

B

BOOKMARK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWPORT
BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

WINTER 2025

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation and the City of Newport Beach celebrated the completion of the first phase of construction on Witte Hall, the state-of-the-art, 299-seat civic auditorium, slated to open in early 2026.



nbplf
NEWPORT BEACH
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

On Wednesday, September 25, 2024, the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation held its annual Library Leadership Reception in the Bamboo Courtyard and Friends Room. Invited to speak was Will O’Neill, the mayor of Newport Beach, concluding his eight years on the City Council at the end of 2024. His presentation, which may aptly be called “Look for the Helpers”, was an important call for the significance of libraries and the importance of volunteerism.



Thank you to the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation for inviting me tonight.

Some of you heard me quote Eric Klinenberg’s book about social infrastructure called Palaces for the People at the groundbreaking for Witte Hall.

One quote from the book is particularly important for tonight: “Libraries are the kinds of places where ordinary people with different backgrounds, passions, and interests can take part in a living democratic culture. They are the kinds of places where the public, private and philanthropic sectors can work together to reach for something higher than the bottom line.”

Tonight is a convergence of those three sectors in one.

That is no small matter in a world filled with echo chambers and base political desires to tear down institutions. In my eight years on the City Council and two terms as Mayor, I have come to believe that the local city may end up being one of the last trusted institutions in our political system. Our federal and even state governments feel too insular and distant for the normal person to reach or change.

The city’s role is both a philosophical issue as much as it is a social one. Leo Strauss wrote a fairly dense book titled Natural Right and History in which he noted that a “city, one may say, is a community in which everyone knows, not indeed every other member, but at least an acquaintance of every other member. A society meant to make man’s perfection possible must be kept together by mutual trust, and trust presupposes acquaintance. Without such trust, the classics thought, there cannot be freedom; the alternative to the city, or a federation of cities, was the despotically ruled empire (headed, if possible, by a deified ruler) or a condition approaching anarchy. A city is a community commensurate with man’s natural powers of firsthand or direct knowledge.”

The city, and more specifically a well-run city, is indeed the antidote to despotism on the one extreme and anarchy on the other. And as a community of individuals, it remains important to remember words of a local author named David Bahnsen, who noted that “the crisis of individual responsibility is not going to be fixed by government policy.”

That crisis, Bahnsen explains, creates a cascading effect. “Inadequate self-government begins the vicious cycle of creating the need for a more intrusive magistrate, leading to a more dependent people, leading to still greater government, leading to even less self-government, and resulting in even greater state expansion.”

Striving for higher moral virtue as individuals is therefore not simply an individual imperative. It is a responsibility to the classical society meant to make man’s perfection possible. An influence that we see in our nation’s founding document, the United States Constitution, which begins with the classic preamble: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union....”

We are able to debate, discuss, and explore theories about this world and worlds left to explore thanks to cultural centers like the public library. When the designers of Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis had no idea how far New York was from Paris by the circle route, they went to their public library and measured the distances on a globe with a piece of string. When Ray Bradbury needed quiet from writing at home with his wife and four daughters, he rented a typewriter for ten cents an hour in the basement of UCLA’s Powell Library. Over the course of nine days, he finished “The Fireman” and spent \$9.80 on the typewriter rental. That book would later be renamed Fahrenheit 451.

So as we gather tonight to celebrate ways that we can help, I’d simply like to reflect on our city’s ongoing mission to Look For The Helpers. This theme derives from an interview that Mr. Rogers gave where he explained: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’ To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother’s words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world.”

We have the ability to do good in this world – to be Helpers – and I am glad to be a part of this collective effort tonight. Thank you and God bless you and the City of Newport Beach.

*Will O’Neill
Mayor, Newport Beach*

04



PROJECT ADULT LITERACY

A program of the Newport Beach Public Library, Project Adult Literacy provides free literacy instruction to adults in the community.

08



LIBRARY NEWS

Join us at the Newport Beach Public Library for Genealogy Uncovered, a fascinating step-by-step guide to uncovering your own family tree.

11



GUEST COLUMN

The Witte Hall beam-signing ceremony, a celebration of progress with donors, City officials, Library leadership, and Foundation supporters.

14



BOARD NEWS

An update on the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation's Board of Directors.

06



WITTE 2025

Christine Brennan, an award-winning sports columnist and commentator for *USA Today*, *CNN*, *ABC News*, *PBS NewsHour* and *National Public Radio*, and a best-selling author.

09



LIBRARY NEWS

Storytellers Writing Workshops: Learn to tell a great story, whether it's the story of your day or the story of your life.

12



DISCUSSIONS

Join the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation's Book Discussion Group — every second Wednesday of the month from 9:30am – 11:00am.

15



FOUNDERS CHAIR LETTER

Fiscal Year 2024 was a year of great accomplishments for the Library Foundation. Critical milestones were reached and successfully met.

06



LIBRARY LIVE

Viet Thanh Nguyen, author of *A Man of Two Faces: A Memoir*, *A History*, *A Memorial*
Thursday, April 24, 7:00pm

10



LIBRARY LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

The Library Foundation's Library Leadership Reception is an annual opportunity to honor all those who help to make the Library happen.

13

Eugenia B. Dean Arnold & Ruth Feuerstein Sherry Griswold Foundation	Charles Hester Family Foundation Robert & Jean Mickey Dorothy & Don Koll	Phillip N. & Mar Carl & Pat Ne Thomas & Mar
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Colton Margaret J. Corbett Robert J. & LuDoris Eichenberg Karen & Donald Evans	Dr. Gordon & Hennessey Fishman The Floor Foundation Jan, Holly & Alison Baker Frenzel Martha & John Killefer	Anabel & John Marilyn & Fran Dr. William & Newport Mills
Donald G. & Susan M. Taylor Foundation Dr. Richard & Susan Mr. & Mrs. G. Robert Green Mr. & Mrs. G. Robert Green	Wing & Pamela Thompson The Eric & Jackson Family Gladie Babin	Richard & Susan Wendy & Robert Rick & Barbara Perry Dr. Richard & Susan
Harriet & Robert Kenny O'K L.F. Nelson & D.V. Richard & Susan		

FUNDING THE FOUNDATION

Consider strategic giving options to support the Library Foundation.

16



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2024 facts and figures from the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation.

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES

Literacy is an essential skill that empowers – not only by providing a foundation of academic knowledge but quite simply, by changing lives.

A program of the Newport Beach Public Library, Project Adult Literacy provides free literacy instruction to adults who live or work in the area. Our focus is on developing literacy skills, enabling our learners to achieve greater success in their lives.

Making it all possible is our team of dedicated volunteers, who have helped hundreds of people improve their literacy skills over the last three decades – which in turn could mean everything from getting a better job, to reading a prescription without fear of taking the wrong dose, getting a high school diploma, getting into college, helping a child with homework, or even just reading a headline or a note from a teacher. PAL would not exist without the dedication and support from our Volunteer Tutors, and for that we are incredibly grateful.

To learn more about Project Adult Literacy, to become a tutor or a learner, visit our website at newportbeachlibrary.org/services/literacy-services



1) Newport Beach Central Library 2) Mercedes Adrian Sanz (learner) & Mahsa Zahabzadeh (learner) 3) Laura Olinski (tutor), Alicia Rosario Levya (learner) & Will O'Neill (former Mayor of the City of Newport Beach) 4) Chase Rief (NB Board of Library Trustees), Risa Hoffman (Volunteer), Melissa Hartson (Library Director), Renee Hoffman-Heath (Volunteer), Bill Braggins (Learner's Guardian), Jackie Pontius (Tutor), Nick Hubbard (Learner), Christina Smith (Literacy Coordinator), Antonella Castro (NB Board of Library Trustees), & Patricia Dreyfus (NB Library Foundation Board of Directors) 5) Sera Hong (learner) & Jeff Morgan (tutor)

project adult literacy

A program of the Newport Beach Public Library

Originally from Spain, Mercedes Adrian Sanz came to the United States in 2018. Mercedes joined the Project Adult Literacy program in 2021 to help improve her English skills. She has a degree in medicine, and although she does not currently practice, she understand the importance of strong English skills – for speaking, listening, and writing. Mercedes is a resident of Newport Beach. She wrote the following story for ‘In Our Own Words’ *Diverse Stories from Diverse Lives – Volume XVII*.

THREE THINGS IN LIFE I AM MOST PROUD OF

by Mercedes Adrián Sanz

THE FAMILY I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN

I am blessed with the family I come from and the values both my parents passed down to me. I am the eldest of seven, two girls and five boys, and I am proud of how, with all of us having different personalities, we have been able to navigate through our relationships with each other, being respectful, not judgmental, supportive, and above else loving each other despite our differences. We’ve worked things out even when the circumstances were sensitive and complex. When I look around and see whole families broken due to disagreements, it leaves me heartbroken. I can’t even imagine being in that scenario. I am confident that all my family members will be there for each other, no matter what.

THE BALANCE I ACHIEVED BETWEEN MY WORK AND MY OWN FAMILY

Back in the day, when I became a Mom, my priority was taking care of my children. I loved being a Family Doctor and was very committed to my work. While in my practice, I worked hard, volunteered for whatever came up, and was devoted to my patients. My job entailed an ongoing education during my career, so I had to spend a lot of time studying at home to stay ahead of the curve. My husband also had a demanding job, and he used to leave early in the morning and return home at night. So I couldn’t count on him to take care of our kids or the house chores. As the most important thing to me was raising my children by their side, I had to refuse good job opportunities that implied working until night, at least while they were toddlers and little kids. I didn’t want them to attend a nursery; I’d instead take them to kindergarten at the age of three. So, we used to spend a lot of time at the park socializing with other kids their age and in the playground. They loved “bath time,” it was like a party, the bath full of small toys, splashing water all around, but at the same time, very relaxing. After they had dinner, I put them to bed and read a children’s book, *Winnie the Pooh* was one of their favorites. Then I tucked them in, gave them a goodnight kiss, and had a moment for myself.

As they grew up, it was easier to work other shifts, and the options became broader. I have never regretted prioritizing my children over my job. It brought me more joy and upsides than downsides. Bringing up my kids filled me with priceless experiences and feelings. I take pride in working it out so that I could take care of my children and my work simultaneously.

BEING ABLE TO TOUCH SOMEONE’S LIFE THROUGH MY WORK AS A DOCTOR

Working as a Family Doctor has been one of the best things in my life. I remember back in the day when I had to choose my specialty. Everybody was telling me to pick others instead of Family Medicine. Being a Cardiologist, Dermatologist, Surgeon—you name it—was “cooler.” But to me, being a Doctor means taking care of the whole person, including their body, mind, and soul. I don’t conceive it any other way. I believe in a holistic approach to well-being and illness. I never hesitated; I knew that was my best and only option and what would make me happy. Being a Family Doctor was where I could thrive, be the best version of myself, and help others. I take pride in staying true to myself and going ahead with my decision against other’s opinions.

One of the best gifts I have received at my work came from a patient; she was a middle-aged woman overcoming breast cancer, and she told me this: “Thank you for being just like you are: you have been a medicine, not only for my body but for my soul.” Those simple words will stay with me forever.





Bret Stephens

Here and Now: Where We Are and Where We Are Going Post Election

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

Bret Stephens began his career in journalism with *The Wall Street Journal*, where he eventually served as the deputy editorial page editor and a foreign-affairs columnist. In 2017, Stephens joined *The New York Times* as an op-ed columnist. His book *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder* was published in November 2014. Noted for his sharp intellect and willingness to challenge conventional wisdom, Stephens remains a significant voice in contemporary journalism, engaging readers with his thoughtful analysis and insightful commentary.



Christine Brennan

Today is the Greatest Day for Women in Sports – Until Tomorrow.

The Story of Title IX and the Empowerment of Women in Sports

Friday, February 21, 7:00pm / Saturday, February 22, 2:00pm

Christine Brennan is an award-winning national sports columnist for *USA Today*, a commentator for CNN, ABC News, PBS NewsHour and National Public Radio, and a best-selling author. She has been named one of the country's top 10 sports columnists multiple times by the Associated Press Sports Editors. *Title IX* has been pivotal in empowering women and leveling the playing field in sports, dramatically increasing opportunities for female athletes at all levels. Through Brennan's insightful reporting and commentary, she has highlighted the progress made, the challenges that remain, and the inspiring stories of women athletics who have benefited from Title IX.

Upcoming Library Live Author Series **Spring 2025**



Javier Zamora

Solito: Home, Identity, and the Immigrant Experience

Thursday, February 27, 7:00pm

What is the meaning of home? At only nine years old, Javier Zamora left his native El Salvador to embark on a 3000-mile journey to reunite with his parents in the United States. Alone except for the other migrants in his group and the "coyote" hired to guide them across the border, he survived perilous trips across oceans and deserts. Javier Zamora shares his harrowing journey and explores how identity influences our ideas of home and brings humanity and warmth to the figure of the "immigrant," stressing there are always moments of joy, love, and hope, even in the worst of circumstances. Zamora puts a face to child immigrants and the humanitarian crisis along the US-Mexico border.

Witte Lecture Details

Fridays Evening Lectures

Friday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm,
Doors open at 6:30pm
Lecture, Book Sale & Signing,
Light Supper with Wine

Saturday Afternoon Lectures

Saturday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm,
Doors open at 1:30pm
Lecture, Book Sale & Signing,
Refreshments

Witte Season Pass

Fridays \$225
General \$65
NBPLF Member: \$60

Witte Season Pass

Saturdays \$155*
General \$45
NBPLF Member: \$40

**Only NBPLF members can buy season pass*

Library Live Lecture Details

Thursdays, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Doors open 6:30pm
Lecture, Book Sale & Signing
Refreshments, General \$35
NBPLF Member: \$30

NBPLF members that are Book Collector \$250 level and above get a discount on individual ticket.

Ticket Info

Come to the lectures and chat with our speakers. All lectures are at the Central Library.

To Purchase Tickets:
nbplf.foundation
or 949-717-3892.

The 28th season of the highly acclaimed Witte Lecture series launches on January 24-25, 2025. Sifting through the massive flow of information and discerning what deserves thoughtful attention is time consuming and difficult. Our roster of nationally known speakers will once again provide a spark for igniting community conversation on the timeliest topics. Be part of the Witte community for live, dynamic, and compelling conversations in our award-winning library. Knowledge is power!

Thank you to the 2024 Witte Committee

Karen Clark	Signe Keller	Rachel Reinus
Lisa Edwards	Marilyn Krahe	Latika Sethi
Whitney Gomez	Dorothy Larson	Ellen Shockro
Janet Hadley (Chair)	(Library Trustee Liaison)	Lizanne Witte
Diane Hafer		Miles Yourman



Juliette Kayyem In conversation with Jacob Ware

National Security, Climate Migration & Pandemics: Managing Risks in a Borderless World

Friday, March 28, 7:00pm / Saturday, March 29, 2:00pm

Professor Juliette Kayyem is an international leader in crisis management and homeland security, serving as the faculty chair of the Homeland Security and Global Health Projects at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, CNN Senior National Security Analyst, Pulitzer Prize finalist, and contributing writer for *The Atlantic*. Kayyem is the author of *The Devil Never Sleeps: Learning to Live in an Age of Disasters*. Jacob Ware is a research fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, where he teaches a class on domestic terrorism.



M. Chris Fabricant

Junk Science and the American Criminal Justice System

Friday, April 18, 7:00pm / Saturday, April 19, 2:00pm

Chris Fabricant is a renowned attorney and a fierce advocate for criminal justice reform. In his compelling book, *Junk Science and the American Criminal Justice System*, Fabricant delves into the pervasive issue of flawed forensic science that has led to wrongful convictions across the United States. Fabricant's work not only underscores the urgent need for systemic change but also offers a poignant call to action for ensuring justice and accuracy in the legal process.

Thank you to our Library Live Committee

Loren Blackwood, Karen Clark, Patricia Dreyfus (Chair), Amy Fulford, Dorothy Larson (Library Trustee Liaison), Cindy Share, Ann Stephens, Adrian Windsor

library
LIVE



Viet Thanh Nguyen

A Man of Two Faces: A Memoir, A History, A Memorial

Thursday, April 24, 7:00pm

With insight, humor, formal invention, and lyricism, in *A Man of Two Faces*, Viet Thanh Nguyen rewinds the film of his own life. He expands the genre of personal memoir by acknowledging larger stories of refugeehood, colonization, and ideas about Vietnam and America, writing with his trademark sardonic wit and incisive analysis, as well as a deep emotional openness about his life as a father and a son. Viet Thanh Nguyen's novel *The Sympathizer* is a New York Times best seller and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It is now an HBO TV series.

2024 Witte Sponsors

Titanium

The Witte Family

Gold

John Rallis and Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis
Barbara Roberts
Pacific Life Foundation

Bronze

Karen and Bruce Clark
Don and Pamela Gilmour
Morning Bliss Granola
Bill and Carolyn Klein
Drs. James B. Pick and Rosalyn M. Laudati

Bronze continued

Barbara and Greg MacGillivray
Dave and Diane Steffy
Jill Johnson-Tucker and Larry Tucker
William Gillespie Foundation

Iron

Tom and Elizabeth Edwards
Chris and Malin Fletcher
Whitney Gomez
Kelly and Randy Heyler
Marilyn and Francis Krahe
Janet and Walkie Ray
Rachel and Justin Reinus
Latika Sethi

Iron continued

Ellen Shockro
Tom and Marilyn Sutton
Steve and Cyd Swerdlow
Sharon and Greg Wohl
Miles Yourman

Steel

Kelly and Bill Campbell
Eleanor Jaffy
Signe Keller
Nancy Kidder
Russell Hafer Family Trust
Clarence and Janice Turner

Partners

All About You Event Planning
City of Newport Beach
Ed Olen Photography
Hi-Time Wine Cellars
Firebrand Media LLC
Lido Village Bookstore
Newport Beach Public Library
Sterling OC

2023-24 Library Live Sponsors

Titanium

The Isidore and Penny Myers Foundation

Silver

Barbara Roberts

Bronze

Karen and Bruce Clark
Stuart and Marion Palley

Iron

Chiyo Imai Rowe
Jill Johnson-Tucker
and Larry Tucker

Steel

Loren Blackwood
Robert Berteau
Ginger Sun and Arthur Ong
Ann Stephens

Partners

All About You Event Planning
City of Newport Beach
Ed Olen Photography
Firebrand Media LLC
Hi-Time Wine Cellars
Lido Village Bookstore
Newport Beach Public Library
Sterling OC

GENEOLOGY UNCOVERED

Join us at the Newport Beach Public Library for Genealogy Uncovered, a fascinating step-by-step guide to uncovering your own family tree. Each class will include a 30-minute informational lecture on a focused topic, the remaining 90 minutes will be a round table discussion and questions on participants' genealogical research project. Registration required for each class. Max 10. Register for 1, 2, or 3 workshops at newportbeachlibrary.org

LET'S TAKE A TRIP!

Thursday February 6, 1-3pm

How to plan and prepare for a physical research trip to other geographical areas, states, or countries. This is an opportunity to share your research success tips with others seeking genealogical connections in their travels.

THE SECRETS CEMETERIES HOLD

Thursday March 6, 1-3pm

Discover the distinct types (military, church, rural, etc.) of cemeteries, and how each plays a role with nuances and critical information.

BRICK WALL BREAKER!

Thursday April 3, 1-3pm

Bring your best/worst 'Brick Wall' research challenge to the group and let the group creativity and critical thinking help you consider new angles to approach your challenge.



CALLING ALL KIDS!

Check out the children's calendar for winter fun at the Library! Join us for programs and events including Drop-in Crafternoons, Bark: Read to a Dog!, Middle Grade Book Club, Library I Spy, Makerspace Thursdays, Steam Lab, Lunar New Year Celebration, Animal Showcase with the Environmental Nature Center, Sensory Play, Storytime and much more. For dates, times and complete information, visit our website at newportkids.org. We look forward to seeing you at the Library!



SUNDAY MUSICALES

The Newport Beach Public Library is please to present Winter and Spring 2025 Sunday Musicales. The hour-long concerts are held monthly at 3:00 pm in the Friends Room of the Central Library. Admission is free. Join us!

January 19, 2025, 3-4:00pm / Duo Duoro, flute and harp duo

February 16, 2025, 3-4:00pm / Yuki Shibamoto/Kaoru Enjoji classical recorder + piano duo

March 16, 2025, 3-4:00pm / Astral Mixtape, alternative classical ensemble

April 13, 2025, 3-4:00pm / Syrinx Reed Quintet, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bass clarinet, bassoon

For more information visit the Library's website at newportbeachlibrary.org/calendar/sunday-musicales.



STORYTELLERS WRITING WORKSHOPS

Learn to tell a great story, whether it's the story of your day or the story of your life. Join us in a 3-part workshop providing guidance in writing first-person narratives for memoir writing, blogging, social media, and more.

Session 1: Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18 from 5-7:00pm

Session 2: Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20 from 5-7:00pm

Space is limited, registration is required. You are expected to attend all 3 classes within a session. Register at newportbeachlibrary.org



THE E-BRANCH: OPEN ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

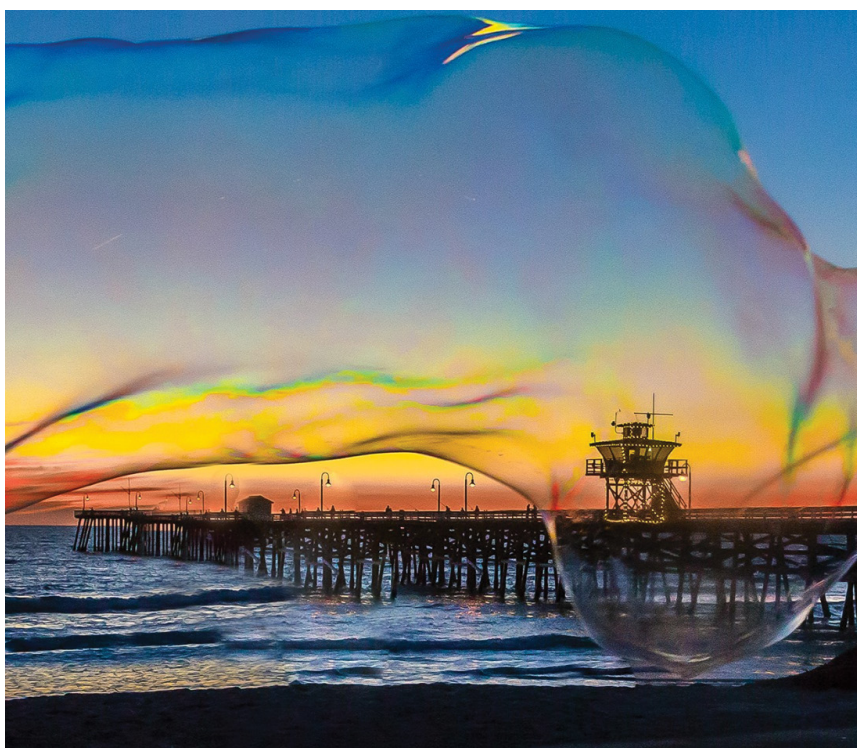
Use the library from your home, office, or anywhere. Our digital eBranch is always open.

From downloadable e-books, audio books, and e-magazines to language learning, online classes, business and student resources, arts and literature, and much more. Discover the digital world at the Newport Beach Public Library at newportbeachlibrary.org.

ART AT THE LIBRARY

The Lobby Gallery at the Central Library is a space ideally suited for two-dimensional pieces of art – and serves as a rotating gallery, highlighting six artists each year in mediums including oil painting, photography, watercolors, mixed media, collage, textiles, and more.

The City Arts Commission's *Art in Public Places Subcommittee* meets periodically to review submissions and select artwork. Art exhibitions are scheduled at least one year in advance for all exhibit locations. Regional artists are encouraged to submit exhibition proposals to newportbeachca.gov



LIBRARY LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

The Library Foundation’s Library Leadership Reception is an annual opportunity to honor all those whose leadership is critical to fulfilling not just the Foundation’s mission to “fund valuable library resources, programs and services, and engage the community through the creation and sponsorship of diverse literary, cultural, and intellectual programs,” but also the Newport Beach Public Library’s mission to be “the cultural heart of the community.”

Invited are the Library staff leadership, the Library Trustees, City elected and appointed leadership, the Friends of the Library Board of Directors, the Foundation current and past Board of Directors, donors to Beyond Books, the Campaign for Witte Hall, and our especially important Library Leadership Circle donors. It is also the opening of the Foundation’s program season. This year the Foundation welcomed Mayor Will O’Neill to address the Library Leadership. His inspiring words are reprinted on Page 2 of this Bookmark.

The Foundation’s Library Leadership Circle donors are those who contribute annually at \$1,000 and more to ensure that the Library remains a center of knowledge and opportunity for generations to come. For more information on how you can be part of a community of supporters that are dedicated to furthering the Library Foundation’s mission and serving our Newport Beach Public Library, visit <https://nbplf.foundation/join/>.



1) Marilyn Krahe 2) Walter Stahr, Elizabeth Stahr, Melissa Hartson 3) Matt Witte, Lizanne Witte, Jill Johnson-Tucker and Larry Tucker
4) Cathy Voreyer and Adrian Windsor 5) Kevin O’Grady and Nella Webster O’Grady 6) Gary and Amy Uyemura 7) Karen and Don Everts

Hon. Robyn Grant
 Newport Beach City Council Member
 November 12, 2024

Be Bold!

“Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid.”

This, my favorite inspirational quote, is of uncertain origin as it is credited to both German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 – 1832) and Canadian author William Basil King (1859 – 1928). Either way, the sentiment is not uncertain as it perfectly describes our city’s journey in making Witte Hall a reality. The folks behind the civic auditorium were bold and mighty forces came to their aid.

From day one until today’s signing of the topping beam, the project had the tenacious vision of a small group led by Jill and Larry Tucker.

This small group grew to a large community willing to support the vision and transform the character of Newport Beach, enhancing already outstanding programming and providing exceptional civic infrastructure to enrich lives for generations to come.

There are many to recognize.

- Jill Tucker and the entire original Design Committee including California Assembly Member Diane Dixon, Matthew Witte, Karen H. Clark and Janet Ray
- The Witte family for their lead gift
- The Stahr family for their major gift
- Over one hundred donors
- Current and previous Library Boards of Trustees, Library Foundation Members, City Councils
- Library Foundation CEO Jerry Kappel
- Design team of Robert Coffee + Associates
- Contractor AMG & Associates
- Construction manager Griffin Structures
- City staff including City Manager Grace Leung, Public Works Director Dave Webb, Deputy Public Works Director Jim Houlihan, Senior Civil Engineer Peter Tauscher, and Community Development Director Seimone Jurjis
- And many, many others

Witte Hall is not just four walls and some seats. It is a place to be bold and for mighty forces to come to our city. Poets like Goethe, authors like King, as well as musicians, actors, dancers, creatives of all manner to share their talents with our community.

Which brings me to conclude with another favorite quote, this one definitely Goethe, who said in his last words: “More light, more light! Open the window so that more light may come in.” Maybe they were inspirational words, or maybe they were simply practical. Either way, they apply here, now, at the Witte Hall site, in our city, as we build a home for more light, more light.

Robyn Grant is a member of the Newport Beach City Council. First elected in 2022, she represents District 4. Robyn can be reached at rgrant@newportbeachca.gov or [@robynbgrant](https://www.instagram.com/robynbgrant).



- 1) Bill Witte
- 2) Antonella Castro and Dorothy Larson
- 3) City Council members Lauren Kleiman, Brad Avery, Robyn Grant, Joe Stapleton and Erik Weigand
- 4) Kate and Kevin Barlow
- 5) City Council member Robyn Grant
- 6) Marilyn Krahe and Jerold D Kappel

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation is pleased to present Spotlight on Science, a program featuring extraordinary and renowned scientists who will shed light on innovative and exciting research in the sciences. Questions? Contact Kunga Wangmo at 949-717-3818 or programs@nbplf.foundation.



Unlocking the Genetic Code: The Revolutionary Impact of CRISPR Technology

Grant MacGregor D.Phil / Professor – Charles Dunlop School of Biological Sciences, UCI

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Friends Room, Central Library, Doors open at 6:30pm

Dr. MacGregor will present an overview of current CRISPR-based genome-editing technologies along with examples of their utility, including the treatment of genetic and infectious diseases. He will also highlight possibilities and challenges associated with implementation of CRISPR technology.

Dr. Grant MacGregor earned his D.Phil. from Sussex University. After post-doctoral work in human genetics, gene therapy and developmental biology at Baylor College of Medicine, he established a research lab at Emory University. In 2002, he moved his lab to UC Irvine. His research focuses on the causes of human genetic diseases and age-related conditions using genetically engineered mice.



California's Tectonic Activity: Understanding the Risks of Earthquake

Lucy Jones, PhD. / Seismologist, Founder and Chief Scientist – Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 7:00 - 8:30pm
Friends Room, Central Library, Doors open at 6:30pm

Join renowned seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones for an enlightening discussion on California's tectonic activity. In this engaging talk, Dr. Jones will delve into the science behind earthquakes, exploring the unique geological features that make California prone to seismic events. She will provide insights into the potential risks and the importance of preparedness. Whether you are a resident looking to understand your environment better or a curious learner interested in earth sciences, this event promises to deepen your understanding of earthquakes and their impact on our lives.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2024-2025



The Book Discussion Group members select, read, and discuss 9-10 books per year. All are welcome whether you've read the book or not. The program is FREE. Refreshments are provided and the books are available through the Newport Beach Public Library.

We meet every second Wednesday of the month from 9:30am – 11:00am.

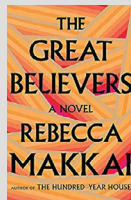
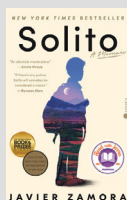
January 8: *Solito* by Javier Zamora

February 12: *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel* by Firoozeh Dumas

March 12: *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen

April 9: *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai

May 14: *The Book of Goose: A Novel* by Yiyun Li



FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

It's Your Estate!

March 24 – April 28, 2025
Every Mondays 10am – 11:30am
Held in Friends Room

The "It's Your Estate!" sessions cover all the legal documents you will need to set up an estate plan using a variety of local Orange County estate planning attorneys as instructors. 9 hours of objective education over a 6-week period, 1 1/2 hours per week. The instructors are local FEE ONLY who all act in a fiduciary capacity with their clients. None of our speakers are licensed to sell any financial products. Speakers do not receive audience member contact information.

MEDICINE IN OUR BACKYARD

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation in collaboration with UCI Health is pleased to present the 2024-25 season of Medicine in Our Backyard featuring an extraordinary group of renowned doctors and researchers speaking on a wide range of topics. This series is funded in part by the generosity of Mike and Polly Smith.

Integrative Health, Nutrition, Food Allergies and You!

Monday, January 27, 2025, 7:00pm

KIRAN SACHDEV, MD
Associate Professor – Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Gastroenterologist, UCI Health

Managing Cardiovascular Disease

Monday, February 24, 2025, 7:00pm

IRMINA GRADUS-PIZLO, MD
Professor – Mary & Steve Wen Cardiovascular Division, Cardiologist, UCI Health

When Does Colon Cancer Spreads to the Liver?

Monday, March 24, 2025, 7:00pm

ZELJKA JUTRIC, MD
Assistant Professor – Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreas Surgery and Islet Cell Transplantation, Surgical Oncologist, UCI Health

Managing Memory Loss

Monday, April 28, 2025, 7:00pm

BRIAN HITT, MD
Assistant Professor – Department of Neurology
Behavioral Neurologist, UCI Health

Treating Melanoma and Other Skin Cancers**

Monday, May 19, 2025, 7:00pm

JANELLEN SMITH, MD
Professor – Department of Dermatology
Dermatologist and Skin Cancer Specialist, UCI Health

JESSICA SHIU, MD
Assistant Professor – Department of Dermatology, Dermatologist, UCI Health

**Will be held at the Newport Beach Civic Center
Community Room, 100 Civic Center Drive,
Newport Beach, CA 92660

FUNDING THE FOUNDATION

The Library Foundation accepts contributory support in a variety of ways. As you make philanthropic plans for your contribution to the Foundation, consider options other than a cash contribution. Of course, we recommend that you consult with your attorney or tax advisor to find the most beneficial means of contributing to the Foundation.

There is full information on the Foundation's website [NBPLF.Foundation](https://nbplf.foundation/give/) under the Ways to Give tab.

<https://nbplf.foundation/give/> Consider the following options.

Donor Advised Funds

A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is like your own charitable savings account. You contribute to the fund as frequently as you like and then recommend grants to nonprofits like the Library Foundation, while potentially earning immediate tax benefits. If you are a client of Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or BNY Mellon you can easily make a designation through the DAF Direct window on the Foundation website. If your DAF is with another charitable fund or trust, contact your financial advisor or trust administrator for details.

Digital or Cryptocurrency

The Library Foundation accepts contributions of digital or crypto currency through the nonprofit organization every.org. Every.org accepts the digital currency, issues IRS documentation to you, converts the currency to dollars and transmits it to the Foundation. You receive a tax deduction for the full price of the currency at the time of the gift through every.org.

Retirement Plan Contributions— The IRA Charitable Rollover

A special opportunity for those 70½ years old and older is the Qualified Charitable Distribution. You can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year) from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as the Library Foundation without having to pay income taxes on the money. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

Stock Transfers

The Foundation accepts shares of stock which are sold upon receipt and directed to the Annual Fund, Endowment Fund, the Beyond Books capital campaign for Witte Hall or other programs in accordance with your designation. To donate shares of stock, the Foundation website has specific directions for your broker.

Credit Card and ACH

If you are contributing by credit card, the Foundation recommends you do so through the secure giving page on our website. You also have the option of contributing directly from your checking account through the ACH option on that page. There is also a downloadable form if you want to send your contribution through the mail, or you can use the return envelope enclosed in this Bookmark.

Gifts of Real Estate

The Library Foundation has partnered with Realty Gift Fund to provide the option of gifts of real estate. Realty Gift Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes the charitable giving of real estate by accepting real estate gifts, remediating assets for market, converting them to cash and using the net proceeds to make grants to non-profit organizations for current and planned gifts. You can also use a gift of real estate to fund a Donor Advised Fund or family foundation.

Legacy Giving

Legacy giving, often referred to as planned gifts such as bequests or charitable trusts, ensures the Library Foundation's financial stability and support for the Newport Beach Public Library for the long term. Planned giving allows you to leave a lasting legacy and can be particularly appealing to those who want to make a significant impact but may not have the means to do so during their lifetime. There are important tax advantages for donors making a planned gift, an option for those looking to manage their estates efficiently. The Foundation's Financial Literacy Workshops this Spring, It's Your Estate, examines estate planning and the option of legacy giving. The Elizabeth and John Stahr Legacy Society was established to honor those who have notified the Foundation that it has been included in their estate planning.

If you have already included the Library Foundation in your legacy planning, please let us know so that we can include you in The Elizabeth and John Stahr Legacy Society. You can use the secure form on the Foundation's website to notify us.

F R E E W I L L



As part of the Library Foundation's commitment to financial literacy, we are offering the FreeWill service to the community. FreeWill is an online tool to simplify the estate planning process. You can create a legally valid will online at no cost, providing peace of mind and security for what you hold dear. We hope that you will include the Library Foundation in your legacy planning, but our goal is for Library patrons to create your estate plan whether you include the Library Foundation or not.

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

In the past year, the Library Foundation has welcomed five new members to the Board of Directors and welcomed back a former member. Newly joining the Board are Andrew Gerken, MD; Megan Gorman; Patricia Adelman Dreyfus, who now chairs the Library Live Committee; Paul Watkins, former Chair of the Library Trustees; and Miles Yourman, who assumed the position of Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Rejoining the Board is Adrian Windsor, Co-Chair of the Development Committee. Emilie Menghin, who was serving as Treasurer, is on leave from the Board as she was assigned to Germany as an executive with PIMCO.

In November 2024, Marilyn Krahe, formerly Vice Chair of the Foundation, assumed the responsibilities of the Chair, and Kevin Barlow stepped down to be the Vice Chair.

The members of the Board of Directors have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the Foundation, actively serve on a Board Committee, actively work as an ambassador to enhance the public image of the Foundation and the Library, and actively engage in developing and increasing financial resources for the Foundation. To learn more about the Foundation Board of Directors, and to learn how to serve on a Board committee, contact the Foundation's CEO, Jerold Kappel, at ceo@nbplf.foundation.



Andrew Gerken, MD
Board Member



Megan Gorman
Board Member



Patricia Adelman Dreyfus
Board / Library Live Committee



Paul Watkins
Former Chair of Library Trustees



Miles Yourman
Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee



Adrian Windsor
Co-chair of the Development Committee

OUR BOARD MEMBER AUTHORS!

Not only are the Foundation's Board members leaders in the community, but also many current and former directors are published authors.



Walter Stahr practiced law for over twenty years, both in Washington and Asia, before starting work on his first book, a biography of John Jay. He is now the *NY Times* bestselling author of four biographies: *John Jay: Founding Father* (2005), *Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable Man* (2012), *Stanton: Lincoln's War Secretary* (2017) and *Salmon P. Chase: Lincoln's Vital Rival* (2022). He is working on a fifth book, a life of William Howard Taft. Walter presented his book on Salmon P. Chase at Library Live in February 2022.



Megan Gorman, a tax attorney and wealth manager, is the newly published author of *All the Presidents' Money: How the Men Who Governed America Governed Their Money*. The book looks at the personal money stories of the presidents and some of the different ways that presidents over the last 250 years have made (or lost) money. Megan is also the host of the podcast "The Wealth Intersection."



Karen Heath Clark, a retired attorney and historian, is the author of two books. *Bill Clinton: America's Bridge to the 21st Century* is part of a series of presidential biographies. Nova Science Publishers sought Karen out for her exceptional knowledge and expertise to be the writer of the book Bill Clinton recently signed for her. *Mediterranean Summers: How a Man, a Woman and a Dog Spent Eight Summers Exploring the Ancient Sea in a Small Boat* presents the memorable adventures she and her husband, Bruce, pursued. The Library hosted her for an author lecture on both books.



Adrian Windsor is the author of five books in three genres: Inspirational – *Seven Tools to Transform Genius into Practical Power*, *Get Off the Hamster Wheel: The New Moon Method to Reset, Reboot, and Replant*, and *Soul Searching: Meditations to Nourish and Connect*; Memoir – *Maiden Ladies*, stories of Adrian's women teachers who chose calling over marriage; Fiction – *The Butcher from McGregor* about the life of a notorious Canadian rogue who lived on the edge of the law.



Patricia Adelman Dreyfus is a poet, writer, and editor who won The Laura Award for her short story "The Homestead" and the Anderbo Poetry Prize. Her latest poem is "Forbearance."



Former Board member **Gordon McAlpine** had his most recent novel, *After Oz*, published posthumously. It is a murder mystery about Dorothy's fantastical stories about her adventure in Oz, leading to the town suspecting her of murdering a local spinster. McAlpine was the Edgar Award-nominated author of the literary mystery novels *Holmes Entangled*, *Woman with a Blue Pencil*, and *Hammett Unwritten*, as well as other acclaimed novels and non-fiction.

FOUNDATION CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2024 was a year of great accomplishments for the Library Foundation. Critical milestones were reached and successfully met.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT

The City of Newport Beach sent out the new bids for the library lecture hall, now known as Witte Hall, named by the lead contribution from William Witte and Keiko Sakamoto. When the bids were returned, the cost of construction had more than doubled to \$23.5 million, requiring the Foundation to amend the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of March 2022 to accept the responsibility to increase its fundraising commitment by over 60% to nearly \$12 million. Because of the Foundation's longstanding commitment to the Library and to the Newport Beach community's need for a library lecture hall/civic auditorium, the Foundation's Board of Directors accepted that challenge. In January 2024, when the City Council approved the Third Amendment to the MOU and accepted the construction bid from AMG Construction, the Foundation transmitted contributions of \$7.1 million to the City to an escrow account to begin construction.

GROUND-BREAKING

Then on February 27, the ceremonial ground-breaking event occurred. Naming Recognition Donors, Bill Witte, Keiko Sakamoto, and Elizabeth Stahr, were joined by City Council members, Library Trustees, Design Committee members, and our Board members. They took spade in hand and dug into the soil of the future footprint of Witte Hall. You can see the weekly progress of the construction on the Witte Hall page of our website <https://nbplf.foundation/witte-hall/>. Site preparation is now complete, the structural beams are up, and as noted on page 12 of this Bookmark, the topping-off beam will soon be lifted into place. We eagerly await the opportunity to welcome the first audience into the Hall in January 2026.

BEYOND BOOKS

In January 2024, the Board restructured the capital campaign for Witte Hall, Beyond Books, and initiated its very public phase to fund 50% of the costs for Witte Hall. As of this writing, we are over 86% towards our goal. We appreciate your critical support. Witte Hall will be architecturally striking, acoustically excellent, fully ADA compliant with assistive listening, offering comfortable seating with great sightlines. It will be utilized by not just the Library and Foundation, but also by a great many community organizations. The Hall will be full and lively.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The 2023-2024 program season of the Foundation was sterling. The Witte Lecture Series and Library Live were sold out for every presentation with excellent speakers and audiences delighted with their expertise and insights. The new free series, Spotlight on Science, informed full houses on Artificial Intelligence and its use

in scientific research, from large data models, to melting glaciers, to beach erosion. We learned how scientists use AI to spur discovery and identify solutions. The other free community programs—Medicine in Our Backyard, Financial Literacy Workshops, and the Book Discussion Group—increased their audiences to over pre-pandemic levels.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Structurally, the Board approved other transitions. The Lecture Hall Committee became part of the Development Committee once Phase Two of the campaign was entered. The Board approved a new investment management policy and investment manager and contracted a new auditing firm. We are pleased that our audit, as always, was very positive. The audit, and the Foundation's IRS reporting Form 990, are posted on our website under the Financial Responsibility tab for anyone to review. The Foundation has a Platinum rating from the national nonprofit rating site, Candid, and received a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator. Our online giving platform and the Foundation's website have passed all security standards.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

It has been my honor to serve the Library and the Library Foundation as a Board member and officer for the past seven years. The Foundation is financially sound with significant reserves. Community leaders continue to accept positions as Board members and committee members. The Board members are engaged in governing the organization with unanimity of purpose, proud to be part of an organization that helps to make a good library a Great Library. Marilyn Krahe, our current Vice Chair, will assume the position of Chair, and I will continue to serve as Vice-Chair for the next Fiscal Year.

APPRECIATION

We appreciate your continued support as Foundation Members and as ticket purchasers to the Witte Lectures and Library Live. We appreciate your attendance at our free programs: Medicine in Our Backyard, Financial Literacy Workshops, Spotlight on Science, and the Book Discussion Group. Your participation demonstrates the Library Foundation's relevance as an important partner of the Newport Beach Public Library. I urge you to continue your support, increase it if possible, and encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to join you in that support.



Kevin Barlow, Chair of the Board
kevin.barlow@gmail.com

PROGRAMS

The Foundation presented 48 programs in the 2023-2024 season, 32 of which were free for the community. Free programs included Medicine in Our Backyard, the Financial Literacy Workshops, Book Discussion Group, and the new initiative, Spotlight on Science. The total attendance for the programs presented by the Foundation was over 4,600.

In response to the high demand for Foundation programs, we launched season passes for the Witte Lecture Series. We were delighted to report that over half of the attendees held season passes. Given this success, we are also planning to implement season passes for our Library Live Author Series.

WITTE DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR SERIES

The 27th season of the Witte Lectures kicked off with a SOLD-OUT event featuring Fiona Hill, Former US National Security Council senior director for European and Russian affairs. Over 1,600 people attended the Winter-Spring 2024 Witte Lecture Series. Audience members were enthused to be able to attend compelling presentations by:

- Fiona Hill, Former US National Security Council senior director for Russian affairs on and author of *There Is Nothing for You Here: Finding Opportunity in the 21st Century* was in conversation with Walter Stahr, author of *Salmon P. Chase*
- Ed Yong, author of *An Immense World*, spoke on *The Amazing Nature of Animal Senses*
- Richard Reeves, author of *Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male is Struggling, why it Matters, and What to Do About it*
- Dahlia Lithwick MSNBC legal analyst and author of *Lady Justice* was in conversation with Michele Goodwin, professor of constitutional law and global health policy at Georgetown Law School, about the 2022-2023 *Term of Supreme Court: What Has Happened and What is to Come*

LIBRARY LIVE

Library Live proudly showcased Californian authors who discussed a variety of topics, including a 15th-century Chinese women physician, retirement advice, and navigating the next chapter in life. They also shared a journalist's harrowing experience of being kidnapped by Somali pirates, alongside a poignant contemporary tale of loneliness and longing. The speakers were:

- Lisa See, author of *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*
- Steve Lopez, author of *Independence Day: What I Learned About Retirement from Some Who've Done it and Some Who Never Will*
- Michael Scott Moore, author of *The Desert and the Sea: 977 Days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast*
- Tess Gunty, author of 2022 National Book Award for Fiction, *The Rabbit Hutch* in conversation with Dr. Patricia Pierson, Associate Director of UCI Center for Storytelling and Literary Journalism Program

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

The Library Foundation initiated a new free program that focuses on innovative and exciting scientific research, utilizing extraordinary and renowned scientists from our local universities. This season theme was Artificial Intelligence (AI). The speakers were:

- Padhraic Smyth, PhD, spoke on *Artificial Intelligence: An Era of Science?*
- Eric Rignot, PhD and Isabella Velicogna, PhD, spoke on *Tracking Ice and Water in a Changing Climate with AI*
- Brett Sanders, PhD, spoke on *Digital Tools for Projecting Coastal Erosion and Flooding*

MEDICINE IN OUR BACKYARD

Through the Library Foundation's partnership with UCI Health and the support of Mike and Polly Smith, Medicine in Our Backyard engaged internationally renowned UCI medical faculty to address a broad range of health issues: managing pain, mental health in adults, technology for healthy health, preserving eyesight, women's heart health, colon cancer, aging and the lower spine, and antibiotics. As many as 150 people registered for these free lectures, each ending with a wide-ranging Q & A exchange with the audience.

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS

The Financial Literacy Workshops started in September and continue to see an increase in participation. The workshops are free programs presented by the Library Foundation for the public. Financial Literacy presents It's Your Money Series in the Fall and It's Your Estate workshops in the Spring. Each series has six workshops.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

This free program continues to see a significant increase in participation. Participants in the Discussion Group, moderated and led by Director of Programs Kunga Wangmo, suggest books to read and discuss, and then Kunga Wangmo curates the suggestions and includes the works by the Library Live authors who will speak on that series for the season. Book Discussion Group begins in September and ends in May for nine sessions.

VIDEOS

Due to licensing restrictions, videos of the Witte Lecture and Library Live series are available on the Foundation’s website only for members of the Foundation. Medicine in Our Backyard and Spotlight on Science videos are always available for free to everyone on the Foundation’s website.

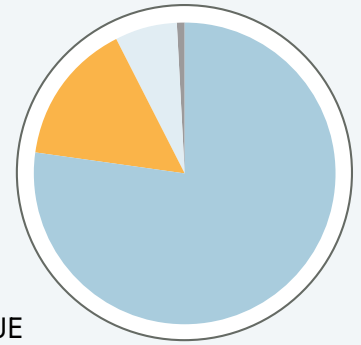
MEMBER EVENTS

The season opened with the annual Library Leadership Reception in the Bamboo Courtyard, celebrating those Foundation donors that make generous annual contributions to fund the Witte Lectures, Library Live, and other Foundation programs as well as providing support for the Foundation’s support of the Newport Beach Library. As you walk along the portico in front of the Central Library you will see tiles with the names of those that have made leadership contributions over the past 31 years.

The season ended with a Summer Solstice Reception in the Bamboo Courtyard celebrating new members of the Foundation, Library Leadership Circle donors, and distinguished guests. At this event, the Foundation honored Jene Witte, founding sponsor of the Witte Lecture Series. After the reception, Stuart Palley, Southern California photographer and author of *Into the Inferno* was in conversation with Clare Frank, first female Chief of Fire Protection and author of *Burnt*. They shared their firsthand experiences of being on the front lines and witnessing the heartbreaking tragedies brought about by wildfires.

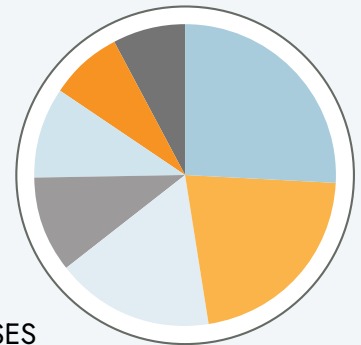
SPECIAL EVENT IN SUPPORT OF THE WITTE HALL

In June, the Foundation hosted the Kids Marketplace in support of the Beyond Books Witte Hall civic auditorium project. The Kids Marketplace raised funds and awareness for the construction of Witte Hall, the new 10,000-square-foot, 299-seat civic auditorium currently under construction.



FISCAL 2024 OPERATING REVENUE

■ Contributed Revenue	\$566,144.00
■ Earned Revenue	\$110,469.00
■ Endowment	\$50,000.00
■ Investment Revenue	\$4,755.00



FISCAL 2024 OPERATING EXPENSES

■ Witte Lectures & Library Live	\$185,093.00
■ Management	\$155,398.00
■ Fundraising	\$119,983.00
■ Beyond Books Capital Campaign	\$74,233.00
■ Library Grants	\$68,100.00
■ Community Programs	\$57,292.00
■ Marketing	\$53,602.00

The Library Foundation contributed \$199,625 to the Newport Beach Public Library for free community programs, direct grants to the Library, and capital campaign expenses for the construction of Witte Hall.

BEYOND BOOKS CAMPAIGN FOR WITTE HALL

Contributors as of December 10, 2024. Includes all Gift Agreements for future payments.

WITTE HALL NAMING DONORS

- William Witte and Keiko Sakamoto-Witte / Witte Hall
- Roy Woolsey / Louise and Roy Woolsey Memorial Lobby
- Elizabeth Stahr / Stahr Courtyard

LEGACY DONORS (\$500,000 plus)

- Anonymous
- Linda and Tod White

LEAD DONORS (\$250,000 plus)

- Susan and Spencer Croul
- Kevin & Devon Martin and Todd & Natalie Pickup
- Janet and James "Walkie" Ray
- Nancy and Geoffrey Stack Family Foundation
- Diane and Dave Steffy
- Jill Johnson-Tucker and Larry Tucker
- Clarence J. and Janice R. Turner

BENEFACTORS (\$100,000 plus)

- Gus and Mary Chabre
- Karen Health Clark and Bruce Robert Clark
- Ken and Stephanie Grody
- Randa Phair

continued on next page

PATRONS (\$50,000 plus)

The Etchandy Family
Julie Garn
Dorothy Larson
Liz and Pete McKinley
The Rallis Foundation
Tom and Carrie Rolfes
Paul and Kathy Rolfes and Family
Samuel and Tammy Tang
Lizanne and Matthew Witte

SUPPORTERS (\$25,000 PLUS)

Kevin and Kelly Barlow
Linda Beimfohr
Homer and Janet Bludau
Beverly and David Carmichael
William and Amy Claster
David and Barbara Cline
The Foundation of the Family of
C.M. and Edna P. Cotton
Janet L. Curci
Keith and Pamela Curry
Karen and Donald Everts
Allan and Sandy Fainberg
Malin and Chris Fletcher
Janet Hadley
Myrna I. Hamid
Randy and Kelly Heyler
Gregory and Rita Hirsch
In memory of Barry Hoeven
Joanne and Dennis Keith
Marilyn and Francis Krahe
Lauren and Kory Kramer
Greg and Barbara MacGillivray
Daniel J. McKenna III and
Jeri L. McKenna
Sophie and Manouch Moshayed
Mullin Family Foundation
Megan E. Gorman and
Roger J. Nabedian
Teddie Ray
Gena H. Reed Family Foundation
Anton and Jennifer Segerstrom
The Smyth Family
Walter and Masami Stahr
Irene Turner and Drew MacDonald
Bobbitt and Bill Williams
Julie and Justin Wilson
Yourman Charitable Fund

DONORS (Under \$25,000)

Anonymous
Anonymous
The Ginger and Tony Allen
Family Foundation
Dennis and Diane Baker
The Beall Family Foundation
Phil and Shelley Belling
Bonnie Bennett
Linda Blackburn
Jeffrey Boelman
Joy Brenner
Marcia and John Cashion
Ann and Mark Danner
John and Lesly Davenport

DONORS (Under \$25,000) cont.

DDA Family Foundation
Rich and Lisa de Lorimier
Aviva and Fred Forster
Marc and Rhenda Foster
Armanino Foundation
Jurgen and Pat Froehlich
William Gillespie Foundation
Barbara Glabman
Whitney and Michael Gomez
Richard and Cecilia Goodman
Gary Hanson
Laird & Maggie Hayes & Family
Carole and Mike Kamper
Signe Keller
James and Cheryl Lewis
Mireya Llauro
Linda P. Maggard Family
Bill and Lisa Mathies
Donald Morrow and Judy Johnson
John and Margi Murray
Sara Nealy
Tricia Nichols
Anthony and Kristen Petros
James Pick and
Rosalyn Laudati Pick
Kathleen Rasmussen
Linda Rasner
Jeff and Linda Schulein
Latika Sethi
Deborah Siminou
Paul and Mary Stemler
Ann Doyle Stephens
Tom and Marilyn Sutton
Paul and Ronnie Watkins
Eric Welton
Robert and Linda Whiton

**IN MEMORY OF
TIMOTHY TAMURA**

Robert Allison
Michael Chandra
Alana Cole
Roderic Daley
Jeannie Denholm
Terri Foreman
Christine Griffith
Amr Hassan
George Hillinger
Tayt and Nicole Ianni
Michael Johnson
Mike and Sandi Kirby
Kurt Kost
Jen Lodge
Herman Luk
Mara Murray
Rob Montgomery
Jill Nelke
Linda Rigg
Mark Robinson
Vicki Saugstad
Mark Sergi
Peri Shereen
Fay Wakil
Karen Yelsey

Donations (Annual Fund Contributions)

The following are donations, pledges, grants, and program sponsorships received between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Contributors to Beyond Books, the Campaign for Witte Hall are listed separately.

LEGACY ESTATE GIFTS

The Michael C. Hirsch Revocable Living Trust
Carol Beitscher Living Trust

**Classicist
\$15,000 to \$24,999**

Karen and Bruce Clark
Barbara Roberts
Michael C. and Pauline L. Smith
Elizabeth Stahr
Lizanne L. and Matthew Witte
William Witte and
Keiko Sakamoto

**Oxford Scholar
\$10,000 TO \$14,999**

Anonymous
Jill Johnson-Tucker and
Larry Tucker
John Rallis and
Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis
Holly Shores

**First Edition Collector
\$5,000 TO \$9,999**

Rich Alexander
Randy and Kelly Heyler
Greg and Barbara MacGillivray
Goran Matijasevic
Trish Nichols
Roger and Marion Palley
James B. Pick and
Rosalyn M. Laudati
Mary L. Vollmer
Tod and Linda White
Greg and Sharon Wohl

**Classic Collector
\$2,500 TO \$4,999**

Linda Blackburn
Marcia and John Cashion
Gus and Mary Chabre
William D. and Amy Claster
Judi Dutton
Thomas C. and
Elizabeth Edwards
Karen and Don Everts
Malin and Chris Fletcher
Diane and Colin Forkner
Whitney and Michael Gomez
Megan Gorman and
Roger Nabedian
Janet S. Hadley
Diane Hafer
Carolyn and Bill Klein
Marilyn and Francis Krahe
Emilie Menghin
Kim Prickett
Janet and Walkie Ray
Rachel and Justin
Thomas B. Rogers and
Sarah Anderson
Thomas J. and Carrie Rolfes
Carolyn A. Scheer
Laura and Carlton Seaver
Ellen Shockro
Thomas and Marilyn Sutton
Steve and Cyd Sverdlow
Thomas and Marilyn Sutton
Charles H. and Suzanne Turner
Miles Yourman

Bibliophile

\$1,500 TO \$2,499

Loren Blackwood
Tracy Bodenmann
Patricia Fortman
Signe Keller
Rachel Levin
Tiare and Patrick Meegan
Kevin O'Grady and
Nella Webster O'Grady
Thomas and
Barbara Peckenpaugh
Latika Sethi
Ann D. Stephens
Paul and Stacey Von Berg

**Knowledge Explorer
\$1,000 TO \$1,499**

Olivia Abel
Ms. Mary Anderson
Kevin and Kelly Barlow
Jerome C. and Irene Barr
Linda Beimfohr
George and Rebecca Boukather
Sean Burke
Kelly and Bill Campbell
David R. and Beverly Carmichael
Antonella Castro
Ms. Sandra Childes
David Collins
Edward R. and Sally S. Crockett
Michelle Dean
Elizabeth DeSousa
Patricia and Gary Dreyfus
Richard A. and Elaine England
Sandy Fainberg
Daniele Green
Steven Guzowski
Jane Hanauer
Catheryn E. Hoehn
Shirley Hsiao
Joanna Marie Jacobs
Lois Jacobs
Allen and Eleanor Jaffy
Nancy L. Kidder
Ned and Nancy Kriz
Lisa LaMond
Dara Lopata
Alicia McCalla
Toni Moccia
Joanne and Larry Overman
Thomas and
Barbara Peckenpaugh
Chiyo Imai Rowe
Fred and Wendy Salter
Cynthia Schwarz and
Prakash Sakrane
Christiane Shepherd
Diane Silber
Ginger Sun Ong and Arthur Ong
Laura Tarbox and Mike Nozzarella
Larry and Barbara Spitz
Clarence and Janice Turner
Amy and Gary Uyemura
Annette Wiley

Literary Lion

\$599 TO \$999

Jim and Diane Bailey
Jerome T. and Martha A. Barich
Joy Brenner
Ed and Janis Carpenter
Joe and Lynn Crutchley
David and Braddie Dooley
Peggie Fariss
Jurgen and Patricia Froehlich
Vonnie Gibbons
Kim Haas Heiser
Gary Hanson
Daniel Harkins
Michael Hickey
Lori Johnstone
Christine Kiger
Adelyn and Dennis Klarin
Todd and Bonnie Lisman
D and M McCrea
Margi and John Murray
Karen and Richard K. Natland
Polly Norwood
Marci Novogrod
James O'Neal
Catherine Pazemenas
Wally and Renate Rados
Richard W. and Barbara Riley
Jack and Katharine Schoellerman
Walter and Masami Stahr
Diane and David Steffy
Vonnie Gibbons
Bruce Thuman and Berdine Li
Thomas C. Justin and
DM Fullerton
Stephanie and
Ken VandeVeer

**Book Collector
\$250 TO \$499**

Jean Alexander
Dick and Mary Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Anderson
Dennis and Diane Baker
Linda Barker
Abelardo and Marianne Beaz
Kay Becknell Jones
Bonnie Bennett
Bonnie Bennett
Alice C. Coons
Richard and Kim Crawford
Amy Creelman
Janet L. Curci
Jeanne and Paul Curry
Jerry and Bobbi Dauderman
Dulce De Castro
Dr. Susan Fischback
Marshall and Judith Flapan
Suzy and Bill Fletcher
Glenn and Jane Fowler
Judith E. Frant and Mark Refowitz
Amy Fulford
David and Josie Gardner
Meg George
Jeri T. and Mark Gerard
Barbara Gilcrest
Lisa Gustafson
Ed and Mary Hall
Rebecca and William Halladay
Carol Harmon
Gene and Lynn April Hartline
Marilyn Hester Robbins and
William Robbins
Richard and Carroll Hochschild
Pam and Mike Howard
Fiona and Chris
Jack and Katharine Schoellerman
Jeanette C. Justus and
Richard L. Kusper
Robert J. and M'Liss Jones Kane
Barbara Keller and
David Auchterlonie

If we have unintentionally misspelled, omitted a name, or incorrectly categorized your contribution, please let us know at admin@nbplf.foundation or by phone at 949-717-3892, so we may apologize profusely and correct our records.

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation appreciates your generosity, patience, and assistance. To renew your Membership or if you are not a Member and want to join our community of library lovers and champions, please visit nbplf.foundation. We will welcome you with open arms.

Book Collector

\$250 TO \$499

Jennifer L. and Michael Keller
Diane Kelsey
Martha Kinney
Kurt and Theresa Kost
Dean R. and Christine J. Laws
J.K. and Robin Leason
Bobbi LeVine
James R. Lewis
David Liebman
Linda Lineback
Melvin A. and Jacque Lipson
Mrs. Susan Livingston
Hugh and Caroline Logan
Carol Mason and Steve Mather
Linda and David McCarty
Joan McCauley
Roger and Sheila McGonegal
Irene McKeown
Hillary Moers
Angela Monroe
Julie Nakata
Marci Novograd
Debra Pagliassotti
Nicole Parker and Roy E. Glauthier
Polly Parkey
Diane Pavesic
Peter Perrin
Ruth Poole
Luis and Susan Puncel
Deborah Reed
Terry and Carol Reinhold
Carl W. Rieger
Ginny Riley
Nicholas and Peggy Rose
Paul Schmidhauser and
Cindy Hughes
Andrew and Elisabeth Schutz
Rolf and Mary Lee Schwabe
Dr. and Mrs. Shelburne
Nick and Donna Shubin
Linda Simos
Adreana Souleles
Helen and Bill
Constance Sperling
Dr. Ursula Staubli
David W. and Marilyn D. Steuber
Irene Stojko
Liz Swiertz Newman
Marian Tang
Lorelei Tanji and Michel Oren
Jerome and Martha Barich
Adreana Souleles
Donald and Carole Tompkins
James D. and Katherine Tucker
Cathy Voreyer
Julie White
Jane Winant
Adrian S. Windsor
Cam and Suzanne Woods

Book Lover

\$100 to \$249

Joyce and Giles Allison
Judith E. Ambrose
Susan Anderson
James L. and Diane L. Aust
Lynda Badum
Linda J. and James E. Baker
Judy Baldwin
Lorie Ballman
David E. and Marseilla Barth
Charles and Martha Becker
Elaine Beno
Anthony and Colene Beringer
Carol Berke
Berke Family Trust
Nancy and Gary Beverage
Walt and Carol Boice
Trudi Bonnet
Mary Borgia
Robin and Linda Boyd

Book Lover

\$100 to \$249

Glenn Bozarth
Mrs. Andra Broekelschen
Tykya G. and Elaine Camaras
Elaine and Tykya Camaras
Linda McMahan and
Denny Campbell
Gary D. and Anne Carlsen
Joan Carter
Robert and Beverly Childs
Kurt and Deborah Christiansen
Sheryl Crockey
Mrs. Curtis
Gretchen Daley
Bill and Ann Dennis
Mary Eileen Dibb-Haub
Joy E. Dittberner
Joni Doherty
Patricia Douglass
Michael and Jill Draffin
Walt and Marcia Drew
Robert R. and Janet Dryden
Alicia Dueck
Gail Dufour
Frances Dye
Gale Edelberg and Robert Butnik
Robin and Michael J. Einbund
Nancy Eisenschiml
Dr. Roger Ekirch
Denny Lynn Engelke
Andrea Epstein
Elaine Erickson
Robert Ferguson
Robertta Feuerstein
Steven and Arlene Fienberg
Carl Fine and Winnie Wen
Jennifer Forbeck
George and Linda Fraker
Shirley Frobes
Mary Fryer
Carlita and Win Fuller
Gladys Gabrielian
John and Carolyn Garrett
Ada Kless Gilbert
Steve and Cathy Gilbert
Susan J. Glass
Irwin D. Goldring
Steve Papan and Kate Grabenstein
Carolyn Hacker
Myrna Hamid
Jinx L. Hansen
Richard and Elizabeth Harano
Harbor Ridge Women's Club
Nicholas Hardy
Terry and Carol Hartman
Joan-Anne Hearn
Jeff Heath
Mary Joanne Henry and
Richard Mullin
Richard Herman
Jerry and Barbara Hood
Helen Houlahan
Dorothy Howard
Joanne Hunt
Shannon and Wayne Inouye
Patricia S. Irwin
Regina Jennings
Caroline Jensen
Arthur and Mary Anna Jeppe
Anne and Thomas Johnson
Derek Johnson and Lynn Iba
Colin and Jacklyn Joyo
Roland D. Kelly
Antoine F. Khoury
Eugenia Kirchner
Marina Knaup
Sheila Koff and Don Menaguale
Susan and David Kramer
William Kroener
Ken Krum
Paula Kruse

Book Lover

\$100 to \$249

Adrian and Elaine Kuyper
Denis and Robin LaBonge
William and Jill Lambeth
Ed and Nancy Last
Deborah Laughton
Vincent J. Le Pore
Vincent and Sondra Lee
James Leimkuhler
Darlene Letnes
Steve and Diana Lewelling
Mireya Llaurado
Seymour and Ruth Lobel
Diana Long
Phyllis and Richard Mandel
Lucinda Marder
Kathy Matre
Cheryl Maxson
Roger and Sheila McGonegal
Christine McKinley
Sara Messier
Katherine and Brad Mielke
Carole Miller
James E. and Michael Ann Mitchell
Ali Moattari and Mojdeh Motakef
Houchang and Barbara Modanlou
Joyce Moix
Mrs. Ann Moskowitz
Nancy Moss
Carol Murrel
Maria and Alistair Ramsay
Odile Nicolette
Joseph C. and Ann Obegi
Linda Oeth
John and Ann O'Flynn
Ginny Olson
Ron O'Rourke
Lauren Goodman Packard
Lauren Goodman Packard
Exempt Trust
Douglas and Teresa Pasquale
Scott and Liddy Paulsen
Patty and Ken Pell
Robert Penney
Shirley Pepys
John S. and JoAnne F. Perkins
John Petry
Michael and June Lee Pilsitz
Charlotte Pinsky
Meredith Porter
Ron Presta and Allyson Bolin-Presta
Michael and Bobbie Purcell
Francis and Margaret Quinlan
Leigh M. Rabbitt
Stephen R. Rakower
Michele E. Raney
Linda Rasner
Chase Rief
Kathy Roberts
Linda Roberts
Norma Roberts
Ralph and Penny Rodheim
Anita Rogers
Jane Rosenkrans
Teresa Ross
Herbert Roth
Brenda and Thomas Sabin
Glenn Salsbury
Irene W. Salyer
Candi and Tony Sary
Molly Schneider
Paula Schneiderman
Denise Schoenberg
Jonas and Viviane Schultz
Kelli Schwartz
Bonnie Scidmore
Sondra Scott
James V. and Harriet Selna
Robert and Mary Shackleton
Norm and Joyce Shepherd
Lawrence and Julie Sherwin
Wayne and Mary Silzel

Book Lover

\$100 to \$249

Deborah Siminou
Alison Sims
Nancy Slucher
Joel and Judy Slutzky
Ronald and Wendy Smith
Carol Sokel
Victoria Solinger
Steven and Lor Speech
Gerry and Ilene Spear
Ellen Speyer
Gigi Spragins
Barry and Carole Steele
Tracey Stein
Myra Stillman
Edward and Elaine Stone
Judy Strauss
Bruce C. Stuart and
Katherine E. Shaw-Stuart
Ellen and David Sullivan
David H. and Jill I. Susson
Schary Tang
William and Barbara Thibault
Roger H. and JoLane Thomas
Per and Jacquelyn Trebler
Karen E. Tringali
Janice Trop
Katharine Trotter
Patricia Twitty
Ann-Marie Villicana
John and Myriuel Von Aspen
Anne Walthall
Pete and Jackie Warren
Don and Jan Webb
Paul Wehrlen
Jay and Sandra Wilbur
William and Carol Williams
Douglas M. and June Wood
Sharon Wright
Barbara Yeager

Foundations

The Isidore C. &
Penny W. Myers Foundation
Eichenberg-Larson
Charitable Foundation
Richard and Elizabeth Steele Fund
William Gillespie Foundation
The Seaver Endowment
The Cashion Foundation
Truman and
Majd Wellness Foundation
Lon V. Smith Foundation
Whitcross Foundation

Donor Advised Funds

Jewish Community Foundation
of Orange County
Orange County
Community Foundation
Schwab Charitable
American Endowment Foundation
National Christian Foundation
Vanguard Charitable
Fidelity Charitable

Corporations and

Corporate Foundations

Tarbox Family Office
Pacific Life Foundation
The PIMCO Foundation
Commonwealth Business Bank
The Boeing Company
Aycy Charitable Foundation
E&J Gallo Winery
Legacy Medical Realty Inc

nbplf.

NBPL Foundation Office
1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-717-3892
info@nbplf.foundation
nbplf.foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Barlow, CFA, *Vice Chair*
Linda Beimfohr
Joy Brenner
Karen Heath Clark, *Immediate Past Chair*
Patricia Dreyfus
Andrew Gerken
Megan Gorman
Janet S. Hadley
Randy Heyler
Jill Johnson-Tucker
Johanna Lee Kim
Marilyn Krahe, *Chair*
Mireya Llaurado, Esq., *Secretary*
Emilie Menghin
Walter Stahr
Ann Doyle Stephens
Paul Watkins, Esq.
Adrian Windsor
Miles Yourman, *Treasurer*

LIBRARY FOUNDATION STAFF

Jerold D Kappel, *Chief Executive Officer*
jkappel@nbplf.foundation
Kunga Wangmo,
Director of Programs
kupshaw@nbplf.foundation
Shawn Boeker, *Office Manager*
sboeker@nbplf.foundation

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

newportbeachlibrary.org

MELISSA HARTSON

Director of Library Services

CENTRAL LIBRARY

1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-717-3800

MARINERS BRANCH

1300 Irvine Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-717-3838

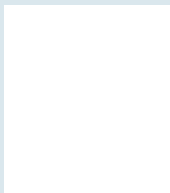
BALBOA BRANCH

100 East Balboa Boulevard
Balboa, CA 92661
949-644-3076

CORONA DEL MAR BRANCH

410 Marigold Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
949-644-3075

©2025 BOOKMARK is a biannual magazine published
by the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation
Editor: Jerold D Kappel
Design and Production: LM Design Ink



©2025 Newport Beach Public Library Foundation



OUR FRIENDS, THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

A small bookstore is at the front of the Central Library, staffed by scores of volunteers. The bookstore accepts contributions of books, DVDs, CDs, vinyl records, and even puzzles — and then resells them for pennies on the dollar.

This Library support organization contributes over \$200,000 a year to fund the Sunday Musicales, children's activities like the Summer Reading Program, local author lectures, and so much more.

Three times a year the Friends take over the Friends Room and move thousands of books and other items — by the bagful! The Friends also have weekly specials and unique collections, including rare books. The Library Foundation salutes our friends, the Friends of the Library, for their efforts to support the Newport Beach Public Library.

Learn more at newportbeachlibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library