

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

## Steadfast.

**At this moment in history, we are facing incredibly difficult and unprecedented challenges.**

Helping everyone become a proficient reader is a formidable task. Getting through these times, both big picture and small, is about resolutely staying the course. We began our strategic focus with 33% of our third graders at grade-level reading and last year 46% of our third graders could read at grade-level. The sometimes formal, sometimes informal Sacramento Literacy Movement has remained steadfast for 11 years and we can see the positive results.

It's true this pandemic has side-lined to some degree the public education

structure. When kids come back to school, they will need tools that can help them accelerate their learning. At the same time, they will need empathy as they adjust back to a classroom environment. The Science of Reading is one of these accelerating tools by having proven its methodology with a 95% success rate.

We are beginning conversations with partners about implementing an effort to embed the Science of Reading into some of our elementary schools to begin a multi-year effort that can measure advancement.

We are listening to our donors and partners through our surveys and we will work to grow the efforts we have already initiated. We will continue to host Authors on the Move and the Walk4Literacy, we will continue to update the Community

### stead·fast

/ 'sted , fast /

1. the quality of being resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering.

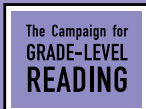
Literacy Map and we will continue to partner with like-minded groups that also value advancements in literacy.

A society that teaches all of its citizens to read is a society that values, through its actions, the inclusion of all voices – a Democracy. We have the time, the science, and the will to make this happen.

**Thank you for remaining steadfast with us.**

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



**WALK4LITERACY:** Grant Opportunity for Local Literacy Nonprofits. See page three.

# SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



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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

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The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is a dba for the Sacramento Public Library Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID #68-0029756. The Sacramento Literacy Foundation does not raise funds for the Sacramento Public Library.

## NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

T.Dogg Studios



# AUTHORS ON THE MOVE IS GOING VIRTUAL!

**This year's "Authors on the Zoom" marks our 19th year bringing together distinguished authors and their recently published books for an evening of literary delight.**

*Authors on the Zoom* will be held over three weekends in March 2021 with different themes and keynotes on each weekend. After a keynote interview, guests will gather into smaller parlor presentation breakout rooms to speak to authors through Zoom.

**MYSTERY**

**ANDREW CHILD**  
Saturday, March 6, 2021  
5:00p.m.-6:30p.m.

**NONFICTION**

**ABIGAIL DILLEN**  
Saturday, March 13, 2021  
5:00p.m.-6:30p.m.

**FICTION**

**ALKA JOSHI**  
Saturday, March 20, 2021  
5:00p.m.-6:30p.m.

All ticket buyers will be mailed a copy of that night's keynote's book. Participating author titles can be purchased through Capitol Books. There will be a Fund-a-Need in support of children's literacy that takes place over the entire month. *To inquire further or learn about sponsor opportunities, call April Javist at 916-836-3556 or e-mail at [april@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:april@sacramentoliteracy.org).*

**Tickets are on sale now at [sacramentoliteracy.org](http://sacramentoliteracy.org).**

## UPDATE: Litigation with Library Authority

**As reported in our previous newsletters,** on March 31, 2020, the Library Authority filed a lawsuit in the United States Federal District Court in Sacramento against the Foundation, Foundation President Jim Deeringer, and Foundation Executive Director April Javist. The Foundation filed a motion to dismiss the case, which the court granted in part and then sent the parties to an early settlement conference before a federal

magistrate. On September 29, 2020 a settlement was negotiated and its terms placed on the record with the court. The final settlement agreement is currently being finalized. Since shortly after the settlement was placed on the record, we have done business as the Sacramento Literacy Foundation.

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



walk4literacy.org

# Walk4Literacy Announces Grant Opportunity for Local Literacy Nonprofits

**The Walk4Literacy will open** its grant application period on January 19, 2021 for children's

literacy organizations within Sacramento County. The grant funding, a total of \$11,500, reflects 100% of fees from registration, as well as sponsorships from Anthem Blue Cross, Golden 1, Murphy Austin Adams Schoenfeld LLP, Sacramento State University, and Visions In Education during last October's seventh annual Walk4Literacy event.

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

**Grant applications will be accepted through March 19, 2021.** Reading Council members will be invited to participate in the selection process. Grantees will be announced on the morning of May 6, 2021. More information and applications are available at [www.walk4literacy.org](http://www.walk4literacy.org).

## Website Redesign



The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is kicking off 2021

with a redesigned website. This new website reflects our strategic focus on improving local literacy rates for children. We have linked websites such as the Community Literacy Map and the Walk4Literacy into our new website, allowing it to serve as a central hub for community literacy resources and events.

## Promise Zone Collaboration

**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 has partnered with Fruitridge Community Collaborative, SHRA, Youth and Family Collective, and Sacramento City Unified School District's Central Kitchen to give out free books to children in the SHRA Promise

Zone. An estimated 3,500 kids in grades K-4 spread across 20 elementary schools in the SHRA's Promise Zone will receive a bag of 8 books. Approximately 35% of these children are able to read at grade-level. Together, we will be able to give these children their own book collection. Hopefully these books encourage them to read. **If you would like to volunteer, let us know and we will pass your name along.**



## 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!

## News Highlight: Science of Reading

**In 2013, Mississippi found itself as 44th in the country for education.**

Dissatisfied by this performance, state legislators passed the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, a law which provided funding to start training the state's teachers in the Science of Reading. Six years later, Mississippi was the only state to see improvement in 4th grade reading and, for the first time in its state history, meets the national average for 4th grade reading levels. A deeper look into NAEP testing data shows that, while white students continue to outperform black and Hispanic students, the gap got smaller. Mississippi's black and Hispanic students also outperformed their peers nationally in fourth-grade reading. The Mississippi Department of Education attributes some of its continued success to its Literacy Act and its embrace of the Science of Reading.

**Now, California ranks 44th in the country. It is up to us to advocate for proven teaching methods such as the Science of Reading if more of our students are to read at grade-level.**

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at [sacramentoliteracy.org](http://sacramentoliteracy.org) - Your support matters!

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