



# Literally Speaking



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



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

## Happy Hour with Maria Semple

Bestselling author Maria Semple joined Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy on October 22nd for our very first "Happy Hour" with an author. With over 150 tickets sold in advance, this event was destined to be terrific.

It was a beautiful evening in the Bamboo Courtyard with guests mingling, eating and drinking.

ONEHOPE Wines generously donated the wines for the Happy Hour. Their Cabernet, Chardonnay and Rose were all delicious.

Committee member Mimi Falcone and some of her friends put together a beautiful and tasty table of cheese, crackers, fruit and more. The rest of the committee assured that guests were checked in quickly and that the book signing went smoothly.



Author Maria Semple



Ruth Faer, Nancy Englebrecht, Helene Chaban



Deborah DeMaddelena, Sonny Oates, Herb Ring

Maria regaled us with stories of Hollywood, Seattle and Antarctica! The back stories on her writing makes her characters even more interesting. We can definitely now understand why they are so quirky.

We are already looking forward to our next Happy Hour event in spring 2017.

## Learner's Corner

### About my Father

Valeriya Brailovskaya

I'd like to tell you about my father. He had a quite hard but interesting life, and he passed away when he was 100 year old. His father (my grandfather) was a lawyer, he graduated from the Saint Petersburg University, and when the October revolution happened in 1917, he was the director of a factory in one of the southern towns of Russia.

The industry destroyed during the civil war in 1918 needed to be restored, so the New Economic Policy was announced. My grandfather was invited to work in Moscow as scientific secretary of the National Economic Supreme Council. In 1930, the prosecutions of so called "enemies of the people" began. In September 1930 he was arrested together with 48 of his coworkers, accused of sabotaging the food industry and executed. In 1957, 4 years after Stalin's death, he was exonerated posthumously as he was not guilty.

So, in 1932 my father was expelled from the University he was studying in as the son of an enemy of the people and exiled from Moscow with his mother. They came to Nizhny Novgorod where some distant relatives were living then. The relatives accommodated my father and my grandmother, which was in itself dangerous from them at the time. My father needed to check in with the KBG every two weeks. He was not allowed to attend college and had to work as a construction worker for two years. In 1932 he was allowed to study ship-building at the Polytechnic University, and after graduation began to work at the Central Ship Design Bureau, where he grew from an ordinary engineer to a department head.

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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

Father continued from page 1

He was working there until he was 86 years old. We immigrated to the USA when he was 90. During the last 10 years of his life in CA he visited NY, Las Vegas, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Pittsburg in Pennsylvania, Boston, Montreal in Canada, and took a cruise to Mexico. He visited Moscow and our home town of Nizhny Novgorod in Russia. He studied English, learned how to work on the computer so he could at least read news and send and receive e-mails. He found many new friends here, so he lived a full and meaningful life.

He wanted to live to be 100 years old, and he succeeded. We celebrated his birthday on December 5, 2011 with our family, relatives, and friends. There were more than 100 people at the party. And then we drank champagne via Skype with his colleagues from the Ship Design Bureau in Nizhny Novgorod. He loved people, and they loved him. Up to the end of his days he remained optimistic and completely reasonable person.

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

- Becoming a U.S. Citizen
- Getting a job
- Taking college classes
- Starting Reading Plus

**Donations are always welcome**

We are grateful for the support that we receive from local companies, foundations, organizations, and individuals whose donations have helped 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

## Annual Holiday Potluck

Join us for a morning of sharing food and fun together with other learners, tutors & volunteers. Spouses and children are welcome.

**Saturday, December 10  
10:00am - 12:00pm**

**Newport Beach Public Library  
Friends Meeting Room**

**Bring your favorite food to share**

**There will be a raffle, games and fun holiday crafts for the kids!!**

**Vote for our new incoming  
Advisory Board**

## Special One-Time Workshops Held

NMPL is always looking for ways to better serve the needs of our tutors and adult learners. We are always happy to organize special workshops to address concerns that learners or tutors might be having.

For example, on October 17th, Natalie, the Library Services Manager, facilitated a class on Social Media. Tutors and learners learned the ins and outs of sites like Facebook, Twitter, Linked in and more. Everyone left feeling just a bit more comfortable about using these very popular tools. *(Don't forget to like or friend Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy!)*

Reading Plus is a terrific program to help learners read, write and develop vocabulary. A representative from Reading Plus joined the quarterly Tutor Connection to explain how the program can help tutors and learners work together more efficiently.

If there is something special that you would like the program to explore in a class, please contact the office.

"If you would tell me the heart of a man, tell me not what he reads, but what he rereads."

[François Mauriac](#)

## 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
- [www.englishTalkShop.com](http://www.englishTalkShop.com)

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.



## Literacy Resources

Don't forget about the many resources, both in the library and on line, that are available for tutors and learners to practice and improve skills. Stop by the Literacy office and check out what is on our shelves including:

- Play Away audio books
- Workbooks of varying levels
- Notebook - Resources for the Adult Educator
- New series of history & biography readers
- Fiction and nonfiction at all levels.



In addition, classes are available most days during the week. Remember: **More practice = Better skill development.**

We are in constant search for different ways we can help learners succeed. Please let us know about any tools you find that may help others.

## 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 pre-requisite 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:

- Child Care and Education
- Certified Protection Officer
- Commercial Driving
- Homeland Security
- Office Management
- Customer Service
- 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 completed in the past.

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.

## 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

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## Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events



November 7, 14, 21, 28  
 November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
 November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
 November 1  
 November 9, 16, 30  
 November 2  
 November 3, 10, 17  
 November 3, 10, 17  
**November 9, 16**  
 November 18

Mondays, 10:30 am  
 Tuesdays, 10:15 am  
 Tuesdays, 1:00 pm  
 Tuesdays, 6:30 pm  
 Wednesday, 10:00 am  
 Wednesday, 10:00 am  
 Thursdays, 6:30 pm  
 Thursdays 10:00 am  
**Wednesday 9:15 am**  
 Friday 10:00 am

Book Club  
 Discussion Class  
 Grammar & Vocabulary Class\*  
 Evening Book Club  
 News You Can Use\*\*  
 Voting Workshop  
 Conversation Class  
 Writing Class\*\*  
**Tutor Training**  
 Craft Class

December 1  
 December 2  
 December 5, 12, 19,  
 December 6, 13, 20  
 December 6, 13, 20  
 December 7, 14, 21  
 December 1, 8, 15, 22  
 December 9

Thursday, 10:00 am  
 Friday, 10:00 am  
 Mondays, 10:30 am  
 Tuesdays, 10:15 am  
 Tuesdays, 1:00 pm  
 Wednesday, 10:00 am  
 Thursdays, 6:30 pm  
 Friday, 10:00 am

Script to Screen—Holiday Special  
 Visit to Museum  
 Book Club  
 Discussion Class  
 Grammar & Vocabulary Class\*  
 News You Can Use\*\*  
 Conversation Class  
 Craft Class

\*\* 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)