

B

BOOKMARK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWPORT
BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

WINTER 2020

“

When I got my library card, that's when my life began.

– Rita Mae Brown

Hello Library Patrons and Foundation Members!

At a recent garden party, I met up with a friend I hadn't seen in years. The greetings were warm, but after I told him what I was up to, he asked with a bit of snark "Do people really go to libraries anymore?" While his question ruffled my feathers a bit, I took a deep breath and decided to offer up a challenge — because showing is often better than telling. I coolly responded with, "I invite you to come to the Newport Beach Public Library on a Sunday afternoon and just try to find an open seat."

My friend's question regarding the relevancy of libraries in the age of the internet floors me because I feel the internet is precisely the reason why we need libraries even more today than yesterday. In a world seeking to monetize and subscribe every morsel of data and code, we need them to bridge the digital divide, to teach visual and media literacy so we can discern between credible and dubious information; to champion truth, equality, expertise; and to offer unfettered access to knowledge and to preserve intellectual freedom.

In Ethan Hawke's 2018 compelling plea for support of libraries by the citizens of New York, the actor-director-writer addressed the same question my friend posed by saying, "More people than ever are visiting their neighborhood branches and using the myriad of free resources the Library provides." It's true. Over 1.4 billion people across the country are using the nearly 17,000 public libraries in all kinds of ways: from e-books, films and other downloadables, to kids' story time, to checking out materials for book clubs, meeting friends in the stacks to peruse the cooking, gardening or art sections, conferencing in the study rooms, seeking skills training and employment, to learning to read in the adult literacy program and earning high school diplomas. And all of this is under the sage oversight of thousands of trained librarians who, on average, answer 6.6 million questions a week. In short, the library is like a tuition-free university.

So, my question is not are libraries still relevant, my question is why aren't there more libraries?

Meg Linton

Meg Linton
Chief Executive Officer
Newport Beach Public Library Foundation



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On the Cover:
Elizabeth Turk, Shoreline Project, 2018
Laguna Beach, CA
Photo: Eric Stoner

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Design and Production: Maria Nicklin and IM Design Ink

Why libraries are more relevant than ever

Last year, public libraries across the country served more than one billion people. And one million of them were using the Newport Beach Public Library — proving just how relevant libraries remain today. Below are compelling reasons that libraries are more relevant than ever:

1. Libraries are part of our social infrastructure and anchor a community by providing both a physical and virtual space for shared knowledge, learning, and culture.

2. Technology has enhanced the utility of a library by expanding options and offerings to bridge the digital divide.

3. The modern library offers much more than books on shelves. It provides the latest technology with downloadable e-books, magazines, streaming films, online courses, and tech toys like digital cameras, media converters, and USB turntables.

4. Last year, 58% of library patrons checked their email at libraries and 44% received homework help.

5. Libraries still provide a quiet place to study.

6. Libraries bring people and families together through educational programs for all ages, hosting book groups and storytime, and offering workshops.

7. The children's librarians and collections instill a love of books and reading, and encourage young people to be curious, lifelong learners.

8. Libraries are the ultimate level playing field because they offer free educational resources to everyone.

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation is pleased to announce the 23rd season of The Witte Lectures

January – April 2020

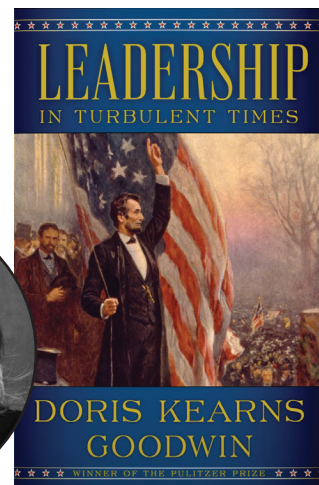
Doris Kearns Goodwin

SOLD OUT

Leadership in Turbulent Times

Friday, January 24, 7:00pm | Saturday, January 25, 2:00pm

World renowned presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin returns to Newport Beach to reflect on more than 150 years of US History, putting into context our most recent unprecedented presidency. Goodwin draws upon research from her most recent book *Leadership in Turbulent Times* (2018) which is a culmination of Goodwin's five-decade long career studying American presidents. By sharing her deep understanding of the ambition, resolution, and resilience of some of our nation's most revered presidents, Goodwin explains how past setbacks and triumphs shed light on the cultural, economic, and political transformations that define today's turbulent times. We are honored this Pulitzer Prize winning author will, once again, share her wisdom on this important topic.



David Leonhardt

The American Dream, At Risk – Income Inequality and Us

Friday, February 28, 7:00pm | Saturday, February 29, 2:00pm

David Leonhardt joined *The New York Times* in 1999 and is an Op-Ed columnist. His weekday morning e-newsletter helps his readers make sense of current events by providing analysis and context. Prior to joining the Opinion department, he was founding editor of *The Upshot* section, which emphasizes data visualization and graphics to offer an analytical approach to the day's news. He served as Washington bureau chief and wrote *Economic Scene*, a weekly column for the Business section. He is a Pulitzer Prize and Gerald Loeb Award winning author.



Tickets

Come to the lectures and chat with our speakers at a tasty post-lecture supper on Friday night or coffee and cookies on Saturday afternoon. All lectures are at the Central Library.

To purchase tickets: nbplfoundation.org or 949-717-3892

Friday Evening Lectures

7:00pm-9:00pm

Lecture, Book Sale & Signing, Light Supper with Wine
General \$65
NBPLF Member: \$60

Saturday Afternoon Lectures

2:00pm-4:00pm

Lecture, Book Sale & Signing, Refreshments
General \$45
NBPLF Member: \$40

WITTE is for the curious, engaged and motivated. It presents serious topics for serious times. Join us for dynamic, informative, call-to-action conversations about the US Presidency, the impacts of income inequality, what to anticipate with rapid environmental change, and learn the societal price of addiction. Participate and be fortified. Understand the complexities of globally relevant issues. It's all happening at the Library!

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Signe Keller
Marilyn Krahe

Gordon McAlpine
Ellen Shockro
Jene Witte
Lizanne Witte
Kurt Kost (Library
Trustee Liaison)

David Wallace-Wells

The Uninhabitable Earth – Climate Change is Here, in California

Friday, March 6, 7:00pm | Saturday, March 7, 2:00pm

Journalist David Wallace-Wells is a National Fellow at New America and Deputy Editor at *New York Magazine*. His acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller book *The Uninhabitable Earth* (2019), tells the scientific story of environmental damage to date. "It will always be the case that the next decade could contain more warming and more suffering or less warming and less suffering." He explains how the future is being transformed by climate change faster and more dramatically than we realized. He asks key questions: how will the map of global power shift as coast lines are redrawn? How will this affect California – our culture, our politics, our lifestyle? What is our individual responsibility? Can we have an impact? Wallace-Wells reminds us that everything is within our control, so long as we resist complacency.



The
Uninhabitable
Earth
Life After Warming
David
Wallace-Wells

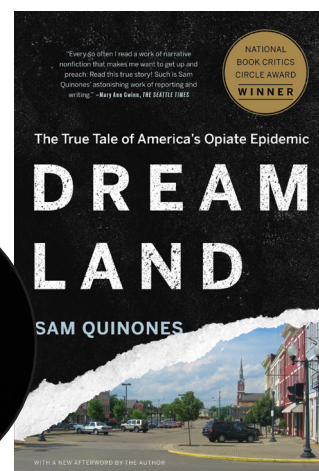


Sam Quinones

Dreamland – Opioids in America: Past, Present, and Future

Friday, April 17, 7:00pm | Saturday, April 18, 2:00pm

Sam Quinones' book *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* (2015) won a National Book Critics Circle Award and was on a dozen Best Book of the Year lists. Why? The book struck a common chord. Quinones is a masterful storyteller and sought-after speaker who shares how the silent tragedy has impacted communities and families coast to coast. And what a tale . . . *Dreamland* is riveting. Quinones recounts how a pharmaceutical corporation promoted its legal opiate prescription painkiller as non-addictive and the rise of international drug trafficking. The collision of these two forces has led America into the deadliest drug scourge in modern times. *Dreamland* is now being adapted for a young adult audience, grades 8-12.



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The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation *the 2019-2020 season of*

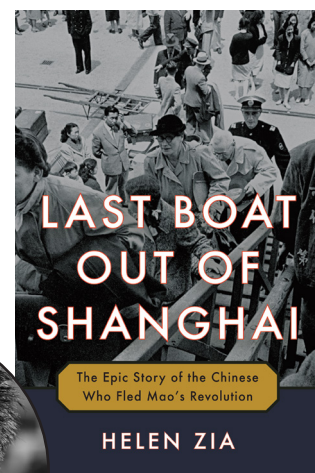
Helen Zia

Last Boat out of Shanghai: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Fled Mao's Revolution

Thursday, February 20, 7:00pm

Tickets: \$27 General / \$21 NBPLF Member

Activist, award-winning journalist and author, Helen Zia shares her experience in writing a story about the lives of emigrants and refugees from another cataclysmic time in history that has striking parallels to the difficulties facing migrants today. This book follows *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People* (2000) that was a finalist for the Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize. She is the co-author with Wen Ho Lee of *My Country Versus Me: The First-Hand Account by the Los Alamos Scientist Who Was Falsely Accused of Being a Spy* (2001).



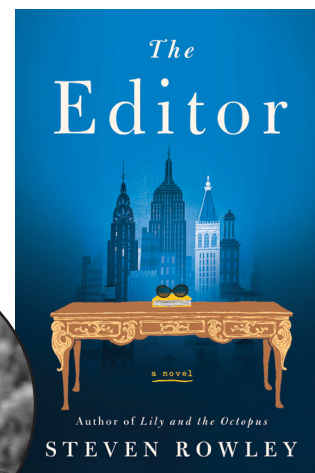
Steven Rowley

The Editor

Thursday, April 2, 7:00pm

Tickets: \$10 General / \$7 NBPLF Member

Following his bestseller, *Lily and the Octopus* (2016), Steven Rowley now delivers on the soaring promise of that debut with *The Editor* (2019), a stunning exploration of the complicated bonds forged within families, and a tribute to the serendipitous relationships that shape and define us. After years of trying to make it as a writer in 1990s New York City, Rowley's protagonist, James Smale finally sells his novel to a major publishing house. His editor is none other than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. With Jackie guiding his candidly autobiographical novel, fragile relationships are tested and dysfunction exposed.



Tickets

All lectures take place at the Central Library. Doors open at 6:30pm. Program begins at 7:00pm followed by book sale and signing till 9:00pm.

To purchase tickets: nbplfoundation.org or 949-717-3892

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Foundation is pleased to present *Library Live*

Tomi Adeyemi

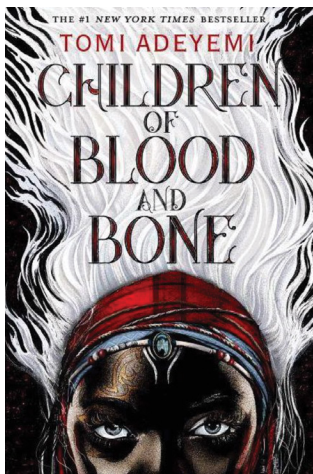
Children of Blood and Bone

Children of Virtue and Vengeance

Thursday, March 12, 7:00pm

Tickets: \$27 General / \$21 NBPLF Member

At age 26, Adeyemi is a Hugo and Nebula Award-winning Nigerian-American writer and creative writing coach based in San Diego, California. After graduating from Harvard University with an honors degree in English literature, she studied West African mythology, religion, and culture in Salvador, Brazil. Her first novel, *Children of Blood and Bone*, debuted at #1 on *The New York Times* Best Seller list in 2018 and is being developed into a movie by Lucasfilm/Fox. Her highly anticipated second novel, *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*, came out in December 2019. Adeyemi speaks about her inspiration for her books, the creative process, and her many influences. When she's not writing or watching BTS Korean music videos, she is teaching creative writing at tomiadeyemi.com.



“

*Libraries really are the
gates to the future.*

– Neil Gaiman

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(Library Trustee
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Enormous thanks to our library lovers & champions

Because of our generous members, donors, and sponsors, The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation is able to provide vital funding that keeps our libraries modern, exceptional, and forward-thinking. Last fall, we celebrated that generosity at our annual donor reception. We are extremely grateful for the superb work of our volunteers and look forward to more good things to come.



1. Kimberly Johnson Genc and Robert Genc; 2. Signe Keller and Meg Linton; 3. Marilyn Krahe; 4. Bridget and Erich Smith; 5. Karen Clark and Barbara Spitz; 6. Alan and Diane Buchanan; 7. Todd Palmaer, Diane Hafer and Bruce Clark; 8. Maylor Diane Dixon and Ken Kim; 9. Cathy Voreyer and Elizabeth Stahr; 10. Ronnie and Paul Watkins

“

That's what I consider true generosity: You give your all and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.

—Simone de Beauvoir



ELINOR VALENCIA SCHMIDT

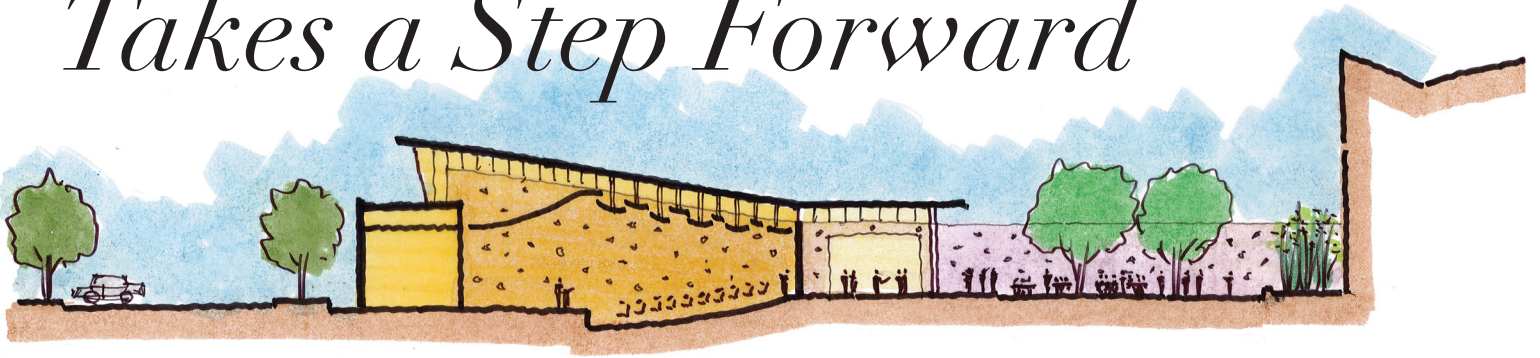
AUGUST 4, 1922 - MARCH 30, 2019

Elinor Valencia Schmidt was born in Orange County, California in 1922 and was the daughter of Fred and Beatrice, who owned and operated The Schmidt Music Company. She was raised on the family orange grove with her siblings Marjorie, Jack, and George. A graduate of UCLA and Chapman University, Elinor was a beloved teacher for 20 years. She was a life-long learner, avid reader and supporter of the arts, humanities, and sciences.

Elinor showed her love of knowledge by leaving a legacy gift of \$200,000 to the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation, an exceptional donation and one that represents what Elinor held so dear. We thank Elinor's extended family—Mari, Brad, and Marisa McNamee and Gregg, Robin and Kyle Schmidt—for sharing her story with us.

11. Edna and Felix Yan; 12. Todd and Natasha Palmaer;
13. Johanna Lee Kim, Afsaneh Alisobhani and Ken Kim;
14. Nancy Dahlfors, Natolie Choi, Ginger Ong and Janet Hadley

The Library Lecture Hall *Takes a Step Forward*



On November 19, 2019, the Newport Beach City Council approved the contract for the architectural design services for the proposed Library Lecture Hall to be built at the Central Library. After several months of review and presentations, the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee recommended the selection of **Robert R. Coffee Architect + Associates**, a Newport Beach based firm known for its design of the OASIS Senior Center and the expansion of the Bowers Museum. Procuring concept designs is the first major step in realizing a new facility for the Library's robust programming needs.

Jill Johnson-Tucker, who is leading this charge, shared, "The Library Lecture Hall Design Committee is so excited to move forward with this long overdue facility. The lecture hall will have sloped floors so that everyone has a great seat, bigger capacity and state-of-the art audiovisual capabilities. With 275+ seats and a great interplay with the Bamboo Courtyard and the Library lobby, the lecture space will be a dramatic improvement and allow for all the Library and community programs to grow, including the Foundation's popular lecture series."

Last fiscal year, the Library hosted more than 200 public programs for 72,000 people, and this includes the Foundation's highly regarded Witte Lectures, Library Live, Medicine in Our Backyard, Memoir Writing, Financial Literacy Workshops, and more. Thank you to all of you who wrote letters and made an appearance. **Stay tuned!**



Preliminary sketches 2019. Robert R. Coffee Architect + Associates

Lecture Hall Design Committee

Karen Clark, Newport Beach Public
Library Foundation, Vice Chair

Diane B. Dixon, Mayor of
Newport Beach

Janet Ray, Board of Library
Trustees, Chair

Jill Johnson Tucker, Library Lecture
Hall Design Committee, Chair

Matthew Witte, Principal,
Related California

JANUARY 22
**arctic animal
crafts**

BALBOA
Wednesday, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

JANUARY 24 & 25
the witte lecture
Doris Kearns Goodwin
CENTRAL

Friday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
\$65 General / \$60 Member
Saturday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
\$45 General / \$40 Member

**sensory day
saturdays**
CORONA DEL MAR

Saturdays,
11:00am - 1:00pm

JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 24
MARCH 23, APRIL 27
MAY 18

**medicine in
our backyard**

CENTRAL
Mondays, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

FEBRUARY 7 & 8
JUNE 5 & 6
**friends
book sales**

CENTRAL

Members	Public
Friday 1:00pm - 4:00pm	Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm

FEBRUARY 11
**sweethearts
craft**

MARINERS
Tuesday, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

FEBRUARY 12, MARCH 11
APRIL 8, MAY 13
JUNE 10
**book discussion
group**
CENTRAL

Wednesdays, 9:30am - 11:00am

FEBRUARY 20
library live

Helen Zia

CENTRAL
Thursday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
\$27 General / \$21 Member

FEBRUARY 28 & 29
the witte lecture
David Leonhardt
CENTRAL

Friday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
\$65 General / \$60 Member
Saturday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
\$45 General / \$40 Member

MARCH 6 & 7
the witte lecture
David Wallace-Wells
CENTRAL

Friday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
\$65 General / \$60 Member
Saturday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
\$45 General / \$40 Member

MARCH 12
library live
Tomi Adayemi
CENTRAL

Thursday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
\$27 General / \$21 Member

MARCH 30 - MAY 18
**financial
workshop:
it's your estate**

CENTRAL
Mondays, 10:00am - 11:30am

APRIL 2
library live

Steven Rowley

CENTRAL
Thursday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
\$10 General / \$7 Member

APRIL 7
**college
planning for
freshman and
sophomores**

CENTRAL
Tuesday, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

APRIL 17 & 18
the witte lecture
Sam Quinones
CENTRAL

Friday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
\$65 General / \$60 Member
Saturday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
\$45 General / \$40 Member

MAY 1
**newport/mesa
prolitteracy
luncheon with
author isha sesay**

Friday, 11:00am - 2:00pm
\$100
949-717-3874

“

*When in doubt,
go to the library.*
— J.K. Rowling

Our invaluable librarians

The rise of the Internet has not diminished the importance of librarians. Instead, the role of librarians has evolved as an invaluable link between patrons and all the technology available at the library. USC's Marshall School of Business writes that librarians are "uniquely positioned to focus on the experience of their library's users ... by helping them navigate complex systems, whether the medium is physical books, an archive, a database or the Internet." Googling information is easy, but librarians are expert researchers who can help assess the accuracy and quality of that information. Our dedicated Newport Beach Public Library librarians rotate from branch to branch, bringing their expertise and helping our patrons with all of their library needs. Read on to meet them.



Alex Jenkins
Reference Librarian
Favorite Book: *In Watermelon Sugar* by Richard Brautigan



Melinda Moss
Part Time Library Assistant
Favorite Book: *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown



Brenda Butler
Part Time Library Assistant
Favorite Book: *The Dharma Bums* by Jack Kerouac



Claire Leach
Reference Librarian – Local History
Favorite Book: *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck



Laurie Sanders
Reference Librarian
Favorite Book: *The Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling

“

*Google can bring you back
100,000 answers, a librarian can
bring you back the right one.*

– Neil Gaiman



Erik Gunderson
Library Assistant
Favorite Movie:
Seven Samurai
(1954) by
Akira Kurosawa



Terry Sanchez
Programming
Library Assistant
Favorite Book: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
and *The Hiding Place*
by Corrie Ten Boom



Nadia Dallstream
Reference Librarian –
Adult Volunteer Coordinator
and Homebound Services
Favorite Book: *Happy Birthday to You!* by Dr. Seuss



Greg Johnson
Library Assistant
Favorite Book:
East of Eden
by John
Steinbeck



Andrew Page
Part Time Library Assistant
Favorite Book: *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien



Rebecca Lightfoot
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Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
by J.K. Rowling

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