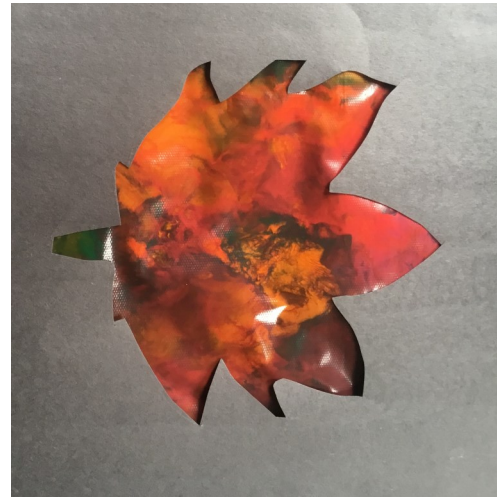
Happy fall everyone! The kids are back in school and school visits are happening again at the Arroyo Grande Library. In the next two months I will host all grades from Valley View up to and including the seventh and eighth grades. I also have regularly scheduled visits from several classes at St. Patrick's School. I enjoy having the school groups back in the library.

Kate and I took the outreach van to Strother Park for our first Storytime in the Park event. We had fun in the shade of the trees with our songs, stories and scarves. We even surprised a few dogs with our loud welcome songs. Our next two park storytimes will be at Rancho Grande Park on October 15 at 10:30 and Elm Street Park on November 19 at 10:30.

We recently had our talented staff lead successful children's programs. Robert taught a group of kids how to fold amazing paper airplanes and Barbara created three fall leaf painting crafts for our kids.

As always, thank you to the Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library for all that you do to support the Arroyo Grande Library.

- Sallie Tonascia, Youth Librarian



## FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

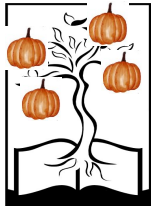
**New Members:**  
Patricia Caminiti

**Donors:**  
Junk Girls

**Renewals:**  
None

Total membership: 268  
Life members: 145  
Annual members: 97  
Complimentary members: 21  
Teen members: 5

-Vince Petrie  
Membership Committee



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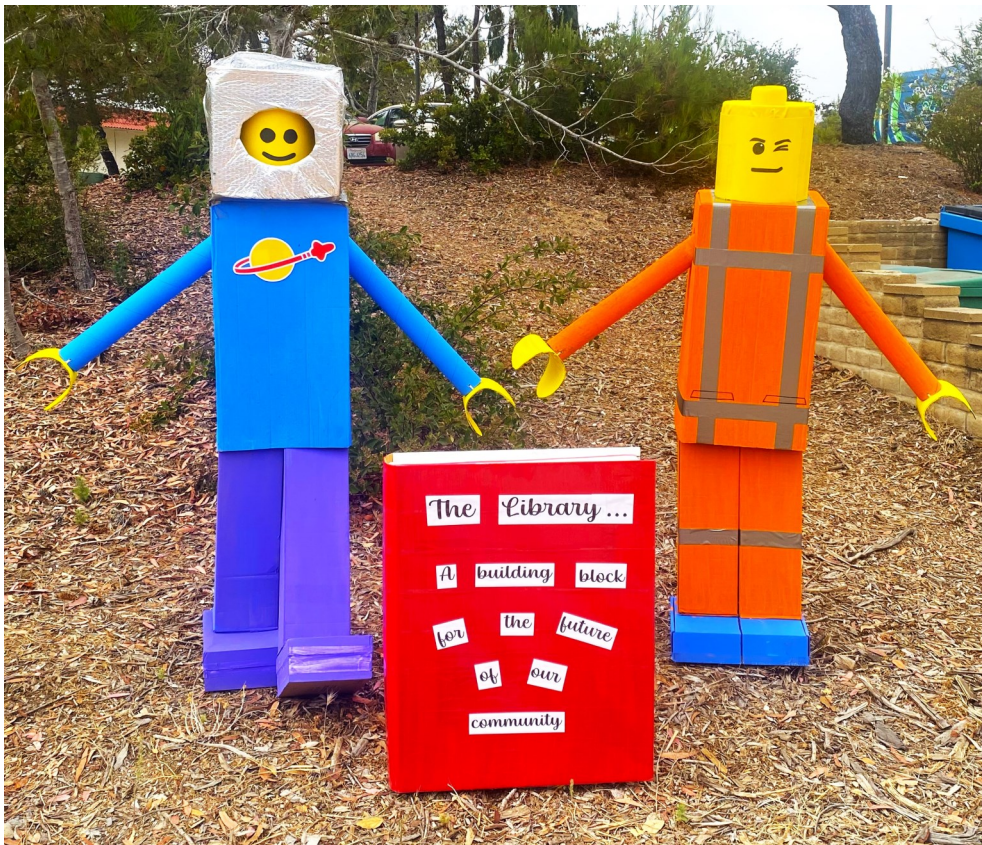
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**Harvest Festival Scarecrow Contest Entry**

**LEARN WHAT IS HAPPENING  
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