

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2022

B

BOOKMARK

Celebrating

THE WITTE LECTURES 1997-2022

CELEBRATING THE WITTE LECTURES

*25 years of
Witte Lectures*

nbplf
NEWPORT BEACH
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION



You Should Have Been There...

25 YEARS OF WITTE LIBRARY LECTURES

by Lizanne Leyburn Witte

"Listen to your Mama!" Christopher Hitchens, author of *Letters to a Young Contrarian*, penned that cheeky inscription on the title page of the copy I bought for my kids following his Newport Beach Public Library lecture in 2005. I pulled the book off the shelf the other day as I reflected on the 25 years' worth of speakers who have shared with us their unique views of the world.

That evening we spent with Christopher Hitchens is one of many Witte Lecture Series memories I've filed under the "So good.... you should have been there" heading. The Speaker Committee couldn't believe its good fortune when one of the greatest polemicists of his generation agreed to come to Newport Beach. Hitchens opened his talk with "I would like to thank whoever brought the Syrah." And with that, the audience was hooked and soaking in the zing, zing delivery of his clipped English wit.

Not only did Hitchens take the time to write personal notes in his books sold after the lecture, but he continued to enjoy the wine served with gusto. This called for a cigarette too. So, with a plastic cup in hand, he went outside to savor a good smoke in front of the Library. His local groupies followed. Soon there was a cluster of people circled around him in the night air hanging on to every clever word. As I said, you should have been there.

Hitchens passed away in 2011 of cancer and the loss is still felt among peers. If this cultural and political observer were alive, what would he say about 2022? Today he would only be 73!!! How would he react to the war in Ukraine? After all, he went to Sarajevo to report on the horrors of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the early 90's and authored the respected essay *Why Bosnia Matters*. He was an outlier to many in his unwavering support of the Iraq War. Hitchens made friends and enemies. Few in the literary nonfiction world have yet risen to fill his shoes but the Speaker Committee is on the lookout.

The world has lost many greats who spoke here over the years: paleontologist and evolutionary biologist

Stephen Jay Gould, journalist David Halberstam, author of *The Best and the Brightest*, television commentator Andy Rooney, sportswriter Frank Deford and historian Howard Zinn. George Plimpton, Founder of *The Paris Review*, spoke in 1998 during the first Series' inaugural season and, just five years on, was gone. How fortunate we were to hear from political commentator and satirist P.J. O'Rourke via Zoom in the Covid spring of 2021, given that he would pass away a year later. You should have been there.

What a journey it has been for everyone involved with the NBPL Foundation Witte Series and what an education too. How does this program come together each year? It always begins with generous sponsors who have supported this project all along the way with unwavering enthusiasm. A long list of benefactors encouraged us to keep going. It is clearly evident that the Foundation needs the community to support the series as ticket sales don't make a dent in the cost of hosting these distinguished speakers. Sponsorships enable us to invite a notable slate to our library every year. We are beyond grateful to all who help make it happen.

Year after year, volunteers work behind the scenes to bring a new season to life. There is the never-ending debate: who can we get (or afford) to come and enlighten us about economics, science, politics, culture, the environment, art, and more. Because speakers are typically booked a year in advance, the committee has to consider what current topics will be even hotter next year. It's a process we continuously cycle through — endless lists of newsy topics and talent to keep on our radar. Emerging writers, for instance, often become such superstars we can no longer afford them, so we try to tap them before they go big. Playwright Wendy Wasserstein (who, like so many others, passed away at a young age) and authors David Brooks and Michael Lewis spoke at Library Live for free early in their careers. The Foundation has had good luck at times.

Twenty-five years ago, the Library Foundation had no capability for computer ticket sales. We sold advance tickets in the Library lobby with anxious lines of people out the door scrambling for our paper tickets. Today we have an impressive database of people who learn about the Foundation's programming through our e-blasts.

Twenty-five years ago, there was also no such thing as social media. We couldn't check YouTube or listen to Ted Talks to preview a candidate's speaking style. We relied solely upon anecdotal assurances, name recognition, and blind faith when booking a speaker. Did we know what to expect when theoretical physicist Brian Greene came to town to explain string theory? Never did we imagine he would make such a dense subject so compelling and entertaining.

Former Governor Jennifer Granholm came to speak in 2015 and is now Secretary of Energy in the Biden Administration, taking on global energy challenges triggered by the war in Ukraine. Retired Marine Corp General and former head of U.S. Central Command Anthony Zinni has been currently speaking out forcefully about the military crisis. Pulitzer Prize-winning war photographer Lynsey Addario is on the front lines in Ukraine capturing astounding photos including President Zelenskyy deep in his war room that have been featured in *The New York Times*.

Back in 2008, Ishmael Beah kept the audience in rapt attention recounting harrowing experiences from his memoir *A Long Way Gone*, about life as a boy soldier in Sierra Leone. It was a topic hard to wrap our heads around in Southern California. Russian-American journalist Masha Gessen spoke in 2018 about her book *The Future is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia*. She also warned us about Vladimir Putin in a 2008 *Vanity Fair* profile titled *Dead Soul* and in 2012 with *The Wrath of Putin*. These essays have now resurfaced and are a big "I told you so." In their masterful ways, historians John Meacham, Doris Kearns Goodwin (twice), and Isabel Wilkerson taught us and reminded us of many critical history lessons.

On one prescient evening in 2002, we welcomed infectious disease specialist Laurie Garrett. She spoke of her expertise surrounding pandemics, a term we hardly identified with at the time. She wrote *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance* as well as *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*. Predictably, in 2021 she was all over the news as one of THE experts explaining the COVID-19 virus to us.

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Yet the Witte Series focuses on much more than history, politics, and foreign policy. Playwright Edward Albee, who also passed away, was charming at the podium and cranky offstage.

Actress and playwright Anna Devere Smith brought her brilliant theatre world into the Friends Room. Playwright Tony Kushner, author of *Angels in America* and most recently the scripts for Stephen Sondheim's *Lincoln* and *West Side Story*, was a huge hit. Though not an actor, Kushner indulged us by performing his mini play called *A Prayer for New York*. He acted the roles of both Elmer Lefkowitz, Attorney at Law, as well as Mrs. Lefkowitz. Another crowd-pleasing surprise. You should have been there.

Artists Roz Chast and Maira Kalman, both *New Yorker* cartoonists and illustrators, brought their quirky humor into the Friends Room. These wildly talented women shared a kindred creativity. Changing topics again, musician and neurologist Dr. Daniel Levitin spoke about his books *This is Your Brain on Music* and *The Organized Mind*. And let's not forget poets Billy Collins and Richard Blanco. People expect a program of poetry to be lovely at best and tedious at worse. How about clever, entertaining, and surprisingly charming? When people attend events that they are not sure they'll enjoy, it is the best evidence of their trust in us. Surely, they figure, the Foundation would only bring a poet to town if he/she promised a memorable experience.



Who can forget the Eric Schlosser brouhaha? He came to speak about his book *Junk Food Nation*. However, he had also published a book titled *Reefer Madness*. In 2005, we offered a Saturday morning program for high school students and passed out flyers about the lecture. Some educators and parents, thinking he was going to bring up the subject of marijuana, launched a public protest. Even the school board spoke out in concern and publicly forbade the flyers. The panicked vocal critics had not bothered to read the book *Reefer Madness*. The misplaced outrage made the newspapers. Ironically, the series received lots of free publicity and we had a packed house for Schlosser's talk about how junk food has become one of America's biggest health hazards.

A hands-down favorite was Buddhist scholar Robert Thurman who also spoke to local high school students in 2006. Were they in attendance to learn about Tibetan Buddhism? Thurman thought otherwise as he leaned his big body over the podium on stage and into the audience of teenage boys. "You just want to hear about my daughter Uma" he roared! The boys all gasped out loud because it was true. The prospect of an inside scoop about movie star Uma Thurman got them out of bed that Saturday morning and to the Library. And once again, did the adult audiences expect to be entertained and enlightened about Buddhism? Surprise, surprise. It was fascinating. You should have been there.

Robert Gates spoke to us in 2001 when he was a private citizen. He had retired as Director of the CIA and was

a dean and soon President of Texas A&M University. The previous year militants launched an attack against the navy vessel the USS Cole in Yemen. What were Islamic Jihadists? Concerning but the world moved on. I wish we had a recording of Gate's talk, but I have reconfirmed that he did have a warning for the audience. "We can't put our guard down. There is a dangerous militant group called Al Qaeda. We should be vigilant because they may do us harm." I don't recall if he mentioned Osama bin Laden by name but if so, we would have thought "who's that"? His talk was intense but how would this possibly affect us here in Newport Beach? Three months later, Al-Qaeda did surprise us with the 9/11 attack. Gates was right. In 2006 he was appointed Secretary of Defense under President George W. Bush and remained in his position during much of the Obama administration. We should have listened more closely.

Programming at the Library would not be legit without including literary rock stars. We brought the best we could find, those with Pulitzer Prizes and National Book awards, with publishing world street cred and adoring book group fans. We have all enjoyed Adam Gopnik, Jonathan Franzen, Alexandra Fuller, Anna Quindlen, Zadie Smith, Dave Eggers, and more. Another highlight was local talents Sarah Kay and Phil Kaye. They are renowned spoken word performers and writers who brought this edgy, new art form to life here in 2015. It was a magical night. You should have been there.

As we look to the next 25 years, the Library Foundation continues to move forward. The capital campaign to build a much-needed lecture hall has been launched. Imagine how amazing a new lecture hall will be for all library and civic programming. We are also continuing to make plans for 2023 and beyond. What speakers will come to town next? The hunt continues for the provocateurs, the humorists, the spot-on journalists, the scientists, the artists, those who have stories to tell and explain what never crossed our minds. Who are the rising stars we can learn from? What will we debate among ourselves in the Library lobby after another inspiring event? The Series keeps us on the hunt for distinguished contrarians. We can look over our shoulder and lament that we should have been there. But the question moving forward is — will we be there? Yes we will.

Lizanne Leyburn Witte has been on the Board of the Library Foundation off and on since 1990 and a founding Witte Series committee member.



From top:
Governor Jennifer Granholm and Tom Edwards.
Edna and Felix Yan.
Phil Kaye and Sarah Kay.
Tom and Marilyn Sutton.
Andy and Catharina Gerken.



The Witte Lecture Series Speaker List Through the Years

2022 Suzanne Simard Charlotte Alter Eddie Glaude Jr. Ezra Klein	2014 Anna Deavere Smith Frank Bruni Jonathan Franzen Kenneth Turan Rick Reilly	2006 Seymour Hersh Ron Haviv Robert Thurman Edward Albee
2021 Samin Nosrat P.J. O'Rourke Sam Quinones Shahzia Sikander	2013 Adam Gopnik Alexander McCall Smith Anna Quindlen Barry Ritholtz Sherry Turkle Zadie Smith	2005 Joe Klein Dr. Leonard Shlain Eric Schlosser Christopher Hitchens
2020 Doris Kearns Goodwin David Leonhardt David Wallace-Wells	2012 Alexandra Fuller George Friedman Ken Auletta Sebastian Smee	2004 Lori Wallach Bruce Babbitt Gen. Anthony Zinni Nancy Soderberg
2019 Hanna Rosin Richard Blanco Amy Walter Joel Sartore	2011 Andrew Ross Sorkin Billy Collins Dave Eggers Jeffrey Toobin Ruth Reichl Sebastian Junger	2003 Jeremy Rifkin David Halberstam Dr. David Kessler Ray Suarez
2018 David Frum R. David Edelman Maira Kalman Masha Gessen	2010 David Sanger Douglas Rushkoff Dr. David Kessler Frances Mayes	2002 David Gergen Laurie Garrett Howard Zinn Todd Buchholz
2017 Wade Davis Isabel Wilkerson Joe Nocera Jon Meacham Lynsey Addario	2009 Brian Greene David Hume Kennerly Irshad Manji Mohamed El-Erian	2001 Sylvia Earle Jared Diamond Gregory Stock Robert Gates
2016 David Ignatius Jessica Fellowes Maziar Bahari Roz Chast Sherman Alexie	2008 Ishmael Beah Lowell Bergman Paul Hawken Robin Wright	2000 Susan Faludi Orville Schell Tom Brokaw Stephen Jay Gould
2015 Dr. Daniel Levitin Elizabeth Kolbert Evan Osnos Governor Jennifer Granholm Sarah Kay & Phil Kaye	2007 Gerd Ludwig Frank Deford Michael Pollan Reza Aslan Andrew Sullivan Tony Kushner	1999 David Levy Andy Rooney Susan Estrich Doris Kearns Goodwin
		1998 Michael Jackson Donna Shirley Jeff Greenfield George Plimpton

Witte Community Members over the years...

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Jacqueline Dillman
Walter Howald
Jason Scherr
Janet Hadley, *current*

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John Gunnin
Diane Hafer
Martha MacIntyre Hamilton
George Jeffries
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Lauri Mendenhall
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Kunga Wangmo,
Director of Programming, current
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Jerold D Kappel, *CEO, current*

Gordon McAlpine



Late last year the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation and the greater community lost a dear friend and advocate for the importance of libraries, literature, and continued education about the world around us. Gordon was Chairman of the Library Foundation Board of Directors from 2007 to 2014 as well as a long-standing and valued committee member of the Witte Lecture Series. He led with wit, intellect, and a steady calm. Perhaps Gordon is best remembered for his eloquence at the podium in the Friends Room. He welcomed attendees with his particular warmth, grace, and gravitas. His introductions deftly set the stage in a nuanced way no matter who the speaker or what the topic. Each event became something of a happening for the audience.

Gordon was the Edgar Award-nominated author of numerous acclaimed literary mystery novels often with a complex metaphysical structure, reimagining authors and their fictional characters in new ways – including *Holmes Entangled* and *Woman with a Blue Pencil*. He also wrote under the pen name Owen Fitzstephen the novels, *Hammett Unwritten* and *The Big Man's Daughter*. While struggling with one of his novel's intricate structures a friend complained to Gordon that he was worried about his young son's disinterest in reading – how to get young people so charmed by the internet to pick up a book? That conversation inspired McAlpine to write the award-winning trilogy of novels for middle grade readers *The Misadventures of Edgar and Allan Poe*. Gordon loved nothing more than speaking to young students around the country and receiving their fan mail.

The Way of Baseball: Finding Stillness at 95 MPH, was McAlpine's best-selling and only non-fiction book written with his friend and collaborator Major-league All-star Shawn Green. McAlpine's other novels include *Mystery Box* and his two earliest both with a bent towards magic realism – *The Persistence of Memory* and *Joy in Mudville*. His novels have been optioned over the years for the movies, theatre, and a television series. McAlpine completed a novel during the pandemic that his agent hopes to publish in the coming year. Many of his books have been translated and published abroad. He also published short fiction in journals and anthologies.

McAlpine was a professor in the graduate programs in creative writing at UCI, UCLA, and Chapman University. He was beloved by his students who found his steady, insightful critiques always constructive and inspiring. A number of his graduate students went on to have their own novels published. He maintained a relationship with many of his students as a mentor both in their personal and professional lives.

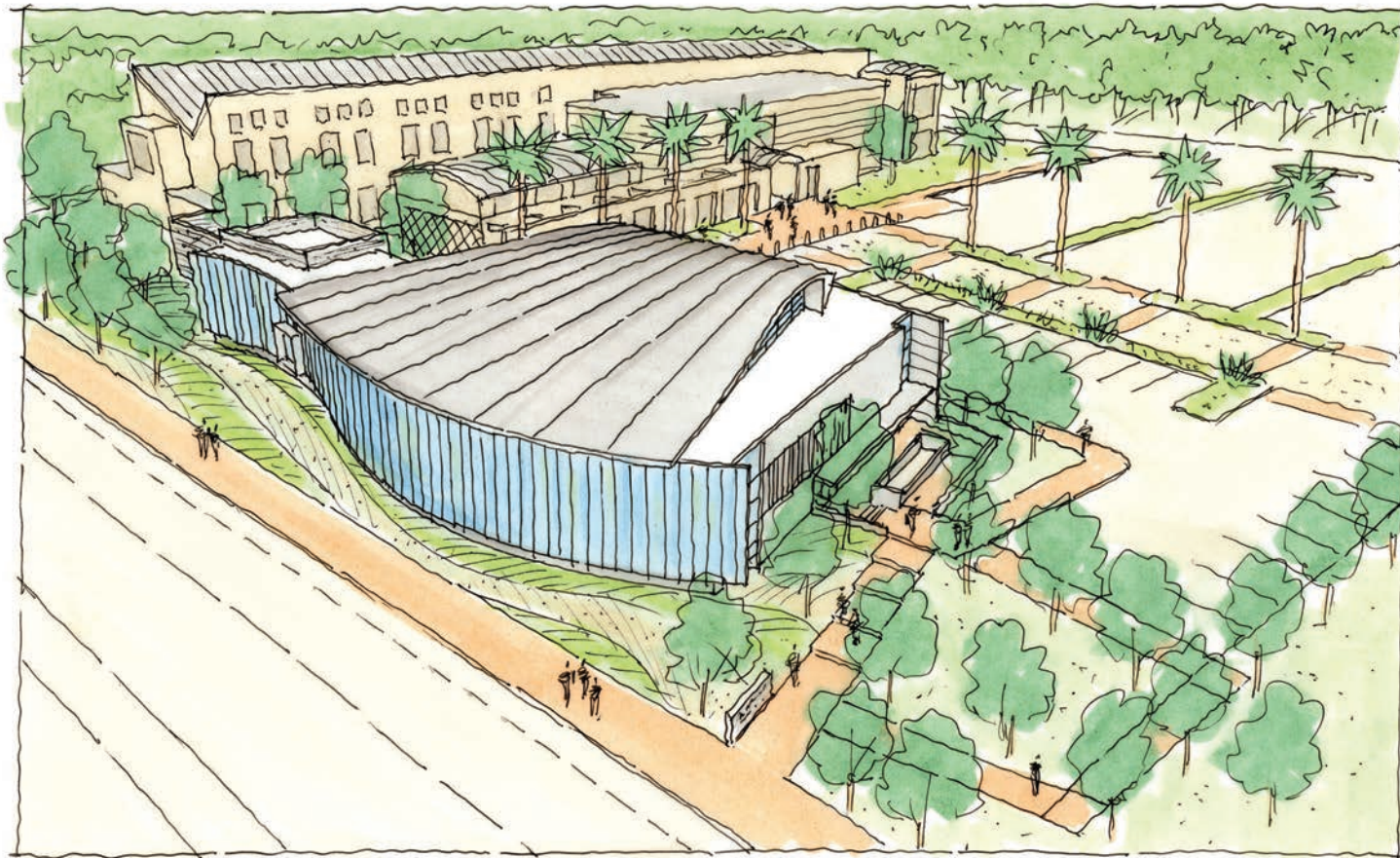
Gordon was an active member of the Author's Guild, Pen USA, The Mystery Writers of America, The International Association of Crime Writers and The Society of Children's Book Writers and illustrators. He was an advocate for free speech, equal rights and for endangered and vulnerable animals. While Gordon was a serious learned man for those who think he was all work you should know he was passionate about basketball, scotch, travel, music and Formula One racing.

For Gordon, libraries were essential to each community as they aid in democratizing access to knowledge. He helped lead our library for 7 years, steering it towards the thriving and exciting foundation it is today. Gordon will be remembered for his ability to maintain a commanding presence and yet be humble and gracious – expressing interest in everyone he engaged with. A beloved mentor to his graduate students, champion to his friends and most importantly the most loving, attentive, wise, and fun father and husband. He will forever be missed.

BEYOND BOOKS:

The Newport Beach Library Lecture Hall

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation is leading a capital campaign for a Library Lecture Hall — a modern facility that will provide audiences with a rich experience, greatly expanding programming capabilities for the Library and the greater community. Called Beyond Books, the campaign has a fundraising goal of \$7 million and a total projected cost of \$14 million. To learn more or to join us, visit our website at nbplf.foundation.



The Vision

The vision for the new Lecture Hall is a place that will enrich people's lives, providing informative and entertaining programming of literary, cultural, artistic and educational value. The large, technologically-equipped Hall will allow for larger community participation and higher-quality programs. To make the vision a reality, the Foundation's financial goal is to raise \$7 million of the projected \$14 million, with groundbreaking set for 2023 and completion in 2024.

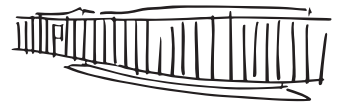
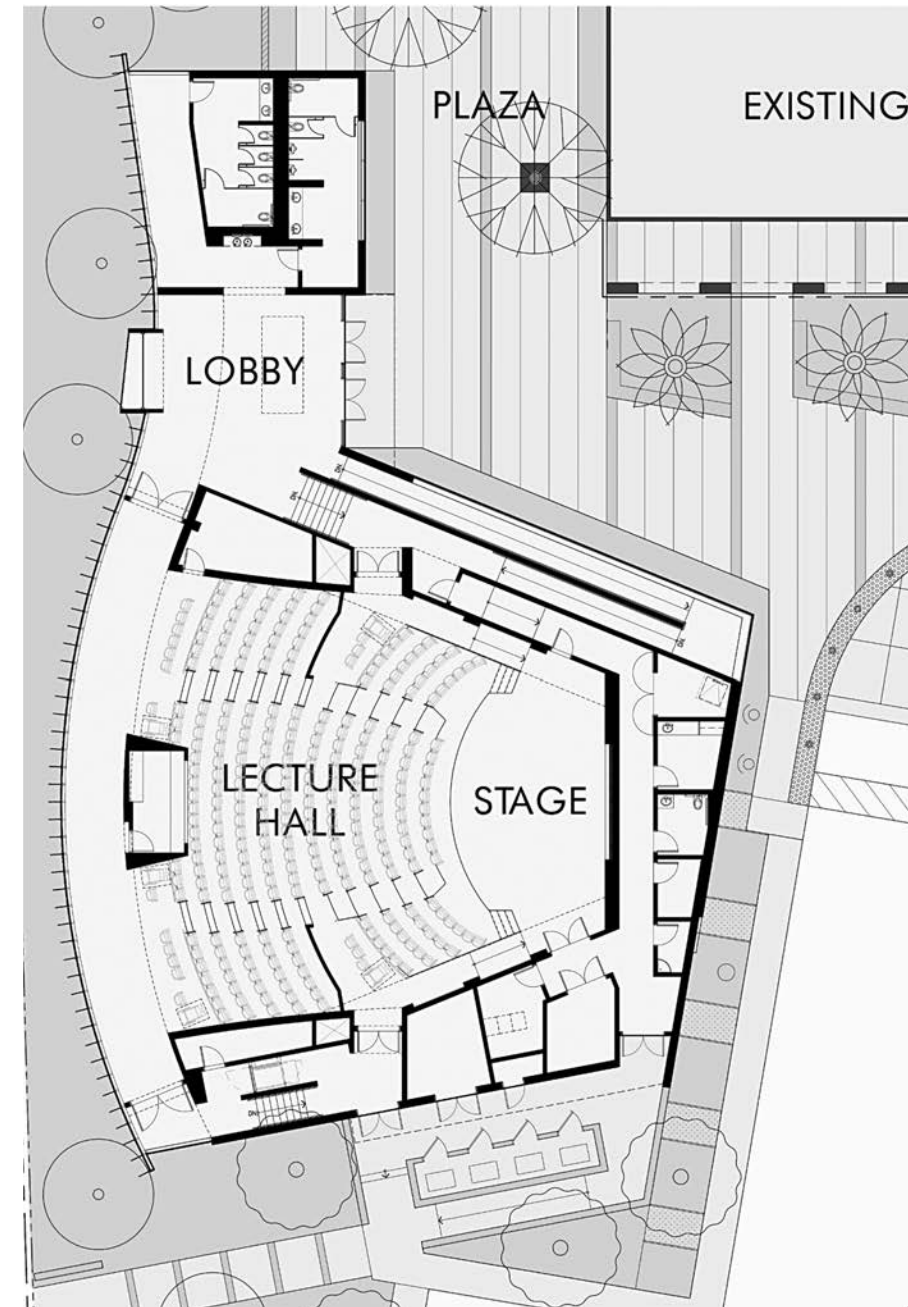
The Need

The Library and the community need a large, modern facility, one that can provide audiences with a rich experience, with ample space and advanced audio/visual technology that supports film, music and graphics. The new lecture hall will greatly expand programming capabilities of the Library and the greater community, and enhance the enjoyment of new and existing events by both audiences and performers. It is destined to serve our community for decades to come.

Your Support

The realization of this vision will take a collaborative effort between the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation, the City of Newport Beach, and the community. The Foundation needs the support of friends and neighbors like you to meet the goal. Your support, your generous donation, is essential to making this vision a reality.

For further information, please contact Jerold D Kappel, Foundation CEO at 949 717 3890.



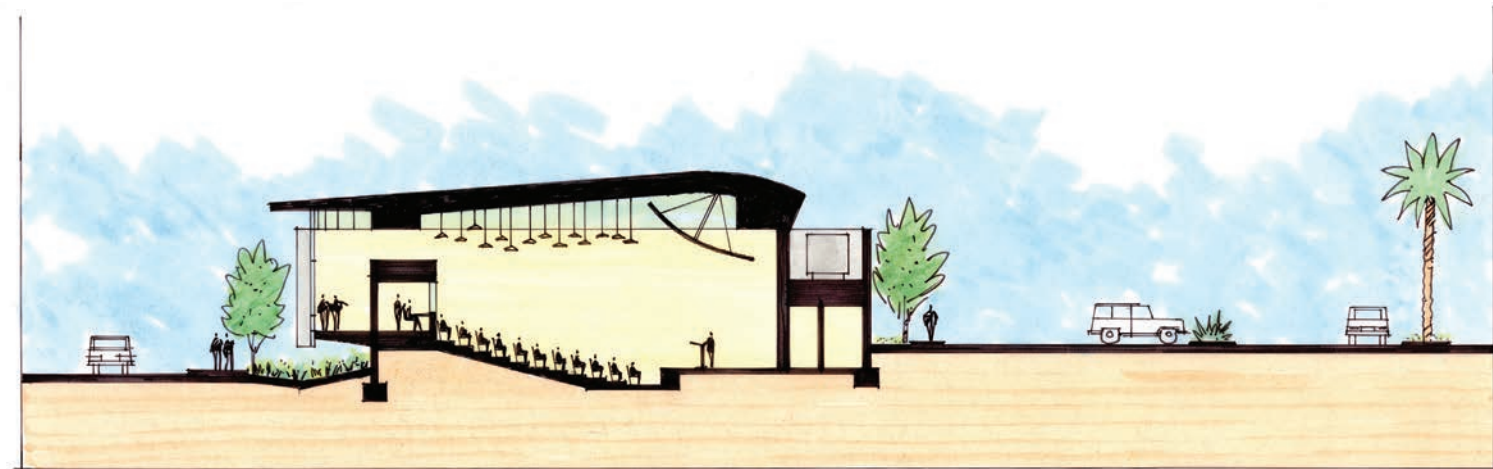
BEYOND BOOKS
THE NEWPORT BEACH LIBRARY LECTURE HALL

A Versatile Space

Author lectures. Musicales. Children's programs. Civic events, and more. The Library Lecture Hall will be a versatile space drawing people from throughout our community to listen, to learn, to be entertained.

With architectural features designed to enhance the experience—including maximized sightlines, state-of-the-art lighting, advanced audio, and theater seating—the Lecture Hall will be an exceptional, and an exceptionally versatile, space.

The 9,800 square foot, 299 seat, high-tech facility will allow musicians, distinguished speakers, and entertainers to shine on stage, engaging and inspiring audiences in ways not currently possible anywhere in the City of Newport Beach.



The Foundation Celebrates Tim Hetherton as He Bids Farewell

Leadership is more than management. Leadership sees where you can serve and inspires others to do the same. The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation has had the great advantage of working with the leader of the Newport Beach Public Library, Tim Hetherton, for more than 23 years, eight of those years as the City's Library Services Director. Tim is retiring in May 2022.

In speaking with Jerold Kappel, Foundation CEO, Tim stated: "Our Library is a welcoming library. Our organizational value is patron care. We treat people well. Our Library is for everybody. Everyone has a fundamental right to have access to information. In a very real sense, a library is an instrument of democracy, and we must be responsible to—and responsive to—the community."

Karen Heath Clark, Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, and former Library Trustee, reflects on Tim's leadership: "I've had the pleasure of knowing Tim for many years. When he was selected as our Library Director, I was certain he'd do an outstanding job. He has surpassed my high expectations with his soft-spoken leadership and respectful treatment of every one of his library colleagues. Tim will be hard to replace both as Library Director and friend. I will miss him."

Walter Stahr, Foundation Board member and author of biographies of John Jay, William Henry Seward, Edwin Stanton, and most recently Salmon P. Chase, leaders who have fought to preserve our democracy, expresses his appreciation of Tim's dedication to service: "Whenever I have had a question or concern about the Library, Tim has always been there; friendly, eager to help, knowing the answer, or knowing where to find the answer. We wish him all the best in retirement, but my how we will miss him at the Library."

Foundation Board member, Jill Johnson-Tucker, Library Trustee when Tim was appointed as the Director, echoes the high respect in which Tim is held by so many of the Foundation—Board members, staff and volunteers: "Tim has been a part of the NBPL through exciting times, including the expansion of the Central Library, the construction of the new Corona Del Mar branch, and the upcoming Library Lecture Hall. While Tim runs a library system that is one of the best in the state, he doesn't seek to be the center of attention. Rather, he is quietly yet exceedingly competent, always amiable and compassionate, with a quick and very clever sense of humor. I will very much miss working with Tim."

Wishing you a great retirement, Tim. You will be missed.



Tim Hetherton received a special recognition from the California State Senate for his years of successful leadership of the Newport Beach Library.

A Summer Solstice Celebration for New Foundation Members

On June 25, the Foundation will hold a special celebration for all new members who joined the Foundation from July 1, 2020, through June 1, 2022. Because of the pandemic, the Foundation could not celebrate and honor members that joined the Foundation during the pandemic closure. And you are to be celebrated. Because of your support, the Foundation was able to continue to provide funding for the Newport Beach Library, continue to present lectures and programs—digitally and in-person—and continue planning for a new Library Lecture Hall.

The Celebration will include a new member only invitation to a special chocolate and wine reception with music and dancers, and a lecture by Connie Spenuzza, award-winning author of *Chocolate Runs Through my Veins: The Insightful History of the Women of Chocolate*. You will meet the leadership of the Foundation and the Library, including the new Library Services Director, and get an update on the Library Lecture Hall.

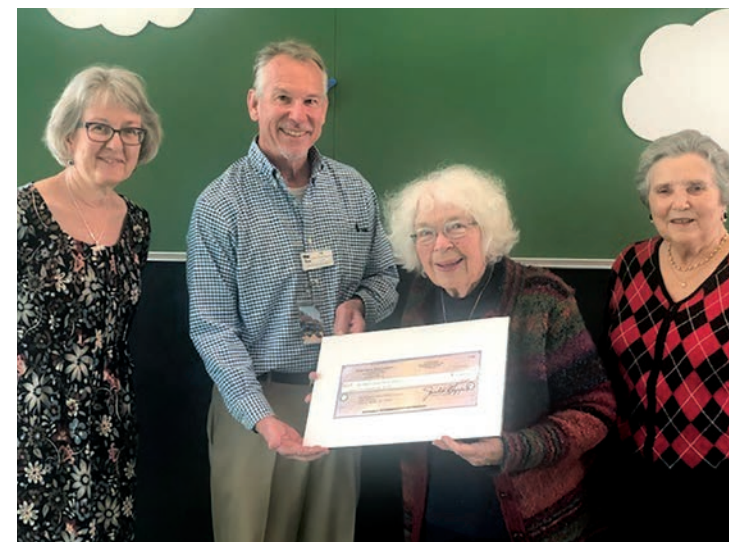


To receive your invitation, become a Foundation member by June 1, 2022. Just go to <https://nbplf.foundation/join/> or scan the Qcode.

"Chocolate Runs Through My Veins is a riveting historical investigation into how the worlds of women and cocoa intersected." - Aimee Jodoin, *Foreword Reviews*.



Enormous Thanks



Joan Ranney Sullivan and Library Foundation Founder Elizabeth Stahr present Joan Sullivan's gift for children's STEM books to Branch & Youth Services Coordinator Debbie Walker and Library Services Director Tim Hetherton.

The Foundation received a \$25,000 contribution from Joan Ranney Sullivan for books related to STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) for the Stahr Children's Room of the Central Library. The gift was facilitated by Elizabeth Stahr, founder with her late husband John, of the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation and a driving force behind the construction of the Central Library.

Joan Sullivan is a lifelong educator who was the founding principal of the Greenville Fundamental School in the Santa Ana Unified School District. Joan's vision and leadership for the school was honored when she and the school received national recognition as an "Exemplary School" by the then Education Secretary William J. Bennett.

"This library is so alive with children and learning. Whatever I can do to help gives me joy."

— Joan Ranney Sullivan

This Summer, Take Back Your Reading Time

SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT THE NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

June 11 – July 30, 2022



The Newport Beach Public Library's Summer Reading Program is the perfect excuse to take back what is rightfully yours: precious reading time. The theme of this summer's program is Read Beyond the Beaten Path, which we think means read wherever and whenever — on the beach, in the garden, or in your favorite chair; the possibilities are fairly endless. The Summer Reading Program is for all ages — kids, teens, and adults. Join us from June 11 through July 30 for a summer of adventure, a summer of suspense, and a summer of smart.

The children's program is for kids through the 6th grade. Participants register via Beanstack and keep track of their reading time and activities to earn digital badges and prizes. Once registered, readers can pick up a free paperback book at any NBPL location. Participants who complete the program will be entered into a grand prize drawing. And be sure to join us for exciting craft activities and interactive kids programs each week at your preferred NBPL locations!



Current or incoming 7th-12th graders are invited to participate in the Teen Summer Reading Program. Earn a prize paperback book for registering on Beanstack and signing up for the Teen Summer Reading Program Challenge. Collect your prize book at the Reference Desk of your local branch (while supplies last!), read and review books to earn entries into our weekly prize drawings. To complete the challenge, read at least 3 books OR read for at least 10 hours. Finishers will be entered into our grand prize drawing. The Adult Summer Reading program follows a similar format and includes reviews, a prize book, and the inspiration to take back your reading time.

Sign up for all levels of the Summer Reading Program at newportbeachlibrary.org



SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE GREEN

May through October 2022

The City of Newport Beach Arts Commission presents its annual Summer Concerts on the Green featuring an impressive array of performers. Bring your low-slung beach chairs and blankets and enjoy an evening in a fun atmosphere. Pack a picnic dinner or purchase from on-site gourmet food trucks. Unless otherwise noted, all concerts are held on the Newport Beach Civic Center Green (100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach). Admission and parking are free, on a first come, first served basis.



THE PARROT HEAD BAND, JIMMY BUFFET TRIBUTE

May 29, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Civic Center Green

CATCH A WAVE, BEACH BOYS TRIBUTE

June 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Civic Center Green

BILLY NATION, BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE

July 17, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Civic Center Green

YOUNG GUNS, COUNTRY COVER BAND

August 21, 2022, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Civic Center Green

BRITAIN'S FINEST, BEATLES TRIBUTE

September 18, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Civic Center Green

STONE SOUL, CLASSIC SOUL & MOTOWN

October 2, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Marina Park



SCULPTURE EXHIBITION PHASE VII GRAND OPENING EVENT

Saturday, June 25 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The City Arts Commission invites the public to attend the Sculpture Exhibition Phase VII Grand Opening Event on Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Civic Center Park. Walk along the pathways to see the ten new sculptures and have an opportunity to mingle with the artists and fellow art lovers.

Free admission and parking.

STORYTELLERS WRITING WORKSHOP

Series one: June 15, 22, 29, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Series two: August 10, 17, 24, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Learn to tell a great story, whether it's the story of your day, or the story of your life. This 3-part workshop series will provide guidance in developing stories in a first-person narrative. By learning how to effectively craft thoughts and ideas, you can develop storytelling skills and learn to cultivate your voice for your memoir, social media, blogging, and more. Space is limited, registration is required at newportbeachlibrary.org



A Winning Season

Thank you to all who attended our 2021-2022 season for the Witte Lectures and Library Live Author Series. Back in August, many of us worried about whether restrictions would prevent us from meeting in-person and sharing a space at the library that we all know and love. But thanks to the generosity of our donors and flexibility of our speakers, event teams – and YOU – we were able to see each other again. It was a shorter and more jam-packed season, and well worth the wait!

In many ways, our season can be summed up by the title of one of our speakers – “America is Always Changing, But America Never Changes.” Professor Eddie Glaude Jr., the remarkably insightful and engaging Chair of the Center for African American Studies at Princeton, spoke about the nature of race in America through the words, poems, and thoughts of James Baldwin and brought the audience to a deep and sincere reflection. Similarly, authors Brit Bennett and Charles Yu spoke with senior editor Samantha Dunn of *Southern California News Group* and Judy Wu, Professor of Asian American Studies and Director of the UCI Humanities Center, respectively about exploring the idea of racial stereotypes and containment in our current society through the platform of fiction and how we should encourage future writers and younger generation to continue their work in the face of adversity.

Our program season commenced with author Walter Stahr who shed light on his research into Salmon P. Chase. While not as well-known as Abraham Lincoln, Chase was a vitally important historical figure who worked towards the abolition of slavery during the Civil War. Writer Adin Dobkin brought us into the twentieth century through his research on how young cyclists in the Tour de France demonstrated hope and resilience in the aftermath of World War I.

One of our younger speakers, Charlotte Alter, a journalist at TIME, highlighted how the country is primed for change in the coming decades and that the political, social, and economic beliefs of the younger generations are at odds with the current Baby Boomers in charge.

Our speaker Dr. Suzanne Simard, a professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia, demonstrated that the detrimental effects of deforestation could not be easily reversed through planting trees. In fact, she revealed that the vital biodiversity of old growth

forests relied on hundreds-years-old “mother trees” whose root systems communicate and connect with the nearby forest, nurturing young trees. She spoke about how younger generations are taking the helm to fight for a better and more bio-diverse world.

nbplf.

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Our program season ended with sold-out events with Ezra Klein, a political analyst and journalist who wants us to think about reshaping democracy to align with the story we tell our children about our nation. While he admits this version is a near impossibility, his ideas about reforms to our current political system are the hopeful ideas upon which we need to reflect.

Finally, we are excited to unveil our next program season this coming Fall. We know it will be equally engaging and thoughtful.

