

**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
ARROYO  
GRANDE  
LIBRARY**

# The Library Insider

*Volume 32, Issue 2*

*July 2025*

*Books Teach us to Dream,, Censorship Steals that Dream—Internet*

## News from the Friends

At their annual meeting in April, the Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library was faced with a dilemma. There was no candidate for the office of president. After some deliberations we came up with a solution. We will now have 2 co-presidents – Kersti Lasiewski and Sandra Mason, and there will only be one vice-president, Louise Clark. Sandy Stellway will continue her position as treasurer, and Grace Merritt will continue as secretary. That will be our complete executive board.

The entire board will continue to meet throughout the remodel and, as news becomes available, we will continue to issue newsletters. We still have a healthy presence online and will continue to sell books through Amazon. Although we cannot accept donations of books, we most certainly will accept monetary donations.

This will be a long process, but we will certainly continue to support the library when it re-opens.



**The Board of the Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library Thank Kersti Lasiewski (Center with Flowers)  
for serving as President of the group for 8 years**

# LIBRARY NEWS

## Arroyo Grande Library to Close in July for Major Renovations

**Temporary location to open for limited service at the South County Regional Center.**

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Libraries have announced that the Arroyo Grande Library will undergo significant renovations funded by the California State Library's Building Forward Library Infrastructure Grant. The Arroyo Grande Library will close from Wednesday, July 16 until the completion of the project.

The \$1.6 million grant will support essential safety upgrades and critical infrastructure improvements, including fire suppression, ADA compliant restrooms, HVAC, upgraded security features, and more.

During construction, patrons can use the Arroyo Grande Library's temporary location at the Arroyo Grande Chamber of Commerce, located next door to the Arroyo Grande Library, to pick up holds and return library items only.

The temporary location will open Wednesday, July 16, and will be open for business Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

South County patrons are also encouraged to also visit nearby County Library branches in Nipomo, Shell Beach, and Oceano for books, DVDs, storytimes and book groups, and to explore the County Library digital collection, which includes

eBooks, eAudiobooks, and streaming movies and TV, at [SLOLibrary.org](http://SLOLibrary.org).

Storytimes in Arroyo Grande will be held at Rancho Grande Park on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m., beginning July 1.

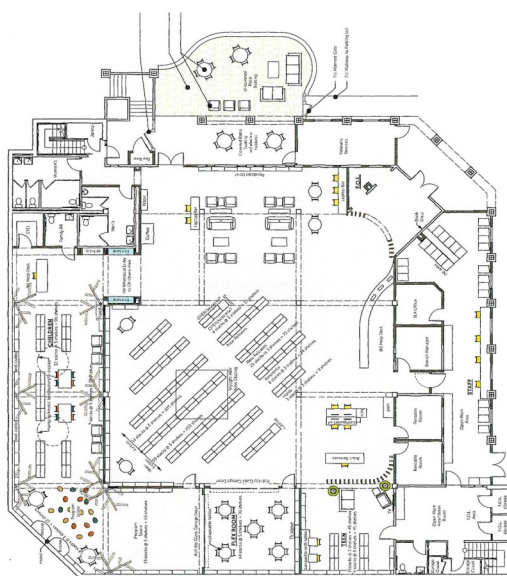
The Arroyo Grande Library is one of 278 California libraries benefiting from the California State Library's "Building Forward Library Improvement Program," a statewide effort aimed at addressing life-safety and critical maintenance needs of public library facilities.

Based on data from the annual Public Libraries Survey and other individual surveys conducted by the State Library, the average age of library facilities in California is 50 years, with only 5 percent of buildings constructed in the last decade and only 19 percent remodeled in the last decade.

Visit [www.SLOLibrary.org](http://www.SLOLibrary.org) for locations, hours, and events for all 14 County libraries. Hours and contact information for the temporary Arroyo Grande Library location will be available on [SLOLibrary.org](http://SLOLibrary.org) on July 15. To learn more about the California State Library's maintenance projects, visit their Building Forward webpage at [www.library.ca.gov](http://www.library.ca.gov).

**Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer**  
**South County Regional Librarian**

Arroyo Grande Library |  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Public Libraries  
800 W. Branch | Arroyo  
Grande CA 93420 |  
[www.slolibrary.org](http://www.slolibrary.org)  
[mkensinger@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:mkensinger@co.slo.ca.us)  
805-473-7165



## YOUTH CORNER....

By Sallie Tonascia

It's summer reading time! Kids from babies to teens and all adults are welcome to join our Summer Reading Program this summer. Challenge yourself to read for five hours to earn a spin on our prize wheel, five more hours earns a free book to keep, and ten more hours earns you a branded County of San Luis Obispo Library book bag. For extra fun, follow the Quail Trail to check out the Cabinet of Curiosities at each library in the County of San Luis Obispo Library system. The same summer program is happening at all County of San Luis Obispo Libraries so you can finish the program at another local library after we close in July.

While we are closed, I will have a weekly storytime at Rancho Grande Park, weather permitting. We will listen to stories, sing, and move under the trees in the park. The kids will even be able to check out a few books from our outreach van if they want to.

In the fall I will be visiting St. Patrick's School to do outreach every week. One week I will visit the kindergarten, first and second grades and the following week I will see the third, fourth and fifth grades. The kids will still be able to check out library books even though they will not be able to visit the library this school year.

As always, thank you to the Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library for all that you do to support the Arroyo Grande Library. Come see the staff at the other area libraries until we open the newly remodeled library.

## FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

**Jan 26, 2025 – June 10, 2025**

### New Members:

Ellen November

### Donors:

Lorraine Brewster family  
Gretchen Weckstein family  
Herbert B Shoebridge family  
William Power  
South County Historical Society  
California Grandmothers Club Park

### Renewals:

Lorraine Brewster family  
Vince Petrie & Cheryl Barton-Petrie family  
Grace & Dennis Merritt family  
Gretchen Weckstein family  
Diane Colson  
Alma Quesnel & Jim Pennell family  
Herbert B Shoebridge family  
Donna Pritchard family  
Steve, Dena, & Clete Price family

Total membership: 270

Life members: 147

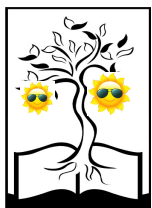
Annual members: 99

**We will not be able to accept book donations during the remodel. We will still be accepting monetary donations.**

**The need for new things for the Library will be great afterwards and The Friends will be there to help. You can donate using the QR code on the right for Paypal or go to [FOTAGL.org](https://FOTAGL.org) and click the donate button.**







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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**SAVE THE DATE!**

August 10, 2025

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Heritage Park in the Village of Arroyo Grande  
Summer Concert Series

The Friends of the Arroyo Grande Library has been selected as the designated non-profit for the summer concert series on that date. Come to chill out and listen to the music of True Zion Reggae. There will be multiple raffle prizes and lots of fun. As an added bonus, the South County Historical Society will be selling their famous hot dogs that day.