

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

## Partnership.

### As we climb out of the pandemic and begin to understand the fallout of COVID-19,

the Sacramento Literacy Foundation intends to continue to build community partnerships with those who share our agenda to get all kids at grade-level reading. We will continue to host the *Walk 4 Literacy* and maintain the Community Literacy Map by partnering with literacy nonprofits and literacy funders toward increasing awareness and resources on behalf of children reading. As the convener for both the Sacramento Literacy Movement and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, we continue to learn how best to support the entire community and welcome community suggestions.

How we will do that is through our established and new partnerships. In the

last 30 days through the Promise Zone Book Giveaway, we have met new and potential partners and we are excited for future collaborative opportunities. La Familia Counseling Center is an incredible community organization that does everything it can to help the community – from giving diapers, to providing COVID-19 testing sites, workforce development, and crisis counseling services. La Familia says ‘yes’ to helping the community. SHRA’s Promise Zone team made it clear: this project was going forward no matter what. The Promise Zone kept its promise and has connected all of the Promise Zone Elementary Schools to the project.

With our old and new partnerships, we will support schools to include curriculum that follows the Science of Reading scope and sequence into their kindergarten through 2nd grade classrooms, as well as support

### Part·ner·ship

/ 'pärt-nər-ship /

1. A relationship involving close cooperation between parties with joint interest.

community initiatives that have positive literacy outcomes. We will partner with national and local literacy efforts, like the Promise Zone Book Give Away, because research shows that books in the home is a significant and positive influence on a child’s academic success.

With your support, the Foundation has been able to be a part of increasing children’s literacy in Sacramento by building productive partnerships in the literacy community. We are excited to continue to bring information and awareness to the broader community and are determined to advance literacy in Sacramento County.

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The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is the local convener for the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading in Sacramento.



**Promise Zone Book Giveaway:** See page three.

# SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



## Walk 4 Literacy to Grant Funds to Local Literacy Nonprofits

### The Walk 4 Literacy has begun to review grant applications from local literacy nonprofits.

The grant funding, a total of \$11,500, reflects 100% of fees from registrations at last October's COVID influenced seventh annual *Walk 4 Literacy*, as well as the majority of sponsorships which came from Anthem Blue Cross, Golden 1, Murphy Austin Adams Schoenfeld LLP, Sacramento State University, and Visions In Education.

Grant recipients will be organizations providing literacy support for Sacramento County youth ages birth through 18. Programs and projects that include collaborative partners and use the Science of Reading will be given additional consideration.

**Grantees will be announced on the morning of May 6, 2021.**

### UPDATE: Litigation with Library Authority

**We have previously reported on the** litigation filed against the Foundation and its leadership by the Library Authority. As noted previously, a settlement was negotiated and its terms placed on the record with the court in late September of last year. The California Attorney General has reviewed the final settlement agreement and has

advised us that it has no objections. As we go to press, we are completing implementation of the terms of the agreement. Our name has been officially changed to the Sacramento Literacy Foundation and our future is bright.

*If you have any questions concerning this litigation, please contact Jim Deeringer at (916) 705-4463 or at [jdeeringer@gmail.com](mailto:jdeeringer@gmail.com).*

## Building a Reading Brain Science of Reading Workshop Coming on Tuesday, April 13th at 3:00 p.m.



How can we keep our students on track for reading success? What are the characteristics of an effective Science of Reading classroom? Listen in as Dr. JaNay Brown-Wood, Author and Associate Professor at Sacramento State, and Elise Spang, Reading Specialist and Senior Learning Advisor at the James B. McClatchy

Foundation, as they share with Sacramento educators the instructional practices backed by neuroscientific research that will help "build the reading brain" in K-2 students and reduce the need for reading intervention in grades 3 and beyond. This 60-minute webinar is designed for educators, administrators, and anyone else interested in the Science of Reading. Elise and JaNay will simplify the science so that you can immediately implement these evidence-based practices into your virtual and physical classrooms. There will be a Q&A period following the presentation. **To sign up go to [www.sacramentoliteracy.org/literacyworkshop-4-13-2021](http://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/literacyworkshop-4-13-2021).**

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### 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

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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.

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT  
T.Dogg Studios

# Promise Zone Book Giveaway



## As the local convener for the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading,

the Sacramento Literacy Foundation is always looking for partnerships in the community. To help those hit hardest by the COVID-slide, the Literacy Foundation partnered with SHRA, La Familia Counseling, City Councilmember Eric Guerra, Team Giving and Pro Youth & Families to give out free books to children. An estimated 4,000 children in grades K-2 spread across 20 elementary schools in the SHRA's Promise Zone received a bag of 7 books. Approximately 35% of these children can read at grade-level and 84% are eligible for the Free and Reduced Meals Program.

Together, we gave these children their own book collection. Hopefully these books encourage them to read.

**A huge thank you goes out to all the partners and funders who worked together to see this project to completion!**



# Authors on the Zoom: March 2021

## This year's "Authors on the Zoom" marked our 19<sup>th</sup>

**year** bringing together distinguished authors and their recently published books for an evening of literary delight. Authors on the Zoom was held over three weekends

in March 2021 with different themes and keynotes on each weekend. While it was no substitute for our in-person gala event, guests and authors were in good spirits as they enjoyed great company and stimulating conversation. A Fund-a-Need dedicated to the Foundation's efforts to improve children's literacy in the SHRA Promise Zone garnered strong support.



A huge thank you goes out to our presenting sponsor, Anthem Blue Cross, to our corporate sponsors CohnReznick, Downey Brand, SMUD, and to our many patron sponsors. Another round of thanks goes out to our book sponsor Capital Books and to all of our participating authors and moderators. **Your support of the Foundation and your impact on children's literacy is invaluable.**

## Authors on the Zoom Save the Date

June 19, 2021

The Foundation is hosting a children's themed author Zoom event on Saturday, June 19, 2021. Our keynote presenters will be Gayle Pitman, *Sewing the Rainbow*, and JaNay Brown-Wood, *Shhh! The Baby's Asleep*. Coming together during Pride Month on Juneteenth, they will share the importance of diverse protagonists in children's literature.

Authors on the Zoom was sponsored in part by:



DOWNEY BRAND



## Big Day of Giving Coming in May

**On Thursday, May 6** the Foundation will again participate with more than 600 nonprofit organizations in the BIG Day of Giving. As in years before, we encourage support for the work we do to help more children improve their reading skills and as a result improve our community. The Big Day of Giving is designed to help nonprofits grow their support. For us, our goal is to meet new supporters, which you can help us do. Tell your friends, family and colleagues about our efforts and show them how they can join you in helping all children read. See our newly redesigned website at [www.sacramentoliteracy.org](http://www.sacramentoliteracy.org) or go to [www.bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoliteracy](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoliteracy) to make a donation. **Donations can also be scheduled now.**



We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at [www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today](http://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today).

## READING COUNCIL

(\$5,000+)

Anthem Blue Cross  
Nancy Lawrence

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(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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*Contributions received January 9  
through March 9, 2021.*

## NAMED ENDOWMENTS

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



## E-mail Receipts

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is shifting to digital receipts! Giving your e-mail address will not only allow you to stay up to date on community literacy news with an electronic version of the Reader, it will allow your charitable receipts to arrive faster and with less environmental impact. While we are still mailing out physical receipts to those who ask, digital receipts save Foundation staff time and resources.

**Please share your e-mail address with the return envelope or send it to [info@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:info@sacramentoliteracy.org) today!**