

A Line on Literacy

Solano County Library Literacy Services

Literacy Services Volunteers Receive Awards for Volunteer of the Year and Soroptimists' Women Making a Difference

William Greene and Carole O'Hara have served a combined fifteen years with Literacy Services. William was honored for his commitment as a reader for Reach Out and Read as Solano County Health & Social Services' Volunteer of the Year. Carole O'Hara was recognized by the Soroptimists of Central Solano as this year's Women Making a Difference awardee for her work with the Women Helping Women tutoring group.

**William and Carole are both dedicated to the work they do.
The awards held a surprise for each of them.**



William Greene

"I didn't hear about it. I was told I was going to meet to talk about Reach Out and Read. That was the ploy to keep the secret. I was so unready," says Greene. "I do what I do because I am compelled to. If I get validation it makes it that much sweeter."

Carole received a \$500 award that she donated to the Fairfield Police Department's canine unit. She'd read an article on a ballistic dog vest that protects police dogs from attacks. She was delighted when Kargo, the dog that received her vest, was at the awards luncheon. "When I saw the dog, I couldn't talk. Everyone got excited. I don't even know what I said previously or after seeing Kargo. Later, I got to pet him," she laughs, "even though, I don't think I was supposed to."



Carole O'Hara with
Fairfield Mayor Harry Price



July 2009



Inside This Issue

A Message from Sandy	2
Calendar of Events	4
Welcome New Volunteers	4
W2W Challenge	5
ROR - 100,000 Books	7
Literacy Materials	8
FFL - Favorite Book	8
Celebration 2010	9
Facebook	9
Workshop - Reaching Goals	9

Please join us in congratulating William Greene and Carole O'Hara for their recognitions!

*The world is round, and the place which may seem like the end
may also be the beginning.*

~ **Ivy Baker Priest**

Our library literacy programs have been on the cutting edge of providing literacy services for adults and their families for nearly 15 years! Our program is respected within the family of California Library literacy programs and often consulted for information on our best practices. Last January, we were officially accredited by ProLiteracy America as a quality provider of adult literacy services, meeting 16 standards in Tutor Services, Student-centered Services and Organizational Management.

During this time, the library hired an outstanding staff whose commitment to volunteers and adult learners is exemplary. Volunteers devoted precious time and expertise to change the life of another adult; pediatric clinics said, “Yes! We will gladly urge our patients to read aloud to their children;” and adult learners stretched themselves to become the best that they could be through learning.

And so, as typical of all things, another page in the Book of Change, will turn. On September 12, I will retire as Program Manager, leaving behind a program that will continue to grow and change lives. While sad to leave, I look ahead to my “new beginning” in retirement. Thank you to the many of you who challenged and supported me all along the way.

Sandy Tosti



Sandy with students Angeles Williams and Hyon Kwon



Sandy with community partner, Carol Hermsmeyer



Sandy with volunteer, Dorothy Walker

Sandy Tosti to Open a New Chapter

As Ivy Baker Priest’s quote above so clearly states, “...the end may also be the beginning.” Sandy Tosti first opened the doors of Solano County Library’s Literacy Program at the John F. Kennedy Library in Vallejo, 15 years ago. We now invite you to gather again, Friday, September 11, 2009 at the Kennedy Library to celebrate the end of this chapter, and to wish her our best for the new chapter in her life of retirement.

If you would like to join in this celebration, see the enclosed flyer for details. Please respond by August 28 to Joanne Wright (JHWright@SolanoCounty.com) or 784-1526.



*Butterfly ~ a symbol of one's intention
to flutter through life in joy...*

You are cordially invited to

Sandy Tosti's

Retirement Party

Join literacy staff as we honor Sandy and her lifelong dedication to serving others.
Come and celebrate Sandy's transformation into her new phase of life.

When: Friday, September 11—the National Day of Service
5:00pm (Dinner will be served at 6:00pm)
(Vegetarian selection available)

Where: John F. Kennedy Library, 505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo
Joseph Room (2nd floor)

Cost: \$20 per person (price includes money towards group gift)

Please RSVP by August 28, 2009
Joanne Wright (JHWright@SolanoCounty.com), 707-784-1526

Yes, I plan to attend Sandy Tosti's Retirement Celebration

Name _____

_____ # attending amount enclosed _____

Please respond by August 28, 2009, to Joanne Wright (JHWright@SolanoCounty.com)
at the Literacy Office, 707-784-1526. Make checks payable to Joanne Wright.

Calendar of Events 2009

July

- 3, 4 & 5 Library Closed—4th of July Holiday
 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due
 9 ROR Volunteer Training, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., John F. Kennedy Library, Vallejo, 3rd Floor Board Room
 11 Tutor Orientation, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Vacaville Public Library, Cultural Center, Meeting Room

August

- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due

September

- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due
 5 *How to Make That Dream Come True* (Reaching those goals) Workshop, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Fairfield Civic Center Library, Becker Balmer Meeting Room
 7 Holiday - Library Closed
 11 Sandy Tosti's Retirement Party – RSVP by August 28 to Joanne @ the Literacy Office
 12 Tutor Orientation, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Fairfield Civic Center Library, Becker-Balmer Meeting Room
 24 ROR Volunteer Training, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., Fairfield Civic Center Library, Becker-Balmer Meeting Room



Welcome New Volunteers

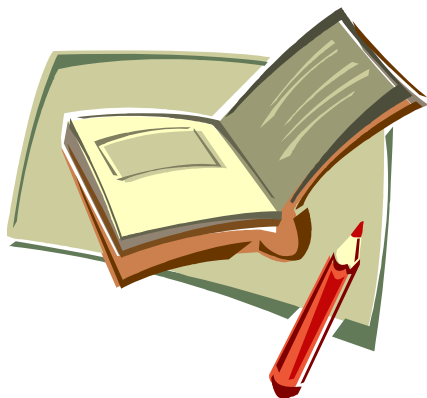
Tutors

Anicete, Rebecca
 Burns, Margaret
 Carreon, Catalina
 Corr, Patricia
 Dorsey, Tracy
 Doucet, Virginia
 Dummer, Patricia
 Fuller, Trinetta
 Gomez Keen, Sara
 Hammerli, Suzanne Smith
 Haugh, Kathleen
 Hunter, Danielle Antoinette
 Hunziker, Jonathan
 Maddox, Sean

Moore, Bettye
 Nelson, Carla
 Nelson, Pam
 Noto, Laura Marie
 Peterson, Linda
 Price, Sandra
 Skalberg, Lupe
 Snowden, Camille
 Tennenbaum, Susan
 Truitt, Carol
 White, Frank
 Woodard, Natalie
 Zimmerman, Joyce
 Zimmerman, Larry

ROR Volunteers

Austin, Linda
 Morgan, Bonnie
 Novoa, Maria



**2009
Writer to Writer Challenge
of
Solano County Library
Adult Literacy Program**

Tutors, encourage your student/s to participate...

**Warm Up Your Pen....
Solano County Library Adult Literacy Program is hosting a
2009 Writing Challenge!**

- Spring: Choose any book to read (or listen to a book on tape).
- Summer: Read the book. (You might want to use the Mind Mapping Tool on the reverse side of this paper.)
- Fall: Write a letter to the author, telling how you felt about the book.
- Deadline: Send all letters to the Literacy Office by November 1, 2009
- Entries will be judged by the Learner Council.
- One winner will be selected from each community:
 1. Fairfield/Suisun/Cordelia
 2. Rio Vista
 3. Vacaville
 4. Vallejo
- Winners will be announced and receive awards at the Literacy Celebration
- All eligible entries will be sent to the California State Library competition.

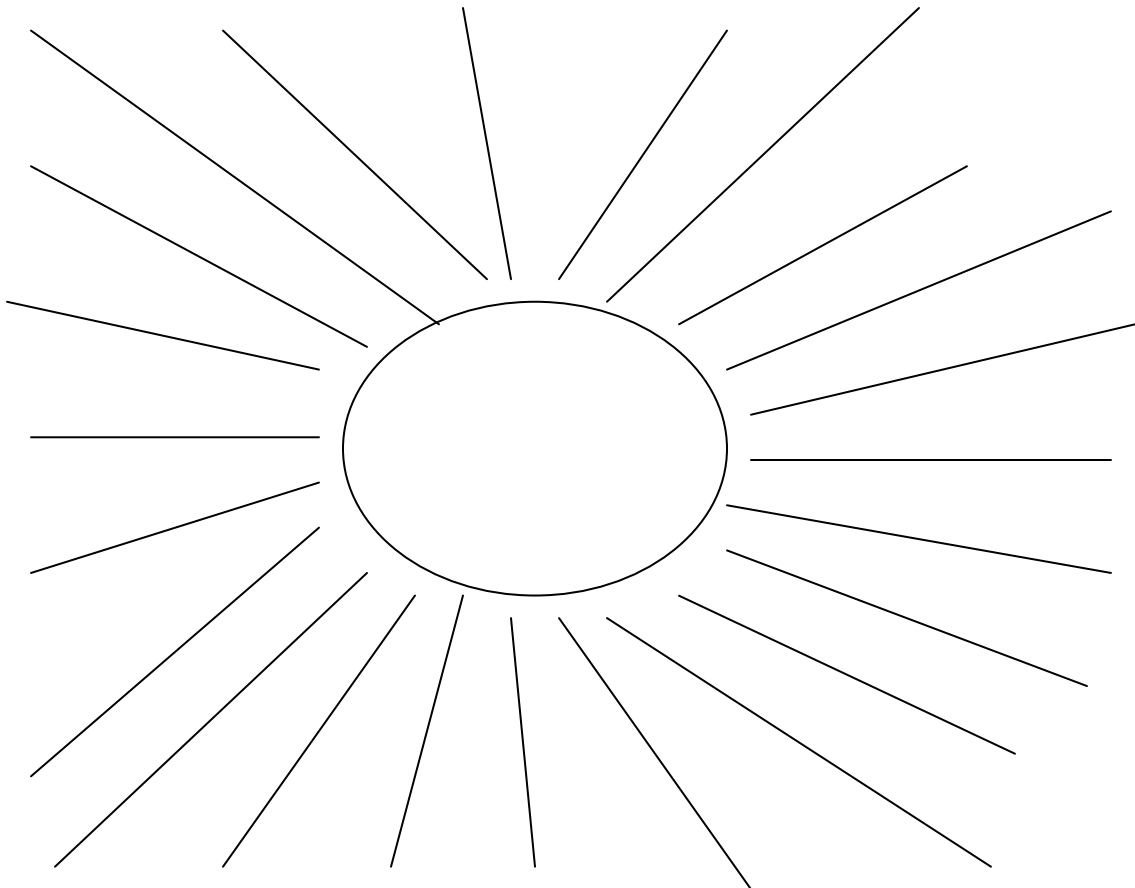




Mind Mapping

Easy Steps for Creative Writing

1. Write the name of the book in the center of the circle.
2. All around the circle write down all your thoughts, emotions and anything else you would like to tell the author.
3. When you begin to write your letter, check back and see which ideas you can use.
4. Cross off the ones that you have used. You do not have to use every idea



More than 100,000 Books

The Solano County Library Reach Out and Read program hurtled to new heights in May 2009 with the distribution of more than 100,000 books at well child visits. For nine years, doctors and nurse practitioners have promoted early literacy, advising parents on the merits of reading aloud to young children.

Heather Nelson of Vacaville, mother of Lilliah (10 months) and Gwendelyne (2 years), describes reading to her daughters. “I read to them and watch as they understand the story. I feel like I can see their brains growing right in front of me. Changing your voice and being animated is so much fun. I point to pictures and Lilli points to the same picture to see me do it again.”



Heather Nelson, her daughters, and Dr. Judy Yang

Joanne Ball, volunteer reader for the library at La Clinica, Vallejo, says, “I feel like being able to share reading is such a good thing, and it’s fun even when they’re (children) too little to understand all the words.”

Reading aloud and library use are encouraged with the Reach Out and Read program. Parents who want help with reading and writing are given the phone number for the Adult Literacy Program. Teamwork has resulted in thousands more parents reading to their children daily, right here in Solano County.

ROR Scoreboard: 13-0

Mission accomplished! It was the library foundation’s goal to serve every pediatric clinic in our Solano County Library service area with the Reach Out and Read program. As of April, we have met that goal.

North Bay Pediatrics, affiliated with the Hill Physicians Medical Group, became the 12th and 13th clinics to join the ROR program coordinated by the library and funded by the Solano County Library Foundation. Additional clinics, such as Kaiser Permanente in Vallejo and David Grant Medical Center at Travis AFB, provide the ROR program independently.

Here are the library/library foundation clinics:

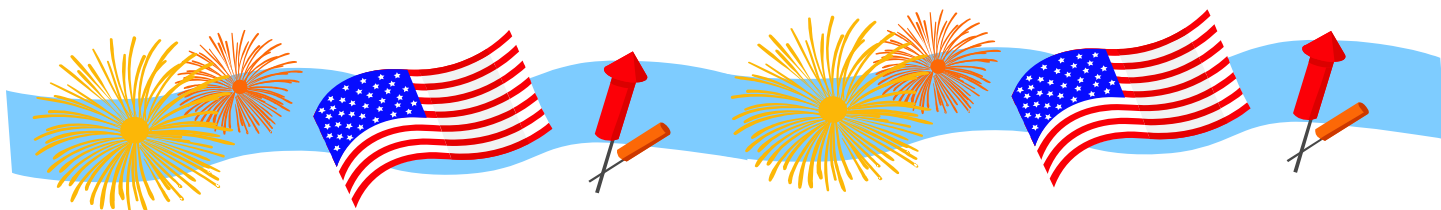
Health and Social Services (Vallejo, Fairfield)
 La Clinica, Vallejo
 Sutter Regional Medical Foundation (Fairfield, Vacaville)
 Community Medical Center Vacaville, Inc.
 Kaiser Permanente (Fairfield, Vacaville)
 NorthBay Healthcare (Green Valley, Fairfield, Vacaville)
 North Bay Pediatrics (Vallejo, Fairfield)

The next time you have a medical appointment at one of these clinics, please thank them for working with the library to advance early literacy development in young children!

Literacy Materials - Back to Basics

What are my learner's goals? What materials should I use? These questions are important ones for any tutor. For adult learners, everyday materials are far more valuable than textbooks. Authentic materials (job applications, menus, work papers, driver's manuals, personal word lists, etc.) are what learners will be using when they are on their own, away from any tutoring session. Learners seek literacy services to help meet their immediate goals and to learn what they need for their livelihood, their family or their health.

Beginning July 1st, we are rearranging the literacy materials at each branch to get *back to the basics* by providing manipulatives, games, and authentic materials for tutors to use with their learners. These are especially recommended for manual learners who learn best with hands-on techniques. We will continue to provide tutors with the appropriate texts at Tutor Preparation Part 3 (Follow-up) and at Goal Planning Sessions, but we will no longer house all the texts in the drawers at each branch. As always, tutors may contact staff to help select appropriate materials. The New Reader section in the library will continue to have phonics, grammar and textbooks to check out. Also, the 428 section of the library is a good place to look for a grammar book when tutors feel the need to bone up on a rule or two. We encourage tutors to explore the materials and let their creative juices flow as they plan their tutoring sessions.



Families for Literacy (FFL) Pairs & Groups: What's Your Favorite Book to Read to Your Child?

To celebrate Literacy month in September, we are asking all of our Families for Literacy (FFL) tutors to find out from their FFL learners which book they enjoy reading to their child the most, and why? Is it because of the story, the silly sounds, the rhyming, or the pictures? We will gather this information for a special children's literature insert in the next issue of the learner newspaper, *The Voice of Our Opinion*. FFL tutors, please let your students know about this opportunity to work on their writing skills, share their favorite children's book with others, contribute to their very own newspaper, see their name in print, and gather recommended book titles as well! Here is what is needed:

Learner's name
Title of favorite book
Author's name
Why it is their favorite book

Turn in submissions **to the literacy staff by August 1st**. Have fun!

Celebration 2010: Reading Lights My Life!

In January 2010, the Solano County Library Adult Literacy Program will be celebrating its 15th year, and the Reach Out and Read Program its 10th. Throughout these 15 years, many lives have been touched. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, reading has changed the lives of thousands of students, their families, and our communities.

To represent this giving and sharing of knowledge, a luminaria chain will be assembled and displayed at the event. Hundreds of paper bags will be decorated by students and volunteers. Within each bag, a candle will burn as a symbol of lives changed and futures brightened through reading. Starting in September, white paper bags will be distributed and decorated. Then, join us Saturday, January 23, 2010, 12:00 noon at the Fairfield Community Center to see how reading truly lights our lives. Mark your calendar. Invitations will be mailed in December.



Facebook

Do you Facebook? The literacy program is new to Facebook (www.facebook.com). Find out about literacy news, connect with other people and post your questions and comments. Go to *Solano County Library Literacy Services*, join our group and check us out.

What is Facebook? Facebook is a free-access, social networking website. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves.

How to Make that Dream Come True

Your learner has a viable goal that will take some work to achieve. You, the tutor, are a wonderful coach, supporting your learner toward that goal.

You will want to attend a special workshop, then, on Saturday, **September 5, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Fairfield Civic Center Library**. Phyllis Flemings, Life Coach & Trainer, will present useful strategies that you and your learner(s) can use to turn learner goals and dreams into reality. Phyllis will explain how to overcome barriers to reaching those goals and how to take action, so that your learner can become the person he/she wants to be.

Open to tutors and learners. Space is limited. Please register by August 28th. Call the Literacy Office at 784-1526 or 1-800-450-7885.





Literacy Services Staff

Sandy Tosti, Program Manager
Joanne Wright, Senior Program Assistant
Lorene Hamasaki, Program Assistant
Anika Johnson, Program Assistant
David Lewis, Program Assistant
Wyntress Smith, Program Assistant
Joy Gridley, Extra Help Program Assistant
Lori Anderson, Office Assistant
Julie Anderson, Departmental Aid
Angeles Williams, Departmental Aid
Dorothy Walker, Office Volunteer

How to Reach Us
1-800-450-7885
or
707-784-1526

literacy@snap.lib.ca.us

We are on the Web!
www.solanolibrary.com

Solano County Library
Literacy Services

Literacy Office Hours
Monday—Thursday 10am-7pm
Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

The Solano County Library provides literacy education for

- Adults who want to improve their reading, writing and English speaking skills
- Adults and their infants and preschoolers using children’s literature

This newsletter is produced quarterly and is supported in whole or in part by the state of California Library Services Act, administered by the California Library Services Board.



Solano County Library
Literacy Services
1150 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

