

# LITERALLY SPEAKING



MARCH 2021

A publication of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy, 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 Virtual Evening with Lily King

Bestselling author Lily King joined Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy virtually on February 20th for NMPL's Happy Hour. This particular happy hour was especially unique as it allowed fans of Ms. King's work to attend from all across the United States as well as even a few international attendees.



In her latest book, *Writers and Lovers*, Ms. King does a masterful job of weaving together a simple and beautiful journey, as her hero Casey navigates through circumstances many of us can relate

to in one way or another.

The interview began with Lily sharing what it was like to release a book in the midst of a pandemic. *Writers and Lovers* came out in March 2020 just as the world was staying home.

Although there were many challenges, silver linings could be found both personally and professionally. Lily found new ways to connect online with her readers.

Attendees were treated to Lily's insights about the book, life and her disciplined writing style and how she keeps a notebook of drawings and writing.

Donations from Happy Hour raised much-needed funds for NMPL. [If you missed it, click here to watch the interview online.](#) Thank you to our fabulous events committee and "The Literati."

Mark your calendars for our next Happy Hour on April 24th at 5pm.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**HELP NMPL GET THE WORD OUT BY POSTING AND SHARING THIS FLYER**

Throughout COVID, NMPL has been able to maintain most of our programming and many of our tutors, teachers and learners. Sadly, however, without the typical referral sources like adult schools and language programs, it has become more difficult to recruit new learners. In order to maintain funding, we need to invite more learners into our program. AND... that is where YOU come in! We need your help.

If you know of anybody who might benefit from our services, please ask them to contact the office. Friends, neighbors, service folks, parents at school... our free, online tutoring, small group classes and workshops are available for anybody in the area who needs to improve their reading, writing and communication skills. Keep in mind though that, because we are a literacy program, our learners must be able to speak English at least well enough to easily communicate with their tutor.

[Click here to download a flyer](#) to give out or to post at your church, favorite grocery store, community center, coffee shop or any place where potential learners might see it. If you want hard copies, stop by the office and we will print them for you.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at [literacy@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:literacy@newportbeachca.gov) or 949.717.3874. And thank you for all you do to support the program.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24 New Learner Orientation  
April 7, 14 Tutor Training  
April 24 Happy Hour  
with Marla Jo Fisher

## The Change Agent

An Adult Education  
Magazine for Social Justice



Online teaching materials that address the issues that are on students' minds. Resources that build literacy, math, digital and work skills through meaningful activities.

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**E-Books for Literacy Learners  
Are Now Available**

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## Tutors' Corner: A Focus on Poetry

With the renewed interest in poetry thanks to Amanda Gorman, now is a great time to examine how you can use poetry in your literacy lessons. Some students - and teachers - tend to shy away from poetry, but poetry is a great medium to teach adult learners at varying reading levels. Without getting lost in a poet's intended purpose for writing the poem, Nancy Padak's "Poetry in the Adult Literacy Classroom" outlines how you can use poetry to aid in reading and writing instruction.

*Focus on these four areas:  
Comprehension, Fluency, Phonics, Writing*

## Donations Welcome

Donations 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

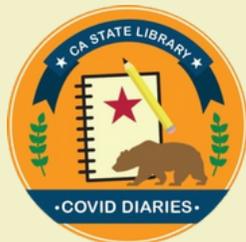
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## Every T-Shirt Sold Supports Literacy

Made of high quality, soft cotton, this tee would be a great gift for anyone. It is the gift that keeps giving!



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COVID DIARIES, the California time capsule for life during COVID, has a collection of stories, poems, art and more from residents all over California. And now, The California State Library is looking for new submissions. Life has changed a lot since this project started. With vaccines now available, schools reopening and restrictions being lifted, the State Librarian wants to know what you are looking forward to post-COVID and what you learned about yourself/your family over this last year. Anybody can contribute either by entering it directly on the website <https://covididiaries.library.ca.gov/> or, if you would like templates and ideas, go to the California Library Literacy site at <https://libraryliteracy.org/special-projects/covid-diaries/> where you can submit your creative writing, photograph or drawing, etc. and share your quarantine experience.

CLLS is planning a workshop on March 17th. If you are interested in joining the Covid Diaries ZOOM call, please contact the Literacy Office for the link.