Gift of Literacy

Featured speaker and author, Lisa See, with our Gift of Literacy Platinum Sponsor, Richard Hearn

On April 21, 2017 approximately 250 guests gathered at the Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach for Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy’s annual fundraising luncheon, the Gift of Literacy. Supporters of the luncheon were eager to meet and greet the guest speaker, Lisa See, an American writer and a New York Times best-selling novelist of over 11 books. Ms. See signed and personalized messages inside her newly released novel, The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane.

Chairperson Helene Chaban started off the program by welcoming guests and introducing the many people that support the efforts of the literacy program.

Literacy Coordinator, Cherall Weiss then introduced current adult learner, Negar Pourasad. Negar spoke about her journey to America and finding comfort at the library and utilizing literacy services as a learner. Negar recognized the efforts of NMPL and all the volunteers and learners in the program.

Luncheon committee members, from left to right: Shari Elias, Carolyn Cosgrove, Farah Mozaffar, Helene Chaban, Jan Oates, Ruth Faer, Susan Frank and Nancy Englebrecht

In Our own Words: Empowering Learners through Literacy

Learning to read and write is a basic skill that unfortunately not everybody masters. In order to teach learners with low literacy skills, we must first understand the difficulties and obstacles they may encounter.

Mastering writing requires developing its highly interrelated component skills: vocabulary, comprehension and fluency. These components are crucial for a learner’s literacy development. Writing is proved effective when a learner understands how to integrate all of these elements into writing.

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy offers a chance for learners to showcase their literacy growth and abilities through their own words in a journal entitled just that: “In Our Own Words”

Learners at every level are encouraged to submit their essays, stories, poems and other writings, of no more than 500 words, to the Literacy Office by July 28th.

Examples of “In Our Own Words” journals from previous years.

“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 Accomplishments

- Passing school entrance exams
- Applying to a local college
- Obtaining US citizenship
- Getting a job

Donations are always welcome

We are grateful for the community 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 literacy, please contact the office. And please also remember us in your will.

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

Playaway Bookpacks

Playaway Audiobook Bookpacks are kits with books pre-loaded on MP3 devices and paired with a printed copy. This is a relatively new collection and we have many titles available to borrow from the Literacy office.

Bookpacks are an easy way for emerging and struggling readers to improve reading comprehension and retention, vocabulary skills, build phonemic awareness and fluency, and more.

The all-in-one audiobook is:

- Simple: 5 narration speeds so you can listen at your own pace; automatic bookmarking remembers when you took a break.
- Portable: Weighs only 2 ounces; equipped with a universal jack—listen in the car or with any type of headphone.
- Durable: No screen to scratch and protected by special portfolio carrier that holds both book and MP3 player.

Bookpacks are available to our tutors and learners and must be signed out directly from the Literacy office.

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who continue to guide her through her journey. After Negar’s emotional speech, lunch was served and several of the raffle baskets where drawn and silent auction items awarded.

Platinum sponsor, and STARcare Associates President, Richard Hearn spoke about the guiding principles and importance of being literate and then introduced his long time friend and our featured author, Lisa See.

Lisa introduced her newest book and gave a historical and informative description of the characters and plot. During an extended Q&A, Mrs. See was able to answer many questions regarding her travels and research for The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane, the overall concept of her new book, and why literacy was an important factor in the lives of individuals all over the world.

Much of the money from the Gift of Literacy event was raised through silent auction and raffles, including a San Diego safari, romantic weekends at Catalina Island, and more. We are grateful for the contributions of many of our local businesses and hope that their generosity is paid back by us supporting their enterprises. We want to thank everyone who attended and lent their support. For a listing of the over 50 contributors to the silent auction and raffle, please visit our website at newportliteracy.org and then please—support our supporters!

"Read a thousand books, and your words will flow like a river.”
~ Lisa See ~
We would like to invite you to READ/San Diego’s 27th Annual Tutor Conference, scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2017, at the University of San Diego, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. There will be an impressive lineup of presenters including the renowned educator and linguist Dr. Stephen Krashen, who will deliver the luncheon keynote presentation *Literacy Development: The easy way is the only way.*

Join volunteer literacy tutors and educators from across California for a day of twenty-four informative, enjoyable, hands-on workshops with content focusing on teaching, reading, phonics, math, ESL, and more.

The early conference registration fee is a bargain at $35.00. The deadline for early registration is Monday, June 5, 2017 at 5:00p.m. All registration forms received after June 5th will be charged at the $45 rate.

You can register starting on today by going directly to the Friends of READ website at [www.friendsofreadsd.org](http://www.friendsofreadsd.org)
Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy
a program of the Newport Beach Public Library
1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, CA  92660

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

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**Pre-registration required
† Event located at The Pacific Club, Newport Beach