

A Line on Literacy

Solano County Library Literacy Services

Literacy Celebration

The love of reading is a seed that once planted forever grows.

Gertrude Jekyll, a 1900's British garden designer, writer and artist, once wrote, "The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies." This quote inspired the theme for Solano County Library Literacy Services' 16th Annual Literacy Celebration, "**The love of reading is a seed that once planted forever grows.**" As volunteers you plant the seeds that develop learners' and families' love of reading. We are excited to host this year's celebration in the newly renovated **County Events Center (CEC) on Saturday, March 12, 2011, 10:00-12:00 noon.**



There is a bit of literary and local trivia associated with this year's theme and location. Does the name Jekyll make you think of the title of a certain book? Gertrude Jekyll, who inspired the celebration's theme, had a younger brother who was friends with Robert Louis Stevenson. Stevenson borrowed the Jekyll's family name for his famous novella, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

The second bit of trivia comes from the building itself. If you're a long-time Fairfield resident, then you may remember the CEC as the "Old Library."

Continued on page 9, Celebration



November 2010

Inside This Issue

Staff Picks	2
A Tribute to Wyntress	3
Calendar of Events	4
Welcome New Volunteers	5
Mango Languages	5
Tutoring Tips	6
New Procedures	7
FFL Int'l Literacy Day	8
Learner Newsletter	9

Solano County Library Literacy Services

Students Served During 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

Reading & Writing Students – 267
Listening & Speaking Students – 71
Adult Learner Families – 56

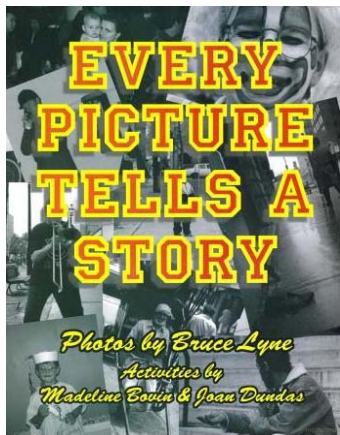
Number of Volunteers

Reading & Writing Tutors – 217
Listening & Speaking Tutors – 32
ROR Volunteer Readers – 40
Other Volunteers – 214

The Big Picture

Volunteer Hours – 17,467
Books Given to Families During
Well-Baby Clinic Visits – 18,327

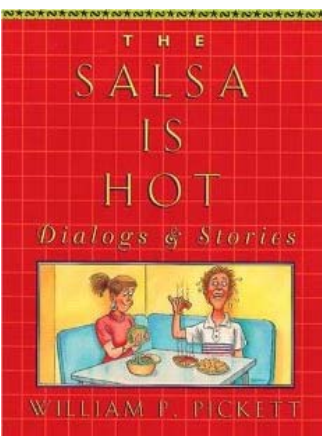
Staff Picks from the Literacy Private Collection*



Joanne's Pick:

Every Picture Tells a Story

“Fun, engaging photos to inspire creative writing exercises.”



Anika's Pick:

The Salsa is Hot: Dialogs and Stories

“Humorous dialogs and stories that help build vocabulary and comprehension skills. Examples address social situations such as jobs, sports, parties, dating, and school.”



David's Pick:

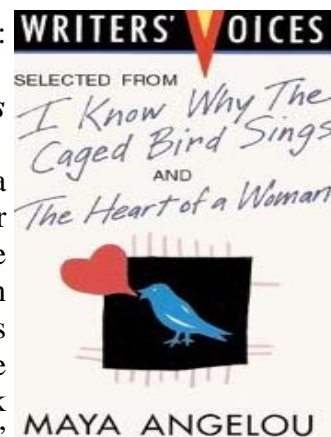
In Our Own Words: A Book of Learner Writings by Read Santa Clara Students

“This is one of similar books in our collection where real-life students share their personal stories. These are stories that all students can relate to.”

Wyntress' Pick:

Writer's Voices

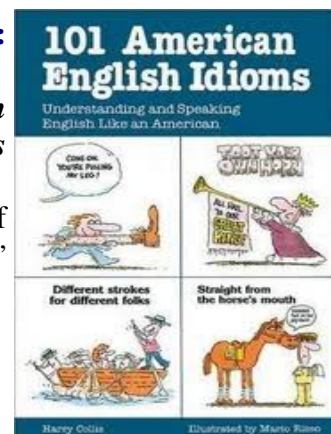
“Each title excerpts from a novel or biography. Other chapters in the book give behind the scenes information on the author or what was going on during the time period that the story took place.”



Julie's Pick:

101 American English Idioms

“Demonstrates the fun of everyday conversations.”



Lorene's Pick:

Fitting into Your Community (Living in America Teacher Resource Series)

“This is a great resource for ESL tutors to use with their students. It has many theme based dialogs and reproducibles tutors can use easily.”





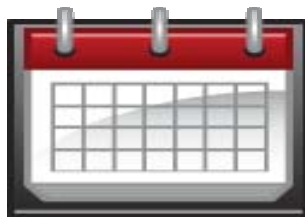
Don't let anyone tell you that you have to be a certain way. Be unique. Be what you feel. -Melissa Etheridge

***A Favorite Quote of
Wyntress Faye Smith 1953-2010***



***Our Dear Friend and Co-worker
We Will Miss You...***

Calendar of Events



November

- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due
- 11 Holiday - Library Closed
- 16 ROR Volunteer Training, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.,
Fairfield Civic Center Library,
Becker-Balmer Meeting Room
- 20 Tutor Roundtable, 10:00 - 12:00 noon,
Fairfield Civic Center Library,
Becker-Balmer Meeting Room
- 25 Holiday - Library Closed
- 26 Holiday - Library Closed

December

- 4 Tutor Roundtable, 9:00 - 11 a.m.,
Vacaville Public Library-Town Square
Meeting Room
- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due
- 24 Holiday - Library Closed
- 25 Holiday - Library Closed
- 26 Holiday - Library Closed
- 31 Holiday - Library Closed

January

- 1 Holiday - Library Closed
- 2 Holiday - Library Closed
- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due
- 17 Holiday - Library Closed
- 22 Tutor Orientation, 10:00 - 12:00 noon,
Fairfield Civic Center Library,
Becker-Balmer Meeting Room

February

- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due
- 11 Holiday - Library Closed
- 21 Holiday - Library Closed

March

- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due
- 12 Literacy Celebration, 10:00 - 12:00 noon
County Event Center
- 26 Tutor Roundtable 10:00 - 12:00 noon
Fairfield Civic Center Library,
Becker-Balmer Meeting Room

April

- 2 Tutor Orientation, 10:00 - 12:00 noon,
Fairfield Civic Center Library,
Becker-Balmer Meeting Room
- 5 Monthly Tutor & Student Reports are due

Welcome New Volunteers!

Agcaoili, Alouisa
 Al-Nagdawi, Dana
 Amagon, Bobby
 Anderson, Teri
 Batiste, Juanita
 Bell, Elizabeth
 Bongawil, Joshua
 Bratton, Mike
 Cameron, Carolyn
 Campbell, Janet
 Callahan, Kris
 Cardoso, David
 Carvalho, Yvonne
 Chaney, Sally
 Chavez, Aaron
 Christensen, Susan
 Celzo, Baltazar
 Clark, Kim
 Collins, Elma
 Coleman, Arianna
 Contreras, Rosa
 Daniel, Maureen
 DaSilva, Rosie
 Dauch, Elizabeth
 Donaldo, Gigi
 Dorsey, Tim
 Douglas, Jeffrey

Duncan, Millie
 England, Beverly
 Ezike, Beatrice
 Farley, Colleen
 Farley, Dawnika
 Gallegos, Erica
 Gordon, Rachel
 Greenwood, Tuesday
 Havel, Patricia
 Jacobs, Lizz
 Johnson, Marsha
 Jimenez, Juan
 Kirkpatrick, Richard
 Knitter, Vickie
 Lisch, Donna
 Luckey, Leslie
 Masters, Ronald
 Monroy, Raquel
 Moore, Lisa
 Nicol, Arisbel
 Olvera, Jannet
 Orfin, Elizabeth
 Ortega, Michelle
 Palacios, Lizbeth
 Paraohao, Sharina
 Peoples, Chloe
 Peters, Holly

Peterson, Gretchen
 Phillips, Amy
 Ping, Charlene
 Pisching, Barbara
 Pulido, Elaine
 Rodriguez, Martha
 Sablan, Francine
 Seeley-Romero, Irene
 Sherman, Shirley
 Sikes, Linda
 Smith, Tracy
 Soderberg, Julie
 Stephens, Daniel
 Stone, Sharon
 Tetzlaff, Jennifer
 Thomas, Gina
 Tosti, Sandy
 Troy, Jack
 Tutor, Shayne
 Ugalde, Marilyn
 Vitello, Micaela
 White, Alie
 Young, Harriet
 Zaffiro, Linda
 Zamudio, Rene



Adult Learning Available Online at the Library

The library provides free computer help for adult students who want to improve their reading, writing, and English speaking skills with *Live Homework Help*® and *Mango Languages*. Both databases have been updated. *Live Homework Help*® has expanded to include free online tutoring for adult learners. *Mango Languages* has updated their look and also offers more tools.

Live Homework Help® provides assistance for adults to improve their reading and writing skills. Also, learners can prepare to get their GED, become a U.S. Citizen, get a job, write a resume, and help their children with homework. If a live person is not available, you may choose to use a resource from the Skills Center which is available 24/7.

Mango Languages is an online language-learning system that will immerse students in real, everyday English conversations.

Both programs are free and accessible services available to all library customers and are a great addition to your regular tutoring sessions.

How do I get to *Live Homework Help*® and *Mango Languages*?

1. Go to the library website <http://solanolibrary.com/>
2. Under the "**Programs**" heading (black letters) click on "**Literacy**" (middle bullet)
3. Scroll down the page and look for the box titled "**Online Help**"
4. In the box you will see in color print *Live Homework Help*® and *Mango Languages*. All you have to do is click on the color print and it takes you to the databases.

Tutoring Tips

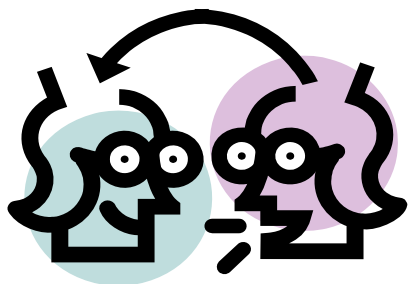
ESL-Speaking & Listening

Are you looking for ideas to use with your ESL learner? One resource we highly recommend is *Hands on English (HOE)*. It is full of teaching ideas specifically for ESL teachers and tutors. This periodical comes out six times a year. We put the copies together in a binder at each branch. For those of you who are ESL tutors, please take the time to review it. It is for library use only, but you are welcome to make a copy of an exercise or game you wish to use with your learner. What is nice about *HOE* is that you can adapt the material to suit the level of your learner.

The March/April 2010 issue is about farmers markets. It has wonderful ideas you can use with your learner around this topic. The binder is full of



a variety of activities to choose from – games, puzzles, vocabulary building exercises, dictation and conversation starters. *HOE* is a great way to get your own ideas flowing to create meaningful exercises specific to your learner.



Native English Speakers-Reading & Writing

One of the best ways to teach reading comprehension is by using a strategy called "Think Aloud." Saying out-loud what you think about and do while reading can teach your students important skills to improve their reading comprehension.

Most beginning readers think they should be able to read something one time and understand it. They don't know that even the best readers don't understand everything the first time. Sometimes it is necessary to ask questions, look around for answers, guess what a word means, re-read a section, or predict what will happen next. There are many things that we do and it all happens silently in our heads. Beginning readers can benefit from hearing these thoughts.

When you are reading out-loud with your student, verbalize your thoughts. Go ahead and say, "Let me read that again," or, "I think I may have missed something. Let's look back and see..."

By sharing your thoughts, you are modeling important reading comprehension skills. Encourage your student to "think aloud" too. Have them ask questions, underline difficult words or passages, and re-read sections. You are showing them that it is ok not to know everything while at the same time teaching them skills and techniques that will help them become better readers.

Continued on page 7, Tutoring Tips

Tutoring Tips, *continued from page 6***Second Language Learners— Reading & Writing**

"I can't speak very well. I need to practice my English." Have you heard this from your learner before? In training, literacy staff says, "Your student can speak basic English. He/she is a reading and writing student." What do you do? Role plays and dialogues are a great strategy to help students improve their conversation skills and gain confidence while also working on their reading and writing. Think of real-life situations. Pretend to be at the grocery store, at the gas station, or meeting someone for the first time. If you are having a hard time creating your own role plays and dialogues, try using pictures and items from home to talk about.

If you are still struggling, search the internet for ready made dialogues. The important thing here is that students learn words and phrases they can use in real-life. They get to practice and improve their English, while at the same time they are improving their reading and writing skills.

New Procedures for the New Reader Collection

We would like to ask your help in counting usage of our New Reader collections. Librarians regularly weed items from the collection with low circulating statistics. We realize that many of you use New Reader items in the library during your tutoring sessions. In order to better inform library staff of the in-house usage of these items, we have been asked that our volunteers and students do not re-shelf these when you are finished using them. Just leave them in the study room, on the table, etc. Library staff will note usage and re-shelf these items for you. We appreciate your help in keeping our well used and valuable New Reader items in the collection.



Families for Literacy Celebrates International Literacy Day

On September 18th, four Families for Literacy (FFL) students: Monica C., Rosario L., Julia C., and Alberto L. read aloud to over two dozen people at the FFL International Literacy Day Celebration in Fairfield. The readers practiced with their tutors for several sessions to prepare for the event. With their families in attendance, they read stories about different colored sheep, animal sounds, taking a walk in the evening, and a father and child experience. All of the readers did a fantastic job reading aloud to the group.



Special guest storyteller Jan Schubert treated us to an enchanting performance using a story apron with pockets full of surprises. As children chose a pocket, Jan told a story or sang a song as she gently pulled out beautifully handcrafted puppets: a rabbit, a ladybug, a honeybee, a mouse, and a sheep, among others. Her performance enthralled the audience as her puppets came to life with her songs and storytelling.

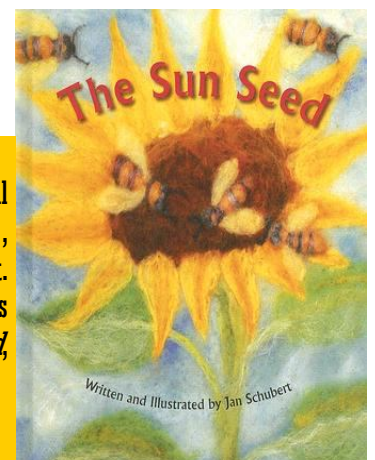


From left to right: (Bottom left) Monica C., Julia C., Alberto L., Rosario L., and Alberto's son

We continued the celebration with an art activity. The children and parents made felt pockets for their own felt pieces so they could re-tell the stories. We concluded the day with refreshments and a book giveaway. All the participants chose a book to take home to keep for their home libraries. It was a fun-filled, literacy rich day!



Jan Schubert is a local educator, author, puppeteer and artist. Check out her children's book, *The Sun Seed*, from the library!



Learners Take On Leadership Skills with the Learner Newsletter

Is your learner struggling for a purpose to write? Perhaps your student participated in the *Writer to Writer Challenge* and discovered a love of writing. Then the *Voice of Our Opinion (VOP)* student newsletter may be the next step to your students pursuing their growing writing skills.

The *VOP* is written and edited by learners. This fall five new learners joined Hyon K., editor, as *VOP* staff. Nacima G., Carmen R., Hitomi L., Cynthia S., and Salvador C. jumped right in as reporters, photographers and copy editors. They are learning computer, grammar, and writing skills. Your student can submit a favorite recipe; share their experiences with improving speaking, reading and writing skills; or their opinion on a current event.

Submitting to the *VOP* is easy. Your student can turn it in with the tutor monthly report or e-mail his/her submission to the literacy office at



literacy@snap.lib.ca.us. The *VOP* is mailed directly to students and can be used in your lesson. Encourage your student to contribute. The next issue could have his/her name in it!

Celebration, *continued from page 1*



It is befitting to have the 16th Annual Literacy Celebration in this building and to have a quote connected to such a rich literary history. Just as the rose garden has been replanted to give new life to the CEC building, you are sowing the seeds of knowledge and creating a new literate life for many adults and their families.

Invitations will be sent in the winter of 2011. Join us as we honor the accomplishments of the past year!



Literacy Services Staff

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Lorene Hamasaki, Program Assistant
Anika Johnson, Program Assistant
Joy Gridley, Extra Help Program Assistant
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*Solano County Library
Literacy Services*

How to Reach Us

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or

707-784-1526

literacy@snap.lib.ca.us

We are on the Web!

www.solanolibrary.com

Literacy Office Hours

Monday—Thursday	10am-6pm
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 supported in whole or in part by the state of California Library Services Act, administered by the California Library Services Board.



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Literacy Services
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