

# A Line on Literacy

*Solano County Library Literacy Services*

## What's New With the Budget



Everywhere we turn these days, talk about current economics, especially the budget, dominates the news. From the federal, to the state, to the local level, we all have concerns about the future. I understand that some of you are following the continued debate. Here are a few of the facts that I have to share.

On the federal level, we have seen elimination of programs such as Even Start, Reading Is Fundamental (partial funding for Reach Out and Read books), and cuts to the US Citizenship & Immigration Services. At the state level, the Governor's proposed budget slated three library programs (Public Library Foundation,

California Library Services Act and California Library Literacy Services) for elimination. Many of you wrote letters, sent faxes or called budget subcommittee members. Thanks to your efforts, good news followed when both the Senate and the Assembly conferees voted to reduce the funding, but not eliminate any of these three programs. The Governor's May revise contains this recommendation. However, the state budget still has a long way to go. It may be some time before we know if there will be Library and Literacy funding for 2011/12 in the final state budget.

These State Library funds are used to purchase our consumable workbooks, dictionaries, etc. (materials that cannot be purchased with local tax payer dollars). Loss of State Library funding would not eliminate our Solano County Library Literacy Services. Our county and our library administration understand the importance of the service we provide. Alternate means of fundraising would need to be explored in order to continue to be able to provide our consumable study materials.

Thank you for your service as part of our army of volunteers. Because of you, we are able to further our mission, *Changing Lives Through Reading*.

Joanne Wright  
Literacy Program Manager

### What Can You Do To Help?

- Donations are needed of gently used children's books (especially Spanish) for use in one of our fifteen Reach Out & Read clinic waiting rooms.
- Help us spread the word. Tell a friend about becoming a volunteer tutor!



June 2011

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## Powerful Paperbacks

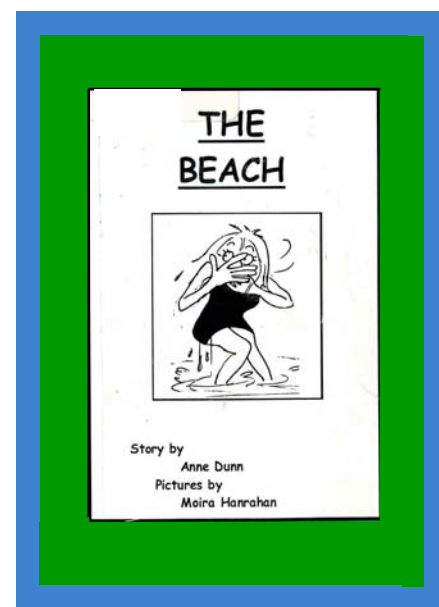
By Susan Hunt, Book Review Resource Specialist

The *Prace Pageturner* book series motivates learners and tutors to read and write, as they enjoy discussing the books. You will laugh; you will cry as you read them! They are fun and easy to understand because of the wonderful illustrations with few words on each page. Just go to the *New Reader*\* section of the library, pull a few of these powerful little paperbacks off the shelf, flip through them to decide which ones work for your learner, and let the reading begin!



*The Hero*, a starter book, about “Waste of Space Mick,” tells about this very unproductive couch potato who no one likes. Everything changes when he visits the river and hears a mom screaming that her daughter can’t swim. This book has action, drama, and suspense. You and your learner will keep turning the pages until you get to the exciting conclusion.

The *Prace Pageturner* book series will be a wonderful first adventure into reading for you and your learner!

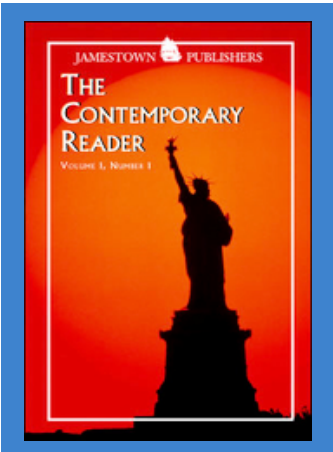


Another *Prace Pageturner* book (that’s only a little more difficult) is *The Beach*. Shy Julie just wants to cool off at the beach, but instead finds her way to a “special” beach where the people are anything but shy. Read to find out her unique way of dealing with this problem.

\*The *New Reader* is a collection of materials for adult beginning readers. Materials are located in the *New Reader* section at the John F. Kennedy, Springstowne, Fairfield Civic Center, Suisun City, Fairfield-Cordelia, Vacaville Public Library-Cultural Center, Vacaville Public Library-Town Square, and Rio Vista Library branches.

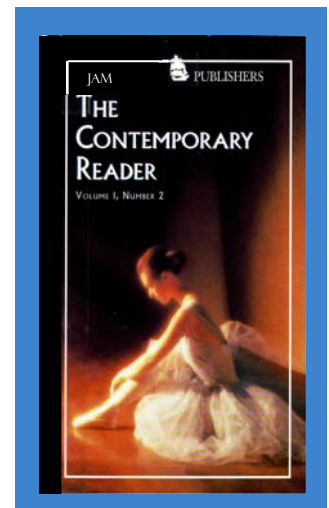
## Powerful Paperbacks, *continued from page 2*

The *Contemporary Reader* series also contains small paperback books in the *New Reader* section of the library. They are full of interesting, informative articles on a wide variety of topics for the more advanced reader or for you and your learner to enjoy together. Each article is about ten pages long, has definitions for the more difficult words, and questions to discuss at the end. The exciting thing about them is that both of you will learn something new!



The first article I chose to read was *Ellis Island*. Between 1892–1954, 15 million people left their homeland to find a better life in the U.S.A. They had different reasons for coming to America, but had similar experiences once they got here. My own grandmother came through Ellis Island, so I was very motivated to read this article. It told about the three week ocean voyage the immigrants took to get here, and about the noise and confusion on Ellis Island when they stepped off the ship. Papers were checked, questions were asked, and then they went to the most feared station of all: where doctors checked over the newcomers. Our new immigrants may relate to some of these experiences and this article will be the starting point for much conversation.

*The Contemporary Reader* series has a wide variety of topics for you and your learner to read and discuss.



*The Electric Cars* article begins by telling us that our current gasoline powered cars pollute the air and make us sick. Steam engine cars, electric cars, and gasoline powered cars were all created in the early 1900's. There were advantages and disadvantages to each of these cars. This article describes in a clear, concise way why one of them continued to be produced and why the others didn't.

In the 1960's and the 1990's, electric cars were again looked at as an alternative car. They worked on the problems of low speed and distance. Research continued to be done on these cars. This article provides a good history of the alternative automobile—a search which continues to the present day.

## 16th Annual Literacy Celebration

# The Love of Reading Is a Seed That Once Planted Forever Grows

**S**unflowers greeted guests of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Celebration, held on March 12, 2011. This year's theme, *The Love of Reading Is a Seed That Once Planted Forever Grows*, celebrated achievements and life changes made by volunteers and learners alike. All told stories of their blooming seedlings of accomplishments. Tearful thanks were given by students. Tutors expressed their pride in their student's accomplishments. Volunteers expressed the joys of making a more literate community.

Some of the goals met expressed by students were reading to their children and receiving their U.S. Citizenship. Fairfield student, Carlota Bucio brought her U.S. Citizenship certificate to share. The Writer to Writer Challenge community winners and participants were announced. The winners read excerpts from their letters. An In Memoriam tribute was held for the late Wyntress Smith, Literacy Program Assistant and Reach Out and Read coordinator. It was an event filled with pride, joy, remembrance, and gratitude.



Captions on page 6



# Celebration Continued



## Welcome New Volunteers



Alvestad, Pat	Javier, Linda	Staples, Earl
Arredondo, Lani	Kelly, John	Takahara, Glen
Baldwin, Suzanne	Kusnadi, Irene	Tarhuni, Dalal
Barry, Bonnie	Loscotoff, Michael	Taylor, Carolyn
Binger, Kelly	McCroory, Linda	Thomas, Evelyn
Browne, Henriette	Miles, Dante	Thomas, Richard
Butt, Aileen	Moore, Carol	Townes, Miriam
Davis, Barbara	Mork, Juanita	Traux, Geraldine
Dickerson, Loriece	Mork, Larry	Urias, Joseph
Driscoll, Anne	Nelson, Larry	Washington, Sharon
Gallard, Martha	O'Kelly, Dermot	Weaver, Gary
Gerlacher, Karen	Parker, Monique	Weaver, Marilyn
Goudie, Marcia	Rincon, Felicia	White, Kevin
Grenier, Jody	Sanchez, Lisa	Whitfield, Richard
Hardin, Larry	Sardellitto, Connie	Withey, Sarah
Haynes, Orlanda	Scarfe, Sarah	Venzon, Hamil
Hervig, Kristi	Scott, Rae	Yambao, Ivan
Holtom, Gregory	Sherison, Barbara	Yung, David
Holtom, Lorna	Smith, Kevin	Zaldivar, Edmundo
Jacques, John	Snowden, Sharon	

## Celebration Photos

*from pages 4 & 5*

1. *Diane Svedberg receives her certificate from Program Assistant, Lorene Hamasaki*
2. *Terry Robinson and Avie Messerli share a hug after a year of hard work*
3. *Joanne Wright, Literacy Program Manager, with Committee Councilpersons: Eufrosina Ruiz, Ernesto Ceja, and Diane Robinson*
4. *Carmen Rodriguez and Linda Sykes are all smiles after receiving their certificates*
5. *Heather Cline beams after sharing her student's successes and growth*
6. *Julie Chiv reads an excerpt of her Writer to Writer Challenge winning letter*
7. *Adrianna Pizarro is congratulated by her husband Adolfo Pizarro*
8. *Linda Lecce and Nacima Guzman stand ready for another year of tutoring*
9. *Writer to Writer Challenge Winners: Julie Chiv, Santos Lozano, Amelia Jimenez, Maria Duran*
10. *Hitomi Leistner, the celebration photographer, takes a break to catch up with her former tutor Kathy Puchner*
11. *Literacy program graduates, Rosa Rosa and Hyon Kwon, celebrate another year as volunteers*
12. *Monica Caballero brought flowers to thank her tutor*

## Solano County Library Adult Literacy Program Hosts a Writing Challenge

Research shows that people who read a lot have higher vocabulary, spelling, grammar and comprehension than those who don't. Writing reinforces these skills and helps to improve reading even more. The Writer to Writer Challenge gives students a purpose to read and a reason to write. Encourage your student to step up to the 2011 challenge!

### WRITER TO WRITER CHALLENGE 2011



**Spring/Summer:** *Choose any book to read (or listen to a book on tape).*



**Summer:** *Read the book.*



**Fall:** *Write a letter to the author, telling how you felt about the book.*

**Deadline:** Send all letters to the Literacy Office by *November 4, 2011*

**Winners will be announced and receive awards at the 2012 Literacy Celebration.**

### Congratulations 2010 Participants!

#### WINNERS!

Community with the Most Entries: *Vacaville*

Vallejo:

*Amelia Jimenez*

Fairfield/Suisun:

*Maria Duran*

Vacaville Branches:

*Santos Lozano*

Rio Vista:

*Julie Chiv*

## Tutoring Tips-Summer Activities

### Second Language Learners—Reading & Writing



Summer is full of fun and exciting activities. Why can't your lessons be fun and exciting too? Make summer the theme for your tutoring sessions. Begin by asking your student about his or her summer plans. Ask questions like: What do you like to do in the summer? Are you going on a vacation? Do you have plans to get in shape? What sports do you play? Are you getting together with friends and family?

But don't forget, summer is for having fun and enjoying the great weather. Consider taking your lessons outside. Enjoy a walk together or meet up at the Farmer's Market. Then, turn your activities and discussions into lists, mind-maps and Language Experience Approach exercises. Don't let your summer go by without having some fun!

### Native English Speakers—Reading & Writing



Summertime means barbecue and vacation season for many Native English Speakers (NES). Planning a party or a vacation can work on many literacy related skills and goals your student may have. Is it party time? Help your learner write a guest list. Guide them to look up recipes in cookbooks and on-line. Make a grocery list of items. If your student has a budgeting goal, help them plan out the party's budget by comparing prices in supermarket ads. Writing or typing lists is a beneficial tactile-kinesthetic activity for NES learners.

Vacations to see family and friends also pick up during the summer. Turn vacation stories into a tool to battle the dread many NES learners have for writing. Vacation tales make for great writing story starters. Turn their vacation into a language experience activity—Language Experience Approach (LEA). Learners can re-live their vacations or vent on those that did not turn out so well. Create a mind map (also known as clustering or ballooning) as your students recount their summertime adventures. For beginning students, the tutor should write the mind map and give it to the student to copy. Use the mind map to build sentences and paragraphs. Writing about fun and memorable experiences makes the process of writing fun too!

## Tutoring Tips, *continued from page 6*

### ESL—Speaking & Listening



This season is a perfect time to plan a field trip to a local farmer's market, produce stand, museum, or store with your learner. Here are a few suggestions on how to get started. A few weeks beforehand, talk with your learner about what interests him/her, and about places to visit. Begin building vocabulary, bringing in pictures, and making flashcards. Practice dialogs using the new words and phrases. During the field trip, your learner may want to try out a few phrases he/she practiced. Take photos and use them in your sessions afterwards to make a photo journal. Plan a Language Experience Approach (LEA) activity and add it to the journal. Use this to review and practice speaking about the trip.

Another summertime activity is to choose a favorite recipe to make. This involves lots of talking, vocabulary building, and hands-on learning. Discuss with your learner what she/he would like to make, then build a vocabulary bank of words, phrases, and develop tools to use (flashcards, dialogs, role-plays). Finally, act out the making of the recipe, or if your learner decides to make the actual recipe at home, discuss how it turned out or do a *LEA* activity.

### Benefits of Meeting in Public

There are many benefits to not meeting in the learner's or tutor's home. A Kentucky Adult Education educator shared her program's experience with tutoring in the home versus meeting in a public place. She writes, "...we realized that the students need to learn how to arrange their lives so that they can participate in their education because it prepares them for the next step which is either postsecondary education or work. At first I (personally) was concerned that many students would not participate because of the transportation and childcare barriers. What we found after a couple of years, was that the students that had been with us for a while and were making progress came to centers AND their performance on assessments increased more quickly. Apparently, they wanted to finish quicker and without the normal interruptions of the home—children, phones, etc.—they could concentrate on the instruction."

During the summer many learners' children are out of school. Learners may request to hold your sessions at his/her home. Encourage your student to continue working in the library or other public places for the reasons above.

Check out the Library's Website  
for your branch's hours:  
[www.solanolibrary.com](http://www.solanolibrary.com)

Literacy Services Staff

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Lorene Hamasaki, Program Assistant  
Anika Johnson, Program Assistant  
Joy Gridley, Extra Help Program Assistant  
Diane Robinson, NESS  
Lori Fetters, Office Assistant  
Julie Anderson, Departmental Aid  
Angeles Williams, Departmental Aid  
Elizabeth Orfin, Newsletter Volunteer

*Solano County Library*  
*Literacy Services*

**How to Reach Us**

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**707-784-1526**

**[literacy@snap.lib.ca.us](mailto:literacy@snap.lib.ca.us)**

**We are on the Web!**

**[www.solanolibrary.com](http://www.solanolibrary.com)**

**Literacy Office Hours**

<b>Monday—Thursday</b>	<b>10am-6pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10am-5pm</b>
<b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>

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

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