



**NAPA COUNTY LIBRARY**  
**LITERACY**  
**CENTER**

October - December 2018



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Tutor Appreciation
- Literary Holiday Open House
- Halloween
- Learner Stories
- Learner's on the Move

# Libraries are Democracy in Action



Maura, one of our adult literacy tutors, sends us interesting articles from the New York Times. Most recently, she sent an article by Eric Klineberg, a professor of Sociology and the Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University. His article, "To Restore Civil Society, Start with the Library," is an interesting conversation starter on what libraries are in today's society.

In my youth, I remember the library as a quiet place to study. A place where you did research and checked out books. I find that people who do not frequent the library, hold yesterday's impressions in their mind. That if it is just a place to check out books it is obsolete, we can find everything on a computer, right?

However, for people who use a library you know it has transformed

into so much more. It is a social hub. A multigenerational web of people from different backgrounds, cultures, socio-economic groups coming together to share the same space. Libraries are a place where you can meet new people. Patrons of the arts can come together for the monthly art reception, new moms can meet other moms at the children's story hour, you can join a book club, attend an ESL class, or brave the belly dancing classes. Teenagers also have a safe place to congregate with peers in their own space. The library is an active place. In the Library Literacy Center, we often see people of different cultures, ages and backgrounds coming together to teach and learn about one another. Their lives may never have crossed paths if it were not for the library. This builds community. The library is free and all are welcome, a live democracy.

- Robin Rafael, Literacy Coordinator

## Tutor Training

Calistoga Library  
November 7 & 8 from 9am-12pm

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY!**

Success



If you would like to tutor an adult in reading and writing we have Tutor Training available in the library, get started in helping a learner in your community. For more information please call Robin at **707-253-4283**.

## Lunch with Literacy

December 11 at 12pm



Literacy staff will share the latest strategies from the California Library Association conference, as well as share new roles, goals and updates from the State Library.

Napa Main Library  
**RSVP Nicole at  
253-4610**

# Tutor Appreciation

Saturday, October 20  
from 12 - 2 p.m.

Join us for lunch in honor of literacy  
volunteers and enjoy prepared dishes by  
learners.

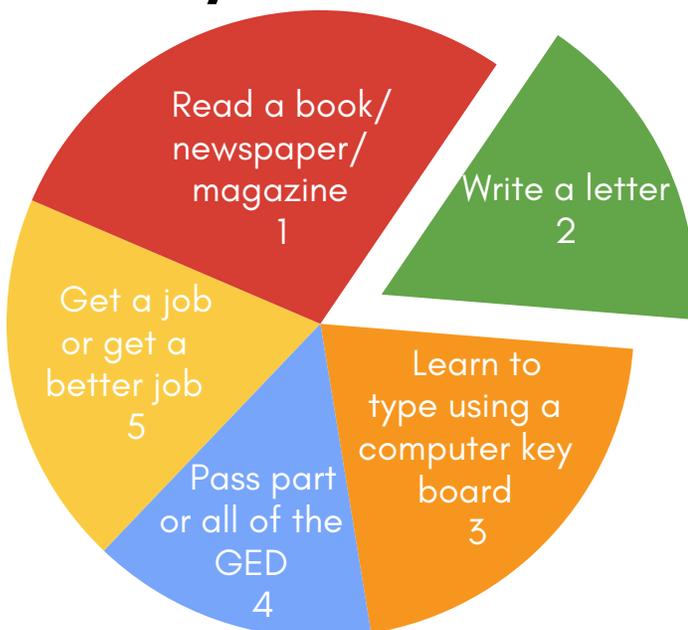
Napa Main Library in the  
Community Meeting Room,  
RSVP Robin at 253-4283

Thank  
you,  
tutors!

YOU'RE AWESOME

## LITERACY DATA FOR 2017 -2018

### Top five goals chosen by learners:



### Number of Adult Learners served this year- 141

Average age 40-49

Male-41

Female-100

### Tutor instructional hours - 3,849

### Number of tutors - 110

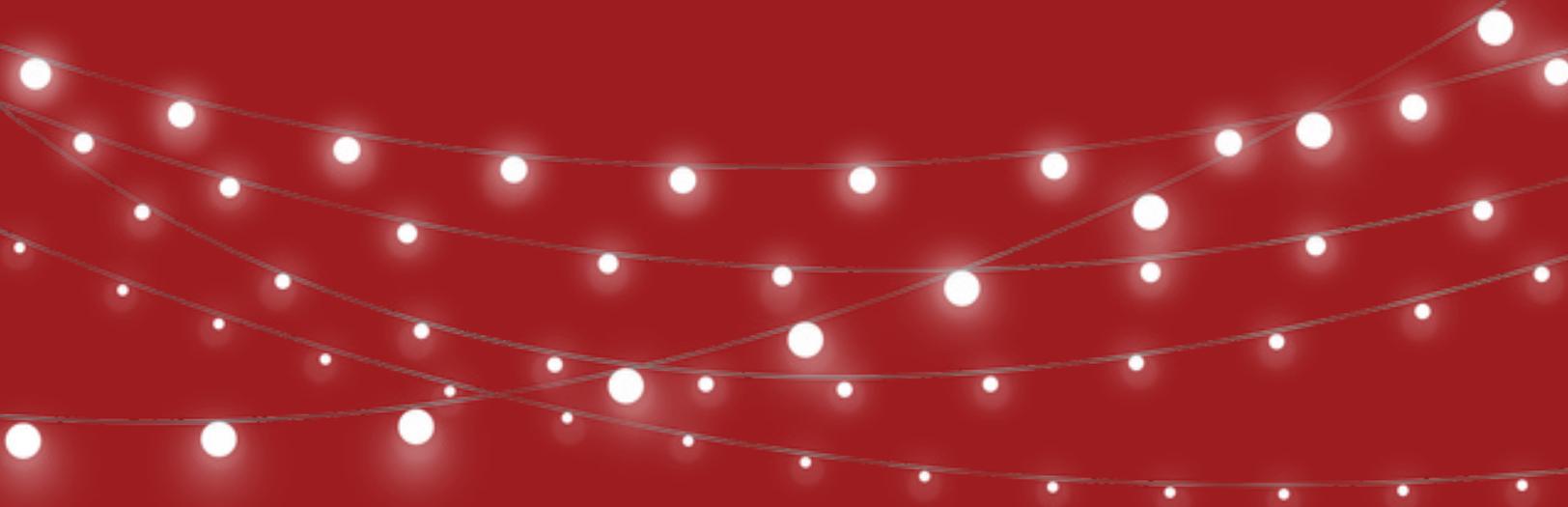
### New tutors that started this year - 34

Male -28

Female 82

### Number of ESL students served - 146

### ESL tutor instructional hours - 3,849



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
**HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE**

**December 10- 14, 2018**  
10 am - 8pm

Join us in the Literacy Center for cider,  
goodies and learn about the many  
services that we offer.

Napa County Library



## FAMILY LITERACY

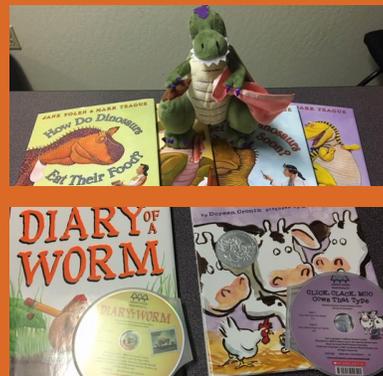
Checkout a book series along with the plush character. Choose from:

*Olivia*  
*How Do Dinosaurs...*  
*Cat in the Hat*  
*Rocket...*  
*Little Critter...*



Or checkout a book with the audio cd, read along as the voices of the characters come alive! Choose from:

*Click Clack Moo*  
*Diary of a Worm*  
*Goggles!*  
*Strega Nona*  
*Chicka Chicka 123*  
*Chrysanthemum*  
*Joseph had a Little Overcoat*



These items can be checked out for a two week period.  
**For more information, call Nicole at 253-4610**

# Harry Potter

## Halloween

### at the Napa Main Library

Trick or treat throughout the library and join us in the Community Meeting Room for activities, crafts and refreshments!

**Wednesday, October 31**  
**10am - 4pm**



# TUTOR RESOURCES

## Financial Literacy Basics



### Get Helpful Guidance on

- ★ Managing Debt
- ★ Making a Budget
- ★ Checking Accounts
- ★ Auto Insurance
- ★ Health Insurance
- ★ Renters Insurance
- ★ Student Loans
- ★ Starting a 401(k)

Save the date: January 24,

**Financial Literacy Basics** is designed for those starting out in the financial world. This book series will help you understand and show you step by step, how to make the most of your money. You learn how to avoid pitfalls, learn what to watch out for and gain the necessary tools to make sure you are fully equipped for the future.

**Financial Literacy: Planning for the Future** This series provides readers with easy to understand guidance on how to manage their finances. Each volume is filled with valuable information alongside helpful worksheets and planners. It is designed to point you in the right direction toward a solid financial future.

## Financial Literacy: Planning for the Future

### Helpful Financial Guidance on



- ★ Saving for Your Child's Education
- ★ Buying a Home & Mortgage Shopping
- ★ Insurance Strategies
- ★ Healthcare Coverage
- ★ Retirement Planning Strategies
- ★ Living Together, Getting Married & Starting a Family
- ★ Identify Theft

Visit the Reference Desk or log on to <https://greyhouse.weissratings.com>



## Easy English Times

One resource that is popular in the Literacy Center is *Easy English Times*. *Easy English Times* has everything included to teach a lesson; vocabulary words, crossword puzzles, definitions and word finds wrapped around current events and interesting topics. The paper is versatile and can be used for ESL classes and one on one tutoring.

Monica and I very much enjoy reading this newspaper together, discussing its contents, and completing the learning activities. It is an integral part of most of our lessons. Monica reads the stories, and I assist with the occasional word or phrase.

We like the fact that *Easy English Times* covers a wide variety of topics with the focus on current events and issues of the day. We both like to know what is going on in the world, and *Easy English Times* helps us do that. The writing may be "easy," but it is never condescending. *Easy English Times* treats its readers like the intelligent adults they are.

– Maura Eggan

## LEARNER STORIES



Sylvia and Raul began their tutoring session back in February. Sylvia said her former background in Speech Pathology helps when she is working with Raul, a second

language learner, on articulation (*the formation of clear and distinct sounds in speech*). She practices with Raul on the specific sounds that are different in English and

Spanish.

Sylvia said she enjoys her sessions with Raul. They are both curious and interested in many things. Currently, they are reading the “Great American Document,” a series of graphic non-fiction books of important documents in American History. Raul reads the story in advance of their meeting. When they meet, they read the story together. They spend a good bit of time in conversation going over historical facts and their meaning. They enjoy this book and it is timely as Raul is studying for the Citizenship test.

Sylvia

## Vanilla Ice Cream

“My name is Raul, I came to the United States five years ago on August 16th, 2013. On my personal experience, I can say that there are many barriers that one has to overcome being an immigrant. The first one is the language. The English language was completely new for me, since I did not know much about it from what I was taught in my home country. Fortunately, I found many good resources that have helped me to learn the language. Among them, I can mention the Adult School, Napa Valley College, and the County Library.

One of my friends told me that the Literacy Center at the Country Library offered personal tutor services, so I went and asked. I waited a couple of months to have an answer from the literacy center about an available tutor. But the time came. When I met my tutor, Sylvia W. Jones, I was unsure if my English skills were good enough for this new stage of my life. But she kindly helped me to understand that she was there to help me improve those skills.

I can just say one thing, it has been a pleasure being Sylvia’s student. She has helped me to achieve my personal goals. Sylvia helped my writing, correcting and advising me about my resume and job options when I was looking for better job opportunities. During this time, we worked on my resume grammar, structure, and acknowledgment of the skills that I did not notice I have. Later, I learned how to write professional and personal letters. Now, Sylvia is helping me on the U.S. citizenship process. We are reading books about the U.S. history and discussing them. She explains to me when I am confused and we work on vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation at the same pace. Sylvia helped me to identify my linguistic difficulties. With that said, I can add that the letters T, D, P, G, F, Y and J are not my best friends for now. It is still a lot to learn.

Moreover, I discover

that Sylvia and I have some things in common (including that we both like vanilla ice cream). For example: Sylvia’s son is a veterinarian, and I was studying to be a veterinarian in my home country; She and I have compassion for animals. I met Sylvia’s rescued pet, Lulu; We volunteer at our churches; And we both always share a smile.

If you are reading this, I am glad that you found my story interesting. But, if you are Sylvia W. Jones, I want to thank you for all the support.”

### Tutor Tip

#### Spelling Activity!

**Look** –see the word in printed form

**Say** –say it aloud

**Cover** –cover the word or turn over card or sheet

**Write** –spell the word on a separate card or paper

**Check** –see if spelling is correct

This multisensory technique aids in improving spelling. It is also beneficial if word families are used with this strategy.

## Customs and Traditions



"I am living here in Napa where I am learning the customs and traditions of America. This helps me to be part of the community. Napa also provides the Latino community with events that make us remember and maintain the customs and traditions of our Mexican roots. This gives me the opportunity to teach my daughter some of the traditions of the place where I was born and grew up. She also learns the traditions where she was born. As a Latina mother, I feel proud to be Mexican and to part of the Napa Community.

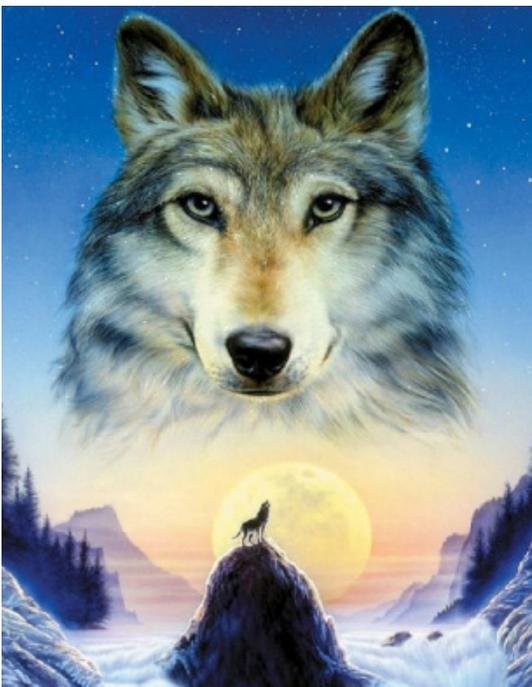
An example of our Mexican traditions is Mariachi. Mariachi is a traditional music genre from Mexico. Its music gets played at public parties such as Mother's day, Virgin of Guadalupe's Day, quinceañeras, family reunions, and serenades. The dress of the Mariachi is the Churro costume. The instruments are guitar, violin and trumpets; sometimes flutes

and harps, even the accordion, are used in certain regions.

Mariachis are in charge of carrying the identity of Mexico all over the world. Thousands of Mexicans work as mariachis in different parts of the world. When I hear mariachi playing it reminds me of my country's traditions, customs and culture.

While this is important for me, it is also very important to learn the customs and traditions of this country because my daughter is growing up here, learning and having experiences that allow her to be part of the American culture. Two different cultures that will help her with a good personal and social development skills. We are a Latino family preserving one culture while living in and learning the traditions of another country."

- By Maribel Aguirre



## Book Review

*Call of the Wild*  
by Jack London

I just finished reading a book named "Call of the Wild" and I like the story. I think it is very interesting and also you can find another meaning in this story.

In this book, the protagonist is a big dog who lived with a family like a normal dog, but one day unknown people took him and his life changed drastically. He

became part of a group of dogs used to pull a sled through the Yukon territory. When he got into the wild environment, he found his wild instincts and joined the wolves.

I learned from this story that it does not matter where you live or how far you live from where you were born, you always have a bit of your past or your origins very much inside of you. Maybe you will leave everything that you have for something that calls you from deep within.

- By Jose Luis Sanchez  
Tutor: Linda Blank

## IRENE'S STORY



*Persistence; doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.*

Perseverance is a word that Irene lives by. After relocating to the Bay Area after Hurricane Katrina, Irene and her three children moved to Vacaville, Ca. After a few months living there she moved to Vallejo with her aunt and uncle. Irene lived in Vallejo as a teenager so she knew the area. She started volunteering at a church and in return they helped her with housing. The housing agency called and found a county to help her, Napa. Irene and her family were provided with a three-bedroom apartment fully furnished. Irene made a new home in Napa.

Once she settled in, Irene started school to work on finishing her high school diploma. Irene attended the adult school in the evening and received help from a one-on-one tutor in the Library Literacy

Center. She faced obstacles along the way. Irene was in a detox center for the second time before Hurricane Katrina. In 2005, Irene attended a Napa Women's recovery program to get support, working on bettering her mental health and overcoming traumatic experiences. She learned in her group to be mindful of what you say and do.

In 2008, Irene's sixteen-year-old son went to prison and received twenty-five years to life. That deep loss caused a downward spiral of despair and hopelessness. She went to school off and on throughout that time. She went through a lot over the years, but she did not give up on getting her high school diploma. She believes things happen for a reason. Irene said that New Orleans could

not give her the support, encouragement, acceptance to be a better person without judgment. Napa, California gave her hope for a different life.

In 2017, Irene completed her high school diploma at Napa Valley Adult Education. She is now attending Napa Valley College where she maintains a 4.0. Irene is interested in pursuing a career in social work, because she wants to help other people that are struggling in life. She believes, "because a village of people helped me get what I needed and, now it is someone else's turn." Irene worked through many challenges and moved forward with her life. According to Irene, "when there is a support system, there is nothing you cannot do."



## Volunteers Wanted!

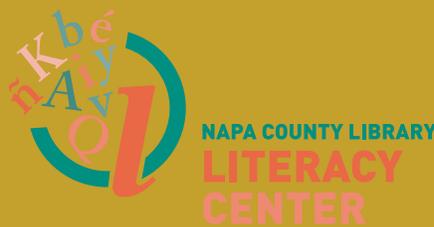
**December 12 & 19 from 1-4pm**

Wrapping up the Holidays!  
Love to gift wrap? Volunteers are needed to wrap for the holidays!  
Sign up for one or two hour shifts.  
Call Nicole at 253-4610 for more information.

## Learner's on the move

# SUCCESS

- Melissa reports that Juan is writing work orders at work and paragraphs
- Kerstin reports that Beatriz has completed Reading for Today Book 6
- Kathy reports that Gabriela finished Reading for Today Book 2 and passed the final quiz w/ flying colors
- Claudia reports that Guadalupe is more confident in writing emails
- Paul reports that Monica has a new job
- Cathy reports that Maria has read three books and a 3 page book report on Nancy Drew mysteries
- David reports that Maria understands grammar
- Bill reports that Alberto has finished a book
- Ingrid reports that Maria continues to make progress in comprehension
- Donald reports that Rafael has improved his comprehension
- Lynn reports that Teresa finished reading 1984 by George Orwell
- Jane reports that Maribel has improved her pronunciation grammar and comprehension
- Bev reports that Karla has obtained a job with the Napa Water district and her writing skills have improved dramatically
- Claudia reports that Guadalupe has improved her spelling
- Debra reports that Zoe has improved prepositions in written form
- Sue reports that Jael has learned different word families
- Karen reports that Yu has read two books and is working on a third
- Karen reports that Marvin continues to read independently
- Christie reports that Ann is reading more
- Greg reports that Bob is spelling 100% of 75 words
- Jane reports that Maribel has improved pronunciation.



### CONTACT US!

# 707-253-4237

ROBIN RAFAEL  
robin.rafael@countyofnapa.org

NICOLE THOMAS  
nicole.thomas@countyofnapa.org

KARIME JACOBO  
karime.jacobo@countyofnapa.org

[www.napalibrary.org/Literacy](http://www.napalibrary.org/Literacy)  
580 Coombs St.  
Napa, CA 94559