

WITTE HALL

The Inaugural Season 2026 - 2027

Witte Hall stands as a testament to collaboration, the result of a shared commitment between the Library Foundation of Newport Beach, the Newport Beach Public Library, and the City of Newport Beach.

The Hall is a gift to the community — a home for cultural and literary life, where people connect, performances are shared, and thought-provoking experiences will unfold for decades to come.



Library
Foundation
of Newport
Beach



NEWPORT BEACH
PUBLIC LIBRARY



hoag Newport Beach Public Library

Congratulations on the opening of Witte Hall.

hoag 

Welcome to Witte Hall!

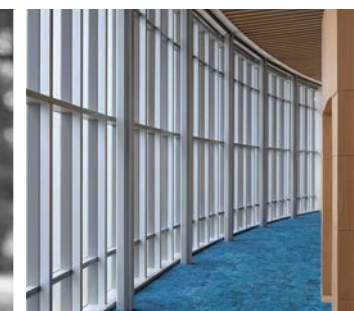
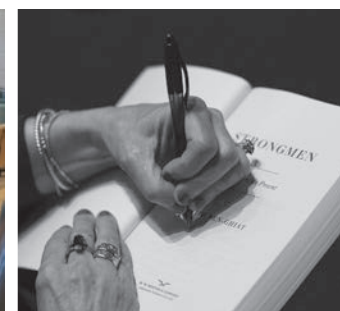
We are so excited to have you join us for our Inaugural Season in Witte Hall! The Hall was built with the same inspirations and support that brought the Central Library to the current Civic Center Campus, exactly 32 years ago.

In this Inaugural Season Program, you'll find exciting stories about how the Hall came to fruition, a look back at the history of the Central Library, and a roster of the many upcoming cultural, literary and intellectual Speaker Series and performance programs brought to you by the Library Foundation and the Library. You'll also learn about all the other ways our Library Foundation helps make the Newport Beach Public Library one of the highest-rated libraries in the country.

Our ability to experience this fantastic new facility is tribute to the very successful, long-term public-private partnership between the Library Foundation and the City of Newport Beach. Visionaries on both sides first recognized the need and support for a world-class Central Library over 30 years go, and that same coalition has brought us this new civic auditorium, Witte Hall, which will become the "jewel in the crown" of Newport's exceptional civic center campus.

Please join us this year for more of the many programs you'll discover within these pages – to come together as a community, to discover, and connect – beyond books!

– Marilyn Krahe, *Library Foundation Chair*



A Wonderful Addition
to our shared
Neighborhood



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*A special thank you to our
Witte Hall Inaugural Season Sponsors*





Congratulations to the City of Newport Beach and the Library Foundation of Newport Beach

Related California proudly salutes Bill Witte and Keiko Sakamoto for their support in helping bring a world-class civic auditorium to life - a place where great ideas and community will converge.



RELATED

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The Journey to Witte Hall: A Story of Vision, Determination, and Community



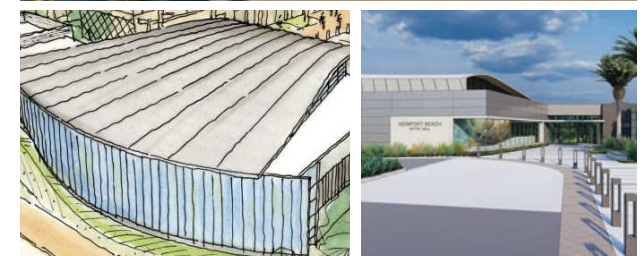
To Engage Learners · To Inspire Thinkers · To Nurture Civic Connections

The idea took root more than a decade ago, when the Board of Library Trustees converted an emerging need into a wonderful opportunity: to build a dedicated, world-class lecture hall with a larger capacity, improved sightlines and technologies commensurate with the kinds of distinguished speakers, musical and cultural programs the Library and Foundation had built a reputation on presenting. The vision was ambitious — a sophisticated, purpose-built venue at the heart of the civic campus that would serve both the Library and the entire community — and the community would rise to meet the challenge.

Laying the Foundation (2019)

In July 2019, following compelling presentations to the City Council, the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee was formally established, chaired by Jill Johnson-Tucker, a former Library Trustee whose passion for the project would prove indispensable in the years ahead. The committee brought together an exceptional cross-section of civic leaders: Council Member Diane Dixon, Foundation Board Chair Karen H. Clark, Library Trustee Janet Ray, and Matthew Witte of The Related Companies.

Eight of the region's most prominent architectural firms competed for the commission. After rigorous evaluation, the committee voted unanimously for Robert R. Coffee Architect + Associates — a firm whose design struck the precise balance the committee sought between landmark architecture and civic purpose. The project would be structured as a public-private partnership, with the Library Foundation committing to raise half the total cost, covering construction of the hall, renovation of the Bamboo Courtyard, and critical parking improvements.



Robert R. Coffee



EXCELLENCE IN PROJECT DELIVERY

We are proud and honored
to have served the City of
Newport Beach and the
Library Foundation of
Newport Beach in its
realization and successful
delivery of the

WITTE HALL

Congratulations!

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continued from page 7

A Campaign Takes Shape (2021–2022)

In October 2021, the Foundation and the City signed the formal partnership agreement, setting the stage for one of the most successful fundraising campaigns in the Library's history. In March 2022, the Beyond Books campaign officially launched under the chairmanship of Jill Johnson-Tucker.

The community's commitment to the project was swift and generous:

- **August 2022:** The campaign's defining moment arrived when developer and philanthropist Bill Witte and Keiko Sakamoto made a transformative \$4 million gift — the largest in the Foundation's history. In recognition of their extraordinary generosity, the City granted naming rights to the hall, and "Witte Hall" was born.
- **November 2022:** Two additional cornerstone gifts followed in quick succession. A \$1 million donation from Roy Woolsey secured naming rights for the lobby, to be dedicated in honor of his parents, Louise and Roy Woolsey. And Elizabeth Stahr — whose visionary leadership three decades earlier had helped make the Central Library itself a reality — claimed naming rights for the newly reimagined Courtyard, connecting the Library's storied past to its brilliant future.

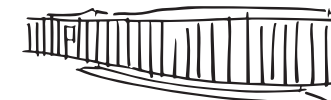
From Groundbreaking to Grand Opening (2023–2026)

With the campaign momentum and community support firmly established, the project moved from vision to construction. The City accepted construction bids in the fall of 2023, and a final agreement amendment was executed in January 2024 to reflect updated costs. On February 27, 2024, shovels broke ground — officially and ceremonially — with City officials, Library Trustees, Foundation leadership, and major donors gathered to mark the moment.

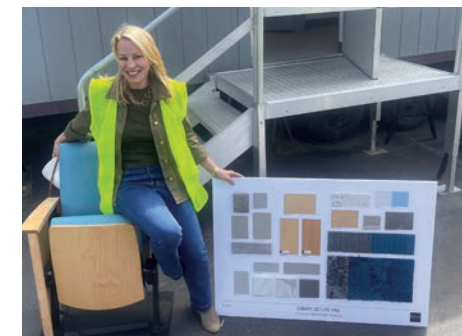
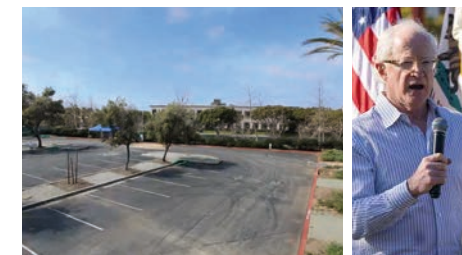
Progress was steady and milestone-worthy.

On November 12, 2024, the traditional "topping off" ceremony was held as the final structural beam was signed by the many hands that had helped raise it — architects, builders, civic leaders, and donors whose names and contributions will be woven into the fabric of this place for generations.

Now, following years of advocacy, inspired fundraising, and extraordinary community partnership, the "jewel in the crown" of the Newport Beach civic campus opens its doors on July 10, 2026 — ready to welcome the world.



BEYOND BOOKS



Please see pages 47-51 for a complete listing of all donors to the Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall.

The Library Foundation of Newport Beach

Supporting Discovery and Connection ... Beyond Books



Founding

In 1989, largely due to the determination and persistence of a “Band of Believers,” a vision of great magnitude began to form. Under the remarkable leadership of Elizabeth and John Stahr, along with the dedicated support of the Board of Library Trustees, the raising of funds and awareness began, and the City Council authorized the building of a new Central Library. The Foundation raised over \$2.2 million through grassroots community effort — and on July 10, 1994, the Central Library opened its doors. That founding partnership between the Library Foundation and the City of Newport Beach has endured ever since, growing in ambition and impact with each passing decade. Witte Hall is its newest and most magnificent expression.

Mission

Guided by the belief that libraries are among a community’s most vital institutions, the Foundation is dedicated to keeping the Newport Beach Public Library exceptional — enabling lifelong learning, advancing knowledge, and strengthening the connections that make Newport Beach a remarkable place to live. The Library Foundation of Newport Beach funds valuable library resources, programs, and services, and engages the community through the creation and sponsorship of diverse literary, cultural, and intellectual programs.

What it Funds

The Library Foundation fills a critical gap between what government funding can provide and what a world-class library system requires. The library’s budget from the City has only 7% of funds allocated to materials, capital improvements, and programs; the Library Foundation annually supplements the budget with an average of \$320,000 for educational programming, and direct funding of an average of \$140,000, provided from the Clarence Turner Endowment Fund, established in 1996 to provide ongoing support to the Library . From cutting-edge technology to community programming, adult literacy support to capital construction, the Foundation ensures that Newport Beach’s library system remains the finest in the region — the only “Star Library” in Orange county – and that no resource gap stands between residents and the library they deserve.

Programs

The Library Foundation Programs are at the heart of our mission to support discovery and connection. Our exceptional range of programs bring internationally renowned authors, scientist, journalists and artists to the Newport Beach community — many are free and open to the public. See page 15 for more details on our programming, followed by a complete listing of events for the coming season.

Impact

The numbers tell a compelling story. Over the past decade, the Foundation has contributed more than \$7 million to fund programs, technologies, and services for the 1.2 million people who use the four Newport Beach library branches annually. And now, through the \$12 million Beyond Books capital campaign — funded in partnership with the City of Newport Beach, with the Foundation contributing 50% of construction costs — Witte Hall stands as the Foundation’s most enduring contribution yet: a civic landmark built by and for this community, and a stage for the next generation of discovery and connection.



CHOPARD ©2026 SOUTH COAST PLAZA

South Coast Plaza is proud to support
**THE GRAND OPENING OF
NEWPORT BEACH LIBRARY WITTE HALL**

a place where ideas, learning, and community
will thrive for generations to come.



A Century of Stories:

The History of the Newport Beach Public Library

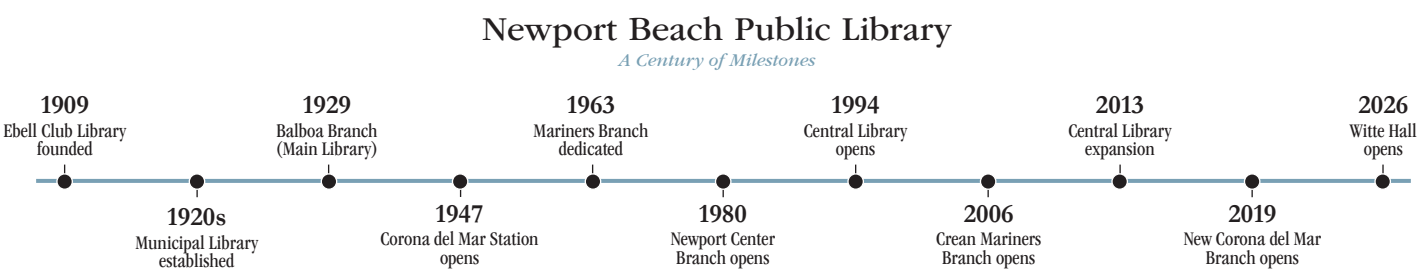
It began, as so many great civic endeavors do, with a small group of determined women and a handful of books.

From a Borrowed Collection to a City Library (1909–1929)

In 1909 the newly formed Ebell Club of Newport Beach borrowed a traveling collection from the State Library, opening it to the public a few hours a week. By 1911 the club had built a permanent collection of 300 volumes. The young library nearly ended before it began: on August 2, 1913, a fire destroyed its quarters, though volunteers managed to save almost every book. In the 1920s the City Council made it official, establishing a municipal library with a Board of Library Trustees and a budget of \$75 a month. A permanent home followed in 1929, a 2,200-square-foot Spanish-style building in West Newport Park, constructed, as local histories love to note, around the public restrooms already standing on the site. Dedicated May 30, 1929, it served as the city’s main library for the next half century and survives today as the Balboa Branch.

Growth Across the Bay (1940s–1980)

The 1940s made the library a community hub, busy with the wartime influx from the Santa Ana Air Base, though it did not get its first telephone until 1944. As the city grew, so did the system. The Balboa Branch was modernized in 1952, and Corona del Mar’s library wandered through a storefront and a school custodian’s house where, as longtime City Librarian Dorothea Sheely recalled, “it wasn’t long before the bathtub was full of books.” Residents founded the Friends of the Library in 1957, and in 1959 a permanent Corona del Mar branch opened on Marigold Avenue, roughly 90 percent funded by donations. Across the bay, the Mariners Branch was dedicated in 1963 as the city’s largest. Through the 1970s, study after study called for a true central library, but when the Newport Center Branch opened in 1980, funding had shrunk it well below the main library it was meant to be.



The Central Library (1994)

The vision revived in the late 1980s. After his election to the City Council in 1986, Clarence “Bus” Turner championed a new Central Library despite being told there weren’t enough council votes to support it. The City secured the Avocado Avenue site through a land swap with the Irvine Company, and the Library Foundation of Newport Beach, led by John and Elizabeth Stahr, raised more than \$2 million in private gifts. Designed by Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris, the 54,000-square-foot Central Library opened on July 10, 1994 as an \$8.2 million facility. “The impossible became possible,” Turner said.

Renewal and a New Chapter (2006–2026)

The branches kept renewing themselves. The Donna and John Crean Mariners Branch replaced the 1963 building in 2006. In 2013, a 17,000-square-foot expansion by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson linked the Central Library to the new Civic Center, bringing it to 71,000 square feet and adding a café, a media lab, and its signature

“open book” entrance. In 2019, a new Corona del Mar Library and Fire Station replaced the beloved Marigold branch after sixty years. Today the library circulates roughly 1.2 million items a year and welcomes close to 60,000 visitors a month.

On July 10, 2026, thirty-two years to the day after the Central Library opened, the library adds its newest chapter: Witte Hall. Designed by architect Robert R. Coffee, the 299-seat lecture and event venue gives the library’s author talks, lectures, and performances a permanent home, with the adjoining Stahr Courtyard named for the same family that helped build the Central Library. Like the library before it, Witte Hall was funded as a public-private partnership. From a shelf of borrowed books to a 299-seat hall, the story of the Newport Beach Public Library remains, at its heart, about the people who keep writing it.

Sourcing: Dates, costs, square footage, and usage figures are drawn from the Library’s own records, the 1931 Sherman history, the 2013 expansion fact sheet, Board of Library Trustees agendas, and period reporting (Daily Pilot, Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register).



1) The original Spanish-style Balboa Branch, shown here in 1944. Built in 1929, it served as Newport Beach’s main library until 1980. 2) Story hour, 1953. The branches were neighborhood gathering places as much as collections of books. 3) Architect’s rendering of Witte Hall, opening July 10, 2026. Image courtesy of the Library Foundation of Newport Beach. 4) The Newport Center Branch (1980), the Central Library’s short-lived predecessor. 5) The new Corona del Mar Library and Fire Station, opened in 2019. Photo: Dale Lang. 6) The Balboa Branch after its 1952 remodel, when the Spanish exterior was replaced with a modern entrance. 7) The Corona del Mar Branch on Marigold Avenue, opened in 1959 and a neighborhood institution for six decades. 8) Opening day at the new Central Library on Avocado Avenue, July 1994. 9) The 2013 expansion and its “open book” entrance, linking the Central Library to the Civic Center Green.

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Congrats!

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Foundation Programs Overview

The Library Foundation of Newport Beach offers a diverse range of intellectual and cultural programming for the community on behalf of the Newport Beach Public Library. These programs are designed to promote literacy, education, and community engagement.

The Foundation annually presents the following six core programs:



Witte Lecture Series: A distinguished speaker series featuring renowned voices from the worlds of art, literature, politics, and conservation. Now entering its third decade, this popular, ticketed series is a cornerstone of the Foundation's offerings and will be held in the newly opened Witte Hall.



Library Live: An author series that brings notable contemporary writers to the community. The programs feature authors who have released significant works within the previous twelve months, offering audiences a chance to engage with current literary voices.



Spotlight on Science: A free program designed to promote scientific literacy. It features leading scientists and researchers who share insights into innovative research, ranging from quantum computing and space exploration to our ocean and the impact on our coast.



Medicine in Our Backyard: A collaborative, free series presented in partnership with UCI Health. These programs provide the community with access to medical experts who discuss the latest health research, medical technologies, and wellness strategies.



Financial Literacy Workshops: A free educational series presented in partnership with It's Your Money & Estate. These workshops offer practical guidance on topics related to personal finance, estate planning, and financial management.



Book Discussion Group: A long-standing, free community program where readers gather monthly to discuss selected books. It serves as a space for intellectually curious community members to engage in conversation and explore diverse perspectives through literature.



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Witte
the
LECTURES

The Foundation is pleased to announce the
upcoming 30th Season of The Witte Lecture Series
January – April 2027

The 30th season of the highly acclaimed Witte Lecture series launches on January 29-30, 2027. 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 2026 Witte Committee

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

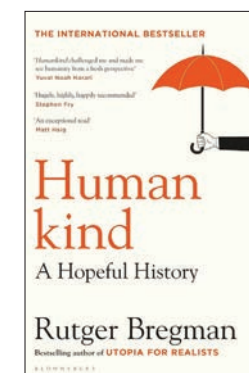


Rutger Bregman

Humankind: A Hopeful History and Moral Ambition

Friday, January 29, 7:00pm | Saturday, January 30, 2:00pm

Rutger Bregman is a Dutch historian, bestselling author, and co-founder of The School for Moral Ambition. He made his international breakthrough with his bestseller *Utopia for Realists* (36 languages), followed by *Humankind* (46 languages) and *Moral Ambition* (32 languages and counting). His work has sold around 2.5 million copies worldwide. *The Guardian* described him as “the Dutch wunderkind of new ideas”, and TED named him “one of Europe’s most prominent young thinkers”. Bregman studied History at Utrecht University and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He began his career at the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant* before moving to the independent journalism platform *De Correspondent*, where he wrote for ten years. In 2024, Rutger co-founded The School for Moral Ambition, a non-profit organization inspired by his latest book. The initiative helps people to take the step toward an impactful career.

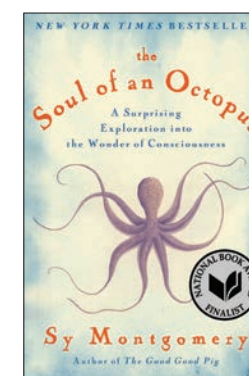


Sy Montgomery

“Wild Wonders: Sy Montgomery’s Journey Through the Animal Kingdom”

Friday, February 19, 7:00pm | Saturday, February 20, 2:00pm

To research her books, films, and articles, Sy Montgomery has encountered an array of thrilling experiences: she has been pursued by an irate silverback gorilla in Zaire and bitten by a vampire bat in Costa Rica. She has worked in a pit teeming with 18,000 snakes in Manitoba and handled a wild tarantula in French Guiana. Sy’s 38 books for both adults and children have garnered many honors. *The Soul of an Octopus* was a 2015 Finalist for the National Book Awards. *The Good Good Pig*, her memoir of life with her pig, Christopher Hogwood, is an international bestseller.



Her work with the man-eating tigers, the subject of her book *Spell of The Tiger*, was made into in a *National Geographic* television documentary she scripted and narrated. Also, for *National Geographic* TV she developed and scripted *Mother Bear Man*, about her friend, Ben Kilham, who raises and releases orphaned bear cubs, which won a Chris award. Sy is also the author of the just published *Secrets of Octopus* from *National Geographic*, the companion volume to the 3-part TV series of the same name. And she wrote the cover story for the May issue of *National Geographic Magazine*—which is an excerpt from her new book.

continued on page 19



presenting its

30th Season

A wealth of knowledge
A world-class slate of speakers
A community connection

The Witte Lecture Series Committee is grateful
for the stalwart support of the
Library Foundation of Newport Beach
Additionally, we are thankful to our unwavering supporters
for their 30 years of financial generosity supporting this
community gem.

Current Events

History

Arts & Culture

Environment

Sports

Journalism

Poetry

The Witte Lecture Series *continued*

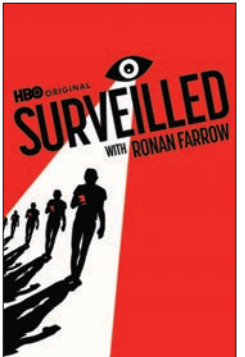


Ronan Farrow

Surveilled and AI

Friday, March 19, 7:00pm | Saturday, March 20, 2:00pm

Ronan Farrow is a contributing writer to *The New Yorker*, where his investigative reporting has won the Pulitzer Prize for public service, the National Magazine Award, and the George Polk Award, among other honors. His stories for *The New Yorker* exposed the first sexual-assault allegations against the movie producer Harvey Weinstein and the first misconduct allegations against CBS executives, including then C.E.O. Leslie Moonves. Farrow's book, *Catch and Kill* is a *New York Times* bestseller with a companion Peabody Award-winning podcast which has topped the Apple Podcast charts. Farrow's latest documentary, *Surveilled*, was an instant hit. Before his career in journalism, Farrow served as a State Department official in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is also the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence*. Farrow has been named one of *TIME Magazine's* "100 Most Influential People" and one of *GQ's* "Men of the Year".

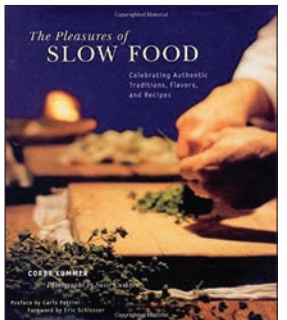


Corby Kummer

Savoring the Future: A Journey into Gastronomy

Friday, April 16, 7:00pm | Saturday, April 17, 2:00pm

Join us for a thought-provoking journey where renowned food writer Corby Kummer delves into the intricate world of gastronomy. In this talk, Kummer will unravel the complex tapestry of culinary arts, culture, and sustainability, offering fresh perspectives on how we perceive, consume, and appreciate food. Get ready to savor insights that will transform your understanding of the food we eat and the world around us.



Corby Kummer is executive director of the Food and Society policy program at the Aspen Institute, editor in chief of *Ideas: The Magazine of the Aspen Institute*, a senior editor of the *Atlantic*, and senior lecturer at the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science. He is the author of *The Joy of Coffee* and *The Pleasures of Slow Food*, the first book in English on the Slow Food movement, and has been restaurant critic of the *New York*, *Boston*, and *Atlanta* magazines and food and food policy columnist for the *New Republic*. Every week he is a featured commentator on food and food policy on WGBH's Boston Public Radio. He has received six James Beard Journalism Awards.

Tickets

Fridays Evening Lectures

Friday, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Lecture, Book Sale & Signing,
Post event Light Supper
with Wine

Witte Season Pass \$250*
General \$75

Saturday Afternoon Lectures

Saturday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Lecture, Book Sale & Signing,
Refreshments

Witte Season Pass \$180*

General \$55
Student: \$25 for Saturday Only

Library Foundation members at the
Book Collector (\$250) and above level
get a discount on individual tickets.

Lecture Details

Come to the lectures and chat
with our speakers at a tasty
post-lecture supper on Friday
night or coffee and cookies on
Saturday afternoon. All lectures
will be at the Witte Hall.

**Season passes go on sale
July 17, 2026, for Library
Foundation members only.
Individual tickets go
on sale October 1, 2026.
To Purchase Tickets:
LibraryFoundationNB.org
or 949-717-3892**

*Only Foundation members
can buy a season pass.
To join the Foundation go to:
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2026 Witte Lecture Underwriters

Titanium

The Witte Family

Silver

John Rallis and Mary Lynn Bergman-Rallis
Barbara Roberts

Bronze

Karen and Bruce Clark
Chris and Malin Fletcher
Don and Pam Gilmour
Randy and Kelly Heyler
Drs. James B. Pick and Rosalyn M. Laudati
Barbara and Greg MacGillivray

Iron

Tom and Elizabeth Edwards
Whitney and Michael Gomez
Diane Hafer
The Hoelscher Bell Elliott Foundation
Dorothy Larson
Rachel and Justin Reinus
Thomas and Carrie Rolfs

Iron continued

Ellen Shockro
Tom and Marilyn Sutton
Jill Johnson-Tucker and Larry Tucker
Miles and Emily Yourman

Steel

Gus and Mary Chabre
Lois Jacobs
Signe Keller
Latika Sethi

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HOME IS MORE THAN A PLACE. IT IS A COMMUNITY.

For more than twenty years, Carol Lee Group has had the privilege of helping people make Orange County their home and become part of the community.

We congratulate the Newport Beach Library Foundation and the many generous donors who are making Witte Hall possible.

We look forward to many memorable events as we gather, learn and connect in this remarkable new space for generations to come.



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library LIVE

The Library Foundation is pleased to announce the upcoming *Library Live Series 2026-27*

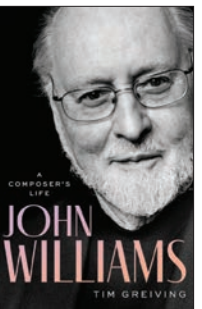
We are excited to welcome these four brilliant authors to our 2026-27 series. Library Live is for adventurous readers who enjoy hearing from established literary figures and emerging talent. Novelists, poets, historians, journalists, biographers, memoirists and others share their ideas firsthand with our community. Participate, engage, and be challenged by our presentations with today's most gifted scribes.



Tim Greiving
John Williams: A Composer's Life
Thursday, August 13, 7:00pm

**Special Presentation
for Newport Beach
Art Week**

In *John Williams: A Composer's Life*, Tim Greiving presents the first biography of the legendary film composer whose work, including scores for "Star Wars," "Indiana Jones," and "Harry Potter," is widely celebrated. Greiving, an arts journalist specializing in film music, offers an intimate look at Williams' private life and extensive career, highlighting his record number of Oscar nominations. He regularly contributes to NPR, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Washington Post*. He has written program notes for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Royal Albert Hall. Greiving contributes to the Visual History Program for the Academy and teaches film music history at USC Thornton.

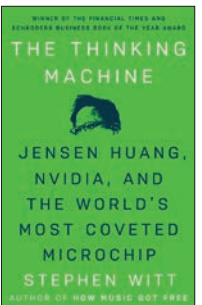


This Library Live lecture is not included in the season pass package. Foundation members that purchase a season pass will get the first opportunity to purchase a ticket for this lecture.



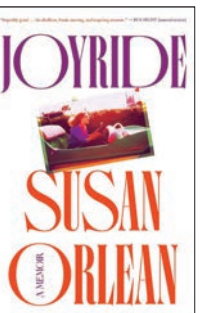
Stephen Witt
The Thinking Machine: Jensen Huang, Nvidia, and the World's Most Coveted Microchip
Thursday, October 15, 7:00pm

Stephen Witt, a *New Yorker* contributor and leading AI historian, authored the bestseller *The Thinking Machine*, chronicling Nvidia's history and featuring exclusive interviews with CEO Jensen Huang. He offers rare insights into Huang's success and Nvidia's value. An award-winning television producer, Witt previously explored the mp3 revolution in *How Music Got Free*. He discusses AI's impact on creative industries and advises producers on adapting to this technological shift. Witt also contributes to NPR and the *New York Times*.



Susan Orlean
Joyride
Thursday, November 5, 7:00pm

"The story of my life is the story of my stories," says Susan Orlean about her latest book, *Joyride*. Throughout her storied career, Orlean's curiosity has drawn her to explore the most ordinary and extraordinary of places, from going deep inside the head of a regular ten-year-old boy for a legendary profile ("The American Man Age Ten") to reporting on a woman who owns twenty-seven tigers. Susan Orlean has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1992 and is widely known for books such as *The Orchid Thief* and *The Library Book*. Her writing has appeared in *Vogue*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, among many others.



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library
LIVE

Library Live Series *continued*



Lauren Groff

Brawler

Thursday, March 11, 7:00pm

Read alone, each story in Lauren Groff's electric collection is an individual triumph, bold, agile, and packed with power. Read together, they hum in exhilarating resonance. Ranging from the 1950s to the present day and moving across age, class, and region — from New England to Florida to California — these nine stories reflect and expand upon a shared theme: the ceaseless battle between humans' dark and light angels.

Lauren Groff is the award-winning and bestselling author of the celebrated short story collections, *Delicate Edible Birds*, *Florida*, a finalist for the National Book Award, and *Brawler*, as well as several novels — *The Monsters of Templeton*, shortlisted for the Orange Prize for New Writers, *Arcadia*, winner of the Medici Book Club Prize, *Fates and Furies*, a finalist for the National Book Award and Amazon's pick for Best Book of the Year, and the instant *New York Times* bestsellers *Matrix* and *The Vaster Wilds*. Groff is a captivating and thoughtful speaker who loves connecting with audiences over discussion of her bestselling works. She is also a co-owner of the independent bookstore The Lynx.



Patrick Ryan

Buckeye

Thursday, April 8, 7:00pm

Buckeye is sweeping yet intimate, resplendent with moments of deep emotion and characters who linger like voices in an old house—familiar, insistent, impossible to ignore. Set against the bright promise and shadowed reckonings of postwar America, it is a transportive story of what we owe to those we love, what we hide to survive, and what it takes to be forgiven.

Patrick Ryan is the editor of the literary magazine *One Story* and author of the *New York Times*-bestselling novel and Read With Jenna pick, *Buckeye*. He has also written award-winning short stories, including the collections *Send Me* and *The Dream Life of Astronauts*. In his warm, engaging talks, Ryan explores history, identity, and imagination, leaving audiences inspired to see their own stories with fresh clarity and meaning.



Tickets

Thursdays, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Lecture, Book Sale & Signing,
Refreshments

Library Live Season Pass \$120*

General \$40

Student: \$20

Lecture Details

The lectures will be held at Witte Hall. Doors open at 6:30pm. Lecture and Q&A 7:00pm-8:30pm followed by book sale and signing till 9:00pm.

To purchase tickets: www.LibraryFoundationNB.org
or 949-717-3892.

Season passes go on sale July 17, 2026, for Library Foundation members only. Individual tickets go on sale September 2026.

**Only Foundation members can buy a season pass. To join the Foundation go to www.LibraryFoundationNB.org/join/*

Thank you to our 2025-26 Library Live! Committee

Loren Blackwood	Elizabeth Hanauer
Karen Clark	Dorothy Larson
Patricia Dreyfus	(Library Trustee Liaison)
(Chair)	Liz Manji
Emily Ford	Ann Stephens
Amy Fulford	Adrian Windsor

2025-26 Distinguished Authors Society

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Elizabeth Hanauer
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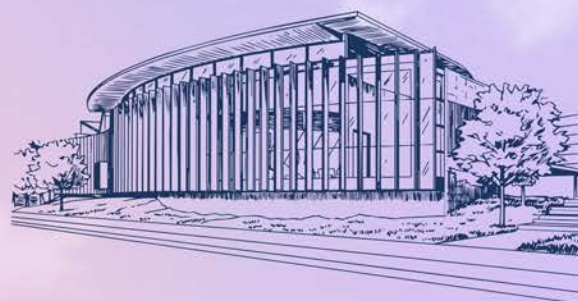
The faster the world moves, the more important it becomes to slow down, take a Recess, and remain calm and balanced.

To make sense of the unprecedented times we are living through, we have to pause, listen, and seek out perspectives beyond our own.

In an age of endless noise, places dedicated to thoughtful dialogue matter more than ever.

Recess is proud to support Witte Hall, a new home for curiosity and ideas in Newport Beach.

Recess × Witte Hall



a new home for curiosity

SPOTLIGHT on SCIENCE

The Library Foundation presents Spotlight on Science, a program featuring extraordinary and renowned scientists who will shed light on innovative and exciting research in the sciences, while illustrating the importance and inevitable impact of these discoveries on our lives, our communities, and our planet.

Spotlight topics range from the infinitesimal to the infinite, exploring the sciences of biology, chemistry, physics, optics, neuroscience, electronics, the environment and cosmology. Our five broad topical categories include the Human Body, our Planet, Energy & Transportation, the Worlds Beyond Earth, and Emerging Technologies, and we'll be visiting these on a rotating basis each season.

To date we've had speakers covering topics ranging from deep space observations, to AI, CRISPR, earthquakes, hydrogen energy, the origins of life and quantum computing, hosting esteemed academic researchers, technologists, and Nobel Prize winners among our speakers. We look forward to hosting you for our upcoming 2026/2027 Season in the new Witte Hall!

The Invisible Universe Within: How Microbes Shape Health, Disease, and the Environment

Rob Knight, PhD

Professor of Pediatrics, Bioengineering, Computer Science & Engineering, and Data Science, University of San Diego

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 7:00pm / Doors Open at 6:30pm

Dr. Rob Knight is the founding Director of the Center for Microbiome Innovation at UC San Diego and a globally recognized leader in microbiome science. In addition to his position as a professor, he holds the Wolfe Family Endowed Chair in Microbiome Research at Rady Children's. Elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2024, Knight is also a Fellow of AAAS, AAM, and AIMBE. He has authored more than 1,000 scientific papers and the books *Follow Your Gut* and *Dirt Is Good*. Knight co-founded the Earth Microbiome Project, the American Gut Project, and two biotech companies. His work has connected microbial communities to a range of human health conditions, ranging from obesity to Alzheimer's, and advanced our understanding of microbial communities in our environment.



Earth 2.0: The Search for Our Next Home (Planet Hunters: Finding Earth's Twin in a Noisy Galaxy)

Paul Robertson, PhD

Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy at the University of California, Irvine

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 7:00pm / Doors open at 6:30pm

Dr. Paul Robertson is an astrophysicist whose research centers on the discovery and characterization of exoplanets, with a particular focus on identifying small, potentially habitable worlds around nearby stars. His work blends observational astronomy, stellar astrophysics, and advanced data analysis to push the techniques responsible for finding many of the most Earth like planets known today. Before joining UCI, Dr. Robertson was a NASA Sagan Fellow at Penn State University and a postdoctoral researcher with the Center for Exoplanets and Habitable Worlds, where he helped refine methods for separating true planetary signals from stellar noise—one of the field's most challenging problems. His research continues to advance the search for "Earth 2.0" and deepen our understanding of planetary habitability.





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Spotlight on Science *continued*



Molecular Matchmaking: How Catalysts Drive the Modern World

Sir David MacMillan, PhD

*James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and Chair,
Department of Chemistry, Princeton University*

Wednesday, March 24, 2027, 7:00pm / Doors open at 6:30pm



Dr. David MacMillan, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry (2021), is one of the world's leading innovators in organic synthesis. He earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Glasgow before completing his PhD at the University of California, Irvine, under the direction of Professor Larry Overman. After postdoctoral work at Harvard University, he launched his independent career at UC Berkeley, later joining Caltech as the Earle C. Anthony Chair of Organic Chemistry. In 2006, he moved to Princeton University, where he shared the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Benjamin List for pioneering asymmetric organocatalysis, a field that has transformed modern chemical synthesis. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. His research continues to expand the frontiers of organocatalysis and photoredox catalysis, breakthroughs that now shape everything from the medicines we take to the materials, fuels, and sustainable technologies that power modern life.

One Micron Long, One Mile Deep: How Deep-sea Microbes Shape Our Planet

Victoria Orphan, PhD

*James Irvine Professor of Environmental Science and Geobiology
at the California Institute of Technology, Director, Kerckhoff Marine
Laboratory in Corona Del Mar*

Wednesday, April 28, 2027, 7:00pm / Doors open at 6:30pm



Dr. Victoria J. Orphan is a pioneering geobiologist, whose research explores how microbial communities shape Earth's oceans and deep biosphere. She holds the Allen V. C. Davis and Lenabelle Davis Leadership Chair and serves as Director of the Caltech Center for Environmental Microbial Interactions (CEMI) and the Kirchoff Marine Lab (KML) in Corona Del Mar, which gives Caltech scientists access to field sites, marine organisms, and ocean focused experimental facilities.

Dr. Orphan is widely recognized for her scientific leadership, honored as a MacArthur Fellow, NOMIS Distinguished Scientist, Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE). Her work continues to illuminate the hidden microbial networks that sustain life in some of Earth's most extreme environments.

Come view past Spotlight on Science programs in our Video Archives!

Featuring esteemed academic researchers, technologists, and Nobel Prize winners among our speakers, past Spotlight topics range from deep space observations, to AI, CRISPR, earthquakes, hydrogen energy, the origins of life and quantum computing.

**We look forward to hosting you for our upcoming 2026/2027 Season
in the new Witte Hall!**

www.LibraryFoundationNBb.org/archives/video-archives/

SPOTLIGHT on SCIENCE Committee

Bruce Clark, Co-Chair	Larry Overman
Karen Clark	Janet Ray
Andrew Gerken	Walkie Ray
Randy Heyler, Co-Chair	Donn Silberman
Barbara MacGillivray	
Greg MacGillivray	

Thank you to our
Spotlight on Science Donors:

Bronze	Steel
Karen and Bruce Clark	Patricia McClure
	Randy and Kelly Heyler
	Larry and Joanne Overman



The Library Foundation of Newport Beach in collaboration with UCI Health is pleased to present the 2026-27 season of Medicine in Our Backyard.

UCI doctors present the latest studies and newest technologies in an engaging forum. This series is funded in part by the generosity of long time Library Foundation of Newport Beach members Mike and Polly Smith.

The **Medicine in Our Backyard** lecture series serves as a valuable bridge between cutting-edge medical research at UCI Health and the community.

By providing direct access to renowned experts, Medicine in Our Backyard empowers community members to stay informed about the latest health technologies and medical breakthroughs.

These lectures are an excellent opportunity to engage directly with the medical community and ask questions during the post-lecture forums.

Medicine in Our Backyard is sponsored by Mike and Polly Smith, longtime members of the Library Foundation. The sponsorship from the Smiths is instrumental in maintaining the quality and reach of these educational forums.

Medicine in Our Backyard is held in the Central Library Friends Room.

Each lecture is videotaped and available for free on the Library Foundation's website under the Archives tab.

UCI Health is honored to collaborate with the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation on the Medicine in Our Backyard lecture series, bringing trusted health information and expert insights to our community.

Continue the conversation beyond the lecture with the Live Well with UCI Health podcast.

Stay informed about the latest treatments, prevention tips, and wellness topics that matter to you and your family.

Scan the QR code or visit ucihealth.org/podcast

live  well
with **UCI Health**
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Upcoming Speakers

Protecting Your Vision: Understanding Glaucoma

Monday, September 21, 2026, 7:00pm

Fall Prevention and Fracture Management

Monday, October 28, 2026, 7:00pm

Understanding Memory Disorders: Early Detection, Prevention and Treatment

Monday, November 16, 2026, 7:00pm

Will be held at the Friends Room, Newport Beach Public Library

Strategies for Healthy Aging and Longevity

Monday, January 25, 2027, 7:00pm

Understanding AFib: Symptoms, Treatment & Prevention

Monday, February 22, 2027, 7:00pm

Gut Health & Aging: Supporting Digestion After 60

Monday, March 22, 2027, 7:00pm

Bone Health, Osteoporosis Prevention & Treatment

Monday, April 26, 2027, 7:00pm

Women's Health Through the Ages: Prevention, Screening and Healthy Aging

Monday, May 24, 2027, 7:00pm

Come view past Medicine in Our Backyard Speakers in our Video Archives!

www.LibraryFoundationNBb.org/archives/video-archives/



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Project Adult Literacy

A program of the Newport Beach Public Library, Project Adult Literacy provides free literacy instruction to adults who live or work in the area. The focus is on developing literacy skills, enabling learners the potential for greater success in their lives. Our team of dedicated volunteers has 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 the prescription without fear of taking the wrong dose, getting a high school diploma, getting into college, helping a child with homework, and more.

A key component of Project Adult Literacy's success is based on our dedicated team of volunteer tutors. If you have an extra 2 hours a week and are interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you. (Qualification: must be 24 and older, be able to commit to the program for a year, willing to complete trainings and reports as needed). Please contact Christina Smith, Literacy Coordinator at literacy@newportbeachca.gov or call us at (949) 717-3874. To become a volunteer or to refer a learner to the program, visit our website at www.projectadulthoodliteracy.org.

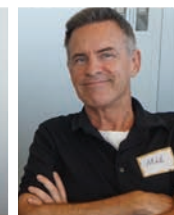
Celebrating 40 Years of Empowerment at International Literacy Day

This September 17 marks Project Adult Literacy's 40th Anniversary and International Literacy Day — an event celebrating our learner's incredible accomplishments and features an international potluck to honor our diverse global communities represented. A major highlight of the festivities will be presenting a standout learner with the prestigious Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award. We're also thrilled to unveil the latest edition of *In Our Own Words*, our annual anthology book, written entirely by learners in the PAL program.

In Our Own Words provides a powerful opportunity for learners to see their unique voices in print, boosting their confidence and inspiring others through their personal journeys. At PAL, learners and volunteers from all around the world come together with one common goal: to develop essential literacy skills

and empower each other to achieve greater success at home, at work, and within the community.

Thanks to the countless number of volunteers, learners, family, and friends who have supported this program over the last four decades, Project Adult Literacy has and will continue to make a difference in people's lives through the language of literacy. If you are interested in attending this year's International Literacy Day, please email us at literacy@newportbeachca.gov to reserve your spot. We look forward to celebrating 40 years of changing lives with you.



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“The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.”

- Albert Einstein



The Cosmos



Gene Editing



Quantum Computing

For years, the Spotlight on Science series has brought the world's most exciting minds to Newport Beach — exploring the cosmos, unlocking the secrets of life, and imagining the computers of tomorrow.

We are thrilled to bring our future programs to Witte Hall, and grateful to the Library Foundation and the City of Newport Beach for building a stage worthy of big ideas. Join us for the next chapter of discovery!

Witte Hall Grand Opening
Newport Beach Public Library
July 10, 2026

With Gratitude
The Spotlight on Science
Committee



Distinguished Authors Society

Established Literary Figures. Emerging Voices.
Building Community...Beyond Books

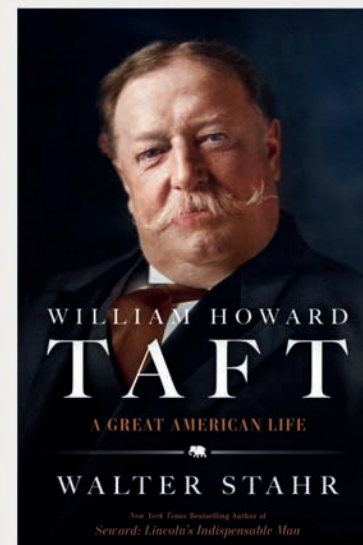
Loren Blackwood | Karen Clark | Emily Ford | Amy Fulford
Elizabeth Hanauer | Liz Manji | Ann Stephens | Adrian Windsor

Patricia Dreyfus, Chair

The Library Live committee welcomes Witte Hall.

WALTER STAHR
William Howard Taft

November 10, 2026, at 7 pm
at the new Witte Hall.



From an acclaimed, New York Times bestselling biographer and Foundation board members comes a remarkable new look at the only man to serve as both president and chief justice.

THE SECRETS OF ROSE MANOR

A NOVEL



ADRIAN WINDSOR

Thank you, Witte Committee

In recognition of their tireless commitment to the Witte Lecture Series Speaker Selection, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you. As a team, we are able to bring to our community speakers of substance and stature who simulate intellectual community conversation. Thank you all for your years of dedication.

— Janet S. Hadley, Committee Chair

Karen Clark
Elizabeth Edwards
Whitney Gomez
Diane Hafer
Signe Keller
Marilyn Krahe
Rachel Hass Reinus
Latika Sethi
Ellen Shockro
Lizanne Witte
Miles Yourman

Witte *the*
LECTURES

Congratulations to a fellow Library supporter, the Library Foundation of Newport Beach, on the grand opening of Witte Hall!



Founded in 1961, the Friends of the Library donate all of its revenue to the Library to fund various needs and projects. We sell used books — a half million books each year to be exact. In the last 25 years, the Friends have donated more than \$5 million to support the Newport Beach Public Library. Many thanks for your continued patronage of the Friends Bookstore, it's vital to our success.

Stop by the Friends Bookstore located on the main level of the Central Library, 1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach, open Monday through Saturday, 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. We'd love to say hello!

newportbeachlibrary.org

KEN GRODY FORD

SO—CAL PERFORMANCE DEALER

Congratulations to the Library Foundation of Newport Beach for bringing the dream of Witte Hall to life. We are honored and proud to be a part of such an important and impactful community endeavor.

With gratitude — Ken & Stephanie Grody

Sunday Musicales

The Newport Beach Public Library hosts outstanding classical and instrumental music and performers throughout the year. The monthly hour-long Sunday Musicales are held at 3 pm in Witte Hall. Admission is free and registration is not required. Join us for upcoming concerts including:

Sunday Musicale featuring A Cello Quartet

Sunday, July 12

A cello quartet featuring Wonsun Keem, In Hee Na, Crystal Soo-Jung and Andy Su.



Ambroise Aubrun & Steven Vanhauwaert

September 13, 2026 / Violin & Piano Duo

The Franco-Belgian duo Aubrun-Vanhauwaert has performed extensively and recorded three albums for the Editions Hortus and Navona Records labels. They will present a program featuring works by Schubert, Lekeu Debussy, and Ravel.

Marina Grozdanovic

October 11, 2026 / Piano Solo

A musical journey into France, through different periods of music history, from the baroque to the impressionist era including works by Rameau, Couperin, Daquin, Debussy and Chopin.

Webern String Quartet

November 8, 2026 / Alex Granger, Stella Cho, Chiai Tajima, Benjamin Hoffman

The Webern Quartet chose the name of Anton Webern, former student of Arnold Schoenberg, whose important string quartet oeuvre has been the starting point of the quartet. The quartet's members are from Italy, Japan, South Korea and the US.

Seraphour Vocal Quartet, Holiday Program

December 6, 2026 / Emma Roche, Melissa Birch, Dana Rouse, Heidi Vass

Seraphour is an internationally award-winning chamber vocal ensemble. Their holiday program weaves together Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, beloved sacred works of the season and traditional carols.

Sunday Musicales at Witte Hall are free and open to the public. Seating is first come, first served, limited by room capacity of 294. Funding is graciously provided by the Friends of the Newport Beach Public Library. For the complete schedule, visit us at newportbeachlibrary.org/calendar/sunday-musicales

Children's Programs at Witte Hall!



Generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

Creative Pages: Kelly Yang

Sat, Nov 14, 3-4:30pm / Central Library, Witte Hall

Come celebrate the release of Kelly Yang's newest graphic novel, connect with fellow readers, and be part of an exciting literary event at Witte Hall. Ages 8-11.

Festival Ballet Nutcracker for Kids

Sat, Dec 5, 10 a.m. & 11 a.m. / Central Library, Witte Hall

Introduce young audiences to the magic of ballet with this family-friendly adaptation of The Nutcracker. Perfect for children, this narrated performance offers an engaging introduction to the joy and wonder of classical ballet. Ages 6-11.

90-Second Newbery Film Festival

Spring 2027 / Central Library, Witte Hall

Join *New York Times* bestselling author Jennifer L. Holm and festival founder James Kennedy for Newport Beach's official 90-Second Newbery Film Festival screening, featuring the year's most imaginative kid-made films inspired by Newbery Award-winning books. Ages 8-11.



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The Newport Beach Public Library offers fascinating and fun programs, events, and workshops for all ages and interests. Just a few of the many offered are highlighted below. For the complete list, check out our website at newportbeachlibrary.org.

CALLING ALL KIDS!

Elementary-aged kids can read, discover, connect, and create with a full lineup of engaging programs at the Newport Beach Public Library. Check out the children's calendar for all things kids. Join us for events including BARK: Read to a Dog, Art Space, Book Club Explorers, Drop In Crafternoons, STEAM Lab, Pajama Storytime, Toy Train Thursdays, LEGO Saturdays and Wednesdays, Middle Grade Book Club, Storytime, and much more. Complete information at newportkids.org. Funding provided by the Friends of the Newport Beach Library unless otherwise noted.



ART SPACE @ CENTRAL

Central Library, Ages 8-11

Learn and create at Art Space, a children's program focusing on crafts inspired by a different artist each month. Artists including van Gogh, Seurat, O'Keefe, and many more. No registration required. Materials provided while supplies last. Children ages 8-11 must be accompanied by an adult.

STORYTIME

All branches, babies to age 7

The Newport Beach Public Library has children's storytime for all ages – from Books and Babies, to Toddler Storytime, Preschool Storytime, Songs & Stories, Family Storytime, Pajama Storytime — and the all-new Stretch Club, featuring stories, movement, and mindfulness activities for ages 5-9. Visit the library's storytime page on for dates, branches and times at newportbeachlibrary.org/children/storytimes



BARK: READ TO A DOG!

All branches, ages 6-11

Build reading confidence with the help of a trained and friendly BARK dog in a calm, supportive setting. Children read aloud to a non-judgmental companion, helping them improve fluency and comfort. Sign-ups begin upon the dogs' arrival and are first-come, first-served. No prior registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Check the children's calendar at newportbeachlibrary.org for dates, branches and times.

TECH TOYS FOR KIDS

Central Library

Stop by the Central Library to check out Tech Toys for Kids, a 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 7 days with an adult library card. Funding provided by the Library Foundation.

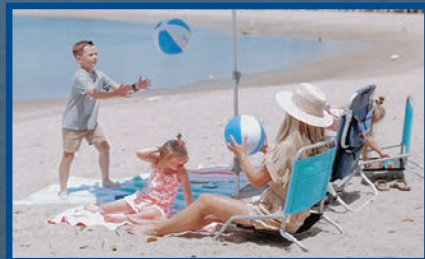


Congratulations on the City's Opening of Witte Hall

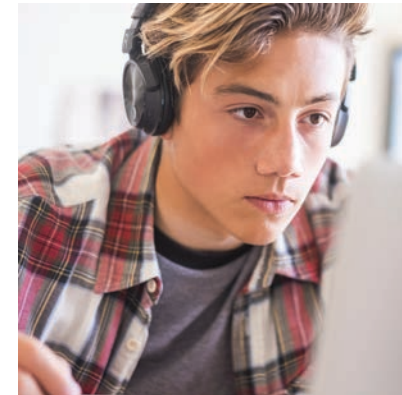
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programs continued from page 39



TEENS!

Ages 12-18

COLLEGE PREP: Join us for free college prep classes from CollegeWise of Irvine. Learn about applications, essays, deadlines and smart strategies to help get you into the college of your choice. Register online or at the library. Grades 7-12 + parents. Learn more about College Prep at newportbeachlibrary.org/teens

VOLUNTEER: Teens! Come earn community service hours and make a difference at the library. The Newport Beach Public Library provides teen volunteers the opportunity to learn valuable work-life skills and lend a helping hand. All teen volunteers must be in 7th through 12th grade and age 12 to 18 years old. Volunteer spots are limited and dependent on library needs.

STORYTELLERS WRITING WORKSHOPS

Ages 18+

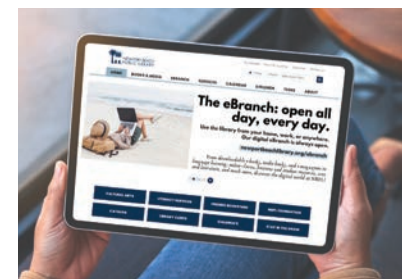
Learn to tell a great story, whether it's the story of your day or the story of your life in our Storytellers Writing Workshops and Storytellers Extended Classes. Best-selling author Chris Epting will teach you to draw out, organize and document your stories. Learn more about Storytellers and register on the library's website at newportbeachlibrary.org



THE E-BRANCH

Open all day, every day at newportbeachlibrary.org

Use the library from your home, work, or anywhere. Our digital eBranch is always open. From databases to e-books, audiobooks, eMagazines, Kanopy streaming video, and language learning — to genealogy, career and legal information, business resources, student resources, newspapers & scholarly journals, arts & literature, historical records, online directories, and more. Check it all out at newportbeachlibrary.org — all you need is a library card.



THE SEED LIBRARY

Mariners Branch, all ages

The Seed Library at the Mariners Branch of the Newport Beach Public Library was created to provide seeds to the community — natives that are well adapted to Southern California coastal regions. Using your library card, choose up to five seed packets per month. Stop by the Mariners branch to get planting and get growing — 1300 Irvine Avenue, Newport Beach. Funding generously provided by the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation. Funding generously provided by the Library Foundation of Newport Beach.



FRIENDS BOOKSTORE

Central Library

On the first floor of the Central Library lives a gem of a bookstore with bargain prices on everything from bestsellers to children's books, vintage, cookbooks and more. Founded in 1961 by a small group of volunteers, the Friends of the Library donates all its revenue to the Newport Beach Public Library to fund various needs and projects. Stop by the Central Library to say hello and pick up your next fun read.

Everything awaits you.

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“A library outranks any one thing a community can do to benefit its people.”

- Andrew Carnegie



The Central Library
July 12, 1992



Witte Hall
July 12, 2026

The opening of Witte Hall is a shining example of what a powerful vision and a generous community can create together. Like the Central Library before it, Witte Hall is a vibrant symbol of shared spaces where discovery, learning, culture, and connection are available to every resident.

The Central Library has been part of our family's story for decades — from our children's earliest adventures in reading, through their high school years as an invaluable resource, and now as a place where we gather with friends to hear great speakers and meet fellow curious minds. We expect Witte Hall to expand those opportunities even further.

We are proud to support the Library Foundation and grateful for their leadership and the City's partnership in bringing Witte Hall to life. Congratulations on the Beyond Books campaign and the inauguration of Witte Hall!

- Randy and Kelly Heyler



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH
RECREATION &
SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Witte Hall is available to rent for your community meetings and forums, for corporate meetings and trainings, for lectures, and film presentations.

Witte Hall is Newport Beach’s new premier lecture and event venue, featuring a modern 299-seat auditorium equipped with professional audio/visual technology, a permanent stage, and our Stahr Courtyard for receptions or breakout gatherings. Located next to the Central Library on the Civic Center campus, this architecturally stunning space is ideal for lectures, panel discussions, corporate events, film screenings, and community forums.

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Knightsbridge

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Knightsbridge congratulates the
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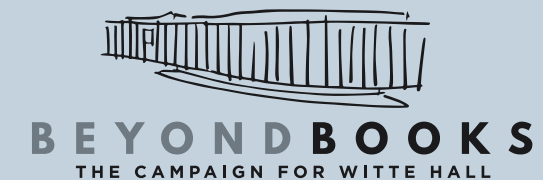
We thank the
Newport Beach Library Foundation
for its guidance in making this
dream a reality.

Knightsbridge Principals

Miles Yourman
Foundation Treasurer

John Prichard
Past Library Trustee &
Foundation Treasurer

Kurt Beimfohr



Witte Hall has been a long, occasionally frustrating, always exciting endeavor, and I was fortunate to have so many wonderful people agree to join me on the journey. Each time I walk into Witte Hall, I will be reminded that it was a real community effort to advocate for this civic auditorium and to see it built.

My heartfelt thanks to the Library Foundation Board of Directors and staff, the *Beyond Books* Campaign Committee, and the many generous donors whose vision and support made this campaign a success. And I am deeply grateful to the Newport Beach City Council members through the years, and City staff; our talented architect, Bob Coffee, and his team; the Library Lecture Hall Design Committee; and the Library staff and Board of Library Trustees, where this journey first began.

Their dedication to serving our community made it a privilege to work alongside. Together we created this special gathering place that will be cherished for generations to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Jill Johnson-Tucker
Chair, Library Lecture Hall Design Committee
Chair, Beyond Books Campaign

Library Lecture Hall Design Committee:

Karen Clark
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Beyond Books Campaign Committee:

Kevin Barlow*	Janet Hadley*	Marilyn Krahe*	Adrian Windsor*
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Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall

Witte Hall Naming Donors

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Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall *continued*

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Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall

continued

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In Memory of Alan Pettis

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Sandra Haveson	Larry Tucker	Toni Tabb	



BEYONDBOOKS

CONGRATULATIONS ON AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT TO THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF NEWPORT BEACH, ITS BOARD, ITS OUTSTANDING STAFF, AND ALL OF THE GENEROUS DONORS TO WITTE HALL.

KAREN HEATH CLARK,
FORMER LIBRARY TRUSTEE, FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR, FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER, AND LECTURE HALL DESIGN COMMITTEE MEMBER

BRUCE ROBERT CLARK,
CO-FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIR, SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE



Congratulations to the Library Foundation and the City of Newport Beach on the opening of our stunning new Civic Auditorium, Witte Hall.
We look forward to a vibrant future of exceptional programs and performances.

Linda Beimfohr and Kent Browning

The opening of Witte Hall is a true gift to our community, providing a state of the art gathering space for individuals to exchange ideas, expand their knowledge base, and be a part of something meaningful.

Special thank you to The Library Foundation of Newport Beach, the Tuckers and several of our City leaders for having the vision and working tirelessly to bring it to fruition. Also to everyone who donated—thank you!

With gratitude,
Antonella A. Castro, Esq.
Board of Library Trustees
Chairwoman Newport Beach Foundation

"Congratulations Jill Johnson-Tucker, The Library Foundation, the City of Newport Beach and all who have participated for your dedication and passion in the successful completion of Witte Hall! You have created and added a new crown jewel to Newport Beach for all to share and enjoy."

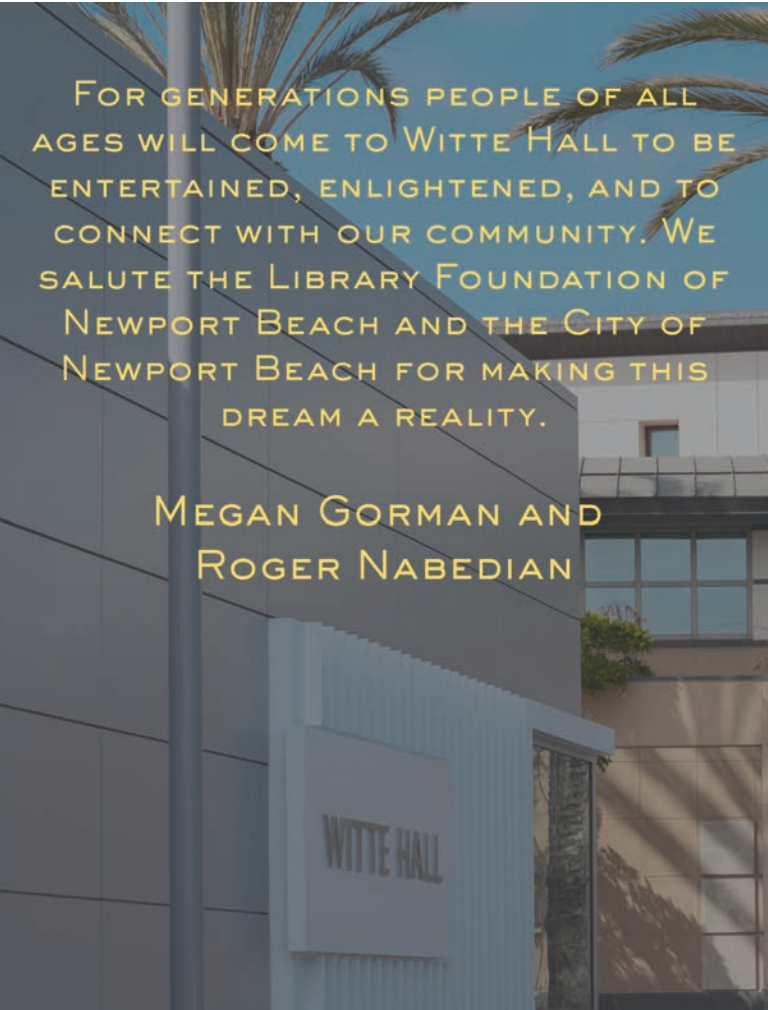
Susan and Spencer Croul

"Congratulations to the Library Foundation of Newport Beach and to the City on the opening of Witte Hall!"

Paul K. and Ronnie Watkins

With deep gratitude, we celebrate the opening of **Witte Hall** — the Newport Beach Public Library Civic Auditorium — a vision more than a decade in the making. This remarkable new home for ideas, conversation, and community would not exist without the unwavering dedication of **Jill Johnson Tucker**, whose tenacity and perseverance turned an ambitious dream into a beautiful reality. Heartfelt thanks to the **City of Newport Beach**, the **Library Foundation of Newport Beach** and our many generous donors, for making this extraordinary venue possible — for our speakers, our neighbors, and generations to come.

With gratitude and pride,
Dorothy Larson
Newport Beach Public Library Trustee
Former Library Foundation Chair



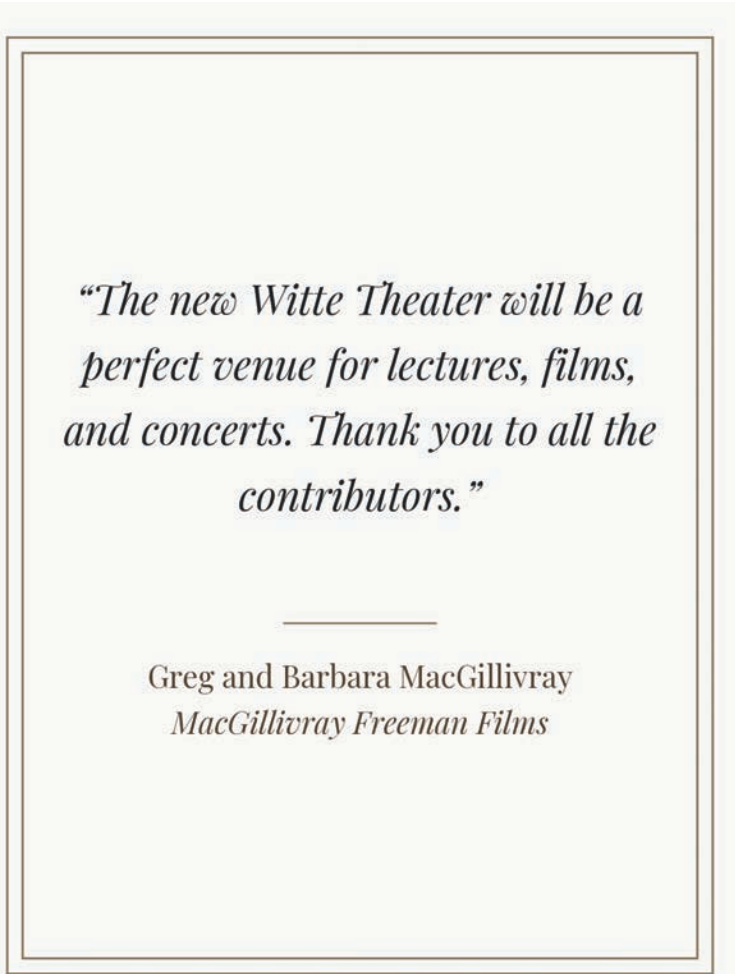
FOR GENERATIONS PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WILL COME TO WITTE HALL TO BE ENTERTAINED, ENLIGHTENED, AND TO CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY. WE SALUTE THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF NEWPORT BEACH AND THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH FOR MAKING THIS DREAM A REALITY.

MEGAN GORMAN AND
ROGER NABEDIAN



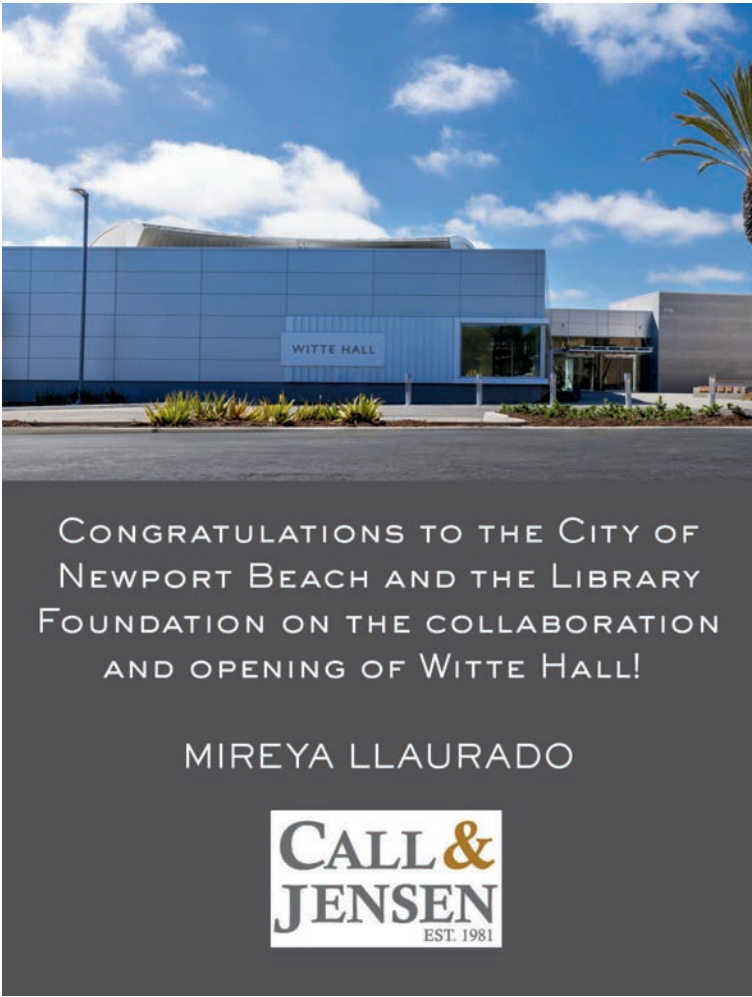
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF NEWPORT BEACH FOR MAKING POSSIBLE A GREAT NEW AUDITORIUM FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH. WE APPLAUD THE NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THEIR AMAZING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN AND IN THE OVERALL PURSUIT OF LITERACY.

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"The new Witte Theater will be a perfect venue for lectures, films, and concerts. Thank you to all the contributors."

Greg and Barbara MacGillivray
MacGillivray Freeman Films



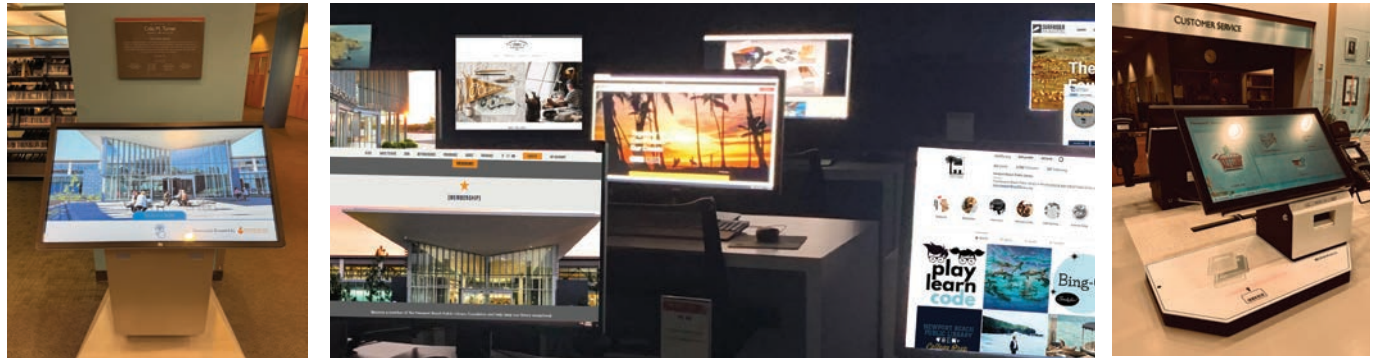
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH AND THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION ON THE COLLABORATION AND OPENING OF WITTE HALL!

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The Library Foundation: Cornerstone of Support

Throughout its 37-year history, the Library Foundation has been a cornerstone of support for the Newport Beach Public Library. Following the pivotal \$2.2 million fundraising campaign for the Central Library, the Foundation has continued to promote innovation and accessibility through major capital projects and critical digital resources of the eBranch. These include the Media and Sound Lab, the Central Library Business Center, the Stahr Children's Room furniture, and essential upgrades like self-checkout stations and the lobby Wayfinder. Most recently, the Foundation spearheaded the \$12 million *Beyond Books* campaign to realize the vision of the state-of-the-art Witte Hall. Beyond these achievements, the Foundation invests more than \$285,000 annually to sustain the six core community programs, ensuring free, high-quality intellectual and cultural enrichment for all and to help fulfill the Library's mission to be the cultural, educational, and informational heart of Newport Beach.



How to Support the Newport Beach Public Library

Your contribution to the Library Foundation of Newport Beach helps to sustain your Library. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Library Foundation contributed over \$500,000 to the Newport Beach Public Library for programs, direct grants to the Library, and campaign expenses for the construction of Witte Hall.

In the past 10 years, the Foundation has contributed over \$6 million in direct giving and services to the Newport Beach Public Library. The Library Foundation has also raised over \$12 million to fund 50% of the cost of construction of Witte Hall. It is the community's contributions to the Library Foundation that makes this support of the Newport Beach Public Library possible.

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 www.LibraryFoundationNB.org/give/.

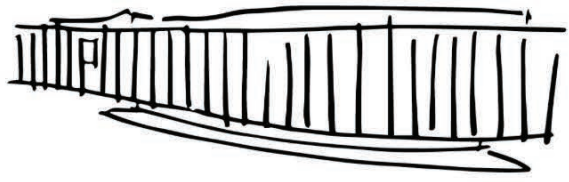
Legacy Giving Estate gifts—such as bequests or charitable trusts—are vital to the long-term financial stability of the Library Foundation and ensure that the Library thrives for generations to come. By including us in your estate plans, you create a lasting legacy that reflects your commitment

to the Library and the Foundation. If you have already included the Library Foundation in your planning, please let us know so we may welcome you into The Elizabeth and John Stahr Legacy Society. To notify us, please fill out the secure form available on the Foundation's website.

Member Benefits Foundation members receive valuable benefits, including early access to program information, the opportunity to purchase season passes for the Witte Lectures and Library Live, special event notifications, access to recordings of Library Live and Witte Lectures, plus Bookmark Magazine. Contributors of \$1,000 or more are welcomed into the Library Leadership Circle. 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.

For further information contact
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Marilyn Krahe

Chair of The Library Foundation of Newport Beach

Coming Soon!

The Newport Beach Library is excited to announce that the Balboa Branch is being rebuilt to serve the community even better. We look forward to announcing the grand opening of this new neighborhood library.



newportbeachlibrary.org

An aerial photograph of Newport Beach, California. In the foreground, a white sailboat with a single mast is on the turquoise water. The middle ground shows a sandy beach and rocky shore with waves breaking. The background is a dense residential area with many houses built on a hillside under a clear blue sky.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF
NEWPORT BEACH
ON THE GRAND OPENING OF
WITTE HALL.

FOR MORE THAN
120 YEARS
NEWPORT BEACH HAS
BEEN A PLACE TO
gather, celebrate and connect.

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A NEW STAGE
for those moments.

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CELEBRATIONS FOR
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