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# Literally Speaking



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Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy 1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (949) 717-3874 September/October 2016

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     A publication of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy, a program of the Newport Beach Public Library

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## International Literacy Day.

About 100 people gathered at the library to celebrate International Literacy Day and the accomplishments of adult learners of the Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy program. Guests enjoyed a delicious selection of food from many different countries provided by program participants.

Board President, Farah Mozaffar, welcomed the group and explained that International Literacy Day is celebrated around the world to bring awareness to the millions of people who do not get the opportunity to go to school. Tim Hetherton, NBPL Library Director, emphasized the importance of the literacy program in our community and tutor John Hollenbeck talked about how easy it is to get involved. He encouraged others to join the program and to share their skills.



Literacy Coordinator, Cherall Weiss, introduced Renee Hoffman Heath and Risa Hoffman, daughters of the late Rochelle Hoffman, to present the annual Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award to Lima Alexandrova. In her acceptance, Lima clearly illustrated her love of idioms and why she was chosen as this year's recipient of the award. A copy of Lima's moving speech can be read in this newsletter. Tim Whitacre, from OC Supervisor - 2nd district Michelle Steel's office and Patricia Taylor, chief of staff for Assemblyman Matthew Harper's office, presented Lima with certificates recognizing her achieving her literacy goals and her many accomplishments since joining the program. Mr. Whitacre and Ms. Taylor then called up Jing Ai, Kaily Hwang, and Keyhan Zaker for a special recognition ceremony celebrating recent attainment of their US citizenship.



The morning concluded with guests enjoying the wonderful international buffet. Everyone left with a full belly and proud to be part of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy.

## Learner's Corner

Acceptance Speech for 2016 Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award winner **Lima Alexandrova**:

When my tutor told me that I won the Rochelle Hoffman Award I was amazed. I asked the question to myself, "Why me?" I have met so many nice and motivated people from other countries who also worked hard and have met goals and should win this award. I am so happy to be here right now and thankful to have this program.

I was born in Moscow. I have a friend who is living in the United States. The first time my husband and I came to America was about 15 years ago. We spent several summer times with our old friends. When we returned to Moscow we started thinking about our life and the future for our son. We decided that the best place for life is America. Especially Orange County. We thought we could get the best education for our son in the United States.

Our friends recommended us to try green card lottery. I never thought that it was a real chance to win. The chance was less than 1% to win this. But my husband completed applications and we won twice in one year. We felt so excited and shocked at the same time. We kept saying, "о мой Бог ! о мой Бог !" which means "Oh my God! Oh my God!" or the one I like in English: "Holy Cow!"

A year later in June 2013 we moved to Newport Beach from Moscow and the most important thing for us was learning English. We looked on the Internet for English lessons and the best place for us was the Newport Beach public library because we are living nearby. I came with my husband Miroslav and my son Boris. The first person we met was Cherall. She was very nice and kind and she was ready to help us. We completed our applications for the literacy program.

In September I started classes. I attended discussion with Shari Elias, Life skills with Seema Ali, conversation and cooking workshop with Marcia Drew, and Movie Talk with Cherall Weiss. I come to the library every day except Monday for a couple of hours.

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"To develop the literacy skills of adults to empower them to achieve greater success in their lives — at home, at work, and in the community."

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy Mission Statement

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In November, I started with my tutor Maureen Buffington. We have spent three years together now and I'm so happy to have her. It's useful to have an hour every week to talk, to learn new vocabulary to practice pronunciation, reading writing and life skills. She showed me photos of her vacations and I saw those places when my family did a road trip in California.

I felt very comfortable here. I was tickled pink to be with our teachers and students. The atmosphere was very warm and friendly. We were talking about everything – about husbands, kids and life. We were joking and laughing all the time.

This education in the library helped me to go to college to get a degree and license. In May I got the California State Esthetician license. All this time my Maureen was with me. She helped me with terminology and pronunciation, but the most important is her support and believing in my success! And so, step-by-step, we are preparing me for my first job in America. I really want to be useful to the society and to help other people like you helped me.

So I want to thank you so much for organizing this program and thank you so much for the volunteers who are spending their time for us and who are thinking about others. I feel that many other people should have this award and I am very grateful that you gave it to me.

### Congratulations to our Learners who have achieved goals over these past two months. Their accomplishments include:

- Becoming a U.S. Citizen
- Opening a new business
- Getting a Driver's License
- Reading a newspaper article

### Donations are always welcome

We are grateful for the support that we receive from local companies, foundations, organizations, and individuals whose donations have been helping the program continue to serve the literacy needs of our community.

If you have any contacts who might be interested in supporting adult literacy, please contact the office.

#### Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy

1000 Avocado Avenue  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
(949) 717-3874  
We are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) #93-1011706

## In Memoriam

This year, we at Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy lost two of our literacy program family. One, a dedicated tutor and the other a wonderful learner.

**Noie LaRue** became a tutor in January of 2009. In the subsequent years, she worked with several learners, all of whom grew by leaps and bounds with Noie's help. Noie loved being part of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy and encouraged friends to become tutors as well. She believed strongly in giving back to the community and was involved in many different organizations including



Segerstrom Center and her local church.

Her last learner wrote a moving dedication to Noie, her tutor, saying "You helped me improve myself to have a better opportunity. You made possible all I asked to you." What a wonderful legacy!

**Donna Hong** came to Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy in 2012 as a new resident and a new bride. She threw herself into improving her skills so that she could get a job in her field. Donna attended many classes and worked with a tutor, even after she became ill. She always showed up with a smile and a twinkle in her eye. She lived life on her terms and made an impact on everyone she met.



Both Noie and Donna will be missed. We are grateful for the joy that they each approached life with and the time they spent sharing that joy with us.

## TUTOR TIPS

Southern California Library Literacy Network recently held a tutor workshop at the Commerce Public Library for all literacy programs in the area. Former Literacy Coordinator, Jerry Edwards, prepared an excellent presentation on developing lesson plans. Some of his tips include:

- Make sure you know your focus (tutors know this as focus on the GOAL)
- Be prepared. It is comforting for the learner and truly helps the tutor
- Review previous lessons
- Practice basic skills
- Read and check comprehension at every session
- Write—modeling complete thoughts
- Read aloud—share something that demonstrates your passion for reading; why the passage makes you laugh or cry, etc.



## THANK YOU

### *OCAA of KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA*

The Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority Alumni hosted a fundraiser at a private home in Irvine in August. A portion of all tickets sold were designated for our literacy program and additional contributions were made by some wonderful and generous alumnae. This lovely event not only raised money but awareness of literacy issues in our community.



(L-R)Judee Higgins, Mary Sola, Lois Lewis, Tim Hetherton, Sue Graham, Mary Weaver, Shirley Winslow, Cherall Weiss

Kappas Thank you Kappas for your ongoing and generous support of NMPL!

## Websites to Improve Skills

*Check it out:*

<http://busyteacher.org/>

<http://www.usalearns.org/>

<http://www.fluentu.com/english/blog/online-english-courses/>

If you come across a site that you like, please let us know so that we can share with the others in the program. Thanks!

## NEW TUTORS

We would like to welcome our graduating class of tutors for Summer 2016. Their time and effort are truly appreciated and the learners are anxious to benefit from their participation.

If you know somebody who might enjoy tutoring, please tell them about us. Our next Tutor Orientation is October 26th and orientation is *always* available online.

Thank You new tutors:

Robyn Ashton

Alex Chan

Beth Bianchi

Rami Sahar

Melanie Binns

Dixie-Lee Shurland

Toni Bryant

## Literally Speaking

*Literally Speaking*, the newsletter of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published bi-monthly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

### Literacy Advisory Board

Jason Brady, *President*

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Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy  
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## Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events



### September 5

September 6,13,20,27  
 September 6,13,20,27

### September 8

September 12,19,26  
 September 13,20,27

### September 13

September 14,21,28  
 September 15,22,29  
 September 15,22,29

### Monday

Tuesdays, 10:15 am  
 Tuesdays, 6:00 pm

### Thursday 10:00 am

Mondays, 10:30 am  
 Tuesdays, 1:00 pm

### Tuesday, 7:00 pm

Wednesdays, 10:00 am  
 Thursday, 10:00 am  
 Thursday, 6:30 pm

### Labor Day (Library Closed)

Discussion Class  
 Evening Book Club  
**International Literacy Day**  
 Book Club  
 Grammar & Vocabulary Class\*\*  
**Advisory Board Meeting**  
 News You Can Use\*\*  
 Writing Class\*\*  
 Conversation Class

October 3,10,17,24,31

October 4,11,18,25

October 4,11,18,25

October 4,11,18,25

October 12,19,26

October 6,13,20,27

October 13,20

### October 19

October 21

### October 26

Mondays, 10:30 am

Tuesdays, 10:15 am

Tuesdays, 1:00 pm

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, 10:00 am

Thursdays, 6:30 pm

Thursdays 10:00 am

### Wednesday, 10:00 am

Friday, 10 am

### Wednesday, 10:00 am

Book Club

Discussion Class

Grammar & Vocabulary Class\*

Evening Book Club

News You Can Use\*\*

Conversation Class

Writing Class\*\*

### Learner Orientation

Script to Screen\*\*

### Tutor Orientation

**Note:** All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted and subject to change.  
 For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at [literacy@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:literacy@newportbeachca.gov)