

MEDIA CONTACT

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Neuhaus Education Center Hosts Unlocking Literacy Event

Double feature film viewing, and panel discussion address the literacy crisis

HOUSTON, Texas (August 14, 2023) – Neuhaus Education Center, a Houston-based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting *Literacy for All*, is excited to announce a double feature film viewing followed by engaging panel discussions with influential leaders at their Unlocking Literacy: Houston, We Have a Solution! event on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at Jones Hall, St. Thomas University. The event will engage a cross-section of stakeholders and surface the literacy crisis facing our city, state, and country.

This event is sponsored by [Workforce Solutions - Houston-Galveston Area Council](#) with partnerships from [Houstonia Magazine](#) and the [University of St. Thomas](#).

The first film viewing, *The Truth About Reading*, directed by Nick Nanton, aims to change the conversation about literacy by highlighting illiteracy, sub-literacy, and learning disabilities, including dyslexia. The second film viewing, *The Right to Read*, directed by Jenny Mackenzie and executive produced by Levar Burton, shares the stories of a courageous activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read.

What: Unlocking Literacy: Houston, We Have a Solution!
 Double Feature Film Viewings & Panel Discussions

When: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 / 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (CST)

Where: Jones Hall at St. Thomas University, 3910 Yoakum Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

Cost: Free and open to the public. This is an in-person event only.

Tickets: To reserve your seat, register [here](#).

Panel discussion moderated by **Jenn White** of 1A from WAMU/NPR with closing remarks including **Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora**, Superintendent of Schools at Tomball ISD.

- **Tracy White Weeden**, President & CEO, Neuhaus Education Center
- **Danielle Shokes-Knotts**, Manager, Adult Education and Literacy, Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- **Ameer Baraka**, Emmy® Award-nominated and daytime actor, author, and dyslexia advocate
- **Ruth N. López Turley, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Sociology at the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University
- **Dave DeJohn**, Educator & Literacy Advocate
- **David Chalk**, Entrepreneur & Literacy Advocate
- **Debbie Landau**, Chief Operating Officer, Lovescaping
- **Federico Salas-Isnardi**, Director of the City of Houston Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy

A book signing with Ameer Baraka will follow *The Right to Read* and panel discussion. Born to humble beginnings in New Orleans, Ameer's early life was as gloomy and as ill-fated as a young life could have been. In and out of the prison system as a kid for transgressions ranging from youthful indiscretions to major crimes, he was seemingly on a one-way trip to oblivion. Almost illiterate when he went to prison, he was diagnosed with dyslexia and learned to read in his mid-twenties while behind bars. His book, *UNDIAGNOSED: The Ugly Side of Dyslexia* promotes early detection of the learning disability in schools and awareness and support for prison inmates in the United States.

Media are invited to attend the film viewings and panel discussions. Opportunities for interviews with guest speakers and event organizers will be available. For media inquiries, please contact Alisha Workman at aworkman@neuhaus.org. Neuhaus Education Center has been a pioneer in providing literacy solutions in Texas and beyond. We're making an impact to unlock a brighter future of *Literacy for All*. Visit www.neuhaus.org to learn more.