

Literally Speaking

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Tutor Resource: News for You - Page 2

SCLLN Conference: Sharing our Experience - Pages 3-4

Writer to Writer: Announcing our winner! - Pages 5-6

Annual Inservice Meeting: What is it all about? - Page 7

Volunteer Celebration: Why you matter! - Page 8

IMPORTANT DATES

Library Closed

Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day

~

Volunteer Inservice Meeting

Friday, 5/17 10:30-1pm

~

Volunteer Celebration

Friday, 6/21 10:30-12pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Enrollment: We are excited to announce that we have over 40 new tutors and learners who attended orientation and training at the end of last month and will be joining our program. We look forward to introducing everyone at our upcoming events!

pal

Literally Speaking

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



**News
FOR YOU**
LITERACY RESOURCE

Do you know about “News for You” resources?

News for You provides up-to-date, easy-to-read news articles that help learners of all levels with their English reading, writing and speaking skills. All the articles are based on reports from respected news sources including the Associated Press and The Washington Post. The content is thoroughly reviewed by adult education professionals and editors to ensure accuracy, low-level readability and appropriateness.

Two Ways to Access News for You:

- **Newspaper Format** (available in the Literacy Office on a first-come first-serve basis)
- **Online Format**
(<https://www.newsforyouonline.com> and use password: 3B4684) OR Scan the QR Code and enter password: 3B4684



News for You articles are published every Wednesday. The online format also offers an audio version of the articles that be accessed from any device with internet.

We strongly recommend using this resource to help empower and engage your learners. Tutors also have access to a weekly lesson plan that goes over Word of the Week vocabulary and reading comprehension exercises, crossword puzzles, word search, polls and more.

Apr/May 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

SCLLN Conference

This past month, the Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) hosted a literacy conference open to all tutors, learners, and staff of library literacy programs. Through the generosity of our very own Pals4PAL board, we were able to sponsor nine volunteers to attend at no-cost. Our volunteers walked away some practical takeaways and an increased sense of connectedness. You don't have to take our word for it. Take a look at what one of our volunteers had to say about it.



literacy@newportbeachca.gov 949.717.3874 projectadulthoodliteracy.org

pal

Literally Speaking

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

SCLLN Conference (continued)

Written By Julie Metzger (PAL tutor)

The Newport Beach Library PAL program sponsored nine attendees for an informative networking event in Buena Park. Philanthropic souls gathered from across Southern California after a six year hiatus due to Covid. After a brief welcome speech, we split up to investigate “Getting Started with Writing,” “Learner Leadership” or “Leading Engaging English Conversation Groups.” Mollie Tammone led an inclusive and enlightening presentation. She asked us to write five or ten sensory words to describe various scenes. Asking us to recall sights, sounds, scents, actions, and colors. After browsing our words for only a moment, Mollie amazed the room by combining unlikely words such as the “rainbow of waves danced on top of the waterfall.” Or “the beach felt alive with mumbling rocks.” She showed us how a simple exercise, with random descriptive words, can turn in to a unique poetic story.

The second session offered a workshop on “Picking a Book You Will Love.” Learners were especially captivated by Carrie Scott’s valuable tools, such as asking a tutor or librarian to choose four or five books so the decision isn’t too overwhelming. It’s all about browsing books casually without pressure or time constraints. Trying out the five-finger technique; picking one page and counting the number of words you don’t understand. If you get to five, it may not be the best book for you at this stage. Or another technique, such as requesting large print books which are easier to digest. Carrie welcomed feedback from many of the learners and encouraged us to have a conversation with our learner to find out how they would like to read together.

Our lunch and learn featured Regina Sells-Arnold from Azusa City Library whose program boasts over 200 members. With passion and fire, Regina invigorated the audience to reach out to friends, acquaintances, and even random strangers to tell them about our literacy programs. She recommended starting with an introduction, describing your program briefly, and closing with an open-ended question like “what do you think about helping change someone’s life?” It was heart-felt and inspiring.

I am so grateful our Newport Beach PAL program offered me the opportunity to attend this wonderful event. Hopefully, more tutors and learners will attend future conferences.

Apr/May 2024

project adult literacy
A program of the Newport Beach Public Library

pal

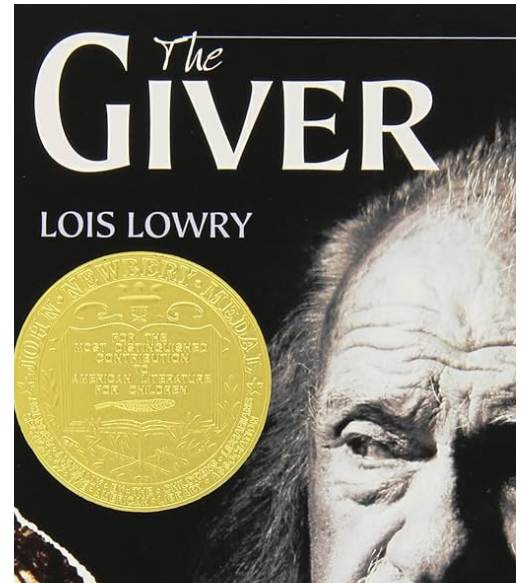
Literally Speaking

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

2024 Writer to Writer

Thank you all for encouraging your learners to participate in this special edition of the Writer to Writer Challenge, celebrating the 40th anniversary of California Library Literacy Services. We are grateful to the judges and the coordinators who hosted learner judging panels, all of whom did an excellent job of going through the 170 letters that were received. We are especially grateful to our very own former PAL coordinator, Cherall Weiss, for leading the Writer-to-Writer Committee and for all her tremendous work. She helped lead a very difficult task.

Every learner who participated in this challenge is a winner for sharing their feelings and lives in words. We congratulate everyone for their efforts. With that said, we are honored that our very own Emily Choi was selected as the 1st place runner up for the Advance Writing Category. We hope you will enjoy her writing as much as we did.



literacy@newportbeachca.gov 949.717.3874 projectadulthoodliteracy.org

pal

Literally Speaking

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

*2024 First Place Runner Up
Writer to Writer*

Advanced Writer Category

Dear Lois Lowry,



I want to tell you how much "The Giver" has impacted my life. It was the first English novel I read entirely for my ESL class. This wasn't just a reading task, it was my first step into the big world of English literature. Even though I struggled to understand every word and sentence at first, your book helped me see things differently.

"The Giver" showed me a society where people don't feel pain or see colors, which seemed peaceful at first. However, following Jonas as he discovers colors, love, and pain, I also learned what life is really about. It was more than a story because it was a lesson on how beautiful and complex our world is.

To be honest, reading this book was a big challenge for me at that time. Every page helped me get better at English. I read very carefully, trying to understand everything deeply so I could write my first essay in English. This work wasn't easy, but it was worth it. It taught me how important it is to look at the world in many ways.

Writing about "The Giver" in English for the first time was hard. It made me put my thoughts in order and say what I meant in a new language. This was an important step for me in becoming better at writing and an English learner. It helped me say what I think clearly, just like Jonas learns to ask questions and understand his world.

Jonas inspired me to write down my thoughts and feelings every day. It did not just make my English better, but it also made me notice and enjoy the small things in life. Your book taught me it's important to feel everything both the happy and the sad parts of life.

Thank you, Lois Lowry, for "The Giver." It was more than just a book to me. It was a journey of learning and sharing. It showed me how important it is to ask questions, to see the beauty in the world, and how powerful words can be. Your story has touched my life. It didn't just help me with my English; it changed the way I see the world and how I talk about my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Emily Choi
PAL Learner



Apr/May 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

Annual Inservice Meeting: What is it all about?

Our program has seen many changes over the last year. Along with a new Coordinator and Assistant, there have been significant, positive updates to our program. Some of the updates our meeting will cover are changes to:

- Learner Eligibility
- Tutoring Requirements
- Assessments
- The Resource Library

In addition, we will provide an informative training presentation on Maintaining Healthy Boundaries with Learners.

This meeting will be recorded, however we strongly recommend all attend in-person. Volunteers are expected to attend trainings as part of their participating in PAL. We thank you in advance for your support!

ANNUAL INSERVICE MEETING

FRIDAY, 5/17 10:30-1PM

project
adult
literacy
*A program of the
Newport Beach Public Library*

JOIN US!

- PROGRAM UPDATES
- PRESENTATION: MAINTAINING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES
- COLLABORATE WITH PEERS
- Q & A

*Refreshments
will be
provided.



literacy@newportbeachca.gov

949.717.3874

projectadulthoodliteracy.org

Apr/May 2024

pal

Literally Speaking

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

Volunteer Celebration: Why you matter!

project adult literacy

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

Awards & Lunch

FRI
21
JUNE

Join us & celebrate
our volunteers and
their
accomplishments!

The Friends Room

10:30
12PM

SCAN ME



TO RSVP

Join us as we celebrate our volunteers and all they do for the PAL program. Normally, we recognize our volunteers and their accomplishments during our Holiday Potluck, but you deserve your own special day!

We invite the literacy community to attend this special day as we acknowledge and award volunteers for their outstanding accomplishments with our learners.

Lunch will be provided and guests are welcome!

Scan the QR Code to RSVP



literacy@newportbeachca.gov 949.717.3874 projectadulthoodliteracy.org

Support PAL - Donations Welcome!

<https://bit.ly/PAL-Donate>