

Once you learn to read, you will be forever free. —Frederick Douglass

Learning.

Over the last quarter, we have learned that we are just scratching the surface of what there is to know about literacy, reading, and how we can reach our goal of getting all of our community's children to read at grade-level. Our role is important and one which we take seriously as we take our first steps on this broader platform.

Over this quarter we have created a strategic plan, an operating plan, and a development plan that recognize that we are a funder and a convener of literacy in the region. Our work to fund programs that will help children achieve grade-level reading has been effective and we will continue to find literacy initiatives that we can support financially. Our work bringing

the community together has been valuable and created important events and resources such as Authors on the Move, Walk 4 Literacy, and the Community Literacy Map. And we want to create more. Our commitment to being a funder and convener remain in place.

Our three programmatic focus areas are getting books into children's homes, supporting summer reading initiatives, and supporting the implementation of Science of Reading curriculum into kindergarten through third-grade classrooms. Our new mission, vision, and goals require us to learn more about literacy initiatives throughout the Sacramento region so that we are a better funder and a more effective convener and that is exactly what we will do every day as we shape our future.

Learning

\ 'lər-niŋ \

1. The acquisition of knowledge or skills through experience, study, or by being taught. *"These children experienced difficulties in learning."*
2. A thing learned by experience; a lesson.

Our funding strategy will continue to include direct mail, events, grants, and planned giving. We will also continue to build our own endowments: the Children's Literacy Endowment and the Literacy Operations Endowment. We also have the capacity and experience to professionally manage donors' legacy gifts. All management fees will go right back into our operations, which are 100% focused on literacy. The goals are clear but how we get there is still in the making. We will learn together.

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California State Policy Update

SB 237: K-2 Universal Screening for Risk of Dyslexia.

Dyslexia is one of the largest learning disabilities found in today's classrooms. Often, dyslexia is not detected until the end of third grade, which is the first year a student participates in State testing. Kindergarten through third-grade students learn to read and by their fourth-grade year, they 'read to learn.' Earlier detection of dyslexia would help an estimated 900,000 students in California learn to read and consequently enable them to 'read to learn.'

This bill provides universal early detection strategies beginning in kindergarten. The lack of early and accurate identification of students at risk for dyslexia is contributing significantly to California's low reading achievement. The investment that would be made if SB 237 passes would be made to ensure that children have equitable access to an education.

SB 237 passed through the Senate unanimously on June 1, 2021 and was then referred to the Assembly's Committee on Education. We have two Assembly members that directly touch Sacramento County that are on the Committee on Education: Assembly Member Kevin Kiley from Assembly District #6 and Assembly Member Kevin McCarty from Assembly District #7. When asked, neither Assembly Member was willing nor available to make a comment.

Californians Together has submitted an opposition letter and both the California Teachers Association and the California School Boards Association have publicly posted their opposition. Decoding Dyslexia CA, Ed Voice, and Disability Rights California have publicly stated their support for SB 237.

If you would like to support SB 237 complete the petition, which sends an email of support to each of the committee members.



Sacramento County Literacy Day: September 8, 2021

In 2019, Sacramento's Literacy Movement asked the Sacramento County Supervisors, City of Sacramento, City of Rancho Cordova, City of Citrus Heights, and City of Elk Grove to sign proclamations recognizing literacy by stashing a literacy month: September and a literacy day, September 8th. These proclamations make it possible to keep literacy in front of our policy makers and keep working to make literacy a fundamental right of every Sacramento County citizen.

This September we will be going back to those policymaking bodies to report on our community's literacy. We will share the deep learning loss expected due to COVID-19 along with highlights about positive work happening to advance literacy.

If you would like to volunteer to go to community meetings, we would love to have you join us. Send us an email at info@sacramentoliteracy.org.

2411 Alhambra Blvd, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95817
(916) 836-3540 • sacramentoliteracy.org

MISSION

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation's mission is to improve lives by collaborating with organizations in our community to advance reading and writing skills.

VISION

Our vision is to have all children and all adults develop the reading and writing skills they need to fully participate in our economy and in our democracy.

OUR GOALS

- Increase philanthropic literacy funding toward the goal of all children reading at grade-level
- Insert reading sciences into the community literacy and education systems
- Advocate for a fully literate community

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Deering, President
Robert Honaker, Vice President
Denise Timmons, Secretary
Sean Burke, Treasurer
Clark Carter
Nancy Lawrence
Mary Ellen Shay

FOUNDATION STAFF

Executive Director, April L. Javist
Administrative Director, Jenny Winstead

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.
Tax ID #68-0029756.

Walk4Literacy on Pause



walk4literacy.org

Walk4Literacy will not be an in-person event again this

year since we do not know what to expect regarding COVID-19 and its variants. We also want to reconnect with former coalition members as well as new partners to update an event everyone can enjoy.

We know that schools will be opening in August and September, and we know that vaccinating our youngest community members is still pending. Learning loss and consequent declining literacy rates is now more than ever a critical issue facing our country and our region. We will be talking with our partners and collaborators to find a way to come back stronger in 2022.

If you would like to be a part of reigniting this event, give us a call at 916-836-3540.

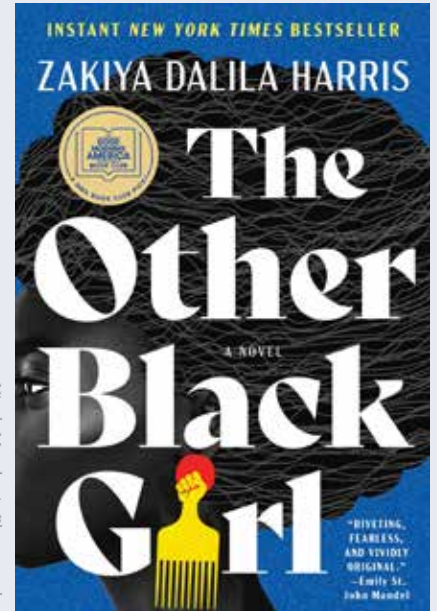


SAVE THE DATE!

Authors on the Move! 2022



▼ Nicole Mandeskin Photography



Authors on Move 2022 will be a debut year with debut keynote author Zakiya Dalila Harris and her novel, *The Other Black Girl*. Sponsor tables are available now.

March 12, 2022 | 5pm – 10pm
Kimpton, The Sawyer | Sacramento



Meet the Board: Nancy Lawrence



Nancy Lawrence has rejoined the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Literacy Foundation and we are thrilled to be working with Nancy again

to help all children read. Nancy Lawrence, a former high school English teacher and staff development trainer, keeps herself busy as a community volunteer and managing partner for Lawrence Properties.

Nancy is most interested in finding sustainable approaches to integrating reading curriculum with proven results and arts programming into all elementary schools. Her dual interests in education and the arts are the combination she believes will support a healthy, vibrant community.

Nancy is known for her willingness to volunteer and support the organizations she believes will bring literacy and creativity to children. Nancy has served on several community boards including Friends of Sacramento Arts, The Kingsley Arts Club, Sol Aureus College Preparatory, and the Crocker Art Museum. **She brings a great wealth of knowledge and curiosity which is sure to help us learn.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today.

READING COUNCIL (\$5,000+)

Golden 1 Credit Union

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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Lewis & Linda Whitney

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Merlin Fagan
Judith A. Johnston
Miki Vohryzek-Bolden

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Felice Risling
Stephen & Caroline Wang Roberts
Suzanne Schroeder
Susan Silva
Michael & Alice Smith
Sandra Stucke

IN MEMORY OF

Annyce Cherorisky
Jack and Arlene Licursi
Major James A. Patrick, USMC (Ret)

IN HONOR OF

April L. Javist
Olivia Sophie Loesch

NAMED ENDOWMENTS

Daniel & Rhea Brunner
David & Maxine Clark Family Fund
Sandra & Steven Felderstein
Indru & Pramila Kriplani Trust
Nancy Lawrence & Gordon Klein
Beth Mullen
Denise & Nancy Marks
Lois Ann Rosenberg

Contributions received May 8, 2021 through July 9, 2021.



Meet the Staff

Jenny Winstead is thrilled to join

Sacramento Literacy Foundation as the new Administrative Director. Having recently moved from Los Angeles to Sacramento, she is excited to join

the organization and work in a position that incorporates her background in literacy and operational management. Jenny graduated from the University of Kentucky with degrees in English and Theatre and learned early on in her career that equity and inclusion were core to her interests. Moving to the Golden State after graduation, she served as a Program Director of a private education company in Beverly Hills and has worked with arts and youth nonprofits in Monterey and Los Angeles counties. When not at her desk, she can be found reading, hiking, or diving into a new craft project. **She is eager to get to work and serve the community – drop a line and say hello to jenny@sacramentoliteracy.org!**



Dedicate Your Birthday to Literacy

Looking to make a difference with your birthday this year? Consider supporting the Sacramento Literacy Foundation by dedicating your big day to literacy. By asking your friends and family to donate to our organization in honor of your birthday, you'll help create a legacy of advancing children's literacy in Sacramento. **Reach out to Jenny at 916-836-3542 or jenny@sacramentoliteracy.org to learn more!**



E-mail Receipts

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is shifting to digital receipts! Giving your e-mail address will allow you to stay up to date on community

literacy news with an electronic version of the *Reader* and it will allow your charitable receipts to arrive faster and with less environmental impact. **Please share your e-mail address with the return envelope or send it to info@sacramentoliteracy.org today!**