



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: LOVE & FORGIVENESS READING AND DISCUSSION GROUP AT THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*The Group Will Discuss "The Death of Ivan Ilych" by Leo Tolstoy*

**SAN DIEGO** — San Diego Public Library continues its free, five-part reading and discussion series called "Let's Talk About It: Love & Forgiveness," exploring the themes of love and forgiveness in everyday life through classic and contemporary literature. San Diego Public Library is one of only 50 libraries nationwide receiving a grant to host the program, developed by the American Library Association and the Fetzer Institute's Campaign for Love and Forgiveness. Local support for the series is provided by KPBS. Exploring the theme of *Love and Forgiveness in the Light of Death*, the fourth program in the series focuses on *The Death of Ivan Ilych* by Leo Tolstoy, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 11, in the Wangenheim Room at the San Diego Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

*The Death of Ivan Ilych* represents perhaps the most keenly realized melding of Tolstoy's spirituality with his artistic skills. *The Death of Ivan Ilych*, is a masterful meditation on the act of dying. The first major fictional work published by Tolstoy after a mid-life psychological crisis, this novella reflects the author's struggle to find meaning in life, a challenge Tolstoy resolved by developing a religious philosophy based on brotherly love, mutual support, and charity. These guiding principles are the dominant moral themes in *The Death of Ivan Ilych*, an account of the spiritual conversion of a judge-an ordinary, unthinking, vulgar man-in the face of his terrible fear about death.

Steven Cassedy, Ph.D., Comparative Literature, will facilitate the book discussion. Dr. Cassedy teaches at University of California, San Diego.

"We are delighted to have been chosen to host this unique series that will allow patrons a chance to discuss the themes of love and forgiveness with fellow community members and with the help of a well-qualified scholar," said Deborah Barrow, Library Director.

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Press Release –Death of Ivan Ilych press release

There are a limited number of books available for registrants with a San Diego Public Library account to borrow. Please visit or contact the Central Library’s Literature and Language section, 619-236-5800, or place a HOLD online with your library account and PIN to have a copy sent to the branch of your choice.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

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