



**Funds from the Friends of the Nipomo Library were used to purchase two commemorative benches for the patio area out front. The plaques read: "In honor of the dedicated Nipomo Library volunteers, past, present, and future. Your service enriches our community."**

We  our library!

**February is Membership Month—** time to show the library some love by joining or renewing your membership in the Friends of the Nipomo Library! It also gives us a chance to recognize the many volunteers who make our library great.

Annual dues are so reasonable—just \$10 for individuals, \$25 for families—but along with book sales and other fundraisers, they're how we help supplement the county budget by purchasing or funding much-needed materials and programs.

*Continued on page 4*



## Manager's Message

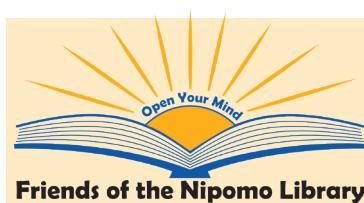
**From Margaret Kensinger-Klopfers  
Library Branch Manager**

**The Nipomo Library Noon Year's Eve Party** was a huge hit, thanks to Cindy Duerksen, Sallie Tonascia, Aracelli Astorga, our teen volunteers, and more. Over 105 children, teens, and adults came to celebrate the switch to 2026 on Dec. 31 at the stroke of noon. Festivities included New Year's resolutions, crafts, and a New Year countdown, complete with cake, cider, and a balloon drop.

December saw a generous amount of donations to Operation Santa. The Nipomo bin had to be emptied twice, after being filled with toys and gifts.

The first ever Children's Craft Fair in Nipomo was a big success. Tables in the Community Room were filled with nine local youth selling their own creations, like 3D printed dragons, homemade ornaments, custom-made gift tags, jewelry, and more. The community came out in force to support these young entrepreneurs, with most of the kids selling out by the end of the fair.

Winter pajama storytime was a big hit, with Ms. Cindy singing *Continued on page 2*



The Friends of the Nipomo Library Board's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 1:30pm. The meeting will be held in the Community Room at the library, 918 W. Tefft St., Nipomo. The public is always welcome.

[www.friendsofnipomolibrary.org](http://www.friendsofnipomolibrary.org)

[Follow us on Facebook](#) 

# Meet our new treasurer

**Our January board meeting** welcomed aboard our newest member, who will also be our new treasurer.

**Jitu Thakker** brings a wealth of financial experience to FONL, having served as a bank manager in his native



India for 30 years. He later worked in Seattle, as an auditor in state government, and also spent some time working for Rabobank.

He and his wife, Gita, are the parents of two grown children and have lived nearby in Pismo Beach for over a decade.

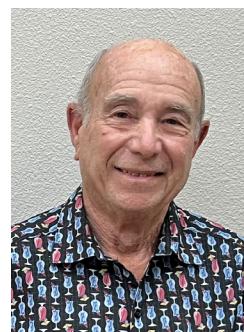
Jitu jokes that he's "retired—but not tired!" filling his spare time—in addition to volunteering—playing pickleball and exploring ChatGPT to develop as a spiritual artist (using arts like writing to connect with the inner self, the divine, or universal truths). In Seattle he volunteered with the library and in

India at a school for the blind.

"I'm very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Friends of the Nipomo Library," he says. A chance conversation with Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer, Nipomo branch manager and South County regional manager, alerted him to the upcoming vacancy at FONL and the rest, as they say, is history.

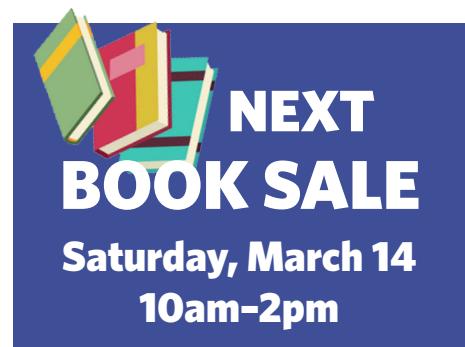
**Bill Palmer**, our outgoing treasurer, has ably served us in this capacity for the past five years

and has agreed to assist Jitu until everything is in place. He moved to Trilogy with his late wife of 51 years, Charlene ("Charlie"), in 2018. Prior to this they lived in another Trilogy—in La Quinta—but moved to the Central Coast to escape the desert heat. Prior



to his retirement in December 2014, Bill was a partner in a sales rep company selling radio frequency (RF) and microwave components in the Silicon Valley.

He definitely won't be at a loss for things to keep him busy as he hands over the books to Jitu. Bill got started collecting stamps in the early 1990s—Charlie, who had many interests and talents and was a gourmet cook, felt her "workaholic" husband needed a hobby. Other interests are contemporary art, bridge, and sports. "I was a skier and golfer before I had a TIA in 2013," he says. "Now I just watch and root for the Dodgers and the 49ers!"



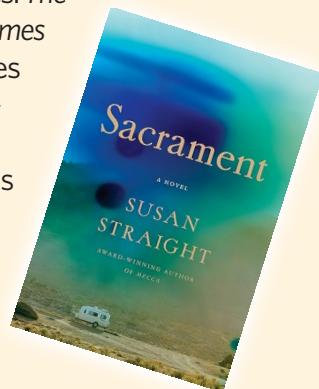
## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 1*

and reading with a group of kiddos wearing their favorite pajamas and carrying their favorite stuffed animals.

In January Nipomo Library saw two new benches installed out front, with the support of the Friends of the Library. We also had two raised beds installed out back, through grant funding from the State of California. The month also brought a field trip from the Pacific View Academy to the Nipomo Library. We launched our cozy winter reading program in January, which runs through February 14th. So don't forget to turn in your BINGO cards!

Susan Straight's *Sacrament* was selected as the County of SLO Public Libraries/Cuesta Book of the Year for 2026. This book follows nurses in San Bernardino County during the summer of 2020, at the height of the pandemic, as they balance their dedication to their profession and patients with the needs and struggles of their own families. *The New York Times* review states that "Sacrament once again proves that Susan Straight is the essential voice



in American writing and in writing of the West."

Straight has published nine novels, including *Mecca*, *A Million Nightingales*, and *Highwire Moon*, and one memoir, *In the Country of Women*. She's been a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the National Book Award, among other honors, and received the Lannan Prize, the O. Henry Award, the Edgar Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Robert Kirsch Award for lifetime achievement from the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes.

Susan Straight will host a lecture and book signing at the Harold J. Miessi CPAC, Cuesta College San Luis Obispo on Tuesday, April 28, from 5-7pm.

# What's Happening at your library

Visit [sanluisobispo.librarycalendar.com](http://sanluisobispo.librarycalendar.com)



## WINTER READING CHALLENGE

for all ages!

**Ends Feb. 14!**

Stop by to pick up your BINGO card (or [download one online](#)) and play for fun and prizes.

## PRESCHOOL STORYTIME HORA DE CUENTOS

for ages 0-5

**Wednesdays, 10:30-11am**

Learning is fun at our lively Storytime! Join us for books, songs, and a lot of wiggling. All children are welcome.



## KIDS' DAY AT THE LIBRARY VALENTINE'S DAY CARD STAMPING

for K-6th

**Thurs., Feb. 5, 2-3pm & 3:45-4:45pm**

Create your own Valentines!

## LEGO CLUB

for ages 5-11

**Sat., Feb. 7, 2-3pm**

Kids ages 5-11 are invited to engineer, build, and create with Legos. All bricks provided by the library.

*Acompáñenos a construir con Legos!*

## TEEN BOOK CLUB

for ages 12-15

**Sat., Feb. 14, 3-4:30pm**

Come talk about books, build commu-

nity, and participate in activities. Everyone is welcome! February's selection:

*Betting on You,*  
by Lynn Painter



## CHESS CLUB for all ages/levels

**Fri., Feb. 20, 2-4:30pm**

Would you like to learn to play, improve your game, meet other players? Chess boards and instruction provided.



## POKÉMON CARD TRADING

for school age, tweens, teens

**Sat., Feb. 21, 2-3:30pm**

Bring your Pokémon cards to meet, compete, and trade with other collectors your age! All attendees receive a card of their choosing from the librarian, while supplies last.\*

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

for adults

**Tues., Feb. 24, 10-11:30am**

*The Code Breaker*

By Walter Isaacson



## Friends of the Nipomo Library

### 2026 Board of Directors

Angela Braun, Co-President

Jamie Hartshorn, Co-President

Anna Zucker, Recording Secretary

Jitu Thakker, Treasurer

Lynda Flynn

Susan Galluzzo

Merril Lynn Schalla

Linda Short

Judy Trecartin

## Coastal Dunes Branch of the California Writers Club (CWC)

**Sat., Feb. 7, 10am-12:45pm**

"Amazon's New DRM Reality—What PDF Downloads Mean for Publishing and Intellectual Property" with speaker Brian Schwartz

## Library Details

The Nipomo Library is located at:

918 W. Tefft St., Nipomo 93444

Branch Manager:

Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer

Information: 805-929-3994

[www.slolibrary.org](http://www.slolibrary.org)

**Hours:**

Tuesday 10am-6pm

Wednesday 10am-6pm

Thursday 9am-5pm\*

Friday 1-5pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

\*Closed on Thurs., Feb. 12

\* Parents and guardians note: Staff will not monitor individual card trades. Please use good judgment with cards that you/your children are not comfortable trading. Thank you!

## MEMBERSHIP MONTH

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To join or renew, simply fill out and return the form below or download it from our website:

[www.friendsofnipomolibrary.org](http://www.friendsofnipomolibrary.org)

You'll be entered in a drawing for a love-our-library-related gift basket filled with all sorts of goodies—stop by our window near the library service desk to check it out and see our display. All Friends who join or renew between Oct. 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026, are eligible to win; membership forms and payment must be received or postmarked by March 1, 2026. The drawing will be held at the Friends Board meeting on March 11. You need not be present to win—but everyone is welcome to attend.

As a Friend of the Nipomo Library you will:

- Enhance the Nipomo Library's re-

sources and programs

- Get members-only perks at our book sales
- Make new friends and work with wonderful volunteers

• Receive our newsletter via email and in full color

- Take pride in contributing to the reading pleasure and education of children and adults alike

**What do YOU love about the Nipomo Library? Through-out the month of February, you'll find paper hearts to write on so you can share the love with the rest of us!**



**HELP  
WANTED**

## We (still) need your help!

*Help make a positive impact on your community and local library! We are actively looking to fill a key position:*

### **Book sale co-chair**

Duties include setting sale dates; recruiting, scheduling, and overseeing volunteers for various aspects of sale

(setup, takedown, staffing); setting out signs; staying at book sale entire day. Book sales are held three times a year; approximate time commitment each sale (including day of) is 10-15 hours for a total of 30-45 hours per year. Interested? Contact Linda at [keighleyshort@yahoo.com](mailto:keighleyshort@yahoo.com).

**NEXT BOOK SALE: Saturday, March 14, 10am-2pm**

## Be a Friend – join or renew today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member       Renewal

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual (\$10)

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family (\$25)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Business (\$40)

Will only be used for FONL-related mailings

Contributor (\$50)

### **I would like to volunteer as a Friend at the Nipomo Library:**

Sponsor (\$100)

Serve on the board/work on the board or a committee

Patron (\$250)

Work on special projects or events

Benefactor (\$500)

Help at book sales

Dues Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

eBay sales (listing, shipping, managing)

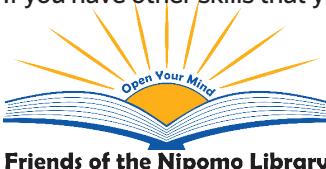
Additional Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Help with book donations/donated books

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Marketing and publicity

If you have other skills that you believe would be helpful to the Friends, please describe them below:



**Please make checks payable to "Friends of the Nipomo Library" and mail to  
Friends of the Nipomo Library, P.O. Box 1330, Nipomo, CA 93444-1330.  
Our membership is January-December; FONL is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.**