Summer is one of my favorite seasons! I enjoy family barbecues, trying 31 flavors of ice-cream, throwing a frisbee with my dog, or relaxing at a local beach. Summer also marks the end of our program year, and we’ve been looking back and gathering numbers. Many of you are finding distance learning very convenient. In the one-on-one tutoring program, 32 percent of tutoring pairs are meeting online, 26 percent are meeting in-person and online, and 42 percent are meeting exclusively in-person. We have 66 tutors (19 new) providing one-on-one tutoring to 69 learners.

Last fall we held parenting classes, Spanish math classes, a morning ESL class, and an online Citizenship class, serving a total of 145 students. Through a new ESL grant, we expanded services, and offered two off-site ESL classes for parents at Napa Valley Language Academy and Redwood Middle School. Thanks to volunteers, Susan and Norma, parents are able to take ESL classes at their child’s school.

This fall we are adding a 7-week Technology Course for ESL students, and an evening English Language Skills class. Please refer to pages 9-11 for our next scheduled classes, and enjoy the stories and accomplishments of our learners.

I wish you all a great summer.

-Robin Rafael
Literacy & Volunteer Services Supervisor
Welcome New Tutors!

While sipping coffee in your favorite house chair in comfy pajamas is a plus with online training, there is something to be said for training in-person. Meeting in-person, allows one the opportunity to get to know staff and new volunteers that you can connect with throughout the year. We offered our first in-person tutor training in May after a two-year hiatus! After a long gap, we refreshed our training and appreciated the patience and support we received from the new tutors who attended. The program will continue to offer both in-person and online options for tutor training.


ADULT LITERACY VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING

AUGUST 30th and SEPTEMBER 1st 2-PART TRAINING
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch Provided

Help an adult learner improve their reading and writing skills. The Library Literacy Center provides the training and materials. We have a wait list of learners ready to get started!

Call 253-4283 to register.
"Hi! My name is Felipa C. This is my story about my tutor Gina:

I met Gina more than three years ago. I am happy because she helps me a lot in my classes at the college. Every semester I took was a challenge for me. Now I am taking Biology 103 and Introduction to Nutrition. It is very hard work for me because English is my second language.

Gina is my hero because she understands how I feel and she explained to me how I need to do my homework. When I see Gina, we work and we learn together. Gina is more than my tutor because she understands me. Gina is my friend and my family.

Thank you, Gina, for all your help."

"I love to read. Have always loved to read, to travel to distant lands, imagine others’ lives, and learn new things. All without leaving home.

As a teacher, I am passionate about helping my kids do better in school. When I heard about the Literacy Program in 2015, I thought it was right up my alley. I am still in touch with my first student. We are friends.

My next student was Felipa. She was anxious to get better in English so that she could go to Napa Valley Community College. Wow, did she get better at it! She will graduate, hopefully, in the coming school year. She works, she goes to school, she has two children and a husband to feed and take care of, and still we meet once a week. I admire her very much, due to her "can-do" attitude, her work ethic, everything. I am proud to call her my friend."
LEARNER STORY

Maribel's Story

BY JANE Z.

Maribel and I have been working together for about six years. When we first began, her goals were quite different from her goals now. Today, she is the mother of two little girls and her goals are focused not only on herself but on her children.

A year or two ago I noticed that Maribel had an innate talent for writing and so we spent a lot of time on improving those skills. And until late last year her writing assignments consisted of narratives about her experiences as a child of Mexico, family member, student, employee, mother, and Napan.

Now it was time to set new goals. I asked Maribel to write fiction. She was hesitant, voiced concern that she did not know how to write fiction. With encouragement she wrote a first paragraph about a young girl who loved being in the forest among the animals and who in subsequent paragraphs met a fairy there. Once convinced she had the skill to write a fictional story, the rest of the story came freely. She decided it would be a story for her two daughters and I suggested when complete she could make a book as a gift to them.

Maribel set about writing a paragraph or two each week. We would discuss her writing and edit it in our weekly meetings. She asked a relative to illustrate the book and we were delighted with her work. The illustrations add color and wonderful visuals to a story that appeals to young people.

The last step of the process was laying out and printing the book which was accomplished using Shutterfly. The result is the excellent work of a talented young mother who has been in the Literacy Program for six years and who has changed her goals each time life has taken her in new directions. She is indeed a talented and productive woman, a testament to the work of the Napa Library Literacy Center.

-Jane Z.
Mayra has been meeting with her tutor since October 2021. Not long before that, Mayra was participating in the Basic Math class and passed the GED exam. Mayra and her tutor read the book “A Christmas Carol” and Mayra wrote a summary in her own words.

**A Christmas Carol**
by Charles Dickens

This story is about an old man called Scrooge. He and his business partner, Marley, ran their lives around money. But when Marley died, Scrooge became even more greedy. All that he thought about was money. All that he loved was money. He did not care about others. The most important thing for him was himself.

He continued living that way until one day, the day before Christmas, the ghost of his old friend Marley came with news. Three more ghosts will come to visit Scrooge and they will all be there to help him. Scrooge was terrified. One by one the ghosts appeared. The Ghost of Christmas Past, The Ghost of Christmas present and The Ghost Of Christmas Future. Each of them took Scrooge to different places and moments of his life, where he found the miseries of his heart.

Scrooge grew more and more ashamed of himself with each visit from the ghosts. He realized the terrible person that he had been until now. On his knees, Scrooge begged for a second chance. He had learned a lot, and was determined to change. Even with tears in his eyes, Scrooge realized that he was back in his own room. The ghosts were gone, but Scrooge was no longer the same.

He became a better man. People even began to smile at him. Now he cared about others and did what he could to help them. Some people were really surprised by Scrooge’s change, and some also laughed at him. But Scrooge didn’t care. For the first time in his life he was really happy.

by Mayra
LEARNERS ON THE MOVE

- Anayeli has improved her reading skills.
- Angeles has shown improvement in pronunciation of certain unique English language sounds, phonetics which helps her correctly identify words when reading and writing.
- Aurelia wrote a letter in regards to the book *I am Malala* and mailed it to the author.
- Edit filled out an application for a new job.
- Elizabeth has improved reading, comprehension, and pronunciation skills.
- Felipe learned to write a presentation outline.
- Fely passed Macroeconomics exam with an A!
- Fernando passed the GED exam.
- Fion finished *Grammar in Use*, all 100 lessons!
- Francisco prepared and presented two sermons in English at his church.
- Gabriela’s pronunciation improved.
- Guillermo Z. improved his speaking and writing skills.
- Jenny read a book and annotated it for vocabulary and grammar questions.
- Jocelyn’s vocabulary is growing and her reading and pronunciation has improved.
- Josefina is gaining confidence.
- Lai can read a more difficult book.
- Maria continues to read and converse with greater vocabulary and confidence. Her fluency with spoken language has improved.
- Maria G. passed the citizenship interview and became a U.S. citizen.
- Maribel finished writing a childrens’ book as a gift to her girls.
- Omaira is growing more confident in her conversational skills.
- Rosa has emerging mastery of English grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.
- Teresa is ready to take the Architect Registration Exam for a promotion at work.

Learners on the Move is generated from monthly tutor reports. Tutors, thank you for turning in the monthly reports. Your responses help us inform the State of California Library Literacy Services of the literacy accomplishments in Napa County.

Reports can be turned in through the customized Google doc, on paper, called in, or emailed to literacy staff. The Google doc can be found on the Literacy page of the library’s website: [https://www.countyofnapa.org/700/Literacy](https://www.countyofnapa.org/700/Literacy).

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

B.B. KING
LUNCH WITH LITERACY
In-Service: Structured Word Inquiry

Lunch with Literacy, our quarterly tutor roundtable, is back in person!

Join us for a seminar on Structured Word Inquiry Tuesday, September 13th at noon, in person (lunch provided) or by Zoom. (Please indicate your preference.)

We will learn the scientific connection and origins of words to help your learner improve vocabulary spelling and writing!

To register, call Nicole at 707-253-4610.
My name is Julia L. Morgan and I am from Lima, Peru. I live with my husband, Michael, in Napa. I wanted to feel part of the United States of America. I wanted to have the right to vote in a country that I profoundly admire, respect, and love! Life works in mysterious ways. I was able to connect with the Napa County Library, and I saw information about the Citizenship class. At that point, I started my journey to become an American citizen. At the first Citizenship class the classroom environment felt so welcoming, supportive, and encouraging for newcomers, like me, to pursue our dreams of becoming American citizens. The event included testimonies of students. That inspired me and made me feel confident.

The instruction became even more exciting because there were students from other states. This helped me expand my view, insight, and knowledge about civics, government, and history because the instructor explained the different themes in a bigger context. I was capable to master the 100 civic questions.

We received useful USCIS resources and materials. Norma (the instructor) invited guest speakers from different agencies. I really enjoyed the Q & A, as speakers would provide insightful responses to our questions and input. It was a win-win situation. I was able to apply for naturalization through the Upper Valley Family Resource Center, a non-profit organization in Calistoga which helped me with the legal aspect. It was a great relief to receive this support.

Other unique characteristics of this class were the resources, the simulated mock interviews, and content that strengthened the English listening, speaking, reading, and writing practice. These aspects helped me be fully prepared for the interview. To have the opportunity to practice for the interview with Norma increased my confidence to go to the official interview and be calm. I am so thankful and grateful for all the support I got during my citizenship process, now I feel part of this country. I feel a sense of belonging in a community that is so supportive. I did it! I was able to accomplish my American Dream: to be a citizen of the United States!!!
CITIZENSHIP STORY

Ligia

I am from Jungapeo, Michoacán, Mexico. I became an American citizen on June 27, 2022. It sounds easy, but to achieve it, you go through a long process and must not give up. First, you need to be willing to take that initial step, just like I did! You may hear comments that can either encourage or discourage you, or that can even bring doubts and fears as you are making up your mind to take this very important step in your life. Some people, without knowing, may affirm that the interview questions are very difficult. When they, in fact, are not hard at all.

After completing the process, I realized there will always be many excuses or obstacles that can come our way. You must not allow them to stop you from achieving your goals and dreams. It is important to be consistent with your study habits and be determined to learn about civics, government, history, among other items. As immigrants, we all have our own inspiring story to relate to. In my case, my family, especially my son, has been a great inspiration in this process, as I was taking that first step. I have always been very passionate in all of my projects. As a Latina, I love to work very hard and be a role model for my son, my family, and my community! I want him to feel proud of me, to have a voice in this country, and to cast my vote on behalf of those who can’t vote yet. I really enjoy being innovative and setting new goals in the different phases of my life. I accomplished one of my many dreams of becoming a United States Citizen. If I can do it, so can you. It is just a matter of taking action and following through. The instructor made the class interesting, dynamic, and fun. I feel impressed by her professionalism and her commitment to helping all students. She inspired us and made us believe that we can achieve a lot of things in life. I am deeply grateful for all the help I received in my process. Finally, I want to say to those who are already eligible and haven’t decided yet: Just do it, don't be afraid, it's worth it. I promise you'll find all the help you need, if you just ask for it.

CITIZENSHIP CLASSSES

CLASSES START IN AUGUST

CALL 707-253-4237 TO ENROLL TODAY

Study to become a US citizen. The instructor will walk you through the process to prepare you for the Naturalization Interview. Class includes practice tests, mock interviews, one-on-one help, useful tips, and official USCIS materials!
TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS FOR ESL STUDENTS

CLASSES START AUGUST 22nd

7-week sessions at the
NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

MONDAY NIGHTS from 5:30-8 p.m.

ENROLL NOW!
TO REGISTER, CALL 707-253-4237

The workshop series will cover basic computer functions such as turning on devices and checking WIFI connections. Workshops will progress to using a web browser, email, and Zoom. The series concludes with an introduction to online curriculum and learning management systems.

TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

CLASSES START JULY 13th

10-week sessions at the
NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS from 6-7:30 p.m.

ENROLL NOW!
CALL 707-253-4237 or 707-253-4283

Gain confidence and skills as a parent. Learn about typical child behaviors at certain ages and stages of development. Learn appropriate discipline that works and maintain a healthy child and parent relationship. The class will help you recognize your strengths and connect with other parents for support and encouragement.

“I originally took this class because I wanted to see changes in my children and then I realized the changes needed to be in me. Realizing my actions affected how my children responded really turned things around at home and helped our family.”
ESL CLASS
BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE

CLASSES START AUGUST 26th
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

FRIDAY MORNINGS
from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ENROLL NOW!
TO REGISTER, CALL 707-253-4237

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are designed to teach a variety of language skills to non-native English speakers (also known as English language learners). Adults learn English listening, reading, and writing skills and develop conversational and culturally appropriate speaking skills.

JOIN CLASSES IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY THROUGH THE LIBRARY

The Library Literacy Center recently purchased a Meeting Owl, a 360-degree camera and microphone for classes, meetings, and trainings.

This opens up accessibility to more students and volunteers, combining virtual and in-person learning. Look for new flyers and cards with access codes to join one of our many upcoming workshops and classes.

BASIC MATH
IN SPANISH

CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 1ST
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

TUESDAY & THURSDAY NIGHTS
from 6-7:30 p.m.

ENROLL NOW!
TO REGISTER, CALL 707-253-4237

Former Student: "Attending this class gave me a better future. It gave me the opportunity to meet new people who gave me support and helped me integrate into the community."

Beginning and intermediate math. Prepare for the GED and go at your own pace. This class is helpful for beginning math students.
SUMMER CRAFT KITS
(For families enrolled in the Literacy Program)

TIE-DYE PILLOWCASES
EXPLORING SEA LIFE

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY
September 30th, 5-7 p.m.

Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on September 16th, and it marks the day Father Hidalgo called for Mexico’s liberation from Spain in 1810. This year we want you and your family to continue the celebration with us on the last day of the month! Let’s celebrate with good food, music, crafts, contests, and games! Bring yourself or your whole family. Join us at the party to learn how to make homemade piñatas! We can’t wait to see you here!

If you would like to participate in the Salsa making contest, sign up by calling 707-299-1764.

Please let us know how your children enjoy their craft kits!
Send us a photo to share in our newsletter. Email to robin.rafael@countyofnapa.org.
FAMILY FUN

Join us for some outdoor activities, “Off the Beaten Path” this summer and pick up craft kits at your local branch!

*Don’t forget to sign-up for the Summer Reading Program—there will be lots of cool prizes and events*

Summer Library Adventure | Napa County, CA (countyofnapa.org)

Summer Daze Family Fun Event

Jul 12th: American Canyon Library
(11:30 am-2:30 pm)
July 19th: Napa Main Library
(10am-2 pm on the patio)

Annual Backpack Giveaway! Join us for literacy related activities and get a free book, backpack, and school supplies! Free books provided by Friends of the Library.

Thank you for joining us on the Napa River Walk July 7th!

Family Fun at the Park!
August 9th, 10am-12pm

An event for the whole family. Join us for a picnic, water balloon fight, sack race, and other games at Fuller Park (560 Jefferson St, Napa). Call 707-253-4237 if you plan to attend.
Our outdoor family events in April and May were a blast! Parents and their children painted eggs for Easter and planted wildflower seeds for the spring. Families were very engaged in decorating their pots. Participants enjoyed the book giveaway too! We offer these events several times a year as a way for us to connect with the community and encourage a love of reading. A child is never too young or an adult too old to start to enjoy the pleasure of a good book. Check out our upcoming family events on page 13.
Summer Literacy Calendar

July

4th: Library Closed
7th: Napa River Walk
10 am
12th: Summer Daze Family Fun Event, 11:30 am-2:30 pm
American Canyon Branch
13th: Triple P Positive Parenting Program begins, 6-7:30 pm
19th: Summer Daze Family Fun Event, 10 am-2 pm
Napa Main Branch patio

August

9th: Family Fun at Fuller Park
10 am
22nd: Technology Workshop for ESL Students begins
5:30-8 pm
26th: ESL class begins
Friday mornings
10 am-12:30 pm
30th: Tutor Training Part I
10 am-3 pm

September

1st: Tutor Training Part II
10 am-3 pm
1st: Basic Math in Spanish class begins, 6-7:30 pm
13th: Lunch with Literacy: Structured Word Inquiry
12-1:30 pm
30th: Mexican Independence Day Party, 5-7 pm

Joaquin enjoying last month’s book, Claymates, by Devorah Petty and illustrated by Lauren Eldridge.

He created figures from his clay craft kit he received in the mail through the Library Literacy Center.