

June 2025

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

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**\*Roles & Goals DUE\***

Monday, June 30

**\*New PAL Office Hours\***

Tuesday, July 1

**\*Library Closed - Independence Day\***

Friday, July 4

**\*In Our Own Words - Submission DUE\***

Friday, July 18

**\*Hoffman Nominations DUE\***

Thursday, July 31

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

to some of our fabulous Volunteers!

**Derek**

**Mike**

**Vivien**

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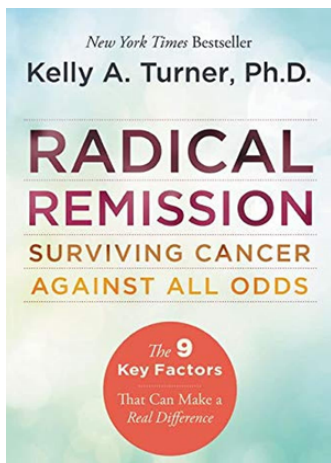
## WINNERS: Writer to Writer Announcement

The Writer to Writer Challenge of 2025 is in the books! Writer to Writer received 134 letters this year from libraries all over the state. We are thrilled to announce that Project Adult Literacy had two learners win! We will be recognizing these winners and all our learners who participated in this challenge at our International Literacy Day Celebration!



### Intermediate Category:

**2nd Place - Maho Goto, Newport Beach Public Library**



Dear Dr. Kelly Turner,

I read "Radical Remission" while experiencing a pain running from my chest to my back, fearing it might be a sign of recurrence. I was fortunate that my stage zero breast cancer required only a mastectomy, without radiation or chemotherapy. But since my diagnosis three years ago, my life has completely changed. As anyone who has faced cancer knows, no matter the stage or location, it has the power to transform a person's life.

When I read about the 31 years old mother with stage 3 breast cancer in your book-the one who said, "I'll do anything. I don't want my child growing up without a mother."-Her words deeply resonated with me. Since my diagnosis, I have felt the same way for my 9-year-old daughter. At the same time, I have become stricter with her, this way she will be prepare for life. Even though I finished treatment and am in remission, the fear never fully disappears.



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## WINNERS: Writer to Writer Announcement cont.

I constantly worry about recurrence or a new cancer forming. I know that if I continue living as I did before my diagnosis, I may face cancer again. Your book helped me realize that I must truly change my way of life.

Radical Remission is packed with interesting dietary methods, fasting and supplements. I often paused reading to search more information on the Internet. I had learned so much and created a personal to-do list when I completed the book. I now feel motivated and excited to put it into action.

Your book also made me recognize the changes I had already made. In my 20s and 30s, I was constantly stressed, overworked, and sleep-deprived. Now, in my 40s, I have naturally adopted healthier habits-playing tennis with friends, minimizing sugar, switching to soy milk, and prioritizing sleep. But some habits had faded. I once took supplements after treatment but stopped over time. Your book reminded me why they are important, and now I feel motivated to take them again.

One common thread among those who experienced radical remission was their unwavering commitment to the path they believed in. I felt that this is the most important element in maintaining a healthy state and how difficult. That's why having a strong reason to live is essential. For me, it is to support my daughter's growth and also in future see my grandchildren grow up. Each morning, when I see my daughter's face, I am reminded of this.

I sincerely thank you for your work. As a doctor trained in Western medicine, your willingness to explore cases beyond conventional science is invaluable. Your research gives hope to so many, and I deeply appreciate your dedication.

Sincerely,

Maho Goto - Project Adult Literacy Learner



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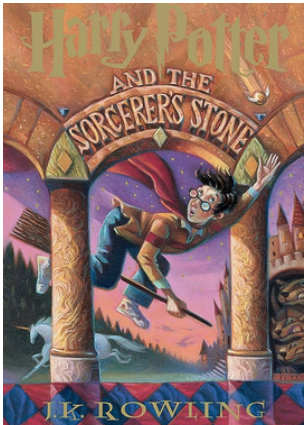
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**WINNERS:** Writer to Writer Announcement cont.



**Advanced Category:**

3rd Place - Naoya Seta, Newport Beach Public Library



Dear Ms. J.K. Rowling,

I am writing to express how I was impacted by your book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. While I really like watching fantasy movies, it was the first time for me to read a book in many years, and I found it so exciting. I really appreciate that your book provided me with the opportunity to look back on my own life to see how I have lived and how I should live going forward.

When I was reading the book, I was always thinking what if I was in the shoes of the characters. Even if we wouldn't have exactly the same situation (We live in the muggle world!), it always made me think about what I would have done in a challenging situation in real life.

Through the journey of the three characters, Harry, Ron and Hermione, I was reminded it would take strong curiosity to see and find things going on around us and behind the scenes as the first step. This ties to our awareness to know where we're in the first place to make a difference as the next step. Then it would require all the courage, knowledge, skills, and more importantly, teamwork to overcome most of the challenges that we face in real life.

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## **WINNERS:** Writer to Writer Announcement cont.

Ever since I moved to the US, I found myself having been less curious about people and things around me, losing courage, and trying to avoid communicating with people. One simple example is that I tend to order lunch online and just go pick it up without talking to anyone. I should instead order in person with the cashier at the shops to interact more with people to practice my English. Another example is I keep hesitating to apply for new job opportunities, expecting that the next step would be an interview in English that I'm afraid of.

Your book made me realize that I was putting myself in my comfort zone, which really wouldn't make any difference at all. Your book also made me start bringing back the courage to get out of the zone, and push myself to proceed to take action. As I'm writing this, I realized meeting and interacting with my English tutor, Soo, and having started reading your book has already turned out to be a good start for this purpose, and I see I'm going in the right direction now. My journey has just started.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for providing the opportunity, through the adventure of the three, to reflect back on myself to be able to see where I am and to remember the essential factors, curiosity and courage to make a difference in my life. I'm really excited to read your next book of Harry Potter.

Yours Sincerely,  
Naoya Seta - Project Adult Literacy Learner

**We want to thank all the learners in Project Adult Literacy who participated in this challenge. A copy of the learners letters to the author will be published in this year's volume of PAL's "In Our Own Words" anthology book. This book will be made available at our International Literacy Day Celebration.**



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## RECAP: Spring New Learner Orientation



In May, we had 9 NEW learners complete our Spring New Learner Orientation! In our New Learner Orientations, we explain what we do as a literacy program and go over our mission. We teach learners about SMART Goals, talk about the small group classes we offer and how learners can work with a tutor one-on-one. In addition, we have all new learners take an online assessment, which helps us learn where they are at with their current English literacy skills.

## RECAP: Annual Learner Assessments

In May, we had all learners take their annual reassessment. These reassessments help us to better understand where the learners are at with their reading, listening and writing skills including where they have improved and what they still need to work on. We are currently completing Annual Tutor/Learner Conferences, where we review these assessment results and evaluate the learner's progression within the program.



[literacy@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:literacy@newportbeachca.gov) 949.717.3874 [www.projectadulthoodliteracy.org](http://www.projectadulthoodliteracy.org)

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## UPCOMING EVENT: International Literacy Day

**project adult literacy**

### INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY CELEBRATION

**2025**

Volunteers, learners, family and friends are encouraged to attend.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025**

**10:30AM - 12:30PM**

**CIVIC CENTER COMMUNITY ROOM  
100 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE NEWPORT BEACH  
(NEXT TO CITY HALL)**

### ✨ You are Invited! ✨

Join us for an International Brunch and celebrate our Literacy community! Volunteers, learners, family, and friends are encouraged to attend. We will be presenting a special learner with the Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award as well as giving out this year's In Our Own Words – a collection of writings from learners in our program.

We have learners (and volunteers) from all around the world who come together for one common goal...to develop literacy skills and empower each other to achieve greater success in their lives – at home, at work and in the community.

We would love for you to share your culture by bringing a dish from your native country to our International Literacy Day Celebration.

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## UPCOMING EVENT: International Literacy Day

ROCHELLE HOFFMAN



1940-2004

The Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award was established in 2006 to honor the memory of a unique PAL volunteer. Rochelle was a long-time literacy tutor who embraced her role as an educator, community leader and mother. Her friends and family established this special fund to annually recognize the achievements of an outstanding learner in the program by awarding them a cash prize at International Literacy Day.

### Tutors: Nominate Your Learner

**Tutors/Volunteers:** We encourage you to nominate a deserving learner who embodies their spirit of this award. Nominating a learner for the Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award is an act of recognition that can significantly boost the learner's confidence and inspire them to continue reaching for their goals. It acknowledges them for their courage in taking on the challenge of improving their literacy and celebrates every step of their success.

**Submissions Due  
Thursday, July 31st**

### HOW TO NOMINATE A LEARNER:

Stop by the Literacy Office to pick up a nomination packet. Once you have filled out the forms, please return to the Literacy Office by the due date.

(If you would like to fill out your nomination packet online, please email us.)

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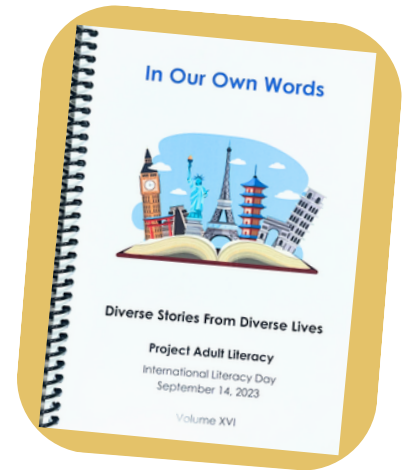
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## UPCOMING EVENT: International Literacy Day

### In Our Own Words

**Learners:** We are inviting you to share your story! Every year, Project Adult Literacy publishes a book called *"In Our Own Words."* This anthology book is a published collection of literacy writings from learners in the PAL program. This book will be presented at our International Literacy Day Celebration. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to see your voice in print, build your confidence and inspire others through your words.



**Submissions Due  
Friday, July 18th**

### Writing Submissions:

We welcome ALL original writing submissions! This could include:

- Personal stories including experiences, memories, or significant events
- Poems that express your emotions, observations, or creative thoughts
- Reflections on a your journey, a specific topic, or an idea
- Short essays on a subject you care about
- Fictional pieces, such as short creative stories you have imagined

### HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR WRITING:

Send us a copy of your typed writing submission along with your completed submission form and return to the Literacy Office by the due date.

(Stop by the Literacy Office to pick up your Submission Form.)

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## **PAL UPDATE: New PAL Office Hours**

We understand our learners and tutors have diverse schedules and commitments, which is why we are excited to announce new, expanded Literacy Staff Office hours. We hope this change provides greater accessibility, while we strive to better serve our community and maximize the impact of our program.



### **NEW STAFF OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday: 9:00am - 4:00pm**

**Tuesday: 9:00am - 4:00pm**

**Wednesday: 9:00am - 4:00pm**

**Thursday: 9:00am - 4:00pm**

**Friday: CLOSED**

Our new hours will allow us to better accommodate the needs of our community, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to get the help they need, achieve their goals and unlock their full potential. The staff office hours expansion reflects our ongoing commitment to removing barriers to education and fostering a more literate and empowered community.

Please stop anytime during our staff office hours to get assistance, pick up resources, learn more about our program or just to say hi!

**Please note the Literacy Office is always OPEN.**

You can stop by in the evening or on weekends to browse our literacy collection of resources.

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## LIBRARY RESOURCES: Summer Reading Programs

### Level up this summer at the library!

Summer  
reading

The Newport Beach Public Library Summer Reading Program runs from June 7 through August 2! Join us for a summer of FREE activities, entertaining performances and a fun reading challenge. Every summer we invite our PAL learners and volunteers to participate in the Adult Reading Program.

#### **Adult Summer Reading Program**

The Adult Summer Reading Program is the perfect excuse to take back your reading time. Track your time spent reading or listening to books, submit book reviews, and complete activities to earn great prizes! Join us for Opening Day activities, a Summer Zine Program, and the It's a Wrap...Party!

#### **Level Up Your Reading: Help Us Reach 600,000 Minutes!**

Join us in reaching a community reading milestone this summer! Whether you prefer fantasy, historical fiction, graphic novels, or anything in between — every minute read counts. Join our Summer Reading Challenge and help us hit our big community goal:

🎯 600,000 minutes (that's 10,000 hours!)

For more information visit:

<https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/calendar/summer-reading-program>

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