

Feb/Mar 2024

project adult literacy
A program of the Newport Beach Public Library

pal

Literally Speaking

Empowering adults to achieve greater success in their lives through literacy skill development

Project Adult Literacy featured in *LA Times The Daily Pilot Newspaper*

Adult learners boost English skills at Newport Beach library

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Eun-jeung Kang has aspirations of becoming a nurse's assistant.

Kang, an Irvine resident whose native language is Korean, said she took English classes at a local community college, but the lessons didn't take. One of her friends suggested she look into Project Adult Literacy, a free program held at the Newport Beach Public Library that provides one-on-one tutoring and small-group classes to native English speakers with low literacy skills or those learning English as a second language.

Kang is now one of about 80 "learners" in the Newport Beach program.

Project Adult Literacy started in 1986 with Carol Hazelwood, who has stepped back from the program in the last decade. Literacy coordinator Gabriela Leman said the project began with just one student and one tutor out of the comfort of Hazelwood's house be-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

EUN-JEUNG "EJ" KANG and instructor-tutor Ray Johnston practice using challenging words in a sentence. The program tutors in conversational English as well as reading and writing.

fore she later applied for a state grant.

"The rest was history," Leman said. "The program was later in-

corporated into the Newport Beach Public Library, in 1988 and,

See *Skills*, page A4

We would like to thank Ray and EJ for continuing to inspire others through our PAL program.

The full article can be found on the LA Times website under "Empowerment Opportunity: Adult learners improve English skills at Newport Beach Public Library."

Scan the QR Code to read the full article

SCAN
ME



The Newport Beach Public Library will be starting construction on the new Witte Lecture Hall, which will significantly reduce the parking available to patrons and visitors. We are encouraging our tutors and learners to please use the Civic Center parking structure, next to City Hall, at 100 Civic Center Dr. There is access to the library's north-facing entrance near City Hall. The new Witte Hall will be under construction until 2026.

Parking Updates



Tutor Spotlight: **Jake Jaquess**

Where are you originally from?

South Gate, California (LA County)

Fun Fact:

Jake used to own an Aerospace engineering company which specialized in cutting exotic metal used to build space crafts. He helped create and build the ladder for the Apollo Spacecraft used by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin when they first landed on the moon in 1969. Years later, Jake met Aldrin at the Balboa Bay Club and had the opportunity to visit the Apollo Space Program in Downey, CA where he was able to climb into the Apollo Spacecraft and sit in Neil Armstrong's pilot seat.

Favorite Tutoring Moment:

"Every learner I have ever had (6 learners) has had some major concept they do not understand and at some point, I explain it a certain way and they finally get it. It is like that 'lightbulb moment.' The magic has been seeing their eyes light up because they get it. It makes me feel good when this happens."

Most Important Thing Learned in Life:

"All of us have something to contribute, to help someone else, whether they think they do or not. We can all help someone, someday, somehow with our experiences. We never know until we interact with others and offer them something, whether it be advice, suggestions or asking questions."



Jake Jaquess
PAL Tutor - 7 Years

Writer to Writer



We want to thank our learners who submitted their letters.

We wish you the best of luck!

Winners will be announced May 1st.

Introducing America Learns

PAL is excited to introduce a new online platform to our program called America Learns.

What does this mean for you?

For learners, simply be informed. Learners do not have access to their accounts since sign-in accounts are only for volunteers and staff reporting data. For volunteers (e.g., tutors), this incredible development for our program means that all volunteers will have an online account where they can update their information, submit monthly reports and Roles & Goals, and receive important announcements. This will help increase the reliability and efficiency of our data collection dramatically.

The next step is to begin your training on how to access and update your accounts with America Learns. To ensure our success in implementing this new program, orientation and training is mandatory for all volunteers.

America Learns: Volunteer Training Dates

- Monday, Feb. 26 - 10:30am-12:30pm
- Tuesday, Feb. 27 - 12:30-2:30pm
- Wednesday, Feb. 28 - 10:30am-12:30pm
- Thursday, Feb. 29 - 12:30-2:30pm
- Friday, March 1 (VIRTUAL) - 11-12:30pm

REGISTRATION FOR TRAINING NOW OPEN

The screenshot shows the login interface for the Newport Beach Public Library Adult Literacy program's America Learns platform. At the top, it says 'Newport Beach Public Library Adult Literacy' and 'powered by americalearns'. Below this are links for 'about us', 'contact us', 'page help', 'logout', and 'mission control'. The main area features the 'project adult literacy' logo and a prompt to 'Please review the following: Monthly Report Completion Training Video'. There are input fields for 'E-mail' and 'Password', with 'Log In' and 'Reset Password' buttons. A 'Our Latest Strategy' section mentions links to strategies shared with fellow tutors. At the bottom, there are two news sections: 'Newport Beach Public Library Adult Literacy News' with 'IMPORTANT DATES' (February 8th submission due, February 19th closed) and 'America Learns News' with 'Certificates & Awards' and 'Eduspeak'.

Holiday Schedule

Please note the library and literacy office will be CLOSED on the following dates:

- Monday, February 19 - President's Day

Literacy Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8-3pm

Friday 8-2:30pm