

A writer's life will spice fundraiser luncheon

By Lillian Cox
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In 2001, Phil Doran tried to ignore the subtle hints that he was being replaced by a younger generation of television writers.

His wife, marble sculptor Nancy Doran, had traveled for years to Italy and embraced its romantic lifestyle. Without Phil's knowledge, she bought a home in Tuscany for the two of them to begin a new life.

Thus began Doran's second career as an author. In 2005, he published a travel memoir, "The Reluctant Tuscan: How I Discovered My Inner Italian."

The book was released in paperback the following year.

On March 31, Doran will be the guest speaker at the second annual An Author's Luncheon, sponsored by the Assistance League of Rancho San Dieguito. The event will be held from 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the new Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa adjacent to Legoland.

"The Reluctant Tuscan" is the humorous, true story of how Doran rediscovered himself, his marriage and the Italian culture.

Doran enjoyed early fame as a twentysomething writer for the transformational 1970s sitcom "All in the Family." His wave of success continued with gigs on "Sanford and Son," "The Bob Newhart Show," "Who's the Boss" and "The Wonder Years."

"I was caught up going through life in L.A. like my hair was on fire," he said. "I was 53 and it was an amazing time. But I was in denial."

Though Doran felt his work had never been better, he said

An Author's Luncheon

WHAT Second annual event benefits the Assistance League of Rancho San Dieguito. Emcee is Carol LeBeau, anchor on Channel 10 News

WHO Phil Doran, author, "The Reluctant Tuscan: How I Discovered My Inner Italian"

WHEN 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 31

WHERE Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive, Carlsbad

COST \$85

INFORMATION Anne King, (760) 737-3577

the harsh reality was that the television industry discards writers at the peak of their careers.

"You don't get a gold watch in this business. They just stop returning your calls," he said. "My wife got this strange idea that we needed to change our lives. She wanted to rescue me."

The transition was difficult, but eventually Doran emerged from the experience.

"The Italians taught me how to truly live in every moment, in every day," he said. "They take great joy in the simple things of life."

Today, the Dorans divide their time between their homes in Tuscany and Laguna Woods, where Phil says he tries to practice what he's learned in Italy.

In a few weeks they will return to their Tuscan home for the summer.

"I've evolved into a gentleman farmer," Doran said. "If you see me, it's a mess. We're hoping to come out with our line of olive oil next year called Extra Virgin Nancy. "Extra Virgin Nancy" will also be the name of the sequel to "The Reluctant Tuscan," which is being made into a movie produced by John Travolta and his wife, Kelly Preston.

organization sponsors five major projects throughout the year that benefit sexual assault survivors, trauma victims, military families and schoolchildren.

Tickets to the luncheon are \$85. This includes prizes and an opportunity to bid on vacation packages, sports outings, fine china and other items during a silent auction.

For reservations contact Anne King at (760) 737-3577.

Lillian Cox is a freelance writer who lives in Encinitas.

The author's lunch is the major fundraiser for the Assistance League of Rancho San Dieguito. The nonprofit