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# Literally Speaking

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

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy

November-December 2018

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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*

## Happy Hour with Aimee Bender

Bestselling author Aimee Bender joined Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy on October 6th for Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy's (NMPL) 3rd Annual Happy Hour. Over 100 guests mingled in the Bamboo Courtyard under the evening sky.

Aimee Bender was delightful while chatting with fans of her work. She signed copies of her best-sellers: *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*, *The Color Master* and *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt*. After lively conversations over wine and cheese, guests made their way into the Friends Room for the Author Talk.



Aimee began with her experience living in Newport Beach as she worked on her MFA in Creative Writing at the University of California, Irvine. She continued to speak about her influences, and made it clear that she is a proud proponent of the Fairy Tale.

As a young author, Aimee was reluctant to write her surrealist plots within an industry where realist stories thrived. She was worried her work would not be taken seriously. Upon receiving encouragement at UCI to treat Fairy Tales as significant works of literature, Aimee wrote with confidence. Her short stories and novels are filled with magical realism that intertwines the mundane, everyday acts of life with fantastical, whimsical elements.

After her engaging talk on her influences and journey as an author, Aimee answered questions from the audience regarding: her work with the Imagination Workshop at UCLA, advice to encourage young writers, further illumination on her writing process and several other topics.

Aimee certainly made new fans who are eager to dive into the surrealist worlds she's created. She was kind enough to stay and sign more books and chat with charmed guests. Thank you Aimee, and thank you to all who attended the 2018 Happy Hour! Your generosity in purchasing event tickets, books and raffle tickets raised funds for NMPL. Be sure to attend next year's event to support adult literacy and to engage with another author like Aimee Bender.

Thank you to our Events Committee, as always, for putting together such a lovely party of wine, cheese and books: our favorite trio.

*For more photos of Happy Hour with Aimee Bender, please go to page 3.*



## Shop with an Extra Cause this Holiday Season!

Did you know that you could donate to Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy without spending an extra dime? By selecting NMPL as your charity of choice at Ralph's and on

Amazon, a portion of your purchases will be donated to our program. So before you shop for the holiday season, make sure you've got an extra cause in mind! Enroll in Ralph's Community Contribution Program and AmazonSmile and select Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy today!



Sign into your Ralph's account online and register your Ralph's Rewards card! Enroll in Community Rewards for "Newport Mesa Pro Literacy" or organization ID "AL729". Once enrolled, shop at Ralph's in store or online using your Ralph's Rewards card and a portion of your grocery spending will be donated to Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy!



Purchase with purpose. Begin your Amazon shopping at:

<http://bit.ly/NMPLsmile>

Shop as you regularly would, and Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Newport Mesa ProLiteracy!

*For assistance in selecting Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy as your charity, please e-mail [literacy@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:literacy@newportbeachca.gov)*

## A Message from Cherall

Cherall Weiss, Literacy Coordinator

In September, I had the opportunity to join other literacy coordinators at the State Library in Sacramento for two days of workshops. Surrounded by nearly 100 people who spend their time focused on the same issues and goals that we at NMPL are was incredibly exciting.

After the initial "patting each other on the back" for having the best jobs ever, we got down to business. That business meant a lot of workshops designed to help us improve our offerings to tutors, learners and the community at large. We talked about better training, better programming, better community outreach. We tackled issues large and small with one thought in mind... how do we do it better?

When we all were in a room together, a facilitator asked how many of the coordinators were new, i.e. at their job for <5 years. Remarkably about 80% of those present raised their hand. So now, as part of the old guard, I started worrying if our programs are getting stale and what is it that we can do to keep our community excited? This caused me to reflect and evaluate how NMPL matches up with the other programs. Are we actually keeping current, are the classes, trainings and resources still relevant? What is it that we can do better?

And that is where you come in. We like – no we NEED – your feedback. Please let us know what we can be doing better, a class you think might work for you, a book or other resource that would be helpful. This is YOUR program and your help in making it the best program is always appreciated.

Please stop by our office, call us at 949-717-3874 or e-mail us at [literacy@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:literacy@newportbeachca.gov) to share your thoughts.

Join us for a morning of sharing food and fun with other learners, tutors and volunteers!

# Holiday Potluck

**SAT, DEC. 8TH**

10:00am-12:00pm

Friends Meeting Room

Partners and children are welcome to attend.  
There will be a raffle, games and fun holiday crafts for the kids!  
Bring your favorite food to share!

### Donations are Always Welcome

We are grateful for the community support that we receive from local companies, foundations, organizations, and individuals whose charitable gifts 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 connect them with our office.

Online donations can be made with credit card at:

<http://bit.ly/NMPLDonate>

Donations through the mail can be made via check and sent to:

**Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy**

1000 Avocado Avenue

Newport Beach, CA 92660

(949) 717-3874

We are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) #93-1011706





**Dates to Remember**

Nov 8—Tutor Connection

Nov 13— Board Meeting

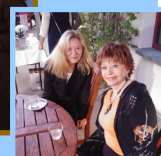
Dec 8—Holiday Potluck

Apr 5—Gift of Literacy Luncheon

Congratulations to  
our **October** graduat-  
ing class of Tutors!  
Thank you for your  
time and effort!



- ◆ Lori Deskins
- ◆ Judy Hay
- ◆Carolyn Johnson
- ◆ Marcy Kessler
- ◆ Kim Prickett
- ◆ Naynara Tangeland

**2018 Happy Hour****LEARNER'S CORNER**
**Art in the Park 2018**  
 by Houri Borjian

This was my second opportunity to participate in this show. It was a very pleasant experience for me both years. Jewelry making is very precious to me. It begins with creating a design in my mind and ending up as a piece of art. In all these steps my mind and my hands work together to create a beautiful piece. Therefore I am very happy when my friends like my pieces and enjoy wearing them. And I am so thankful to the Newport Beach Literacy Program for helping me feel like I am part of the community.



*Houri has been a part of NMPL for 3 years. She lives in Irvine with her husband and 19 year-old daughter.*

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1000 Avocado Avenue  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

## Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

November 5, 12, 19, 26 November 6, 13, 27 November 7, 14, 28 November 1, 8, 15, 29 November 1, 8, 15, 29 <b>November 8</b> <b>November 12</b> <b>November 13</b> <b>November 22, 23</b>	Mondays, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. <b>Thursday, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Thursday, Friday</b>	Book Club Discussion: Life Skills Class** News You Can Use** Idioms in Everyday Life** American Sitcoms** <b>Tutor Connection**</b> <b>Library Closed (Veterans Day)</b> <b>Advisory Board Meeting</b> <b>Library Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)</b>
December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 December 4, 11 December 5, 12 December 6, 13 December 6, 13, 20 <b>December 8</b> <b>December 25</b>	Mondays, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. <b>Saturday, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	Book Club Discussion: Life Skills Class** News You Can Use** Idioms in Everyday Life** American Sitcoms** <b>Annual Holiday Potluck**</b> <b>Library Closed (Christmas Holiday)</b>
January 1 January 16 January 29 & February 5	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.</b> <b>Tuesdays 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Library Closed (New Year Holiday)</b> <b>New Learner Orientation**</b> <b>New Tutor Training**</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)