

Jerold D Kappel, CEO
The Library Foundation of Newport Beach

Memo



To: Library Trustees
From: Jerold D Kappel, CEO
Date: June 9, 2026
Re: Library Foundation Report

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1. **Governance and Management:** The May 2026 Board Meeting was held on Monday May 18. Chase Reif, Library Trustee and Foundation Liaison, and Melissa Hartson, Library Director, attended. The meeting was held in the Central Library Friends Room.
 - a. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 22 in the Friends Room.
 2. **Witte Hall:** The Foundation has been informed that the contractor will be seeking a Temporary Certificate of Completion in June. The final certificate of completion may not be until July 24 The City is still planning its ribbon cutting for Thursday July 9.
 - a. The Grand Opening Committee is continuing the planning for the July 10 Grand Opening. Randy Heyler is chairing the opening event.
 - i. Formal invitations are will be mailed the week of June 8.
 - ii. The Library is planning additional free to the community events for Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12 (Sunday Musicale.)
 - iii. The Library Foundation is working on the publication of the program book for the Grand Opening Weekend and inaugural Witte Hall season. It will include all Foundation and Library events in Witte Hall. The effort to sell advertising in the program book was successful.
 - iv. Corporate sponsorships for the Grand Opening donor event and weekend activities have also been successfully solicited.
 - b. The Beyond Books Campaign active fundraising effort for the campaign is now over. The Foundation exceeded goal by more than \$1 million. The Foundation has also funded a larger video screen, seat plates for a seat campaign for the future, redesigned donor signage, and auditorium and other signage.

3. **Development:** The annual Summer Solstice Celebration for new members of the Foundation will be held on Wednesday, June 24. Hold the date emails and formal invitations have been sent. The Foundation will be honoring Clarence Turner and Tod and Linda White. The event will be held on the patio of the Community Room.
 - a. Invited to the Summer Solstice are donors in the Library Leadership Circle level (\$1,000 plus), Beyond Books Campaign major donors, people that have joined the Foundation for the first time since July 1, 2025, City Councilmembers, Library Trustees, Library leadership, and special guests.
4. Bookmark is in production. In addition to Foundation information, it will also include two pages on the Library, two pages on Project Adult Literacy, and two on the cultural arts.
5. **Foundation Endowment:** The Foundation approved the Library grant request for \$182,500 at its May Board meeting. The funds will be transmitted to the Library prior to the end of the fiscal year end (June 30).
6. **Programming**
 - a. The programming for the 2026-2027 season is confirmed and will be announced in the June Bookmark. The Witte Lectures, Library Live, and Spotlight on Science will be held in Witte Hall. All other programs—Medicine in Our Backyard, Financial Literacy, and the Book Discussion group--will continue to be held in the Friends Room.
 - b. For the 2026-2027 season the Library will present three special donor events (Witte Hall Grand Opening, Library Leadership Reception, Summer Solstice Celebration), three special lectures, eight Witte Lectures (4 weekends), four Library Live author lectures, four free Spotlight on Science lectures, nine Book Discussions, 12 Financial Workshops, eight Medicine in Our Backyard lectures. That is a total of 51 events presented by the Library Foundation, 34 of which are free events open to the public.