



## A Generous and Welcome Gift to READS

There is a mystery afoot at the Literacy Center, and it has aroused the curiosity of many involved in the READS program.

Tutors learned at their August meeting that longtime library volunteer Jean Tweedie had bequeathed a “substantial” sum to READS. The amount of the gift, however, is uncertain at present, perhaps awaiting a final determination of the value



**Jean Tweedie**

of Ms. Tweedie’s estate.

The amount of the bequeathal is expected to be well in the five-digit range, READS Coordinator Corrie Miles reports. No decisions have yet been made about how the windfall will be used in the literacy program, she adds.

Ms. Tweedie, a native of Ireland, died in June at the age of 87. In addition to her work at the library, she

**See JEAN TWEEDIE, Page 4**



**Felipe Lagunes and tutor Andrea Spolidoro at Women’s Club ceremony.**

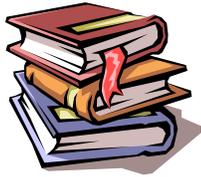
## Women’s Club Boosts Future Educator

“My goal in life is to become a university professor of English,” says Felipe Lagunes, 22, recipient of this year’s \$500 award to a READS student from Oceanside Women’s Club.

Felipe, a 7 Eleven store employee, has been working with tutor Andrea Spolidoro since September, 2011. He intends to use his award money to assist with college expenses; he began classes at MiraCosta College in August.

“I honestly feel warm deep in my heart from all of the people who have taken time to help me out and reach my dreams,” he said. “I am really glad that I met Andrea and [READS Coordinator] Corrie Miles . . . They have been such important and helpful people who are willing to go with me through this.”

Felipe also gives his thanks to the Women’s Club, led by Maggie Owen, and the Oceanside Public Library.



# Books & Bagels

## BOOK REVIEW

### How to Read Literature Like a Professor

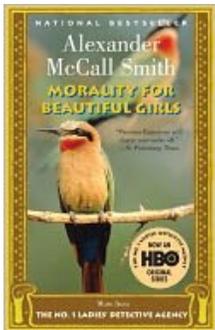
Thomas C. Foster 314 Pages

Harper

The popular Books & Bagels reading program launches its new season at READS on Saturday, September 8, with a discussion of Alexander McCall Smith's *Morality for Beautiful Girls*, the third book in his *Ladies No. 1 Detective Agency* series. This is the first of six books selected by a committee of READS tutors: Joanne Ashwell, Mary Lou Elliott, and Andrea Spolidoro.

Other books and discussion dates are *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane (November 10), *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White (January 12), *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (February 23), *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt (April 13), and *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein (June 22).

The selection committee made an effort this year to choose books that are more reader-friendly than some of the past selections have been for students in the literacy program. So, learners, we hope that these choices will result in greater attendance and participation by you at the discussions. Your voices are important!



The Saturday morning sessions take place at the Literacy Center, beginning at 10 AM and last about an hour and a half. Along with food for thought, a light breakfast is provided

by READS Coordinator Corrie Miles.

Facilitator for the September 8 discussion will be Mary Ellen Reese. Others who will preside at these meetings are Joanne Ashwell, Carolyn Coffman, Michael Meis, and Alma Sisco-Smith.

If you have an urge to facilitate one of these book chats, it's not too late. The spot for *Tuck Everlasting* remains open, and Corrie will be happy to pencil you in.

All tutors and students are eligible to participate in the discussions. At the end of each session, the book for the next meeting is distributed. Audiobooks also are available for students who request them.

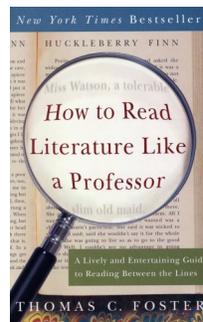
*'I am not young enough to know everything.'*

—Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Do you want to get below the surface of the next novel you read? Thomas C. Foster, a professor of English at the University of Michigan, offers this "lively and entertaining guide to reading between the lines" for those of us who want to be better equipped to discover the subtexts and other treasures in the stories we read.

Foster presents his insights in a conversational style that is easy to grasp, and he covers a wide range of material. He breaks his discussion into short chapters in telling us what to look for. Some of the titles: "Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?," "When in Doubt, It's from Shakespeare . . .," ". . . Or the Bible," "It's More Than Just Rain or Snow," "Is That a Symbol?," "It's All Political," and "Yes, She's a Christ Figure, Too."

Foster also analyzes and interprets "acts of communion," and the deeper role that food and the sharing of meals sometimes plays in a story. Another topic is how journeys can be seen as quests and how "the real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge."



"All literature grows out of other literature," Foster notes, thus explaining why we frequently come across scenes or themes that remind us of Shakespeare or stories from the Bible.

In a chapter titled "It's Greek to Me," Foster explains how stories often have traces of Greek or Roman myths weaved into them. In another chapter, he suggests, "One does well to remember, as one starts reading a poem or story, to check the weather." He says, "It's never just rain. And that goes for snow, sun, warmth, cold, and probably sleet."

About symbolism, he says: "We bring an individual history to our reading, a mix of previous readings, to be sure, but also a history that includes, but is not limited to, educational attainment, gender, race, class, faith, social involvement, and philosophical inclination. These factors will inevitably influence what we understand in our reading, and nowhere is this individuality clearer than in the matter of symbolism."

If you are serious about the fiction you read, you are very likely to find this nonfiction work worth your time.

—WT

# Five Attend Workshop on Phonemics

**pho•neme**, *n* any of the minimal units of speech sound in a language that can serve to distinguish one word from another.

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READS Coordinator Corrie Miles and four tutors recently attended a training workshop at the John Corcoran Center for Literacy in Oceanside.



**Nora Chahbazi**

The center has recently partnered with Evidence Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI), developed by Nora Chahbazi of Michigan, and it was she who conducted the two-day event.

It is Chahbazi's mission to "teach the world to read" and those attending from READS found her to be a passionate and energetic advocate for literacy.

EBLI is based on phonemic awareness. A sound is represented in English by up to four letters. For example, there are two sounds in the word *weigh*, the *w* and the *igh*.

We learned to help our students hear the sounds in a word, break the word into individual sounds, and say each sound as they write it. It sounds simple, but as we learned during our practice sessions with each other, it's not easy to change our old habits. We often accidentally said the name of the letter instead of just the sound it makes, or let our "student" write without saying the word or sound.

We left the workshop with a set of lesson plans, instructions to practice teaching EBLI, and our heads buzzing with new ideas.

—Eileen Shearin



From left, READS tutors Robin Ferencz-Kotfica, Joseph Conci, Alma Sisco-Smith, and Eileen Shearin at the EBLI literacy training conference.

## Tutor's Forum

*"It's a very ancient saying but a true and honest thought,  
That if you become a teacher, by your pupils you are taught."*

—From **The King and I** by Rodgers and Hammerstein

**O**ne of the greatest joys of tutoring at READS has been what I have gleaned from the adult learners who have come my way:

**"Ilsa,"** a Viennese go-getter who quickly mastered English and mathematics to earn her GED in conjunction with studies at MiraCosta College: "Beethoven is for adults while Mozart is for children. That's why Americans are so fond of Mozart."

**"Thaddeus"':** Starting from total illiteracy, he worked his way through all the READS texts, finished *Challenger 8* while holding down a demanding full-time job. He was a true

genius when it came to numbers so I handed him my investment portfolio. During the crash of 2008, Thad raised the value of my investments by a whopping 8%. Needless to say, I miss him a bundle.

**"Bert"** tackled READS while simultaneously working the 12-step program. This I know: Some tasks are even more challenging than literacy.

There you have it—a few lessons I've learned while tutoring. Each learner comes with special talents and knowledge, making our times together unforgettable.

—Joanne Ashwell

**Next Tutor Lunch Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 2, NOON**

## JEAN TWEEDIE ( From Page 1)

was an an ambassador for the Chamber of Commerce, and an active volunteer at the Oceanside Art Museum, the Oceanside Senior Center, the Tri-City Hospital, and the Moonlight Theater. She also served on the Water Commission.

Ms. Tweedie emigrated to Canada as a child with her family, and during World War II she served in the Royal Air Force. She later worked in Los Angeles and retired in 1977. Her volunteer work in Oceanside began in 1980. She outlived her husband, William, and a brother—and there are no other relatives.

READS tutor Joanne Ashwell was a neighbor and friend of Ms. Tweedie's at the Rancho San Luis Rey Mobile Home Park.

"She had been an enthusiastic member of Friends of the Library," Joanne said, "and had often discussed with me the merits of READS. I believe a memorial and possibly a wall plaque in her honor would befit this most generous friend of READS.

"This dynamic lady inspired me and so many of her co-volunteers."

READS, which has had major financial struggles in recent years, will surely find a worthy use for Ms. Tweedie's bequeathal—whatever the amount may be.

### Oceanside READS Locations

#### Literacy Center

321 N. Nevada St., Oceanside, CA 92054

(760) 435-5680

Hours: Mon., Tues., 10-7; Wed., 2-7; Fri., 10-2

#### Civic Center Library

330 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA 92054

(760) 435-5600

Hours: Mon., Tues., 10-7

Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., 10-5:30

#### Mission Branch Library

3861-B Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA 92057

(760) 435-5600

Hours: Mon., Tues., 11-7

Wed., Thurs., Fri., 10-5:30; Sun., 1-5

Closed Saturday

READS Adult Literacy Coordinator: Corrie Miles (760) 435-5680

California Library Literacy Services — Southern California Library Literacy Network — San Diego Council on Literacy

## Become a Volunteer Tutor . . . Make a Difference in Someone's Life

The idea of tutoring is an attractive, but intimidating, idea for some people. "After all," they wonder, "what can I tutor? And how can I learn how to do it?" Oceanside READS offers training for adults who wish to help other adults with low literacy skills—to enable them to function better in society.

### Requirements for Tutoring Adults

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a high school graduate or equivalent
- Complete a free eight-hour training
- Commit to tutoring for at least six months (It's okay to go on vacation.)
- Tutor for a minimum of two days per week, 90 minutes per session

### Next Tutor Training Schedule

#### Orientation

Wednesday, September 26, 6-7 PM

#### Training

Saturday, September 29, 9 AM-4:30 PM

#### Location

READS Literacy Center

Please call (760) 435-5680 for more information, or if you would like to volunteer.