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# Literally Speaking

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

Newport/ Mesa ProLiteracy

September/October 2017

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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*

## Learner’s Corner: Venezuela Crisis

I left Venezuela a long time ago and love the United States, but my heart will never leave my birth country. Venezuela gave me great memories and important lessons when I was young. I grew up without toys or the best clothes...but I always had the true love of my parents and grandfathers from both sides and I learned the value of hard work.

Now, my family and the whole country is struggling for food and medication. In photos, some of my family members are almost unrecognizable. On January 26 2017, I was on Skype with my sister and I saw that she did not throw out oatmeal that had pieces of garbage mixed in. She told me, "this is food, Mamita, we can't throw it away!" That was the moment when I decided to help not only my family,

but also the elderly and children in my state, Tachira, and in other states.

Since early July, a small group of us has sent 32 boxes of food, medications and clothes, weighing 2,388 pounds and valued at almost \$4,000, to Venezuela. This included dry foods like rice, grains, pasta, flour, sugar, salt, milk powder and cookies. Also diapers for adults and babies, deodorants, sanitary towels and some toys for children. Sometimes things get stolen. Luckily, 19 of the 32 boxes have already been delivered. We have 60 more boxes of aid ready to send, too. Thanks to donors and volunteers, we are making a difference, but the problems in Venezuela are huge.

We are a small group, and everyone needs to do a lot of work for things to run properly. I give speeches, make phone calls, advertise, collect donated items and

find places to store them, and then drive up to Los Angeles or the San Fernando Valley to package them and so they can be sent by boat or plane. I also organized a gift raffle in Mile Square

Park in August. My goal is continue sending food, medicine and clothes for as long as needed. I do not know when things in Venezuela will improve. People have been very generous so far and I hope we will continue to find new donors. Next, I want to turn this project into a registered charity and in the future, continue helping people with similar situations in other countries, too. For more information about the problems in Venezuela, please contact me at Venezue-



**Carmen Caicado**

## International Literacy Day Celebration

September at Newport/ Mesa ProLiteracy is always a very special month. It is when our “family” of tutors, learners and volunteers come together with members of our community

to celebrate adult literacy and those who participate in our program.

On September 14, 2017, a gathering of over 100 guests listened to heartwarming stories, inspiring speeches and

enjoyed a delicious selection of food from many different countries from all over the world provided by our learners.

Stay connected!



## International Literacy Day



Hoffman award recipient, Negar Pourasad with her Tutor, John Hollenbeck, and the daughters of Rochelle Hoffman, Renee and Risa Hoffman.

Advisory Board President, Farah Mozaffar, welcomed people to International Literacy Day. She spoke of the importance of literacy skills in our society, and then introduced Newport Beach Public Library Director Tim Hetherington, who emphasized the special link between literacy and libraries and the need that the Literacy Program fills in our community.

To illustrate the significance of the program, and to showcase the progress of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy's adult learners, every guest received a copy of "In Our Own Words", a collection of stories, essays and poems written by the learners of the program. Attendees enjoyed a delicious fruit and cheese arrangement generously donated by Bristol Farms and an international potluck provided by adult learners.

Newport Beach City Councilman Will O' Neill took to the podium to read a City proclamation designating September 14, 2017 as Literacy Awareness Day in Newport Beach. Adult learner, Carmen Caicedo shared the story of her home country, Venezuela. She clearly illustrated the struggles the country faces today and encouraged people to help by getting involved in her newly formed organization.

OC Supervisor, Michelle Steel, presented a special award honoring the Library's Support Services Coordinator, Melissa Kelly, for her many years of work and dedication to Literacy Services. Michelle Steel also recognized and awarded two learners, Keyhan Zaker and Maria Alvarez, who became citizens this past year.

Cherall Weiss, continued the program by introducing Renee Hoffman Heath and Risa Hoffman, daughters of the late Rochelle Hoffman, to present the annual Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award to Negar Pourasad. In her acceptance, Negar clearly demonstrated how she overcame her vulnerabilities and boosted her confidence with the help of her tutor, John Hollenbeck, and the support from Literacy Services. A copy of Negar's moving speech is available upon request.

District Representative Tim Whitacre, OC Supervisor Michelle Steel, City Councilmen Will O' Neil and Jeff Herdman, presented Negar with certificates recognizing her literacy achievements, goals and her many accomplishments since joining the program.

Following the speakers and awards ceremony, Cherall Weiss closed with a reminder that illiteracy is all around us and it is thanks to the many volunteers that people's lives are changing for the better. Everyone agreed that International Literacy Day is a truly inspirational day.



OC Supervisor, Michelle Steel, with Years of Service award recipient, Melissa Kelly.



Civil Board Services, Robyn Grant with Library Director, Tim Hetherington.

## TUTOR TOOLBOX

**Book Recommendation:** One of our active tutors in the ProLiteracy program recommended a book for all tutors/teachers to read. The book is entitled: *If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?: My Adventures in the Art and Science of Relating and Communicating* by Alan Alda.

- Award-winning actor Alan Alda tells the fascinating story of his quest to learn how to communicate better, and to teach others to do the same. With his trademark humor and candor, he explores how to develop empathy as the key factor.

### Tutor Tips:

#### Check out the following:

- [www.readingplus.com](http://www.readingplus.com) - a program designed to help your learner read better
- [www.libraryliteracy.org](http://www.libraryliteracy.org) - videos and resources for tutors to tutor better
- [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) - opportunities to volunteer in the community
- [www.usalearns.org](http://www.usalearns.org) - developing better speaking skills

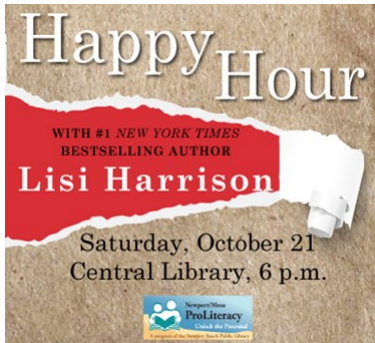
As always, if you come across a site that you like, please let us know so that we can share it with others in the program.

**"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."**

- Benjamin Franklin

# Join the Happy Hour!

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy invites you spend happy hour with #1 New York Times bestselling author Lisi Harrison. Ms. Harrison will discuss her latest novel, "The Dirty Book Club". Tickets are \$25 per person and books are available for purchase and signing.



Tickets & additional information available at [www.newportliteracy.org](http://www.newportliteracy.org)

## 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

Farah Mozaffar, *President*

Eve-Marie Kuntzman, *Vice President*

Jan Oates, *Secretary*

Seema Ali

Wasim Ali

Dziyana Aydin

Michael Habashi

## Congratulations TUTORS

We would like to welcome our graduating class of tutors for Summer 2017. Their time and effort are truly appreciated and there are a lot of learners who will benefit from their

participation.

If you know somebody who might enjoy tutoring, please tell them about us .

Our last **Tutor Training** for 2017 is November 9 & 16 at 9:15 a.m.



Virginia Snyder  
Krystelle Robeniol  
Trisha Tanner  
Sahba Amjadi  
Linda Newsom

Trish Nichols  
Joan Penfil  
Jan Wood  
Claudette Shaw  
Barbara Stern

## THANK YOU

### OCAA of KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

The Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority Alumni hosted a carnival themed fundraiser in Irvine last July. A portion of all tickets sold were designated for our literacy program.



Through this fun event, they not only raised money but awareness of literacy issues in Orange County. Thank you Kappas for your ongoing and generous support of NMPL!

## SAVE THE DATE

On December 9, Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy will host its **Annual Holiday Potluck for tutors, learners and volunteers who will come together with their families — to have fun.**

This annual brunch is a relaxed morning of games, good food and special holiday crafts for the children.

We will also elect our 2018 Advisory Board and honor a special Tutor of the Year.

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy  
a program of the Newport Beach Public Library  
1000 Avocado Avenue  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

## Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

September 11,18,25	Mondays, 10:30 a.m.	Book Club
September 5,12,19,26	Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.	Discussion: Life Skills Class**
September 5,12,19,26	Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.	Evening Book Club**
September 6, 13, 20, 27	Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.	News You Can Use**
September 6, 20, 27	Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.	Grammar & Vocabulary**
September 13, 27	Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	Creative Writing**
September 14	Thursday, 10:00 a.m.	<b>International Literacy Day Celebration</b>
September 21,28	Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.	Writing Workshop**
September 21,28	Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.	American Sitcoms**
September 21,28	Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.	Conversation Class
September 7	Thursday, 10:30 a.m.	Script to Screen**
September 26	Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.	<b>Advisory Board Meeting</b>
September 28	Thursday, 10:00 a.m.	<b>Tutor Connection</b>
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Mondays, 10:30 a.m.	Book Club
October 3,10,17,24,31	Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.	Discussion: Life Skills Class**
October 3,10,17,24,31	Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.	Evening Book Club**
October 4, 11,18,25	Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.	News You Can Use**
October 12	Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.	<b>New Learner Orientation**</b>
October 4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesday, 1:00 pm	Grammar & Vocabulary**
October 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.	American Sitcoms**
October 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursdays, 6:30 pm	Conversation Class
October 21	Saturday, 6:00 p.m.	<b>Happy Hour**</b>

\*\*Pre-registration required

**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)