

# BOOKMARK

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



WINTER 2017

# Libraries Transform Communities; You Transform Libraries

Recently I met a grad student in a UC Irvine Ph.D. program working on her dissertation here at the Central Library. Her husband, also a student, was spending some time in the Children's Area with their young child. Mom and Dad take turns studying and watching the little one. Parents have a quiet, supportive space to work toward their degrees. Child develops a love for books and the library where the imagination is nurtured in a space devoid of advertising and unnecessary distraction. Where else could this possibly happen? And happen for free.

I am often inspired when I have the opportunity to chat with a library customer; what I hear confirms that there is at least one place in society that continues to work for everyone who has the desire to use it.

Municipal dollars fund the library system and private dollars enable it to stay modern and offer valuable programs. Some of us contribute with tax dollars and others contribute by becoming members of the Library Foundation. Many of you do both. The entire community is a beneficiary. And that community extends far beyond the city limits.

Andrew Carnegie understood this and used his great good fortune to transform communities through the public library.

"It was from my own early experience that I decided there was no use to which money could be applied so productive... as the founding of a public library."

Carnegie's words illustrate the Library Foundation's *raison d'être*. Our members make it possible. In the month of December alone, you contributed more than **\$143,000!** Those funds are being used for improvements in the physical space, new books, online resources (e-books, audiobooks, magazines, lynda.com and new databases like the Daily Pilot digital archives) and cultural/educational programming.



The grad student I mentioned above illustrates how those enhancements help to transform lives in our community. Thank you for joining or renewing your membership to ensure the library continues to be a place that works for everyone.

Tracy Keys  
Executive Director

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Cover: All 92 speakers in the 20 years of *The Witte Lectures*.  
How many of these speakers did you hear? How many can you name?  
Share your recollections with me at [tkeys@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:tkeys@newportbeachca.gov).  
Check out the archives for podcasts at [nbplfoundation.org](http://nbplfoundation.org).





## Welcome Kevin Barlow to the Board of Directors!

We are pleased to announce that Kevin Barlow has joined our Board of Directors. Kevin, his wife Kelly, and their three-year-old daughter Kate are avid library users. New baby Knox will have his card soon we suspect. Kelly teaches at The Pegasus School in Huntington Beach. Kevin received his MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and his B.A. with Honors from the University of Michigan. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the CFA Institute as well as the CFA Societies of San Francisco and Orange County. Kevin joined Palo Capital in 2015 and manages the firm's Private Client Group.

## Grant Received from Pacific Life Foundation

Enormous thanks to Pacific Life Foundation for supporting our *Library Live* series with a \$5,000 grant. We are deeply honored and proud to be included among grant recipients. The *Library Live* series is at the core of literary offerings at the Central Library; the grant will enable us to continue curating programs with notable authors.

Photo: Tennyson Oyler, Pacific Life Foundation President and Susan Groux, Director of Programs at the Library Foundation.



## Library Journal Gives the Library a Star Rating

The *Library Journal* (LJ) is an American trade publication for librarians. Founded in 1876, it reports news about the library world, mostly public libraries. Why is a "star rating" a big deal? The LJ Index is based on five types of per capita use libraries generate: visits, circulation, e-circulation, public access computer use and program attendance. Star Library ratings of five, four and three stars are awarded to libraries that generate the highest combined per capita outputs among their spending peers. In 2016, there were only 260 "Star Libraries" in the U.S. and NBPL was one! That means your library has collections, technology, online resources and programs that rank highly in comparison to other libraries.



# the Witte LECTURES

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\$25,000

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## THE WITTE LECTURES

...engaging  
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# It's What She Does...

Lynsey Addario captivates a packed house for the first program of *The Witte Lectures* 20th Anniversary Season.



1



2



3



4

Top: Addario presenting images from "It's What I Do"

1. Kristen & Adrian Griggs

2. Janet & Walkie Ray

3. Lynsey Addario, Jene Witte

4. Steve Swerdlow, Michele Goodwin, Cyd Swerdlow

## Don't miss these upcoming *Witte Lectures*!



© Fred Conrad

**Joe Nocera**  
*Inside the NCAA*  
March 3-4



**Dr. Wade Davis**  
*Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World*  
April 7-8



© Joe Henson

**Isabel Wilkerson**  
*Our Racial Moment of Truth*  
April 28-29

### FRIDAY EVENINGS

**\$50 / \$45\*** per person, per lecture  
**\$20 for students & teachers**

6:30pm Wine and music reception  
7:00pm Lecture, Q&A  
8:15pm Book signing, dessert & coffee

### SATURDAY AFTERNOONS

**\$35 / \$30\*** per person, per lecture  
**\$20 for students & teachers**

2:00pm Lecture, Q&A  
3:15pm Book signing, dessert & coffee

### DETAILS/TICKETS

[nbplfoundation.org](http://nbplfoundation.org)  
[events@nbplfoundation.org](mailto:events@nbplfoundation.org)  
or 949.548.2411





## Get Your Book Buzz On!

Wednesday, March 15 @ 6:30pm

### *Book Buzz Night*

Bring your love of books—and book-loving friends—to become part of a select few gaining an insider's knowledge of the new books that are creating the biggest buzz in the publishing world. For this night of books, the Library Foundation is pleased to host representatives of two major publishing houses, Penguin Random House and HarperCollins. These publishers' reps will share previews of their newest titles and will be available to discuss all things book-related. This event is ideal for book groups and will include a gourmet offering of refreshments from our delicious new neighbor, Baker & Olive, as well as book totes, catalogs and book samples while the offerings last. One lucky book lover will go home with a gift basket full of new hardbacks as well! Join us to preview exciting new titles upcoming for spring/summer 2017, and to get an inside peek at the world of publishing. Plan your book group's reading schedule accordingly and bring all your members to this exciting event.

**No charge to attend.**

**Please note: event begins at 6:30pm**



Penguin  
Random  
House

HarperCollins Publishers



## Stephanie Danler

Thursday, May 18 @ 7:00pm

### *Sweetbitter*

Stephanie Danler is the author of the international and *New York Times* bestseller, *Sweetbitter*. The debut novel garnered international attention just one week after its release. Danler's work has appeared in *Vogue Magazine*, *Travel and Leisure*, *Bon Appetit* and *O Magazine* to name a few.

Hailing from California, Danler wound up working in the fast-paced and often chaotic Manhattan restaurant life before enrolling in graduate school at The New School, where she wrote *Sweetbitter* whose backdrop is that very experience in New York City.

Delicious nibbles provided by Baker & Olive, Corona del Mar Plaza.

**Tickets: \$25/20\***

\* Library Foundation members at Book Worm level (\$50) or higher receive a \$5 discount on each ticket.

## *Become a Sponsor*

If you love our programs and contribute at least \$2,500, your investment will enable us to bring more of the most notable authors to the Central Library. Benefits include private dinners with the authors, preferred seating and signed books.

For more information on sponsorship, please phone Tracy Keys at 949.717.3890 or email: [tkeys@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:tkeys@newportbeachca.gov).

AUTHORS, LECTURES,  
CONVERSATIONS

library  
LIVE

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[events@nbpplfoundation.org](mailto:events@nbpplfoundation.org)  
or 949.548.2411

### SCHEDULE:

6:30pm

Doors open

7:00-8:30pm

Program

8:30-9:00pm

Book sales & signing

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## NEW THIS SEASON!



Paintings by class:  
 March 5 - Crab  
 March 12 -  
 Life Guard Tower  
 March 19 -  
 Dad's Donuts

# Art in the Spring with Timree Paint Studio

Three Sundays • March 5, 12 & 19 @ 2:00-3:30pm

Immerse your child in a world of creativity! Taught by Timree Art Studios, your child will have a blast while developing their art skills as they learn to paint through the Timree Technique™. This step-by-step teaching approach is based on studio owner and art teacher Timree Gold's beliefs that art should be approachable, whimsical, and most of all—FUN! Each painting class will have a theme, and students will take home a canvas containing their own unique painting.

## Art workshop details:

- [nbplfoundation.org](http://nbplfoundation.org) ~ Reservations required
- Limit 25 children per class ~ Ages 7-12 years
- Series price: \$95/\$90\*
- Individual classes price: \$40/\$35\*
- Central Library, Friends Meeting Room
- ★ Discount for Library Foundation Members



Get Ready for the Fourth Annual

# Bunnies & Books for Kids Festival

Saturday, May 13 @ 10:00am at the Central Library & Civic Green

A bunny-themed story time, face painting, arts & crafts, games and other outdoor activities are planned for this year's festival. This is our biggest children's event of the year so come prepared to read, create and move throughout the library and the beautiful Civic Green area. And don't forget...Harvey, the beloved Flemish Giant bunny mascot from Save-Some-Bunny Rabbit Rescue is planning to attend again..and he may be bringing some of his rabbit friends!

## Festival details:

- Admission is FREE; reservations not required
- Info: 949.548.2411 or [events@nbplfoundation.org](mailto:events@nbplfoundation.org)



Generous Sponsors of Making Memories for Children  
 Dennis & Diane Baker • Terry & Sharon Bridges



# *The Observer*

by Rita Debbaneh

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the 2016 Creative Writing Contest for Teens is Rita Debbaneh of Newport Beach for her essay entitled *The Observer*. Congratulations Rita!

Our runners-up were Brittany Weinstock of Newport Coast for *Blind Light* and Kayla Cleland of Huntington Beach for *A Library of Ruins*. We acknowledge everyone who submitted essays to the contest.

And, finally, we want to thank our judges Adrian Windsor and Toby Larson, Library Foundation Board Members; Hannah Carrier, Librarian and Greg Johnson, Library Assistant.

It was a terribly hot day, and Mei and Dandan were ambling down the school steps, flushed out of the building by the heat and the prospect of an afternoon free from teachers. They made an odd pair, those two, with Dandan bouncing excitedly, her cheeks flushed and her eyes twinkling gleefully, balancing on her toes like a bird about to take flight, and Mei trailing behind, her eyes somber and her mouth thin, wobbling under a stack of books.

"I don't understand why you hate the library so much!" Dandan exclaimed, skipping back to her quieter friend. It seemed astonishing that such a studious girl, who surrounded herself with books and studying, could be so squeamish about such a place. Yet, it was the truth, and Mei grimaced at the word.

"There are a number of reasons," she noted dully. "It would take too long to understand."

"But we have a good ten minutes before we get to my house," Dandan replied. "And we won't really have time to talk about it there, because we'll be studying for that math test." She pivoted on her heels, and winked at Mei as if she was the one divulging a mysterious secret. "So spill!"

Mei's face softened, her stoic armor seemingly melting as she considered her options. It had only been a week since she had started attending the Secondary School of Harmonious Minds in Hong Kong, and it wasn't vastly different from her old school in Beijing. But she dearly missed her old friends, and what Mei lacked in friendship, this new institution had filled up with taunting students. Her father worked in the Educational Bureau, and he had pulled a few strings in order to slip his daughter into this esteemed academy. After all, their move had taken place more than halfway into the school year, and there had been no time to take the weighty entrance exam. Mei's secret had been publicized, thanks to an unknown gossip. Now, the only pupil willing to befriend her was Dandan.

Dandan was a blur of color: always moving and laughing, but rarely pausing unless it was to share a good joke. Surely someone as amiable as Dandan would keep Mei's vulnerable insecurities close to heart.

"Alright," Mei said, with a smile, "I supposed it wouldn't hurt to tell." Dandan slowed her energetic leaping to a stroll as she linked arms with her friend and gave a warm smile. "Whenever I see the library, I think of it as a place to study and work hard. After all, you always see students there cramming and toiling over notes.

And it's all we ever do, nowadays, right? We have to get into a good high school. But for me, I could fail my tests. It wouldn't matter, because my father works for the Educational Bureau, and it would only take a few phone calls for him to place me in whatever school I wanted." Mei paused to reflect over her words before continuing. "And that makes me sick, because I want to assure everyone that I work as hard as they do. They just turn a deaf ear to all that I say. Libraries only remind me of the fact that to others, I will always be a cheater."

Dandan gave an empathetic smile. "Just because they call you names behind your back doesn't guarantee that you have to believe them! There's nothing wrong with having connections, and, between you and me -" Dandan leaned in, like an old gossip "- I think it's good to take advantage of connections. There's nothing wrong with having a good opportunity, and everyone here seems to frown upon it. I say that you should try your hardest, but still benefit from your advantages. That way, you can't say that you've cheated!"

Mei blinked slowly as she rehashed Dandan's words. It had never occurred to her that her background wasn't as horrible as she had thought it was. And as she

*"The Observer" continued on page 10*



# Mission Statement:

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation funds valuable library resources and programs—engaging the community in cultural and intellectual adventure through the sponsorship of diverse public programs and cutting-edge library enhancements.

We are a membership-driven organization. Fulfilling our mission is only possible because of the individuals and corporations below. Special thanks to all who responded to our year-end giving appeal. We raised \$143,767.00 in the month of December as a result of your generosity.

The following represents gifts given, new pledges and pledges fulfilled from August 10 to December 31, 2016.

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*"The Observer" continued from page 7*

continued to mull over her friend's advice, it dawned on Mei that if she only used her connections as a safeguard, then who was to deny her the fact that all of her accomplishments had been achieved by her own hand?

Mei nodded to herself and fought back a smile. "I suppose you're right," she muttered, stopping at the end of a sidewalk. "But what about those students who always study at the library? They're the same ones who taunt me. What if they did see me there? What do you think would happen?"

Dandan gave a beaming grin and laughed. "Mei, just because something unpleasant happens doesn't mean you let that something cloud your vision! You can't let those students' actions define yours. Besides, the library is a very quiet place. They wouldn't be able to do anything."

Yet again, Dandan had managed to brush off Mei's anxious worries. Mei wondered if all of her troubles sounded petty to her friend, for she always seemed to have a forgiving answer to every mishap.

"There's one more thing," Mei said, eventually. The pair had continued their journey towards Dandan's home, trudging past vendors and businessmen who bustled away pell-mell like pigeons. "And I feel like it's more personal to me. Even more so than my father's job and those students who mock me." Dandan and Mei ducked heads and leaned in together, like two weary soldiers supporting themselves for a dreary march home. Mei's voice grew hushed as she continued, "I used to go to the library. And, at first, I enjoyed it. But every book always seemed the same:

praising this country and speaking about the benefits of working for it. Don't get me wrong, I'm fine with that. But there wasn't one book I could find that didn't parrot any of the others. It's like everything unorthodox is frowned upon. I swear it's more suffocating than this heat." Mei leaned away, a bit gladdened that she had gotten this embittered secret off her chest. Yet, as she glanced at Dandan, expectant for an answer, she was a bit surprised to see that her friend hadn't answered. In fact, her gaze seemed a bit hooded and her face was drawn into a thoughtful expression.

Both girls were silent as they arrived at Dandan's house, rang the bell, and greeted her mother in unison. Dandan purposefully tugged Mei up the stairs and into her room, before shutting the door briskly.

Finally, she spoke, "I'm not to show anybody this. At least, that's what my father has told me. But I feel like you would like this." Dandan then proceeded to her closet, eased it open, and beckoned for Mei to enter with a wave of her hand. Unsure, Mei padded forward, and as she halted in the doorway of the closet, her eyes widened with astonishment.

Inside of Dandan's closet was a stack of books. They seemed completely ordinary, only about waist high, and could be concealed by a strategically placed coat. What really drew Mei's attention, however, was that each and every book was banned in China and, somehow, Dandan had managed to get her hands on them.

"Do you know what would happen if someone else found these?" Mei murmured. Her question wasn't threatening, but intrigued. "They would

report you. Where did you even find these?"

Dandan gave a genial grin. "Your father isn't the only man with strings to pull. My father works in an underground publishing company. He started getting me books every few months, about a year ago. He sat me down, first, and explained why they were banned. And when I could understand why, I started reading them."

"Well, why are they banned? Like this one." Mei stooped down to pick up a copy of *Alice in Wonderland*. "Isn't it about talking animals?"

Dandan replied, "My father said that China bans some books, because it's spent such a long time praising itself. And after all these years of effort, I think it angers the government that a simple sentence in an unseemly book can deflate everything that they've stood for. It scares them, too. So they try to get rid of everything threatening. Sometimes, it really is suffocating. But that only makes me want to be an observer, and see what's wrong around us. Because if the government won't let us read to find out what's inaccurate, then we should try to see it with our own eyes."






Mei was silent, drinking up Dandan's philosophical words. Spending hours pouring over words and numbers wouldn't make her as wise as her friend. It seemed that as long as she could see with her own eyes everything that was really a lie, then there would be nothing to fear.


As the two girls settled down to a round of studying, Mei said, "Dandan, the next time we have to study for a test, let's just go to the library."



# CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 BARK Reading Program 2:00-3:30pm at Mariners Branch	6	7	8 Book Group <i>The English Major</i> 9:15-11:00am	9 	10 Witte Lectures Jon Meacham 7:00pm	11 Witte Lectures Jon Meacham 2:00pm
12	13	14	15 	16 Business Series Charles Martin Orange County, Inc. 7:00pm	18 	
19	20	21	22	23	25	
26 	27 Medicine In Our Backyard 7:00pm	28				

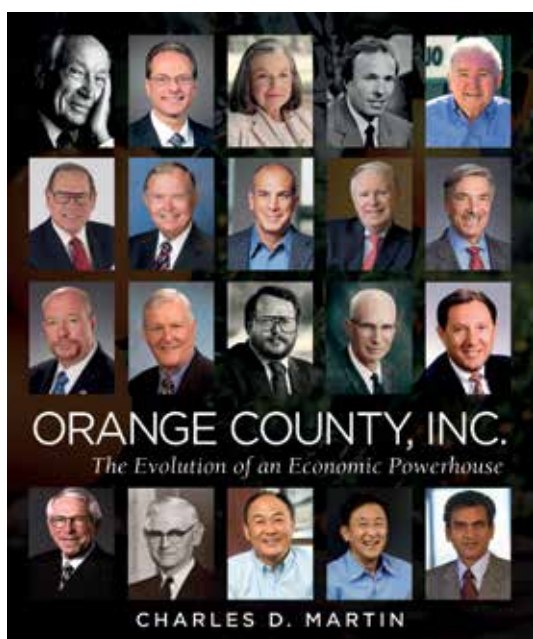
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Witte Lectures Joe Nocera 7:00pm	4 Witte Lectures Joe Nocera 2:00pm
5 Art in Spring Timree Paint Studio 2:00pm	6	7	8 Book Group <i>The Portable Veblen</i> 9:15-11:00am	9		11
12 Art in Spring Timree Paint Studio 2:00pm	13	14	15 Library Live Book Buzz Night! 6:30pm	16		18
19 Art in Spring Timree Paint Studio 2:00pm	20	21	22 	23	24	25
26 	27 Medicine In Our Backyard 7:00pm	28	29	30	31	

MARCH

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 It's Your Money 10:00-11:30am	4	5	6	7 Witte Lectures Dr. Wade Davis 7:00pm	8 Witte Lectures Dr. Wade Davis 2:00pm
9	10 It's Your Money 10:00-11:30am	11	12 Book Group <i>The Twelve Tribes of Hattie</i> 9:15-11:00am	13		15
16	17 It's Your Money 10:00-11:30am	18	19	20		22
23 	24 It's Your Money 10:00-11:30am Medicine In Our Backyard 7:00pm	25	26		28 Witte Lectures Isabel Wilkerson 7:00pm	29 Witte Lectures Isabel Wilkerson 2:00pm
30						

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## LOOKING THROUGH ORANGE-COLORED GLASSES

Local Entrepreneurs on Wealth, Wisdom & History of the OC

# Charles Martin

Thursday, February 16

*Orange County, Inc.*

**Introduction by Rick Reiff**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, the Editor-at-Large of the *Orange County Business Journal* and host and producer at PBS SoCal-TV.

Charles Martin of Mont Pelerin Capital will discuss his sweeping chronicle of those individuals who have shaped Orange County and made it into the economic powerhouse it is today. *Orange County, Inc.* is the story of the remarkable emergence of a county that grew from a small agricultural region after WWII with a population of barely 100,000 into one of the nation's leading economies with a still rapidly-growing population of 3.2 million people today.

**Details:** Program begins @ 7:00pm  
Book sales & signing

**Where:** Newport Beach Central Library

**Reserve:** [nbplfoundation.org](http://nbplfoundation.org) or **949.548.2411**  
No charge to attend