

## Reader

Alison Kertis created the Literacy Project in 2019 and will be holding a *Harry Potter* trivia night fundraiser at Brewer's Cabinet, 475 S. Arlington Ave., March 5 at 7 p.m. Learn more at [facebook.com/literacyprojectNV](https://facebook.com/literacyprojectNV).

### What made you want to start the Literacy Project, and what kind of goals have you accomplished so far?

Growing up, reading was always a huge part of my life, and I never had to worry about getting a new book to read or finding something I liked and having the chance to read it. So when I decided that I had to do something else besides my job as an attorney, I knew I wanted books to be involved somehow. Then, I was doing Big Brothers Big Sisters a couple years ago, and my sister was in fourth grade, and she couldn't read—which affected her grades in school, and I could just never build an interest for her to read books, which helped me get the idea that, if we can help these kids get the resources they need, it can make a huge difference. It's difficult to do much if you can't read, so we want these children to have options for their proficiency level and save teachers from having to reach into their pockets every year. The national average that teachers spend a year is over \$500.



COURTESY/ALISON KERTIS

### What kind of help do you provide schools and teachers with exactly?

We have three programs that we try to set out to do, the first of which is providing books to classrooms—possibly around 30 to 35 copies of an individual book, so that way, if a teacher wanted to do a study or an analysis of that book for class, everyone can have a copy. The second is what we call a classroom library makeover, which is anywhere from 50 books to one we did a few days ago where we got them over 200. We also provided shelving units as well to ensure they had the proper space for them. Finally, we also do individual book requests for students either from our website or an Amazon wishlist we have as well.

### How much support from the city have you received so far?

Brewer's Cabinet has been great, and they care so much about nonprofits, so it's been awesome getting to work with them. They've been truly amazing. It would be cool for other local businesses to get involved, so that way we can help build a reputation and possibly get corporate sponsorship or major donors to get involved, which we would love. It's hard to trust a new nonprofit that isn't a year old to give a bunch of money to, so we have to continue helping and showing that we'll work our butts off to help these kids—and we are doing a lot more than others to help schools around Nevada. I'm so confident we will get them to realize the impact we're trying to make, and I know this organization can succeed in helping kids in this city and state get the reading material they need to succeed as well.

### What will the *Harry Potter* event be like and what other events can we look forward to?

The *Harry Potter* trivia night is a great way to help get involved in what we're trying to do, and what's really cool is you can come for free if you buy a book off the wishlist and just send us a copy of your receipt. So, you can fulfill a request for a child personally while also coming to attend a fun night with others who enjoy helping as well. We also have an event coming up in May as a Literacy Project heroine-type ordeal that should help provide even more books as well. We're very excited. □

## NOTES FROM THE NEON BABYLON

BY BRUCE VAN DYKE

## What's buggin' you?

Final words on this strange shindig called a caucus. Good ride-dance. I mean, jeez, the caucus was done by 8 o'clock Saturday night, and by Sunday afternoon, 4 p.m., we've got exactly 87 percent of the results. They're still counting and processing, 20 hours after the polls have closed? C'mon, man. Not good enough. That's Amish shit. Ain't gonna cut it here in the Modern Age. May this caucus be the last. Please. Costs more to have a primary? Fine. Spend the bleeping money, and let's move on.

As we rev up discussions on the lively topic of electability, let's remember that at this time four years ago, there was another fellow being branded as Unelectable. His name—Donald Trump.

But I sure hope Bernie doesn't have a dealbreaker lying there

in his medical records. Because after dealing with Trump's stonewalling of any and every document that has any interest at all, a lot of us are in the mood for a bit of ... transparency? Is that too much to ask?

One thing the Dem nominee can say, whether it's Bernie or whomever, he/she's gonna be running against a guy who—let's face it—has some weak spots. Not that President Capone has a credibility problem.

Cred Prob, Part 2. When Dum Dum gets up there and says, "this Coronavirus situation is under control, and there's nothing to worry about," who the fuck would actually, you know, believe him? Who in their right mind would believe one word of anything President Pinocchio tells us about The Virus?

And speaking of the Chinese Death Plague, let's come down

off Apocalypse Mountain for a second and talk some sense. The main thing to remember about this bug is that if you're not an old fart, you really don't have a whole lot to worry about. Look here. The death rate for those over 80 is a nasty 14 percent. For 70-79, it's 8 percent. And for us sexy sexagenarians, it's 3.6 percent. But if you're under 60, it's really kind of a big fat nothing burger. As in you ain't gonna die. Hell, you won't even get that sick. This isn't ebola or cholera. It's a flu. It appears to kill mostly old people, as flus and pneumonias tend to do. But really, if you're under 60, don't waste a nickel on painter's masks (and I trust you've heard about the man with Coronavirus who's looking for a gal with Lyme Disease?) □



## WARNING:

QUITTING SMOKING NOW  
GREATLY REDUCES SERIOUS RISK  
TO YOUR HEALTH.

## CIGARETTES PREMIUM BRANDS

Marlboro Red	\$6.44 pack	\$63.44 carton
Camel Box/99s	\$6.36 pack	\$62.59 carton
Winston	\$5.91 pack	\$58.14 carton
American Spirit	\$7.40 pack	\$73.04 carton
Nat Sherman	\$8.77 pack	\$43.45 carton

## CIGARETTES VALUE BRANDS

L. Ducat	\$3.91 pack	\$38.10 carton
Eagle 20	\$4.01 pack	\$39.10 carton
Silver Cloud	\$4.04 pack	\$39.39 carton
King Mountain	\$4.38 pack	\$42.83 carton

## Smokeless Tobacco

Copenhagen	\$5.24 can	\$24.62 roll
Skool	\$5.14 can	\$24.12 roll
Grizzly Wintergreen	\$3.86 can	\$17.74 roll
General Snus	\$5.28 can	\$24.59 roll

## Alternative Products

Zyn	\$4.11 can	\$18.09 roll
Vuse Vibe	\$19.95 device	\$9.99 refill cartridge
My Blu	\$19.95 device	\$8.99 refill cartridge
Juul	\$33.49 device	\$13.99 4 pk pods

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Salty Man / Revolve / Suorin / Omni / Voodoo

## CBD PRODUCTS

CBD Vapor Liquids / Tinctures / Assorted Products



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Reno: 2001 E. 2nd St. 329-0275

Reno: 901 Golden Ln. 329-6299

Sparks: 1962 Pyramid Way 353-2140

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