



# Literally Speaking



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

January/February 2017



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

## President's Message by Farah Mozaffar

Happy New Year! As I look back on 2016, I am amazed at how incredible the year was for Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy in many areas; the addition of exciting new classes for our learners, fundraising, new events for the community and improved community outreach. Some of the highlights of 2016 are:

- Our annual "Gift of Literacy" luncheon was wonderful, with Gregg Hurwitz, the international bestselling author of *Orphan X*, as our guest speaker. Gregg was a wonderful speaker who held the crowd's attention with his interesting stories.
- We added another event this year. On a lovely autumn evening, NMPL hosted "Happy Hour with Maria Semple" in the library's Bamboo Courtyard. Author Maria Semple entertained us with her account of her latest bestselling book, *Today Will be Different*. Many thanks to our authors, supporters, donors and the volunteers who work hard to make these events successful.
- International Literacy Day was, as always, a very moving event. Congratulations to the Rochelle Hoffman Award winner of 2016, Lima Alexandrova, whose heartfelt and inspiring words touched everyone. Thank you to Assemblyman Matthew Harper and OC Supervisor Michelle Steel for attending the event and for their support of our program and special recognition of our newest citizens.

- I am very proud to share that, together with the library, we are offering a program for adults who would like to get their High School Diploma. Career Online High School (COHS) allows people to work online to achieve their diploma and obtain a career certificate to help ensure their success and ability to work in the community.
- We earned a 5 Star rating on the Great Non-Profits website again this year for the third year in a row. Keep those reviews coming... We love to see what you think of us.

I would like to thank our supporters; the Friends of the Library, The NBPL Foundation, the City of Newport Beach, and the library staff whose help and support means a lot to us. Without their continued help it would not have been possible to achieve such success and recognition.

And of course, congratulations to all our hard working learners, you all are truly amazing and inspiration for us all!



I wish all of you a very happy and wonderful

New Year. During this time of reflection, I am truly humbled by the brilliance, passion and goodwill of our community and looking forward to another wonderful year with all of you. Warm wishes for a healthy and enlightening New Year!

## 2016 Annual Holiday Potluck

On December 10th friends, family and supporters of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy gathered for the annual holiday potluck. The morning included games, crafts, and amazing food from countries all over the world.

The potluck also serves as NMPL's annual meeting. Farah Mozaffar, current board president, introduced the newly elected board and thanked outgoing board members Ruth Faer, Jason Brady and Suneel Jaitly for their dedicated service to the program.

The events committee was recognized with the **2016 Certificate of Appreciation** for their hard work, support and continued dedication to the program and to developing successful fundraising events for the community.



L-R: Events Committee : Farah Mozaffar, Ruth Faer, Jan Oates, Helene Chaban, Carolyn Cosgrove. Not shown: Shari Elias, Nancy Englebrecht, Susan Frank

Young children indulged in creating fabulous crafts like popsicle stick holiday ornaments and Santa beards with cotton balls. Each received a penguin decorated holiday gift bag to take home.

New friendships were forged and friends shared stories and laughter. We are grateful to everyone who makes up our literacy family and for their support.

## Writer to Writer Awards Banquet

**February 25th at 10:00 a.m.**

**Please join our learners and tutors for this exciting event!**

"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

## New Year — New Classes

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy offers many opportunities to improve the skills of our learners. Each month, we offer a full schedule of classes and workshops that focus on this goal.

Outside of the reading, writing and discussion options, we also offer classes in TV, movies, creative writing and more. In January, we are introducing some new opportunities.



Marcia Drew, a tutor with a vast knowledge of interpreting language in a visual context, created an exciting new class for 2017. The new class, *American Sitcoms*, will provide a source of authentic and varied language.

We are also offering a new creative writing class taught by Rob Wahrhaftig. The objective of the class is to push learner's own creative boundaries and comfort zones by identifying, comparing and contrasting specific writing genres as well as identifying and utilizing each writing process.

**These, among others, are exciting and highly anticipated classes for our learners.**

### Save the Date:

### Gift of Literacy Luncheon

On **April 21st, 2017**, Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy will hold its annual fundraising luncheon featuring bestselling author Lisa See. Ms. See spoke at the very first luncheon and will now join us in celebrating our 10th annual *Gift of Literacy* luncheon!

Lisa See is a *New York Times* bestselling author of novels that portray strong bonds between women, romantic love, and love of country, including *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, *Peony in Love*, *Shanghai Girls* and *Dreams of Joy* and, most recently, *China Dolls*.



Lisa See

If you are interested in helping to plan or to sponsor this event, please contact the Literacy office.

## CHECK THIS OUT !!

[USALearns.com](http://USALearns.com)

We are glad to have the opportunity to share information about this booming and successful website sponsored by Sacramento County Office of Education!

USA Learns is a great website for helping adults learn beginning and intermediate English by providing engaging videos and educational activities for FREE!



The website is comprised of three English courses including videos and interactive learning activities to help a student practice and improve English skills in listening comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, pronunciation, reading, writing, speaking and life skills.

Encourage your learners to visit the website.

[www.usalearns.org](http://www.usalearns.org)

### 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 call our office.

**Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy**  
1000 Avocado Avenue  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
(949) 717-3874

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

~ Joseph Addison ~

## Upcoming News & Events

Writer to Writer Banquet

February 25

10:00 a.m.



South Coast Repertory

March 5

2:00 p.m.



Tutor Workshop

March 9

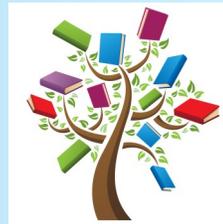
10:00 a.m.



Gift of Literacy Luncheon

April 21st

11:30 a.m.



## New Tutors

We would like to welcome our graduating class of tutors for November 2016! Your time and effort is truly appreciated and our learners will benefit from your participation.

Roz Cole

Bill Davies

Lisa Hallsted

Mary McCarthy

Emily Pierson

Jill Specter

Randie Levine-Williams

Eugene Wood



If you know somebody who might enjoy tutoring, please tell them about this wonderful opportunity. Our next Tutor Training is February 15 & 22, 2017. Check with the office for more information.

## Career On-Line High School

Newport Beach Public Library and Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy have joined together to help adults in the area achieve their goal to obtain a High School Diploma.

The State of California has made the achievement of this goal a priority and is helping libraries to offer a specialized program called Career Online High School "COHS". Through a matching award program students who complete a prerequisite class are able to apply for a scholarship to complete their High School Diploma and receive certification in one of several career choices for example:

- o Child Care and Education
- o Certified Protection Officer
- o Commercial Driving
- o Homeland Security
- o Office Management
- o Customer Service
- o Food and Hospitality

The basic curriculum includes completing credits in Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science. In fact, these credits can be transferred from the student's previous high school if previously completed.

As COHS is a web-based program, it is a wonderful opportunity to give an adult the chance to get their High School Diploma in the convenience of their own home.

If you know anybody that might benefit from this information, please pass it on.

To learn more about COHS, check out the website:

<http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/services/cohs>

## Literally Speaking

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

### Literacy Advisory Board

Farah Mozaffar, *President*

Minhdatt Tran, *Treasurer*

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## Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

January 9, 23, 30	Mondays, 10:30 am	Book Club
<b>January 16</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>MLK Day (Library Closed)</b>
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
January 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesdays, 1:00 pm	Grammar & Vocabulary**
January 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesdays, 6:00 pm	Evening Book Club
<b>January 10</b>	<b>Tuesday, 7:00pm</b>	<b>Advisory Board Meeting</b>
<b>January 11</b>	<b>Wednesday, 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Learner Orientation</b>
January 4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesdays, 10:00 am	News You Can Use**
January 12	Thursday, 10:30am	Script to Screen Workshop**
January 11, 18, 25	Wednesday, 7:00pm	Creative Writing Class**
January 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursday 10:00 am	Writing Workshop**
January 12, 19, 26	Thursday 1:00pm	American Sitcoms**
January 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursdays, 6:30 pm	Conversation Class
January 13	Friday, 10:00am	Craft Workshop
February 6, 13, 20, 27	Mondays, 10:30 am	Book Club
<b>February 20</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>President's Day (Library Closed)</b>
February 7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
February 7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesdays, 1:00 pm	Grammar & Vocabulary**
February 7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesdays, 6:00 pm	Evening Book Club
February 1, 8, 15, 22	Wednesdays, 10:00 am	News You Can Use**
<b>February 15, 22</b>	<b>Wednesday, 5:30 pm</b>	<b>Tutor Training**</b>
February 1, 8, 15, 22	Wednesday, 7:00pm	Creative Writing Class**
February 2, 9, 16, 23	Thursdays, 10:00 am	Writing Workshop**
February 2	Thursday 1:00pm	American Sitcoms**
February 2, 9, 16, 23	Thursdays, 6:30 pm	Conversation Class
February 10	Friday, 10:00am	Craft Workshop
February 25	Saturday, 10:00am	Writer to Writer Awards Banquet

*\*\*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)