



**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
ARROYO  
GRANDE  
LIBRARY**

# The Library Insider

*Volume 32, Issue 1  
February 2025*

*“The Truth is Libraries are Raucous Clubhouses for Free Speech, Controversy, and Community”—Paula Poundstone*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter another new year at the library, we will be faced many challenges dealing with the library’s closure during the remodel. The Friends will still be meeting during this time and we will be sending out periodic newsletters to keep you updated on what is happening.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025, at 9:00, hopefully in the library. All members are invited to attend. This will present a good opportunity to learn more about the remodel and participate in our plans for the future. We welcome fresh ideas!

At that meeting, the results of the election of officers will be announced. There is a ballot in this newsletter for you to fill out and return to the library. There will be a ballot box near the checkout area. You may notice that the position of president is open. Unfortunately, I cannot commit to another year as president due to some serious family issues. At this time we do not have a volunteer to fill that position, but we will still be able to meet monthly and work around this situation. We have a strong group and will continue to support our library as much as we can.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Kersti Lasiewski,



### 2025 Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library Ballot Annual Meeting April 8 at 9 am — All Friends Members Welcome

President OPEN

Return This Ballot to the AG Library (Look for the Ballot Box)  
Before April 7

1st VP

Sandra

Mason

Yes No

## MEMBERS ONLY

Please print your name: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd VP Louise Clark Yes No

Secretary Grace Merritt Yes No

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Arroyo Grande Library welcomed a new staff member, Megan Ventura, in late 2024. Megan graduated from UCSB with degrees in English literature and French



Literature and French Language. She went on to receive her master's in writing and publishing from Emerson college. She interned at Perseus Books Group in Boston specializing in Foreign Rights. She later worked in academic publishing at Sage Publications as an

Associate Editor. She transitioned to remote work and journals publishing to enable her to move to Austria during her husband's postdoctoral studies. Her husband's position as an Assistant Professor brought them to UCCS in Colorado — and most recently to Cal Poly. Her favorite books are fiction, but she has two young children who are teaching her to love non-fiction as well. Although, she wishes their school librarian would limit the number of how-to-convince-your-parents-to-get-you-a-pet books they can check out at one time! Please tell Megan “Hello” when you see her at the branch.

The Arroyo Grande Library is pleased to have a newly renovated parking lot. The parking lot previously had dangerous potholes, big bumps, and was not ADA compliant. Thank you to all our patrons that navigated work trucks, limited parking, and closed book drops during construction. We think the results were worth the wait!

This Spring the AG Library will be hosting a new program on the last Saturday of every month. Staff member Tyler Lopez will be leading a new Readers’ Theater group. Adults will come to the Library, get a script and a part, and then read a play in one sitting. A great chance to let out your inner thespian. Registration will be required in advance.

Don’t forget to check the events tab at [sllibrary.org](http://sllibrary.org) for events throughout the County of San Luis Obispo Public Library system.

The Arroyo Grande Library remodel is still on track to begin later in 2025. County staff are working diligently to get the permitting process completed and get the project out to bid. When the AG Library reopens after the remodel, we will have fire sprinklers, fire alarms, ADA compliant bathrooms, and a Library layout that will better meet our community’s needs. We are grateful that the Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library will be contributing toward furniture for the remodeled branch. We will be sure to let our customers know in advance when we will be closing for construction later in 2025, so stay tuned.

Don’t forget to check out our Oceano, Shell Beach, and Nipomo Library locations to prepare for our closure. These branches have great collections, storytimes, and wonderful adult programs, so you will have plenty of options when AG Library is being improved.

*-Margaret Kensinger-Klopper  
South County Regional Manager*



*Youth Library Craft*

# YOUTH CORNER...

Happy 2025!

We have an exciting new collection of children's books called Vox books. These are picture books with paper pages that are also audio books. The permanently attached audio reader transforms an ordinary book into a read along book that kids can use with or without headphones. Kids just press a button and go. All the books in our collection immediately checked out! You can see all the Vox books in our library system on our website under Vox Books on the Children's tab. The books in this collection can be requested and sent to any county library.

Our February craft for all visitors was to write what they love about the Arroyo Grande Library on a colorful paper heart. Paper hearts were displayed in the library all month. Here is a picture from last year.

We have many exciting programs coming up in the next few months to entertain our kids and families.

On February 8 we helped kids create their own Slime with our expert Cindy from the Nipomo Library. Kids measured and mixed up their base slime creations then experimented with color and glitter to personalize their mixtures.

The Charles Paddock Zoo from Atascadero will bring some of their zoo animals to the library on March 1 at 10:30. This will certainly be a popular program since we have not had a visit from the zoo for many years. Our families always love animal programs.

Our storytime kids will get to have a visit from the Five Cities Fire Authority firefighters on February 27 and March 12 both at 10:30. The firefighters will read stories about firefighters, talk about fire safety and show the kids their gear and vehicles. I try to invite them at least once a year and the kids really love the experience.

In March we will have a Maker Day featuring three fun wind crafts. Our wind craft day will be on Saturday, March 8 at 10:30. All ages are invited to attend at any time between 10:30 and 11:30.

The UC Master Food Preservers will help our kids make their own coffee can ice cream on Saturday, April 12 at 10:30. Kids enjoy shaking their cans and then adding fruit or other flavors to customize their treats.

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

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### Renewals:

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Janette Wesch family  
Diane Brenden  
Catherine Christie  
Jody Cook family  
Janet McWilliams & Jon Mounts

Total membership: 269
Life members: 146
Annual members: 99
Complimentary members: 21
Teen members: 3



**FRIENDS  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Next time you're in the Library, take a moment to look at the art displayed on the back wall by the copy machine.

These pieces are the work of **Cheryl Barton-Petrie**, a FOTAGL member and local artist. Cheryl has experience in many media, but focuses on print making such as etchings, engravings, linocut and more. Her

work is inspired by nature, landscapes and old buildings, often using images from her travels and life abroad.

Cheryl is an active member of the Central Coast Printmakers and has exhibited her work with them and on her own at various venues throughout the Central Coast. She is also a Gallery Resident Artist at Art Central in San Luis Obispo.

If you like her work and want to learn more, contact Cheryl at [cbchezza@gmail.com](mailto:cbchezza@gmail.com).

