



Newsletter

Ai-monthly newsletter

January – February 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR



www.pacificafriendsofthelibrary.org

Message from the Co- Presidents

2025 is in the books. The holidays are a good time to reflect on how things went in the past year and where we are heading in the future. We have many things to be thankful for. First and foremost, we need to thank all our generous members and donors for their direct financial support that allows us to do so much to help the Pacifica Libraries. Next, we continue to work hard to raise money through our book sales. We held three sales in 2025. We are grateful for the hardworking Book Nook workers who keep the book donations moving and stored, and also the wonderful people who set up, run, and take down the book sales. They make it all possible.

The money we raise assists the Pacifica Libraries in many ways. One of them is the money we give the library to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program that gives monthly free books to all Pacifica children enrolled from birth to 5 years. We Provided financial assistance to the many programs for all ages, and we provided funds for a staff training program. None of this would be possible without the support of our two libraries and their fantastic staff. We bid farewell to Library Manager Julie Smith in 2025. We are very grateful for all she has done for our libraries. We also welcomed Hillary Ake as our new Library Manager. She is a very qualified and experienced manager, and we feel lucky to have her guiding our progress in the future. We continue to look for ways to replace our old library with its infrastructure problems and thank out-going City Manager Kevin Woodhouse for his unflagging support for this endeavor.

As we have said before, the P'FOL needs new volunteers on our Board of Directors. We need people who are willing to help us tackle the many programs we have

Undertaken to help our libraries. If you are interested, please contact Carl Schwab or Joan Putz at pfol94044@gmail.com. For more information go to www.pacificafriendsofthelibrary.org.

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to working with all of you in 2026 so that we can continue to support our wonderful libraries.

Carl Schwab & Joan Putz Co-Presidents

Book Sale Update

Our December Sale was a big success! We made \$3,375. We couldn't have done it without you. We thank the book donors who passed on their gently used, beautiful books, the magnificent set-up crew, the cashiers, book arrangers, and take down crew. We are especially grateful to those hardy people who did double, triple, and even quadruple duty. It was a true community effort.



Set-up Crew at Work

Welcome



Pacifica's libraries are heading into the new year with a new library manager at the helm. Hillary Ake (pronounced "ache") joined the Pacifica Library System in mid-November.

Hillary grew up in San Francisco's Outer Sunset neighborhood. She earned her Bachelor's degree in English literature and went on to receive a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. Prior to coming to Pacifica, she served as manager of the Visitacion Valley Library in San Francisco. She was drawn to public libraries as places where communities are built and lives improved.

She barely had time to settle into her new role before navigating a two-day closure of the Sharp Park Library due to an unexpected building repair. The experience gave her early insight into some of the challenges of working in an older library building. Hillary is excited to partner with the PFOL and the broader Pacifica community as we plan for the future of our cherished libraries.

Hillary lives in nearby Montara, where she and her husband are raising their two young children. Her husband grew up in Montara, and she loves coastal living. As a working mom, she still finds time to read with her children and has recently been enjoying reading novels by Anne Patchett.

We welcome Hillary and look forward to working with her as we move into 2026 and beyond.

Events

1/06 Tuesday 4:00pm – 5:30pm Pind Needle Weaving
traditional indigenous weaving. Sharp Park Library

1/08-2/12 Thursdays 3:00-5:00 pm Creative Writing: Bring your Idea-Let's Bring it to Life. All forms-essays, poems, journals, memoir, novel etc. Sharp Park.

1/15 Thursday 11:30am – 12:30pm Responding to Dementia Related Behavior Sharp Park

01/17 Saturday 2:00-3:30pm Borrowing eBooks at the Library. Learn about the library's diverse collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks and how to download them. Bring your device. Sanchez Library

Gerard Bender in the Wall Street Journal on the benefits of reading fiction -"The best writers don't only keep you engaged with a gripping tale. They will, under the guise of that compelling narrative, teach you more about human motivation that lies at the base of everything in politics, business, and life itself".

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Thank you!

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