



2001 - 2021



Readers *are* Leaders
Virtual Benefit Breakfast
7:30am Thursday, April 15

Join us online:

www.tinyurl.com/RSVP-RAL



PROGRAM

7:30am - Welcome & Kick Off

- Literacy Champion Awards
- Conversation with keynote
Nancy Pearl
- Mission moments
- Invitation to invest in literacy

8:30am - Closing

BE A READER LEADER!

Easy ways to give the gift of reading:

- **Donate online**
www.tinyurl.com/beareaderleader
- **Mail a check** in the enclosed envelope



Thank you for investing in children's literacy!

ABOUT US

It's our mission to bring the joy and promise of books and reading to all South Sound children. We envision a community where all children read well and enjoy reading. Our research-based literacy, outreach and engagement programs educate children and families about the importance of reading and strive to safely share free high-quality books with 1,500+ children weekly.

SAMPLING OF SERVICES

- **\$2500 fills our Book Van** with popular titles so 1000+ kids have their choice of books.
- **\$1000 stocks Little Free Libraries** 9 schools.
- **\$500 shares 200 new Books for Babies** board books and early reading tips with newborns and their families.
- **\$100 delivers a partner package of 40 books** to community agencies serving low-income families.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Although we can't safely be together in person for this year's Readers Are Leaders breakfast, we're heartened to be joining together in this virtual community to celebrate children's literacy and improve access to books in these uncertain times.

This annual event celebrates reading, shares inspiring stories, and raises essential funding to help families enjoy reading together so all children reach their full potential. Thank you for celebrating our 20th anniversary and giving the gift of reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer W. Forster'.

Jennifer Williamson Forster Executive Director

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LITERACY CHAMPIONS

Our annual Literacy Champion Awards honor the memory of two extraordinary women instrumental to our existence and recognize individuals exemplifying their spirit and commitment to literacy today.

The Shirlee Lehnis Literacy Champion Award celebrates an exceptional youth for their efforts to promote literacy.

An extraordinary educator who truly believed in the importance of literacy, Shirlee Lehnis founded South Sound Reading Foundation in 2001. Her passion for children and education lives on 20 years later through our work.



Shirlee Lehnis with daughter, Julie

The Lois Asay Literacy Champion Award recognizes an outstanding adult or team in our community who has really gone above and beyond to promote literacy and a love of reading.

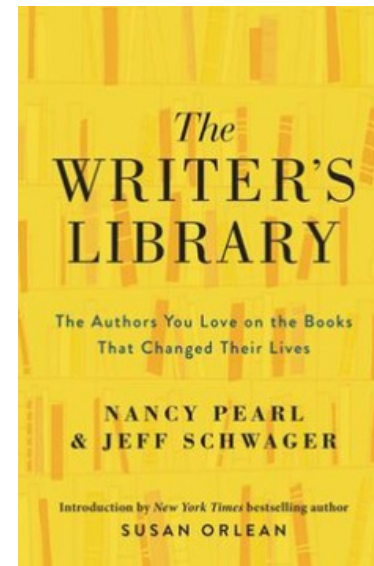
Both inspiring and indispensable, founding volunteer and retired principal, Lois Asay loved working with kids and families to ensure they loved reading.



Lois Asay

KEYNOTE NANCY PEARL

Nancy Pearl is a best-selling author, librarian, and literary critic, but first and foremost, she is a reader and has spent her life promoting reading as one of the most beneficial and joyful experiences anyone can have.



In *The Writer's Library*, her latest book co-authored with playwright Jeff Schwager, twenty-three of today's living literary legends reveal the books that made them think, brought them joy, and changed their lives.

THE WRITER'S LIBRARY

Available at: B R O W S E R S

book  shop

Order online:

tinyurl.com/browsersbookshop

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20TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT CALENDAR

Save the dates to celebrate with us!

May

- Celebration Story Time with Special Guest

June

- Celebrate Summer Reading Event

July/August

- SSRF Open House

September 17-18

- Books by the Bay Literary Festival



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www.southsoundreading.org