



The year in review

The Friends of the Nipomo Library closed out the year with our annual membership meeting on Dec. 10, which preceded that month's regular board meeting.

It was an extremely successful 2025, topped off by our largest donation to Nipomo Library in years—nearly \$80,000 for the sunshade, outdoor chairs and benches, and children's area furnishings. We recapped our fundraising efforts and use of our window near the service desk, which features thrice-yearly silent auctions (see item on page 2) and other local nonprofits and school groups ranging from the Nipomo Native Garden to the 4-H Club. We also seated our 2026 Board of Directors (listed on page 3):

Our 2025 Annual Report is included at the end of this newsletter (if you're a digital subscriber) or you can find it on our website at www.friendsofnipomolibrary.org.



Have you checked out our selection on eBay lately?

You no doubt know about the book sales we hold three times a year and in the library lobby year-round—but did you know we also have a growing presence on eBay? Donated books and items of special value are sold through the Friends' eBay shop, with funds going to support the library.

We are currently looking for someone to help with our eBay efforts (see "Help Wanted" on page 2)—maybe YOU?

To see our latest listings, [click here](#), use the link at our website (www.friendsofnipomolibrary.org; scroll to bottom of home page), or scan this QR code



January 2026

Contact us at info@friendsofnipomolibrary.org

Manager's Message

From Margaret Kensinger-Klopfers
Library Branch Manager

Here is a short list of New Year's Reading Resolutions for 2026:

In 2026 I want to give you permission to recapture the joy of using the library and reading (in all of its forms).

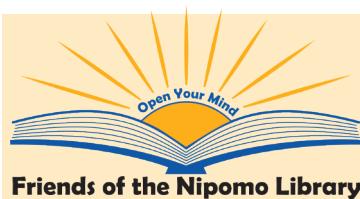
In the spirit of that wish, here are some of my New Year's (Reading) Resolutions:

1. Read what you want! In the library we like to say that "all reading is good reading." so read anything that catches your fancy. Don't worry if it is too silly, too serious, too romantic, or not intellectual enough. Don't worry if that magazine "counts" as reading. Just read something you truly enjoy.

2. Don't finish the book. In the same vein as reading what you want, don't be afraid to put down a book that just isn't working for you. Life is short. If you don't like the book, put it down and go find something you like better!

3. Try something new! Love thrillers? Try some science fiction!

Continued on page 2



The Friends of the Nipomo Library Board's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 14, 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

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MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

Love romance or history? Try a biography! You could even try reading in a new format, like ebook, audiobook, large print, PressReader (more about this service on page 3), or Playaway. The new year is a great time to branch out and try something new.

4. Try out the Library's Cozy Winter Reading Program—details on page 3. Between Jan. 2 and Feb. 14, all County of SLO Libraries will offer bingo cards to inspire you to have all kinds of library fun. Ask a librarian for your card or download one online.

Happy New Year to everyone, from the Nipomo Library staff!

Need a reason to read?

There are so many reasons beyond simple entertainment for burying your nose in that thriller or romance novel—some you may not have thought of. For one, reading stimulates your brain and has been shown to slow down cognitive decline. It has also been linked to reducing the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

Studies show that reading reduces stress, likely because it requires concentration and focus. Researchers at the University of Sussex found that participants who read for just six minutes a day experienced reduced muscle tension and a slower heart rate.

Need more reasons? Stay tuned!



Still looking for a volunteer eBay sales assistant

Help make a positive impact on your community and local library! Duties involve listing books and collectibles for sale by FONL, including item photography and writing descriptions—a commitment of about 4 hours monthly. Use of your own computer/cell phone...training provided. If interested, contact Judy at jftrecartin@yahoo.com.

Dana Adobe is featured in January window

This month, you'll step back into the early history of the region when you visit the Friends' window near the library's service desk. Throughout January, we're proud to showcase another fine Nipomo nonprofit—the Dana Adobe at Historic Rancho Nipomo.

The Dana Adobe is the oldest home in Nipomo, built in 1839 by Captain William Goodwin Dana and his wife Maria Josefa Carrillo de Dana. In 1835 Captain Dana moved a herd of 500 cattle from Sepse (in Ventura County) to Rancho Nipomo. The herd would grow to 5,000 head by the 1850s.

The exhibit will share information about the Chumash, Spanish, Mexican, and California Territorial periods as well as the natural environment. Rancho Nipomo once comprised about 48,800 acres. Today, the Dana Adobe at Historic Rancho Nipomo manages 137 acres, including nearly 5 miles of hiking trails.

Please check out the display where you can discover local history and visit the Dana Adobe at 671 Oaklawn Avenue in Nipomo. To learn more about the Dana Adobe, guided tours, cultural events, and other programs, visit its website at www.danaadobe.org.



(Below) The historic adobe home of Captain Dana, completed in 1837. (Left) The DANA Cultural Center, which houses a museum and hosts educational programs.



Silent auction windows need donations

Our final silent auction of the year (November 2025) was extremely successful, bringing in more than \$800 to go to library programs, services, and improvements.

Now, we're on the lookout for items for our three silent auctions in 2026 coming up in March, May, and November.

If you have new (or clean and like new) items such as home décor, jewelry, or personal items to donate to our auctions, please leave them for Angie at the library service desk.



up to some good books this winter!

Winter Reading Challenge: Jan. 2 - Feb. 14

It's time for the Winter Reading Challenge! Grab a book and get your favorite pen ready—this year the challenge features a fun game of BINGO!

Starting Jan. 2, readers of all ages are invited to track their cozy winter reading on a BINGO card for fun and prizes. Just stop by the library and pick up a card, or download one from the SLO County Public Libraries website (see below), and play along. While you're at it, grab a stack of books, too!

How it works: Complete five book-related activities in a row—across, vertically, or diagonally—on the Cozy Winter Reading BINGO card. (Shouting BINGO!! is optional but encouraged.) Present your card at the library between Jan. 2 and Feb. 14 for a prize.

This is optional, but avid players can keep going for Blackout BINGO (all squares completed) for an entry in the grand prize drawing! Prize drawing winners will be announced the last week of February, and all prizes must be claimed in person at the library.

Ready, set, read—BINGO!!!



For more, visit: catalog.slolibrary.org/winter-reading-challenge

Check it out!

Introducing  **pressreader**™

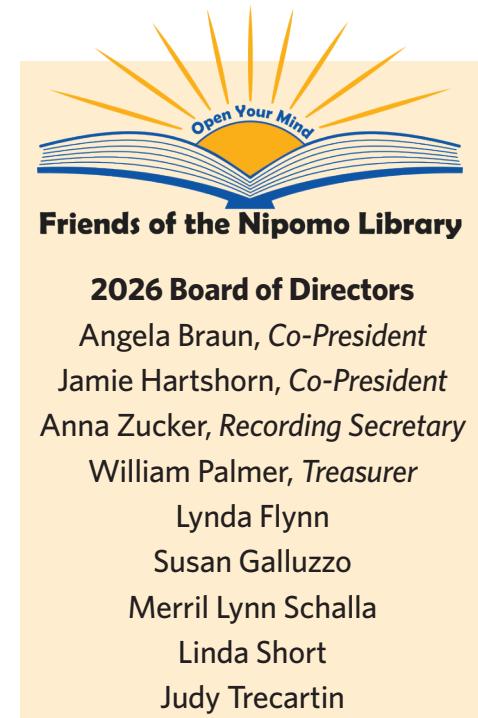
With **skyrocketing subscription prices** to favorite magazines and newspapers, it's difficult to stay current on the latest events, trends, and fashions. But did you know you can have digital access to a huge list of publications—**FREE**—with your SLO County Library card? Everything from *The Economist*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New Yorker* to *USA Today* and *The New York Times*—and many regional and foreign-language publications as well.

Here's how to easily access PressReader:

- Download the app at <https://about.pressreader.com/download-app> or go directly to the website at www.pressreader.com.
- Click "Sign In" and select "Library or Group" as the login option.
- Search for and select "San Luis Obispo-County Library" and enter your library card info (card number and in the PIN field, your account password).

You will be prompted to create an account, but this is optional (just hit "cancel" if you don't want to).

With PressReader on your computer, tablet, or phone, you'll have a whole world of current publications at your fingertips. While the full-page views may look distressingly tiny on a small screen, headlines and titles are highlighted in green; click on them and the story will appear in a readable format.



What's Happening at your library

Visit sanluisobispo.librarycalendar.com



WINTER READING CHALLENGE

for all ages!

Jan. 2 - Feb. 14

Stop by to pick up your BINGO card (or [download one online](#); see story on page 3) 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.

LEGO CLUB

for ages 5-11

Sat., Jan. 3, 2-3pm

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

iAcompáñenos a construir con Legos!

KIDS' DAY AT THE LIBRARY

for K-6th

**Thurs., Jan. 8, 2-3pm &
3:45-4:45pm**

Monthly event with a different program or activity each month. The first session is for home school groups and the second is for the after-school kids.

TEEN BOOK CLUB

for ages 12-15

Sat., Jan. 10, 3-4:30pm

Come talk about books, build community, and participate in activities. Everyone is welcome! January's selection: *If He Had Been With Me* by Laura Nowlin

CHESS CLUB for all ages/levels

Fri., Jan. 16, 2-4:30pm

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

POKEMON CARD TRADING

for school age, tweens, teens

Sat., Jan. 17, 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.

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!

WIC POP-UP EVENT

for babies & toddlers, adults

Thurs., Jan. 22, 9am-12pm

Partnership between the County of SLO Libraries and WIC to provide pop-up distributions.

WATERCOLOR WINTER PAINTING

with SPENCER COLLINS

for teens, adults

Sat., Jan. 24, 2:30-4pm

Learn how to create a beautiful winter snow scene using watercolor paints with instructor Spencer Collins! These make great gifts—all skill levels welcome. [Registration required](#) (closes Jan. 24 at 2:30pm).



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

for adults

Tues., Jan. 27, 10-11:30am

Miss Eliza's English Kitchen
By Annabel Abbs

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

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!

Coastal Dunes Branch of the California Writers Club (CWC)

Sat., Jan. 3, 10am-12:45pm

"The Art of Humor in Storytelling" with speakers Terry Willey & Carol Baker-Willey

coastaldunescwc.com

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

Hours:

Tuesday 10am-6pm

Wednesday 10am-6pm

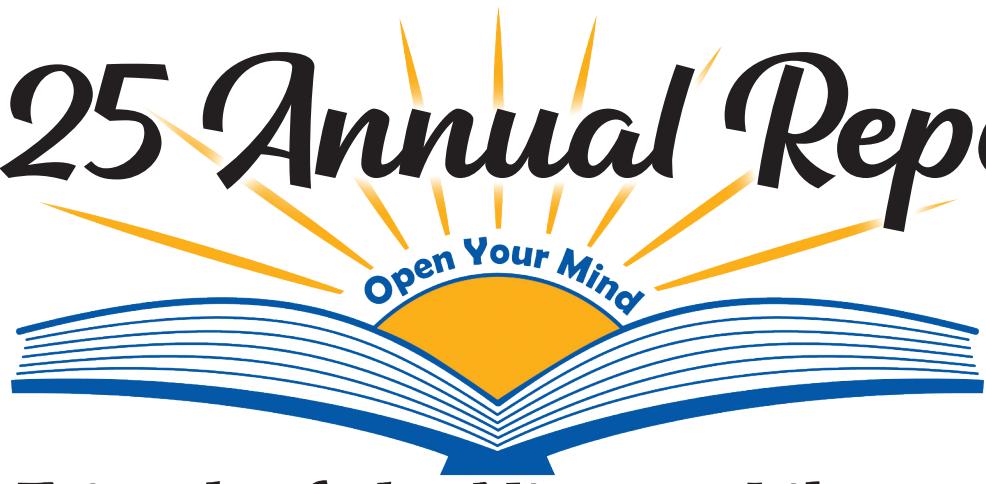
Thursday 9am-5pm*

Friday 1-5pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

*Closed on Thurs., Jan. 1

2025 Annual Report



Friends of the Nipomo Library

The past year was a particularly productive one for the Friends of the Nipomo Library (FONL). Thanks to funding provided by your organization, the Nipomo Library saw several major improvements: a permanent sunshade covering the back lawn, which greatly expands the area available for programs and activities; four new chairs and two benches (on order) for the front; and cozy pillows and a colorful rug to spruce up the children's area. This marked the Friends' largest expenditure in years.

We also contributed to the SLO County Library system's digital programs to benefit patrons here and throughout the county. And thanks to our longterm advocacy and the support of library administration, the front area's decomposed granite was replaced with attractive paving stones.



Other highlights during the past year included the following:

- In **January 2025**, the Friends' window featured the Cuesta Doll and Study Club's "Celebrity Dolls" display as part of our ongoing program to showcase the work of other area nonprofits. Our window is located near the library's service desk and each month highlights a different organization or FONL's periodic silent auctions.
- **February 2025** was our annual Membership Month, during which we promoted membership in FONL with a

window display and gift basket drawing.

- **March 2025** marked the first of our very popular thrice-yearly book sales. These events, along with lobby and eBay book sales, are a major activity and source of funds.

Our March window featured the first of our silent auctions, another significant fundraising tool.

- **April 2025** saw the upcoming production of the Nipomo Theatre Company publicized in our window. The company is composed of local high school students.
- **May 2025** was another silent auction in our window.

This month, we also enjoyed a sumptuous brunch buffet hosted by library staff to recognize volunteers.

- **June 2025** saw our volunteers helping out with the annual Summer Reading Challenge kickoff party on the lawn; FONL covered the cost of lunches for the adults in attendance. Our window featured the work of the Trilogy Art Group (TAG), whose larger paintings graced the Community Room.
- The **July 2025** window highlighted the Nipomo Native Garden, while we also held our second book sale of the year.
- **August 2025** saw another arts organization—the Central Coast Watercolor Society—in the Friends' window, with 20 percent of sales to be donated to FONL and several artists pledging to donate their entire sales.
- **September 2025** was Good Neighbor Month. The window was devoted to two local organizations, the Nipomo Food Basket and South SLO County Women-ade, to collect grocery items and toiletries for those in need.
- In **October 2025** the FONL window was turned over to the Nipomo 4-H Club, in time to celebrate National 4-H Week (Oct. 5-11).
- **November 2025** witnessed the year's final book sale, which not only raised funds, but also gave patrons a chance to stock up on gifts for the upcoming holidays. The month also marked our final silent auction.
- And in **December 2025**, we teamed up with Meals That Connect to deliver gift books to homebound seniors. The Cuesta Doll and Study Club again filled our window, this time with holiday-themed dolls.

Your organization remained on extremely firm financial footing in 2025. Our primary purpose is to raise funds to help "fill in the blanks" in the county's shrinking budget, in order to supplement programs and resources for library patrons. As mentioned previously, in 2025 a substantial amount also went to physical improvements at the Nipomo Library. Here is where funding was di-

rected (figures rounded to the nearest dollar):

- Sunshade structure, benches, chairs, children's area improvements— \$79,690
- SLO County Library system for programs — \$5,000
- Summer program kickoff expenses — \$222

Other expenditures during this period totaled \$3,485 and went toward operating expenses, insurance, storage space and P.O. box rental, tax preparation, and miscellaneous other expenses.

Our primary sources of income in 2025 were:

- Book sales — \$4,228
- eBay sales — \$3,245
- Lobby sales — \$3,448
- Silent auctions — \$1,669
- Membership dues — \$3,750
- Donations — \$1,575
- Interest on checking/savings — \$8,050

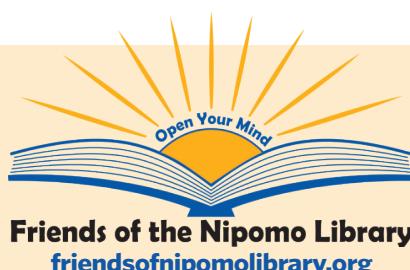
FONL finished November 2025 with \$268,576 in our checking and savings accounts and 128 individual and family memberships. For detailed financial information, please see the treasurer's reports.

Many thanks go to our membership and Board of Directors, without whom none of this would be possible. In addition to financial support, they provided more than 1,000 hours as volunteers. Thanks go, too, to library staff and Manager Kristin Nibbe, and after she was transferred to the Morro Bay branch, to South County Regional Librarian Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer. We look forward to a close and productive working relationship with them in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Braun, Co-president
Jamie Hartshorn, Co-president

December 10, 2025



Angela Braun, Co-President
Jamie Hartshorn, Co-President
Anna Zucker, Recording Secretary
William Palmer, Treasurer

2025 Board of Directors

Members at Large:
Lynda Flynn • Susan Galluzzo
Merril Lynn Schalla • Linda Short
Judy Trecartin

