Join us on Saturday, October 9 for happy hour with best-selling author Maggie Shipstead.

Maggie will be discussing her Booker Prize shortlisted novel, *Great Circle*, and the global adventures that prompted the story.

Wine, beer and light hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6 pm. Tickets are $85 and available at [newportliteracy.org](http://newportliteracy.org). Copies of *Great Circle* will be available for purchase from Laguna Beach Books.

Funds raised support Project Adult Literacy, a program of the Newport Beach Public Library.

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**CLASS CHANGES**

Thank you to all of the learners who took the time to fill out the class survey sent out by the Literacy Office. Look for brand new class registrations coming soon!

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**project adult literacy**

We have a brand new name!

Project Adult Literacy (PAL)

The name may have changed, but the services remain the same.

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Stay connected! [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)

Developing the literacy skills of adults to empower them to achieve greater success in their lives

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We're here to help. Email literacy@newportbeachca.gov or call 949.717.3874
Thank You for Coming to International Literacy Day

Library board of trustees chair, Paul Watkins, warmly welcomed guests to International Literacy Day. He then introduced Project Adult Literacy Coordinator, Cherall Weiss, who shared the importance of literacy skills in the community.

Congresswoman Michelle Steel took to the podium next to introduce the learners who have recently become U.S. citizens (pictured right).

The program continued by introducing Renee Hoffman Heath and Risa Hoffman, daughters of the late Rochelle Hoffman, to present (via video) the Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award to Shabnam Kavouosi. Shabnam’s tutor, Kathleen O’Meara, (pictured far left with Shabnam and her family) shared why Shabnam was so deserving of this award. In her acceptance, Shabnam described her experiences and successes during her time with Kathleen.

Honorable mentions for the Hoffman Award went to Mindy Liu and Il Jeong Choi for their hard work and dedication.

To illustrate the significance of the program, and to showcase the progress of PAL’s adult learners, every guest received a copy of "In Our Own Words", a collection of stories, poetry and essays written by learners of the program. The book itself was designed by Hilda Kuo, a learner in the program. Attendees also enjoyed a brunch and coffee provided by local vendors.

Following the awards ceremony, Cherall closed with a reminder that there are people all around us that are struggling, and it is thanks to the many volunteers that some of these lives are changing for the better.

Thank you to all who came, and a special thank you to the amazing events committee for their work (pictured right).