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Literally Speaking

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

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IMPORTANT DATES

Library Closed

Monday, November 11 - Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving

Friday, November 29 - Family Day

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SAVE THE DATE

Literacy Holiday Potluck

Saturday, December 7 from 10am-12pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Literacy Lab Reservations

Tutors can reserve the upstairs Literacy Lab (quiet room dedicated to PAL participants) for tutoring sessions. Please contact or stop by the Literacy Office to reserve your space.

**Available on a first-come first-serve basis*

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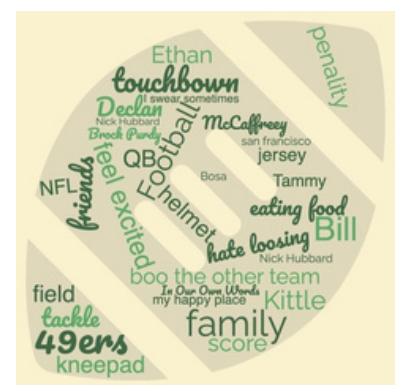
RECAP: International Literacy Day Celebration



This year's International Literacy Day Celebration was big success as we honored the learners in our program and their culture. We distributed the 17th volume of *In Our Own Words*, a collection of stories, essays, poems and other writings our learners have worked on throughout the year. Please stop by to pick up your copy if you haven't already.

2024 Hoffman Award Winner **NICK HUBBARD**

We want to say **Congratulations** to Nick Hubbard, the winner of this year's Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award! Nick has been a learner in the program since 2023. His tutor, Jackie Pontius, has been a big part of helping Nick learn and improve his English skills. They consistently work together every week to improve his reading skills. Nick's self confidence has grown so much since joining the PAL program. He is not afraid to try more challenging materials and works hard at every tutoring session. Nick does not let setbacks define him and has a strong desire to move forward towards his goals. This year Nick submitted a Word Art piece for *In Our Own Words*.



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RECAP: International Literacy Day Celebration continued...

We also want to say **Congratulations** to Alicia Rosario Levy who recently became a US Citizen. The Mayor of Newport Beach, Will O'Neill, recognized Alicia for successfully attaining her American Citizenship through her direct involvement as a learner in PAL and presented her with an honorary Certificate of Achievement. Her tutor, Laura Olinkski, was a big help in helping Alicia study for and pass the Citizenship exam.



Thank you to everyone who joined us on this special day!

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Resources: Voting Guides & More

Election season is here and learning about the voting process is an important goal for many adult learners. Luckily, News for You and the League of Women Voters of California have created Easy Voter Guides to provide new voters with accurate and accessible nonpartisan information including:

- Why Vote
- How to Vote
- What is on the California Ballot
- Election Vocabulary
- And more



News
FOR YOU®

Easy Voter Guide
easyvoterguide.org

YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE.
November 5, 2024 • California General Election

ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO VOTE?
October 21, 2024 Last day to register to vote in this election.
November 5, 2024 **ELECTION DAY** Your voting location is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

GET READY:

- Register to vote by **October 21** at registertovote.ca.gov.
- Check your registration to make sure it's up to date. If your signature has changed over time, then re-register to update your signature at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.
- If you want to get voting materials in a language other than English, make that choice at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.

Whether you are a first-time voter or want to learn more about the election process, we have the resources available to help you. Stop by the Literacy Office to pick up your Easy Voter Guides!

In addition, News for You has a FREE Interactive Voting Guide available on their website. Scan the QR code for more information

SCAN ME!



<https://www.proliteracy.org/courses/election-2024-interactive-voting-guide/>

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Success Stories: Learner Accomplishments

Every month when tutors submit their monthly tutoring hours report, they have the option to submit learner success stories and accomplishments their learner has made that month. Here are a few successes that learners have accomplished over the last two months.

Spent 2 weeks in Kenya working with African Mission Services and practice English with everyone there.

-YZ, learner

Working on increasing the difficulty of reading materials.

-NH, learner

Almost done reading a novel with tutor (first goal.)

-JA, learner

Accepted into the Business Analytics Masters Program at California State Poly University.

-AK, learner

Taking classes at Santa Ana College.

-SM, learner

Received a drivers license and now driving.

-MA, learner



We are so proud of our learners and all they do to continue reaching their goals. Keep up the good work!

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Become a Writer: Writer to Writer Challenge

Writer to Writer is an annual writing challenge that gives learners the opportunity to write, to express their voice in a safe and trusted environment and to work on goals related to their yearly Roles & Goals.



How Writer to Writer Works: Learners read (or listen to) a book of their choice and write a personal letter to the author about how the book has affected them.

Learners enter Writer to Writer in one of four categories:

- **Emerging Writer (level 1)** - Learners dictate letters to tutor/staff using the Language Experience Approach.
- **Beginning Writer (level 2)** - Learners write basic letters using short, simple sentences and phrases of their own.
- **Intermediate Writer (level 3)** - Learners write more complex letters using a larger vocabulary of words and detailed phrases.
- **Advanced Writer (level 4)** - Learners write letters with little help from their tutor with spelling, grammar and punctuation.

All writing entries will be judged with one winner and two runner-ups from each category will be chosen to be compiled into a publication. All learners who participate receive a certificate of participation.

Stop by the Literacy Office to pick up your information packet and application.

Submissions DUE by February 28, 2025

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Literacy Holiday Potluck: You are Invited



We are excited to host another Holiday Potluck Brunch filled with food, fun and celebration for all that we have accomplished as a community this past year.

This year's Holiday Potluck is scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 10:00am-12:00pm in the Friends Room at the Newport Beach Public Library.

A potluck style brunch will be served and we ask everyone to bring your favorite food!

**Saturday, December 7 2024
from 10:00am-12:00pm**

Be sure to RSVP and join us for this special day of celebration with learners, tutors, volunteers and board members. Family, spouses, children and guests are welcome to attend. There will be games and fun holiday crafts for the kids. We hope to see you there!



To RSVP to the Literacy Holiday Potluck, please contact the Literacy Office at literacy@newportbeachca.gov OR scan the QR code above.

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PAL Update: New Literacy Coordinator

Please welcome Christina Smith as our new Literacy Coordinator.

Christina joined Project Adult Literacy in 2023 as the Literacy Department Assistant. Over the last year, her passion for literacy has grown as she continues to educate the public about the PAL Program and build strong relationships throughout the literacy community with volunteers, tutors, learners, board members and library staff.

Christina came to Newport Beach with 10+ years of library experience as a former employee of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Throughout her years there, she worked in various areas including Adult Services, YPL and Programming providing customer service, outreach and working with volunteers. She also has 6 years of business experience running a non-profit charity helping high school students pursue life goals through educational scholarships.



In addition, Christina graduated Summa Cum Laude from Nevada State College with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a minor in Professional Writing. She also holds two additional associate's degrees from the College of Southern Nevada. More recently Christina graduated from Orange Coast College where she received her Certificate of Achievement as a Yoga Instructor.

As the new Literacy Coordinator, Christina intends to support and strengthen the PAL program through her dedication to the literacy community. She has a high work ethic and genuine desire to help those around her. She looks forward to growing Project Adult Literacy to its highest potential and assisting the people of Newport Beach as well as the surrounding communities.

Please stop by and say hello!

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