



**Our mission is to empower children and youth as valued family and community members through intergenerational shared-reading experiences.**

**September 2016**

## **San Diego Magazine's Woman of the Year Nominee**

***Betty J. Mohlenbrock, M.Ed.***



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The Reading Legacies Team would like to announce that our founder and President, Betty Mohlenbrock, was entered and selected as a qualified nominee for the San Diego Magazine Woman of the Year for 2016. She will be recognized as a nominee for this prestigious award in the September issue of the magazine. The winner will be announced at the San Diego Magazine's Celebrating Women event:

Date: September 28th, 2016  
Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Location:  
MCASD LA JOLLA  
700 PROSPECT STREET  
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

### Event Details:

San Diego Magazine's Celebrating Women event is an evening to honor all of the dynamic women in our city committed to creating positive change. A networking hour kicks off the event with hosted bites and beverages followed by an inspirational discussion with women from various business sectors. Get inspired by their success stories and advice as we tackle the issues that face professional women in San Diego. The evening will culminate with the ceremony announcing special award winners and the Woman of the Year.

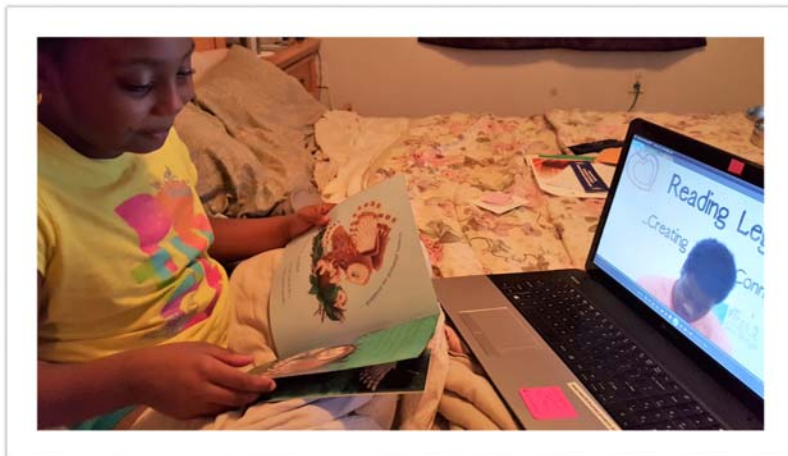
The event is open to the public. You can find more information here: <http://www.sandiegomagazine.com/San-Diego-Magazine/April-2016/Celebrating-Women-2016/>

## Family Connections

*...creating connections for children and their incarcerated family members through the shared-reading experience by reading a book on DVD and sending the book and DVD home to the family.*

Jan. 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016:

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who have provided over 750 hours of their time, as well as generous donations from community members, Reading Legacies has helped to create 2,305 shared reading experiences (on DVD) for children whose families are separated from them by incarceration.



The results of the surveys show the following:

Responses from the home:

- **85%** report the child enjoys reading more
- **55%** report the child is doing better in school/improved reading skills
- **83%** report they are reading more with the child at home
- **81%** report child's relationship with the absent family member has improved
- **74%** of the caregivers report their relationship with the absent family member has improved

Responses from the participating inmate or juvenile detainee:

- **82%** are satisfied with our program
- **79%** state that this program is important
- **59%** state this is the **ONLY** source of **VISUAL** contact with the child at home
- **50%** report that participation in our program taught them a new read aloud technique
- **11%** state this is the **ONLY** form of communication with their family

## Community Connections

...creating connections for young children and local teens through reading aloud together

January 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016:

Our dedicated teen volunteers have provided over 806 hours of their time, and have benefited from the support and encouragement of caring adult community members. Together with Reading Legacies, they have helped to create over 3,400 shared-reading experiences for 300 at-risk preschool children in their own communities.

The results of the surveys show the following:

- **100%** of the teen volunteers reported they felt that building relationships through the shared-reading experience is important
- **93%** of the parents report the child's reading interest has increased
- **80%** of the preschool teachers reported an increase in the children's attention span after participating in our program
- **77%** of the teen volunteers reported an increase in reading interest after participating in our program



## Want to Learn More About Reading Legacies and How You Can Help Us Accomplish Our Mission?

Reading Legacies will host monthly overview sessions at our Liberty Station location: 2750 Historic Decatur Rd., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92106. If you or anyone you know would like to learn more about what we do and how you can become part of our volunteer team please contact us.

**Our next monthly overview session will be held on September 15th at 4:30-5:30 PM. Please RSVP to [info@readinglegacies.org](mailto:info@readinglegacies.org) or by calling us at 619-269-2743 if you plan to attend.**

## Thank You For Community Support!

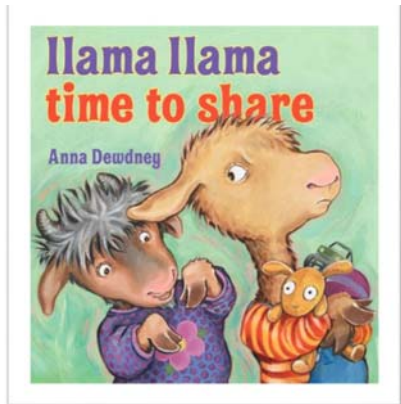
**S. MARK TAPER FOUNDATION** We are most grateful to the S. Mark Taper Foundation for their generous grant to the programs of Reading Legacies. With their support, these remarkable outcomes have been made possible during the first two quarters of 2016. We look forward to continuing to work together as we aspire to connect all children and youth to their families and communities through shared-reading experiences.

**Honoring the Legacy of Anna Dewdney**  
Author and Illustrator of the "Llama Llama" book series



Ms. Dewdney died earlier this month after a 15-month battle with brain cancer at the age of 50. The author and illustrator was an outspoken advocate for children's literacy. She wrote about how reading to children does more than teaching them to love books:

"By reading with a child, we are teaching that child to be human. When we open a book, and share our voice and imagination with a child, that child learns to see the world through someone else's eyes. I will go further and say that that child then learns to feel the world more deeply, becoming more aware of himself and others in a way that he simply cannot experience except in our laps, or in our classrooms, or in our reading circles. Be human, loving, and strong, and that will allow the children in your care to be human, loving, and strong," she wrote.



Thank you, Anna Dewdney, for sharing your books and your inspiration about reading with children. We will carry on your important legacy!

**Please visit our website at [www.readinglegacies.org](http://www.readinglegacies.org)**

**Contact us at 619-269-2743 or [info@readinglegacies.org](mailto:info@readinglegacies.org)**



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