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BOOKMARK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWPORT
BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

WINTER 2025-26

The Library Foundation of Newport Beach provides valuable programs, services, and resources – including Tech Toys for Kids, a new Foundation-funded program that includes microscopes, Yoto players, a coding robot, telescope, DJ mixer, binoculars and more, all available for check out with your Newport Beach Public Library card.



nbplf
NEWPORT BEACH
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF NEWPORT BEACH

This could not be a more exciting time to serve as Chair of the Board for the Library Foundation of Newport Beach. I am energized by all that awaits us in 2026. The crown jewel, the Grand Opening of Witte Hall, will occur in 2026. After years of thoughtful planning, design, and fundraising, the dream of Foundation Board Member Jill Johnson-Tucker and a dedicated team of Foundation Board leaders will be realized.

The Beyond Books Campaign will have successfully raised and contributed half of the cost of Witte Hall, which will be owned and managed by the City of Newport Beach. It will be the new home for the Foundation's Witte Distinguished Lecture Series, Library Live Distinguished Author Series, Spotlight on Science, the Library's Sunday Musicales, and special offerings. In addition, it will serve as a Civic Auditorium for the entire community of Newport Beach – films, seminars, ceremonies, and other events that will enjoy the state-of-the-art facility, welcoming 299 guests.

In this issue of Bookmark, you will also read about the 2026 changes to the Library Foundation's "Branding." The new tagline, "Supporting Discovery and Connection – Beyond Books," reflects our steadfast mission: to fund library resources, programs, and services, and to engage the community through literary, cultural, and intellectual opportunities. The Foundation serves as a vital partner to the Newport Beach Public Library. Over the past decade alone, the Foundation has contributed more than \$7 million to support programs, technology, and services for the 1.2 million annual users who visit our four library branches, the second most visited "venue" in Newport Beach after the harbor and beach. If you have not yet explored the Media Lab, Sound Lab, or checked out a Tech Toy, consider this your invitation. The Media Lab even offers a podcast-ready recording booth.

As Chair of the Library Foundation Board, I am honored to work alongside a team of professional, engaged, and deeply dedicated community leaders who volunteer countless hours on behalf of our Foundation. We could not accomplish our mission without their energy, passion, and commitment. My heartfelt thanks to each member of our Board for their contributions—both today and in the years ahead.

As Chair, I am equally honored to work for the benefit of you, our Foundation Members, as we continue to grow as a Foundation, expanding our initiatives to reach even more members of our community. As we enjoy the beautiful, award-winning architectural space that anchors our city, let us celebrate the sense of community we share each time we use the Newport Beach Library Card that sparks curiosity, fuels lifelong learning, and opens the door to new connections.

Thank you for your ideas, your participation, your financial contributions—and above all, for being a Member of the Library Foundation of Newport Beach. Your dedicated support of the Library Foundation has made this all possible!

My very best to each of you,



Marilyn Krahe
Chair, Board of Directors
The Library Foundation of Newport Beach

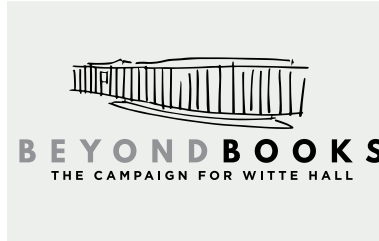
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Inspired by the Newport Beach Public Library

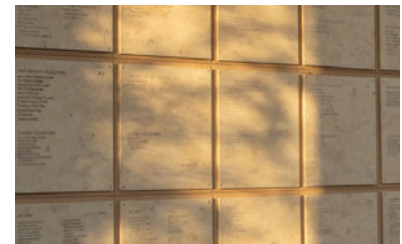
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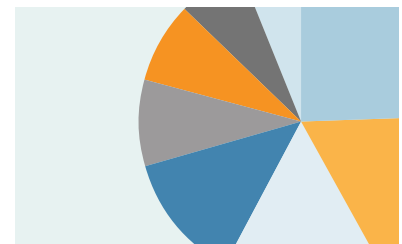
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A breakdown of Library Foundation contributions

WHAT'S IN A BRAND?

In concert with the launching of the new Witte Hall, funded 50% by the Library Foundation's Beyond Books campaign, we are taking the opportunity to refresh and update the Foundation's overall brand, including our logo and brand statement.

An organization's *brand* is not just a graphical logo but is built upon a *brand essence*, or purpose that is an extension of the organization's mission. For example, Coca-Cola's brand essence might be described as "happiness, belonging, and joy," while Pepsi is closer to "youthful energy, excitement, and cultural relevance." In a rebranding, an organization has the opportunity to review its mission and corresponding brand, not only to refresh its look and feel but to steer the organization strategically forward while providing a framework to guide its priorities and actions.

The Foundation Board launched the effort earlier this year, and we are proud to introduce our new branding in advance of the Hall's opening and our planned opening festivities in 2026.

The objectives of the rebrand included modernizing the look and color palette and bringing in imagery that evokes our close affiliation with our amazing Library, which is consistently one of the only Four-Star libraries in all of California. After a round of interviews with various design agencies, we selected a joint effort between **Assume Nothing Studios + Brand Runner Consulting** to perform focused market research, followed by an iterative design presentation and review process with a Board subcommittee.

Concurrently with this exercise, the Board assessed its existing brand statement, "**The Foundation Helps Make Your Library Happen Every Day,**" against our evolving mission to expand and extend the Library's capabilities and programming.

Over the past years, we have directly funded significant improvements to the library infrastructure and technology (such as the Media Lab, e-books and the Tech Toys for Kids), while adding major new programs (such as Spotlight on Science) to our already extensive list: The Witte Lectures, Library Live, Medicine in Our Backyard, the Book Discussion Group, and the Financial Literacy Workshops. There was a need to provide clearer, more specific messages regarding what the Foundation does.

Three key areas add significant value:

- > Broadening the community's ability to explore and discover new things — ideas, technology, media skills;
- > Bringing the community together — to learn, connect, and exchange ideas, and;
- > Providing resources beyond the library's primary printed or tangible assets.

Converting this into a new *brand statement* meant encapsulating these themes into an **action phrase** that emanates from the *mission*, which led to our new brand statement:

Supporting Discovery and Connection... Beyond Books

This statement not only helps guide our investments of time and resources but also communicates what we do for the community and for the Library — while paying homage to our highly successful "Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall."

THE LOGO

The inspiration behind our new logo was the ancient **Library of Alexandria**. According to the consultants, the Library of Alexandria "symbolized humanity's bold pursuit of universal knowledge, where books were not just stored, but revered as vessels of wisdom. Integrating this heritage into a modern brand signals a commitment to curiosity, preservation, and global dialogue. It positions the library as more than a quiet archive: it becomes a civic monument to learning, where past and future converge."

Cleverly incorporating the Newport Beach initials (NB) into a modernized book silhouette, the new logo was born! This three-book stack is both a standalone mark and incorporated into a bookshelf, showing the Foundation's connection to the library. A vibrant color brings energy and pop to the mark. See the new logo(s) below.

OUR NAME

Finally, but no less important, is a renaming of the Foundation from **The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation** to **The Library Foundation of Newport Beach**.

Research revealed a common misperception that the Foundation functions as an internal division, rather than a standalone non-profit funded by private philanthropy. Our rebranding clearly establishes the Foundation as separate from but supportive of the Library.

The Foundation thanks the design team, the Branding subcommittee, and the Foundation Board for their time, passionate viewpoints, and support for this process!

Randy Heyler, Board Member
Chair of Branding Committee



Library
Foundation
of Newport
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Supporting Discovery and Connection ... Beyond Books



Library Foundation of Newport Beach
Supporting Discovery and Connection ... Beyond Books

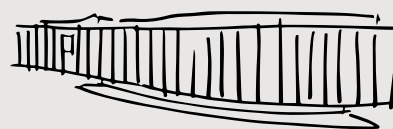
BEYOND BOOKS CAMPAIGN FOR WITTE HALL

The campaign for Witte Hall is nearing its completion, and we look forward to celebrating its success early in 2026. The Library Foundation made a commitment to the City of Newport Beach to fund 50% of the cost of building Witte Hall, the Stahr Courtyard, and the infrastructure improvements that are part of that construction. That goal is \$11,750,000. In addition, the Foundation agreed to underwrite the cost of increasing the size of the high-definition video wall on the stage to 11'x19'. The increased size will provide greater flexibility for the use of Witte Hall for such programs as the Newport Beach Film Festival documentaries and short films. The Foundation sees the potential of adding science documentaries to the very popular Spotlight on Science program series, and the Library can plan for a literary film series for both adults and children. The cost to the Foundation of the video wall increase is \$130,000.

WITTE HALL GRAND OPENING

The Grand Opening Weekend of Witte Hall is planned for 2026. There will be a number of programs to introduce the Hall to the community. On Friday evening, the Library Foundation will salute its major donors to the Beyond Book Campaign with a special presentation in the Hall, opening reception in the Stahr Courtyard, and a post-event reception and dinner. On Saturday, there will be two children's programs during the day, and a documentary film presentation that evening. On Sunday, the Library will introduce music in the Hall with the highly acclaimed Sunday Musicale. All programs on Saturday and Sunday will be free, however, because of the anticipated demand, registrations are recommended to ensure a seat.

The Library Foundation will publish a program book for that weekend which will also cover all Library and Foundation programs scheduled for Witte Hall through June 30, 2027. Sponsorships for the weekend of events are available, as is advertising in the program booklet. For further information please contact the Foundation CEO, Jerold Kappel, at jkappel@nbplf.foundation, or by phone 949-717-3890.

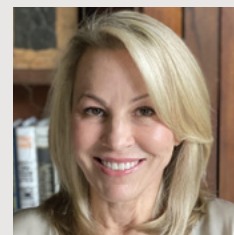


BEYOND BOOKS
THE CAMPAIGN FOR WITTE HALL

A WITTE HALL CHAMPION

Many people involved in the Newport Beach Public Library as Trustees and staff, in the Library Foundation as Board members and volunteers, Newport Beach City Council members and leadership, and our wonderful Beyond Books donors, have advocated for a library lecture hall and civic auditorium for the greater Newport Beach community. You can see many of their names on the Foundation website and in this and past issues of Bookmark Magazine. However, every endeavour of this magnitude needs that one person who has the vision and the energy to tirelessly promote that vision to the community and its leaders.

To achieve something as wonderful as Witte Hall you need a champion. This Hall, and the Beyond Books Campaign, had such a champion—Jill Johnson-Tucker. As a Library Trustee she knew there was a need not just for the Newport Beach Public Library, but for the Newport Beach community, to have a civic gathering place to engage and inspire generations of learners. A beautiful venue for lectures, music, film, and presentations to stimulate dialogue and to build community. Jill's enthusiasm and drive made her the perfect person to chair the City's Lecture Hall Design Committee. The stunning Witte Hall is a product of that committee, and the expertise and design philosophy of Robert R. Coffee Architect + Associates.



Jill knew that for the hall to be successful it needed to be a public/private partnership in which the community invested in its development. Jill joined the Board of the Library Foundation and chaired the campaign, now the Beyond Books Campaign, to raise the needed funds to convince the City leadership that the hall, then known as the Library Lecture Hall, would be backed by the community not just with their voices, but with their charitable investment. She chaired the campaign with a zeal, getting others to see the possibilities and the promise of what is now named Witte Hall and the Stahr Courtyard. There may be someone in Newport Beach that Jill has not encouraged to contribute, but that someone will be difficult to find.

Yes, every project needs a champion. Witte Hall has that champion.

Thank you, Jill Johnson-Tucker.



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. Spotlight on Science venues will be announced on the Foundation's website and in the email newsletter.

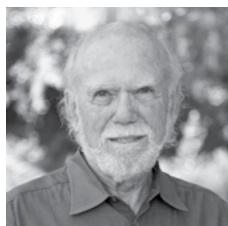


Miniature Space: The Future of Small Satellites

Charles Norton, PhD / Deputy Chief Technologist at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 7:00pm

Dr. Charles D. Norton is the Deputy Chief Technologist at NASA JPL/ Caltech responsible for JPL's technology strategic planning, research, and infusion into flight missions. Dr. Norton is the Special Advisor for Small Spacecraft Missions at NASA HQ. In that role he is responsible for

advising NASA's cross-agency strategic direction for innovative small satellite science, exploration, and technology missions from ESPA-Class spacecraft down to CubeSats. Previously, he was a Principal Technologist and Program Manager Associate at JPL where he developed and led multiple small spacecraft missions. Charles is a recipient of numerous awards for new technology and innovation, including the JPL Lew Allen Award, Voyager Award, and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.



Matter, Antimatter, and the Evolution of the Universe

Barry Barish, PhD / Distinguished Professor, Physics and Astronomy Department, University of California, Riverside
Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 7:00pm

Dr. Barry Barish received the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics for his pivotal role in the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) detector and the observation of gravitational waves, sharing the honor with Rainer Weiss and Kip S. Thorne. He began

his career in high-energy physics, making significant contributions at Stanford and Fermilab. In 1994, Barish became the principal investigator for LIGO, implementing necessary design changes and establishing the LIGO Scientific Collaboration to involve more scientists. Construction of LIGO's interferometers began in 1994, with observations starting in 2002. After years without detection, Advanced LIGO successfully detected gravitational waves on September 14, 2015.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2025-2026



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 at the Newport Beach Central Library, Friends Room.

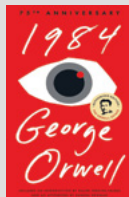
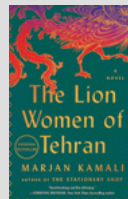
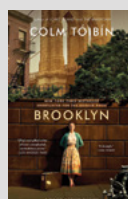
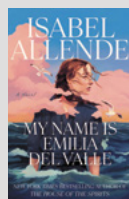
January 14: *My Name is Emilia Del Valle:*
A Novel by Isabel Allende

February 11: *Brooklyn* by Colm Tóibín

March 11: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

April 8: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

May 13: *1984* by George Orwell



FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

It's Your Estate!

March 23 – April 27, 2026

Every Mondays 10am – 11:30am

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. Nine hours of objective education over a 6-week period, 1 ½ 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. You will learn how they charge, and they do not receive your contact information.

MEDICINE IN OUR BACKYARD

The Library Foundation of Newport Beach in collaboration with UCI Health is pleased to present the 2025-26 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 long time Library Foundation members Mike and Polly Smith.

Innovative Approaches to Weight Management: A Physician's Perspective
Monday, January 26, 2026, 7:00pm

Civic Center Community Room
SHAUN DALY, MD FACS

Assistant Professor — Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Department of Surgery, UC Irvine School of Medicine

Heart Disease Prevention and Treatment
Monday, February 23, 2026, 7:00pm

Civic Center Community Room
ANDY HUANG, MD

Assistant Professor — Mary & Steve Wen Cardiovascular Division, Department of Medicine, UC Irvine School of Medicine

Preventing Cognitive Decline
Monday, March 23, 2026, 7:00pm

TBA - Please check the website for updates.

SONIA R. SEHGAL, MD
Professor and Archstone Endowed Chair in Geriatrics, Director — UCI Health Senior Health Center

Managing Knee Pain: Exploring Non-Surgical and Surgical Treatment Options
Monday, April 27, 2026, 7:00pm

TBA - Please check the website for updates.

NAVID ALEM, MD
Assistant Professor — Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Care, UC Irvine School of Medicine

RYAN DIGIOVANNI, MD
Assistant Professor — Department of Orthopedic Surgery, UC Irvine School of Medicine

Spotting Stroke: Know the Signs, Prevent Damage

Monday, May 18, 2026, 7:00pm

TBA - Please check the website for updates.

JAY SHAH, MD
Assistant Professor — Department of Neurology, UC Irvine School of Medicine

library LIVE

The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation is pleased to announce the upcoming *Library Live Series 2026*

We are excited to welcome these two brilliant authors to our 2026 series. Library Live is for adventurous readers who enjoy hearing from established literary figures and emerging talent. Novelists, poets, historians, journalists, biographers, memoirists and others share their ideas firsthand with our community. Participate, engage, and be challenged by our presentations with today's most gifted scribes. **Library Live venues will be announced on the Foundation's website and in the email newsletter.**

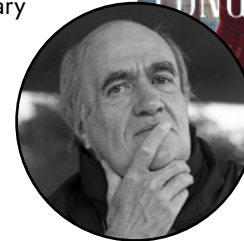
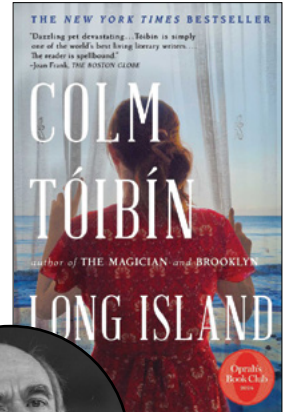
Colm Tóibín **SOLD OUT**

Long Island and Brooklyn

Thursday, March 12, 7:00pm

Colm Tóibín is a renowned Irish writer known for his extensive body of work, including fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. His latest novel, *Long Island*, is a *New York Times* bestseller and continues the story of Eilis Lacey from his acclaimed book *Brooklyn*, which received multiple awards and was adapted into a film. Tóibín's notable works include *The Master* and *The Magician*. He has received numerous literary awards, served as the Laureate for Irish Fiction, and is a professor at Columbia University.

To be on the waitlist, please email programs@nbplf.foundation



Author Photo by Reynaldo Rivera

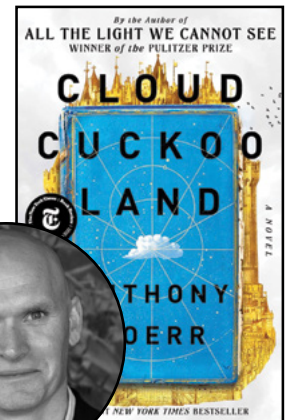
Anthony Doerr **SOLD OUT**

Cloud Cuckoo Land and All the Light We Cannot See

Thursday, April 23, 7:00pm

Anthony Doerr is the author of several acclaimed works, including the story collections *The Shell Collector* and *Memory Wall*, the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*, and novels such as *About Grace*, *All the Light We Cannot See* (winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize), and *Cloud Cuckoo Land* (finalist for the 2021 National Book Award).

To be on the waitlist, please email programs@nbplf.foundation



Lecture Details

Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Lecture, Book Sale & Signing, Refreshments

Library Live Season Pass \$120*

General \$40
NBPLF Member: \$35
Student: \$20

Tickets

Doors open at 6:30pm. Lecture and Q&A 7:00 - 8:30pm followed by book sale and signing till 9:00pm.

To purchase tickets: www.nbplf.foundation or 949-717-3892.

***Only Library Foundation members can buy a season pass.**

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

Thank you to our 2024-25 Library Live! Committee

Loren Blackwood
Karen Clark
Patricia Dreyfus (Chair)
Emily Ford
Amy Fulford
Elizabeth Hanauer

Dorothy Larson (Library Trustee Liaison)
Meghan Michalovsky
Liz Manji
Ann Stephens
Adrian Windsor

The NBPLF is pleased to announce the upcoming 29th Season of The Witte Lecture Series

February – May 2026

The Witte Lecture venues will be announced on the Foundation's website and in the email newsletter.

Julian Gewirtz

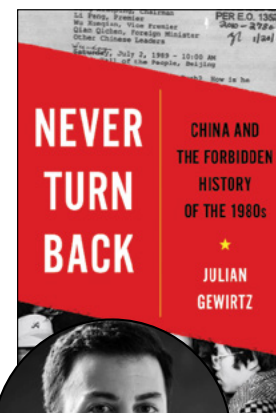
U.S.- China Tensions – Past, Present, and Future

Friday, February 27, 7:00pm | Saturday, February 28, 2:00pm

Dr. Julian Gewirtz served in the Biden administration as Senior Director for China and Taiwan Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC), Senior Advisor to the Principal Deputy National Security Advisor, and as Deputy China Coordinator at the State Department.

Gewirtz is the author of three books including *Never Turn Back: China and the Forbidden History of the 1980s*, which was named the best book of the year by Foreign Affairs and BBC History, and the *Making of Global China and Your Face My Flag: Poems*. He was previously Senior Fellow for China Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, Lecturer in History at Harvard University and Columbia University.

Gewirtz was recently named one of "50 people shaping our society" by the *Washington Post*. He received his doctoral degree in modern Chinese history from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and his undergraduate degree from Harvard College.



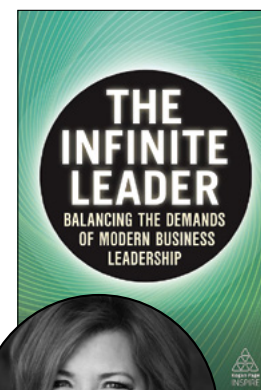
Pippa Malmgren

International Relations and the Future of Global Economy

Friday, March 27, 7:00pm | Saturday, March 28, 2:00pm

An economist, author, and economic advisor to President George W. Bush, Pippa Malmgren is known for her expertise in global financial markets and geopolitics. Credited with coining the term "shrinkflation," she provides insights on emerging trends, technology, and risks shaping the global economy.

She served President George W. Bush in the White House as special assistant to the president and on The National Economic Council. After 9/11, she was also responsible for assessing terrorism risks to the economy and technology as a source of geopolitical competitiveness. Malmgren is the author of five books, including *Geopolitics for Investors* and *The Leadership Lab*. Her most recent bestseller, *The Infinite Leader*, won the International Press Award for the Best Book on Leadership. She serves as a judge on The Queen's Enterprise Business Awards and was a member of the Board of Directors for The Department for International Trade in the UK. She is a Senior Associate Fellow of the Royal United Services Institute, a defense and security think tank in London.



Lecture Details

Fridays Evening Lectures

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

Witte Season Pass \$250*

General \$75
NBPLF Member: \$70

Saturday Afternoon Lectures

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

Witte Season Pass \$180*

General \$55
NBPLF Member: \$50
Student: \$25 Saturday Only

Tickets

Come to the lectures and chat with our speakers at a tasty post-lecture supper on Friday night or coffee and cookies on Saturday afternoon. To Purchase Tickets: nbplf.foundation or 949-717-3892.

Tickets go on sale October 1, 2025 at www.nbplf.foundation/programs/witte-lectures/

***Only NBPLF members can buy season pass.
To become a member, go to nbplf.foundation/join/**

The 29th season of the highly acclaimed Witte Lecture series launches on January 24-25, 2026. 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 2025 Witte Committee

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

Annie Griffiths

Connect with Anyone, Anywhere: Power of Photography

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

One of the first women photographers to work for National Geographic, Annie Griffiths has photographed in more than 100 countries during her rich and varied career. She has worked on dozens of magazines and book projects for National Geographic. In addition to her editorial work, Annie is deeply committed to using photography to support aid organizations. She is the Founder of Ripple Effect Images, a collective of prize-winning photojournalists and filmmakers who are documenting programs that empower women and children in the developing world.

Known for her warmth and humor, Annie has a gift for sharing stories and photographs that humanize situations and cultures. Annie has received awards from the National Press Photographers Association, the Associated Press, the National Organization of Women, and the White House News Photographers Association.



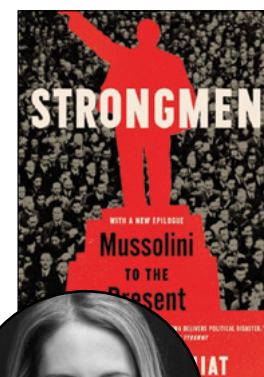
Ruth Ben-Ghiat

Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present

Friday, May 1, 7:00pm | Saturday, May 2, 2:00pm

Ruth Ben-Ghiat is Professor of History at New York University. She writes about fascism, authoritarianism, propaganda, and the threats these present to democracies around the world. Her most recent book, the *New York Times* bestseller *Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present* (2021), looks at how illiberal leaders use propaganda, corruption, violence, and machismo, and how they can be defeated. She is the recipient of Guggenheim, and Fulbright fellowships.

Ben-Ghiat's insights into the authoritarian playbook and democracy protection, and her ability to explain complex issues clearly and succinctly, have made her an expert source around the globe. She writes for *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Atlantic*, and provides live commentary for CNN, France 24, MSNBC, and other networks. She has appeared in many documentaries about dictators and threats to democracy, such as Netflix's *How to Become a Tyrant* and PBS's *The Dictators' Playbook*. Ben-Ghiat served as a historical consultant for Guillermo del Toro's Oscar-winning *Pinocchio*, which is set in Fascist Italy, and the Netflix docuseries *Hitler and the Nazis: Evil on Trial*.



2025 Sponsors

Titanium

The Witte Family

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Pacific Life
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John Rallis and
Mary Lynn
Bergman-Rallis
Foundation

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Karen and Bruce Clark
Chris and Malin Fletcher
Kelly and Randy Heyler
Drs. James B. Pick and
Rosalyn M. Laudati
Barbara and Greg MacGillivray
Sophie and Manouch Moshayedi
Janet and Walkie Ray
Mary Vollmer

Iron

Tom and Elizabeth Edwards
Don and Pam Gilmour
Whitney and Michael Gomez
Morning Bliss Granola
The Hoelscher Bell
Elliott Foundation
Marilyn and Francis Krahe
Kim Prickett
Rachel and Justin Reinus
Ellen Shockro
Tom and Marilyn Sutton

Iron (continued)

Jill Johnson-Tucker and
Larry Tucker
Miles Yourman
Steel
Kelly and Bill Campbell
Barbara Roberts
Latika Sethi
Barry and Carole Steele
Stephanie and Ken VandeVeer
Sharon and Greg Wohl

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Sterling OC

ART SPACE AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

Art Space is a new children's program focusing on crafts inspired by a different artist each month — from Monet's water lilies to Seurat's dots and much more. Check the children's calendar (newportkids.org) for featured artists, dates, and details. Central Library, Stahr Children's Room. Registration not required. Ages 8-11.



PAJAMA STORYTIME

If you like pajamas, stories, and fun, we've got just the thing for you. Join us at the Mariners Branch for Pajama Storytime complete with stories, songs and fingerplays. Feel free to wear your pajamas and bring a blanket or stuffed animal friend. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Crean Mariners Library, 1300 Irvine Avenue, Newport Beach. Ages 3-7.

TECH TOYS FOR KIDS

Stop by the Central Library to check out Tech Toys for Kids, a brand new, hands-on collection that sparks creativity, learning, and exploration and includes Yoto players, a coding robot, microscope, telescope, DJ mixer, binoculars, and walkie talkies. Perfect for curious minds and future innovators, each kit includes everything needed to get started. Tech Toys are available to borrow for seven days with an adult library card. Funding generously provided by the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation.





JUST FOR KIDS

Check out the children's calendar for all things kids at the library! Join us for programs and offerings including BARK: Read to a Dog, Art Space, Coding for Kids, Drop-In Crafternoons, Animal Shelter Stories, Pajama Storytime, Toy Train Tuesdays, LEGO Saturdays, Middle Grade Book Club, Storytime, and of course, BOOKS. Complete information at newportkids.org.

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

The Newport Beach Student Art Exhibition, an opportunity for students grades pre-K through 12th grade to showcase their creativity, will be on display from January 6 through February 23, 2026, on the first floor of the Newport Beach Central Library. Come and see this happy display of creativity, imagination, and artistic expression by young artists!



HUGO ZHANG AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY GALLERY

Don't miss the Hugo Zhang exhibit at the Newport Beach Public Library beginning December 15. Zhang is an American analogue photographer based in Irvine, California, who uses wooden view cameras to capture images of places, people and things on sheets of black and white negative film. Mr. Zhang's artwork will be on display December 15 through February 6 at the Newport Beach Central Library, 1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach.



GENEOLOGY UNCOVERED: A FASCINATING GUIDE TO UNCOVERING YOUR OWN FAMILY TREE

Join us for a Genealogy Uncovered workshop and learn how to uncover stories behind your own family tree. Led by nationally recognized genealogical expert Arlene O'Donnell, the program consists of a beginning genealogy overview session along with individual workshops. Sign up for one or sign up for all.

Learn more about this free program at
newportbeachlibrary.org/calendar/genealogy-uncovered



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Founded in 1957 by a small group of volunteers, the Friends of the Library donates all of its revenue to the Library to fund various needs and projects. Your continued patronage of the Friends Bookstore is vitally important and greatly appreciated.

From vintage to bestsellers, cookbooks to kid's books, vinyl, and more, find the perfect book at the perfect price at the Friends of the Library Bookstore. Located on the first level of the Central Library, 1000 Avocado Avenue. Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

For the year ending June 30, 2025, it is estimated that over 350 people, adults and youth, volunteered for your Newport Beach Public Library. Annually, Independent Sector evaluates the average number of hours and the value of a volunteer hour by state. California's value is \$40.14 per hour. That means the dedicated volunteers for the Library, the Library Foundation, the Friends of the Library, Project Adult Literacy, Youth Services, and other Library programs contributed over \$980,000 to assure that the Newport Beach Public Library is the cultural heart of Newport Beach.

The Library Foundation encourages you to volunteer for the Newport Beach Public Library. To learn more, email CEO@nbplf.foundation

Appointed by the Newport Beach City Council to make policy and to oversee the administration of the Newport Beach Library system, the Board of Library Trustees meets monthly to review and resolve both short and long-term issues facing the Library. Their love of the Newport Beach Public Library runs deep. Read on.



ANTONELLA CASTRO, Vice Chair

There is so much to celebrate about the Newport Beach Public Library. Not only do we have four branches, a star rating, warm and knowledgeable staff, and an exceptional collection of printed and online materials; but the library also offers topical and much needed programming. You can learn to read via Project Adult Literacy, get help with a trust or a will, join a book club, learn about medicine in your backyard, check out seeds to start a garden, the list goes on. It is truly a gem within our City that improves our quality of life. Even after all these years, when I walk through the doors, I am welcomed by the familiar smell of books and get excited about the possibilities of discovering something new.



LAUREN KRAMER, Chair

On September 5, 2025, I had the privilege of attending the International Literacy Day event that celebrated the incredible Project Adult Literacy participants. The library staff, the volunteers and learners blew me away with their dedication. I am grateful for that beautiful display of inspiration and hope.

I have four daughters and they've enjoyed the children's programming at NBPL over the years. Now, they're old enough to start checking out books on their own and it's a delight to see them embark on their journey of discovery. Having used libraries as a sanctuary of study throughout my life and especially during law school, it's an honor to serve on the Board of Library Trustees and witness the incredible offerings provided by the world class Newport Beach Public Library.



DOROTHY LARSON, Secretary

My family has always been a big library user; it's a great place to connect with people as well as learn. One of my favorite family photos is of my great nephew getting his first library card, as an infant! And more recently watching my granddaughter run into the kids area at the Central Library with such joy and start picking up books as well as toys. Just spend a little time there, look around, browse the books, and the art, and watch the people. You might just catch the library bug! And if you are skeptical of your internet searches, we do still have reference librarians ... along with one of the best libraries in California!



MEGHAN MURRAY

I grew up in CdM, so the Newport Beach Public Library has always been part of my life. I still remember how exciting it was when the new Central Library opened — it felt like stepping into a whole new world. Now I get to share that same joy with my three kids, showing them where I used to spend hours reading and studying. It's special to see them fall in love with the same place that meant so much to me. The Newport Beach Public Library is more than just books — it's a place full of warmth, learning, and community. The staff put so much heart into everything they do, and there's always something new to discover. I'd tell anyone: spend some time there, and you'll feel right at home.



CHASE RIEF

The library inspires me because it represents lifelong learning and curiosity in its purest form. It's one of the few places where everyone — no matter their age or background — can come to explore new ideas and be part of something bigger than themselves. There's so much more to the library than books. From magazines and videos to incredible programs and even "tech toys" you can check out — I once borrowed a GoPro for a ski trip — it's an amazing community resource. The Newport Beach Public Library truly reflects the spirit of our city: innovative, connected, and committed to lifelong learning.

project adult literacy

A program of the Newport Beach Public Library

A program of the Newport Beach Public Library, Project Adult Literacy provides free literacy instruction to adults who live or work in the Newport Beach area. Their team of dedicated volunteers helps people improve literacy skills, which in turn could mean everything from getting a better job, to reading a prescription, to getting a high school diploma, getting into college, helping a child with homework, and not hiding in shame when asked to read something.

Project Adult Literacy is firm in the belief that literacy changes lives.

To become a volunteer or to refer a learner to the program, visit our website at www.projectadulthoodliteracy.org.

*Following are two essays highlighted in the booklet *Literacy Lights the Way* in celebration of International Literacy Day, September 5, 2025.*

THE POWER OF A THANK YOU

by Sunghyun Hong

Have you said “thank you” to yourself recently?

In everyday life, we often say “thank you” to others even for something small like a cup of coffee. But when it comes to us, we rarely do. Sometimes, it’s important to give yourself a pat on the back. That made me wonder: Why hadn’t I done that for myself before?

Looking back, I realized I didn’t fully understand what true gratitude meant. To me, “thank you” was just a routine response—something people said out of politeness, not deep appreciation. So, when someone thanked me, I didn’t feel moved. And when they didn’t, I assumed they were rude or didn’t notice my effort.

But a meaningful shift happened when I joined the Newport Beach Library as a literacy student. My English isn’t perfect, but I met friends from around the world, along with kind teachers, tutors, and staff who looked beyond my grammar and listened to what I truly meant. Their kindness never felt small. I expressed my thanks, and they thanked me in return even just for showing up, trying, or being open minded.

I experienced a space where gratitude flowed naturally in both directions. Through that, I finally began to understand what genuine gratitude feels like.

Gratitude is ultimately a form of true respect. Whether it’s toward our selves or others, expressing it helps build trust and deeper understanding. It also creates a positive cycle of kindness and mutual growth—both individually and together.

Since then, I’ve started to appreciate even the smallest things. I’ve grown in how I respect myself, and I’ve become more thoughtful toward others. By sharing gratitude, I’ve helped create a more positive environment around me.

So today, I want to say this again—to myself, and to everyone reading: Thank you for living your own beautiful life. And a special thank you to Newport Beach Library. You have brought such a meaningful change to mine.



LITERACY CHANGES LIVES



FINDING MY VOICE IN A NEW COUNTRY

by Livia

Life doesn't always go as planned. We can't choose what happens to us, but we can choose how to respond. I never thought I would live in another country. But when my son decided to study in the United States, I came with him to support him.

In China, life was comfortable. I had family and friends nearby, good food, fun gatherings, concerts, and help whenever I needed it. But after arriving in a new country, I felt like a baby learning to walk. Every step was difficult.

The biggest problem was language. I had studied English in school for many years. I memorized words, learned grammar, and got good grades. But after not using it for a long time, I found that I could not understand or speak well. At the airport, I suddenly felt deaf and mute. I could not read signs, order food, or talk to people. I became a stranger in this world. Even driving around and seeing American flags and unfamiliar people made me feel like I was watching a movie—not living real life.

At first, I had help from family and friends. I could stay behind them and ask for support. But as time passed, I knew I couldn't keep asking for help. Even my son, who always helped me, would sometimes say, "Mom, I have a test tomorrow. Please handle it yourself." So I had to face things on my own. I started using translation apps and ChatGPT. They helped a lot, but sometimes

the translations didn't make sense. I knew I had to really start learning English again.

Then one day, I found the Project Adult Literacy program at the Newport Beach Public Library. It was close to my home and easy to get to, so I signed up. With Christina's kind help, I started attending classes. I met two wonderful teachers, Marcia and Helene, who are patient and caring. I also met classmates from many countries who are working hard just like me. Soon, I will also have a tutor to help me one-on-one. This gives me hope and confidence that my English will improve.

Learning English is not just about speaking a new language. It also helps me make new friends, understand other cultures, and see the world in a new way. In class, some people share music from their home countries, others talk about their travels or traditions. It's exciting to learn so many new things.

Learning a new language is like opening a window to a bigger world. It helps me understand others—and myself—better. In the past, I was always told to make the "right" choices and try to be a "better" person. But now, I believe that sometimes we should just do what we enjoy. Maybe we don't need to be better. We just need to be more true to ourselves.

I'm thankful for this journey and for all the people I've met along the way.



STRATEGIC GIVING

As you make your end-of-year giving decisions, now is the time to consider strategic giving options to maximize your charitable impact and tax benefits. The Library Foundation makes giving flexible—we accept gifts of cash, securities, Donor Advised Funds (DAFs), and IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). Detailed contribution information is available on our website at <https://nblf.foundation/give/>.

WHY GIVE NOW? UNDERSTANDING THE 2026 TAX CHANGES

New charitable gift provisions from the “One, Big, Beautiful Bill” Act will go into effect January 1, 2026, potentially reducing the tax benefits of some future gifts. In 2026, there will be a new deduction floor. Itemizers will no longer be able to deduct the first 0.5% of their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) contributed to a charity. There will also be a deduction value cap. Your itemized charitable deduction will be capped at 35 cents per dollar, regardless of your tax bracket. Due to these impending changes, accelerating your gift to the Foundation in 2025 may allow you to maximize your deduction under the current, more generous tax rates. Always consult your tax advisor or financial professional for guidance specific to your situation. There is one significant change for taxpayers that do not itemize in this bill. Starting in 2026, non-itemizers may still deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for those filing jointly) for charitable contributions.

DON'T FORGET YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

Foundation members receive valuable benefits, including early access to program information, special event notifications, and access to recordings of Library Live and Witte Lectures, plus our Bookmark Magazine. Contributors of \$1,000 or more are welcomed into the Library Leadership Circle. This elite group is dedicated to keeping the Library a center of knowledge for future generations. You will enjoy exclusive event invitations and the satisfaction of furthering the Foundation’s mission to fund valuable resources and programs for the Newport Beach Public Library. Program Underwriters (\$1,000 plus) also receive special benefits and recognition for the program that they underwrite. You can designate your gift to the Witte Lectures, Library Live, or Spotlight on Science.

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, DAF Giving 360 (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 distribution. 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 Campaign for Witte Hall, Project Adult Literacy 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 in the 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.

FREEWILL 

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 or simple estate plan 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.

FOUNDATION CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025 achieved many objectives of the Foundation as it continued to provide critical support for the Newport Beach Public Library. That support was not only for the six programs, 45 presentations, that the Library Foundation presented for the Library and its patrons, but the underwriting of the Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall, support for Project Adult Literacy, and direct contributions for library furniture, technology, eBranch databases, and funding for new collections when the new Balboa Library Branch is rebuilt. The Library Foundation, its donors, contributed \$403,940 to support its mission of “funding valuable library resources, programs and services, and engaging the community through the creation and sponsorship of diverse literary, cultural, and intellectual programs.”

BEYOND BOOKS CAMPAIGN FOR WITTE HALL

The Beyond Books Campaign raised over \$2.8 million in contributions in the 2025 fiscal year ending June 30. As of that date, the Foundation had raised over \$11 million of its \$11.750 million commitment to the City of Newport Beach for the construction of Witte Hall, the Stahr Courtyard, and related infrastructure improvements. The Beyond Books Campaign will continue to raise awareness of the importance of Witte Hall for the Newport Beach greater community, and for the funds needed to not only meet its obligation to the City, but to also fund improvements to the original design, like the Foundation's decision to solely provide the additional funds to increase the size of the video wall to expand the uses for the Hall.

The Foundation's website includes current information on the Beyond Books Campaign, including a current contributors' list, the gift agreement document, donor benefits, and a video of the construction progress. <https://nbplf.foundation/witte-hall/>

THE WITTE HALL CONSTRUCTION AND TOPPING OFF BEAM SIGNING

On Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., major donors to Beyond Books, City Council members, City officials, and the Design Committee signed the steel beam that “topped off” the steel superstructure of Witte Hall. Construction is continuing and is scheduled to be completed in late Spring 2026. We eagerly await the opportunity to welcome the first audience into the Hall.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The 2024-2025 program season of the Foundation was amazing. The Witte Lecture Series and Library Live were sold out for every presentation with excellent speakers and audiences delighted with their expertise and insights. For the first time, the Foundation moved its Library Live series outdoors, turning the Civic Center Green into a vibrant, open-air lecture hall for an audience of over 500. The event, featuring Bonnie Garmus (author of *Lessons in Chemistry*), was a successful and memorable event.

The new free series, Spotlight on Science, informed full houses the impact of CRISPR technology, on hydrogen as an energy source, and understanding the risks of earthquakes in California. The other free community programs—Medicine in Our Backyard, Financial Literacy Workshops, and the Book Discussion Group—continue to increase audiences.

GOVERNANCE

The Library Foundation welcomed new Board members during the fiscal year ending June 30. Our new members are Andrew Gerken, M.D., a retired orthopedic surgeon, Dev Ghose, a former CFO of public companies, and Megan Gorman, Managing Partner of Chequers Financial Management and the author of *All the Presidents' Money*. Completing their Board service was Emily Menghin and Johanna Lee Kim. Also completing her Foundation service was Karen Heath Clark, former Library Trustee, Foundation Board member, and Foundation Chair who steered the Foundation through the disruption of the Covid pandemic and Library closing.

The Foundation also saw a transition in leadership in the fall of 2024. I assumed the responsibilities of the Chair with Kevin Barlow stepping back to be Vice Chair, Miles Yourman became Treasurer, and Mireya Llaurodo took on the role of Secretary.

The Foundation Board of Directors is committed to the success of the Library Foundation and are strong advocates of the Newport Beach Public Library. Every Board member is active on a committee, stewarding programs, finances, and fund development.

APPRECIATION

Your continued support is the driving force behind the Library Foundation's success. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity as Library Foundation members, program underwriters, and ticket purchasers for signature programs like the Witte Lectures and Library Live.

Your attendance at our free community programs—Medicine in Our Backyard, Financial Literacy Workshops, Spotlight on Science, and the Book Discussion Group—is a vital assurance that we are providing the impactful, community-critical services you value.

The Library Foundation is proud to be an essential partner to the Newport Beach Public Library, helping it fulfill its mission to be the cultural heart of Newport Beach.

Please continue to invest in your Library with your financial support of the Library Foundation. We urge you to renew, and if possible, increase your support today, and encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to join you in assuring an even brighter future for the Newport Beach Public Library.



Marilyn Krahe
Chair of the Board

PROGRAMS

The Library Foundation presented 47 programs in the 2024-2025 season, 35 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 5,053.

In response to the high demand for Library Foundation programs and the Witte Season passes, we introduced season passes for our Library Live Author Series. We are delighted to report that 67% of our attendees held Library Live season passes. Given this success, we will continue to offer season passes for Witte Lectures and the Library Live Author Series.

WITTE DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR SERIES

The 28th season of the Witte Lectures kicked off with a SOLD-OUT event featuring Bret Stephens, *New York Times* op-ed columnist and Pulitzer winner for commentary. Close to 1600 people attended the Winter-Spring 2025 Witte Lecture Series. Audience members were excited to attend compelling presentations by:

- Bret Stephens, *New York Times* op-ed columnist and author spoke on *Here and Now: Where We Are and Where We Are Going in the Post Election*
- Christine Brennan, sports columnist for USA Today and author spoke on *Today is the Greatest Day for Women in Sports – Until Tomorrow. The Story of Title IX and the Empowerment of Women in Sports*
- Juliette Kayyem, former Assistant Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security and author of *The Devil Never Sleeps: Learning to Live in an Age of Disasters* was in conversation with Jacob Ware, research fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.
- M. Chris Fabricant, Innocence Project's Director of Strategic Litigation and author of *Junk Science and the American Criminal Justice System*

LIBRARY LIVE AUTHOR SERIES

Library Live kicked off their season with their first event with bestselling author Bonnie Garmus on the Civic Center Green with over 500 people in attendance. The speakers were:

- Bonnie Garmus, author of *Lessons in Chemistry* in conversation with Professor Judy Wu, Director of Humanities Center at UCI
- Rosanna Xia, environmental journalist at *Los Angeles Times* and author of *California Against the Sea: Visions for our Vanishing Coastline* and the documentary *Out of Plain Sight*.
- Javier Zamora, author of *Solito: Home, Identity, and the Immigrant Experience*
- Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize author of *A Man of Two Faces: A Memoir, A History, A Memorial*

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. The speakers were:

- Jack Brouwer, PhD, spoke on *California's Clean Energy Future: Is Hydrogen the Answer?*
- Grant MacGregor, DPhil, spoke on *Unlocking the Genetic Code: The Revolutionary Impact of CRISPR Technology*
- Lucy Jones, PhD, spoke on *California Tectonic Activity: Understanding the Risks of Earthquake*

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: cataract surgery, understanding osteoarthritis and its treatment, nutrition, managing cardiovascular disease, colon cancer, managing memory loss, treating melanoma and skin cancer. 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.



Audience at the Bonnie Garmus Library Live Author Series

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.

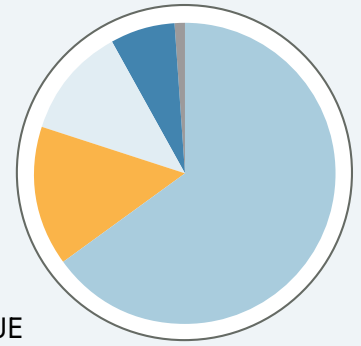
MEMBER EVENTS

The season opened with the annual Library Leadership Reception in the Bamboo Courtyard, celebrating those Library 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 Library Foundation's support of the Newport Beach Library. Former Mayor Will O'Neil addressed the donors on the importance of libraries and volunteerism. 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 32 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 Karen H. Clark, Library Foundation's leader and visionary. After the reception, Michael Hiltzik, *Los Angeles Times* journalist and author of *The Golden State: Making of California* spoke about his new book followed by Q&A and book signing.

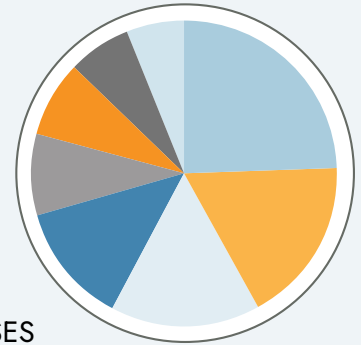
SPECIAL EVENT: WITTE HALL BEAM SIGNING

In November, the Library Foundation and the City of Newport Beach hosted the beam signing for the civic auditorium, the Witte Hall. It was attended by City council members, public works staff, Library staff, Library Trustees, Library Foundation board members, and generous donors of the Witte Hall.



FISCAL 2025
OPERATING REVENUE

Contributed Revenue	\$595,348.10
Fund Transfer.....	\$140,329.00
Earned Revenue.....	\$115,002.32
Endowment Transfer	\$62,475.00
Investment Revenue.....	\$7,811.00



FISCAL 2025
OPERATING EXPENSES

Witte Lectures & Library Live	\$223,274
Management	\$156,752
Witte Hall Improvements	\$140,329
Fundraising	\$113,355
Marketing	\$80,626
Library Grants	\$69,665
Community Programs	\$60,970
Beyond Books Capital Campaign	\$50,032

The Library Foundation contributed \$403,940 to the Newport Beach Public Library for programs, direct grants to the Library, and capital campaign expenses for the construction of Witte Hall.

The Foundation's IRS Form 990 and Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025

<https://nbplf.foundation/about/financial-responsibility/>

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION'S MISSION

The Library Foundation funds valuable library resources, programs and services, and engages the community through the creation and sponsorship of diverse literary, cultural, and intellectual programs.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION'S VALUES

We believe in active community engagement and outreach by building relationships with the public to encourage participation in all aspects of the library with gratitude, trust, and respect.

We develop programs to engage the community in intellectual pursuits equally available to all.

We encourage participation with all ages, education levels, cultures, genders, perspectives, and socio-economic backgrounds.

We are responsible stewards of the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation and the resources that are provided by its donors and members.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION'S PURPOSE

Supporting Discovery and
Connection...Beyond Books

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW — As of June 30, 2025

For the fiscal year ending June 30, the Library Foundation contributed revenue exceeded budget by 21%, with total revenue, including earned revenue, exceeding budget by 17%. Strong control of expenses led to a net revenue of \$26,000. The Library Foundation contributed \$284,243 in programming for the Newport Beach Public Library and underwrote the costs of the Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall of \$50,032. It granted \$69,665 to the Library for its grant requests and special fundraising for services like Tech Toys for Kids. Overall, the Foundation provided support to the Library of over \$403,940.

The Foundation raised \$2.8 million for the Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall with additional confirmed gift agreements for a total of over \$11 million. The Foundation's endowment, restricted to support of the Library, was over \$3,800,000 as of June 30, 2025.

The Foundation has received a Platinum rating for transparency from Candid (Guidestar.org) and a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator. The Foundation has also met all PCI data security requirements for its giving portal and website by passing a SecurityMetrics® Vulnerability Assessment. These independent rating agencies assure donors, and the community, that contributions will be secure, stewarded, used for the intended purpose, and managed for the good of the Foundation, the Newport Beach Library, and the community that uses and enjoys the Library. The Foundation's audit and IRS Form 990 are on the Foundation's website under the About/Financial Responsibility tab.

DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall and the annual fund for operations, the Foundation had special campaigns on Giving Tuesday and Library Giving Day for Library technology requests. Funds were raised for additional equipment in the Foundation-funded Sound Lab and for Tech Toys for Kids.

The Foundation's Legacy Campaign, the Elizabeth and John Stahr Legacy Society, encourages Library patrons and supporters to secure the future of the Foundation and its funding of Library programs and services through estate gifts or non-probate assets such as life insurance or retirement fund beneficiary designations. The legacy gift may be restricted to the endowment or to a specific program. The Foundation currently has over \$750,000 in primary or secondary beneficiary commitments.

As part of the Library Foundation's commitment to financial literacy, it is offering the FreeWill service to all Library patrons. FreeWill is an online tool to simplify the estate planning process. A legally valid will or simple estate plan can be created online at no cost, providing peace of mind and security. The hope is that the Library Foundation will be included in the legacy planning, but the goal is for everyone to create an estate plan whether the Library Foundation is included or not.

BEYOND BOOKS CAMPAIGN FOR WITTE HALL

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