

LITERALLY SPEAKING

June 2022

A publication of PROJECT ADULT LITERACY
a program of the Newport Beach Public Library

Stay connected!     

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

A Groovy Time for all at Happy Hour with T. Jefferson Parker

Project Adult Literacy patrons dusted off bell bottoms and broke out the love beads for this sold out event with T. Jefferson Parker who shared his latest book, *A Thousand Steps*. The



evening started with an hour of wine and cheese. Guests mingled, purchased raffle tickets and eagerly waited for the author interview to begin. Mr. Parker and his lovely wife, Rita, joined everyone on the patio to sign books and enjoy the happy hour



portion of the evening. As the eating and drinking drew to a close, attendees made their way into the Friends Room of the Newport Beach Central Library, took their seats, and eagerly awaited the main event.

The coordinator of Project Adult Literacy, Cherall Weiss, joined Mr. Parker on the stage to engage in a question and answer style interview. With this book taking place in the "far out" 60s, there were several questions about the carefully researched and colorful descriptions surrounding the time period of *A Thousand Steps*. Jeff shared that he used a combination of his own memories, his editor and maybe even a bit of help from the internet to set the stage for his page turner of a book. He even divulged a bit about the history of his own name, resulting in a roar of laughter and applause from the audience.



Thank you to all who attended and



supported our literacy community. An extra special heap of gratitude goes to our fabulous events committee, "The Literati", for all of their planning and creativity. Events like this happy hour would not happen without their dedication. We hope you will join us for PAL's next event, slated for the fall.

IN OUR OWN WORDS DUE JULY 15

Become a published author!
We encourage all learners to submit original stories, articles, essays, poems and more for the next edition of *In Our Own Words*. All writings should be less than 500 words.

Submit by email to the
Literacy Office



A volunteer's
time in CA
is valued at
\$33.61 Per Hour

In April of 2022,
PAL Volunteers
Donated 635 Hours.
Tutors: That's **\$21,342**
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We're here to help. Email literacy@newportbeachca.gov or call 949.717.3874

Dates to Remember

July 15 - In Our Own Words
Submissions Due

July 21 - New Learner Orientation

Aug 4 & 11 - Tutor Training

Aug 12 - Roles & Goals
Forms Due

Aug 25 - Tutor
Connection



We encourage the entire PAL community to use the **Easy Voter Guide** for the June 7, 2022, California primary election!

View the guide, available in five languages, at <https://easyvoterguide.org/>. The nonpartisan Voter's Edge (<https://votersedge.org/ca>) can help you find the ballot for your community.

If you missed the great learner-led voter workshop earlier this month, please contact the Literacy Office for the link to the materials and recording.

Teaching English Literacy

An excerpt by Tutor Sonja Elson

It is difficult to imagine what those first months are like for a newcomer in the USA. As a new immigrant, I myself felt as if I'd landed on another planet. It was arduous to keep repeating myself each time I asked for assistance on the phone or talked to a shopkeeper. I was fortunate. I spoke English albeit with an unfamiliar accent. One can only guess what challenges face the non-English speaker.

Our biggest asset as tutors is our ability to listen and to understand the underlying motivations of our learner. This is the moment the tutor uses to develop future lessons, show examples that are relevant to the learner, and direct them to wider reading.

ROLES & GOALS - DUE AUGUST 12

Roles & Goals report forms will help us paint a picture of all that tutor/learner pairs accomplished together during the

year. Reaching our goals, large and small, is what makes all of us successful.

Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/roles-goals>

Thinking about being a volunteer tutor?

At our most recent Learner Orientation, there were 17 learners in attendance...all ready to get started, but we need volunteers to help. Interested in becoming a tutor? The first step is a quick online orientation:



<https://bit.ly/3LfNurL>

Donations Welcome

Donations by credit and debit can be made online:
<http://bit.ly/NMPLDonate>

Donations through the mail can be made via check:
Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy
1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660

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