COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Fall, with its crisp night air and the changing colors of the leaves, creates a space for reflection. As we move to a new rhythm with the start of school, there's a sense of change and new beginnings. In September, we had 17 volunteers participate in tutor training, our largest group since the pandemic! Learners who have been waiting for a while were excited to get started. At the same time, tutors that have been with the Literacy Program for many years moved on to new projects. Like Marylou, who has been with us for the last seven years; we say goodbye to someone very special. Altruism is a word that comes up in tutor training, “selfless concern for the well-being of others.” Adult literacy tutors have this gene built deep inside them. They really care about the needs of others. The connection made between a tutor and learner is a bond created through shared life experiences and being vulnerable enough to share personal stories. Thank you, Teresa, Stephanie, Cindy, Sue, Kerry, Mechele, Jane, Bev, Ingrid, and Ann for all the years you gave to helping adult learners. The gift of service is bigger than a single act and strengthens our humanity. Thanks for sharing this lesson with the rest of us. You will be missed.

~Robin Rafael
ADULT LITERACY VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING

JANUARY 18th and 19th
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 Robin at 253-4283

TUTORS IN-SERVICE ON TEACHING SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS

OCTOBER 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th
4-PART TRAINING
9-11 a.m. at the Napa Main Library

In October there will be a four part in-service training on teaching Second Language Learners. Training will be provided by Kathryn Gooch, English as a Second Language Instructor for Napa Valley Adult Education. Join us for a cup of coffee and continental breakfast. Training available in-person and via Zoom.
READING AT THE LAUNDROMAT

Thanks to the California Library Literacy Services Family Literacy grant, the Napa Library is in its fourth year of providing books for laundromats, serving five laundromats in the Napa area. Once a month literacy staff go out and replenish books, adding new bilingual picture books and novels for teenagers and adults. Recently when I went to drop off books, the book shelf was bare, a good sign that people are reading! As I was adding books to the shelf, two little girls came out of hiding to look at the new books. Seeing them immersed in their books, made me smile. This partnership between the library and local businesses has been a positive experience. Seeing children put down a cell phone to pick up a book is worth the trip.
Voting can be difficult, especially for adult learners. The library makes it a priority to have the Easy Voter Guide available to make better sense of the voting process to help new and veteran voters make more informed decisions. We will be mailing out guides to everyone in the Literacy Program for use in lessons regarding the upcoming election.

The Easy Voter Guide makes non-partisan (not-biased) information about why to vote, how to vote, and what’s on the ballot available and accessible to Californians.

The Easy Voter Guide was originally developed through the inspiration of adult learner leaders in California Library Literacy Services. Learners wanted to provide new voters with accurate and accessible non-partisan information. The Easy Voter Guide has been produced for every statewide election in California since 1994. While originally intended for an adult literacy audience, the guide has grown in popularity with library patrons and local partners. Library staff who distribute the Guide agree that it meets library needs and improves library services to the public.

For more information on adult learners and voting, check out these articles from ProPublica:

**How to Fix America’s Confusing Voting System**
Voting can be a convoluted obstacle course, especially for those who can’t read. Here are proven ways of fixing the system and enabling millions more voters to participate. [https://www.propublica.org/article/improve-voter-turnout-solutions-accessibility](https://www.propublica.org/article/improve-voter-turnout-solutions-accessibility)

**New Voting Restrictions Could Make It Harder for 1 in 5 Americans to Vote**
Across the country, from California to Georgia, people like Olivia Coley-Pearson and Faye Combs are working through stigma and increased restrictions as they help people who struggle to read exercise their right to vote. [https://www.propublica.org/article/voting-restrictions-harder-to-vote-literacy](https://www.propublica.org/article/voting-restrictions-harder-to-vote-literacy) Embedded in this article, you’ll see “Watch the Investigation,” a video with Faye Combs talking about her personal reading and voting experiences and a short primer on the historical links between adult literacy and voting.

You can find more fine articles on adult literacy and voting from ProPublica here: [https://www.propublica.org](https://www.propublica.org)

Learn about California Library Literacy Services’ Key to Voter information here: [https://libraryliteracy.org/special-projects/key-to-community-voter-engagement/](https://libraryliteracy.org/special-projects/key-to-community-voter-engagement/)
LEARNER STORIES
Thanks & Farewell from Rocio

"I learned about the Library Literacy program in 2018 through Karime. When she explained to me how the program worked, I did not hesitate to come to the Library to fill out an application. After having bad experiences in different places trying to learn the language, Literacy was like a light on the path.

I arrived at the Adult Literacy Services program in November 2018. From the very first day, I carried a lot of desire to learn English, having many dreams, goals, and objectives that motivated me to do my best. Learning the language is not only one part, it is two, and this second part is called "tutor;" having a tutor was a very important part of my learning and growth as an individual and professional in this country.

Not knowing how to communicate and express your ideas and knowledge to others is the most frustrating thing that can happen to us as human beings. I remember saying, "I am intelligent in Spanish, why can’t I be intelligent in English?" However, after days, weeks, months, and years of hard work and dedication, I can say that I can speak English and express my needs and ideas. I continue and will continue to work on perfecting it.

I came to this country thinking that I would never be able to practice my profession again. I started cleaning houses, babysitting, working as a nanny and Spanish tutor. Jobs that blessed me and taught me a lot. I am not ashamed to have done them. However, we don’t have to give up on our dreams--work hard, study hard, and persevere. The doors that need to be opened, God will open them, but we must work hard.

My door is now open! I’m returning to the field of my profession in my country El Salvador. This August I started in a private high school in Vacaville where I will be teaching Spanish I and II. I am grateful to the Literacy program at the Napa County Library and all their staff (Robin Rafael, Karime Jacobo, and Nicole Thomas) who have been a great help in this learning process. Thank you for every book, every resource, every activity provided. Without a doubt, all of this helped me learn.

Last but not least, I want to thank my tutor, mentor, and friend Judy H. Thank you for all the time invested in my language learning, every class, homework, field trip, advice, and more. Everything I learned was, is, and will be very helpful in this new path.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your help and I invite others to participate in this program to believe in yourself and not give up."

Best regards,
Rocio L.
Triple P Positive Parenting Story

If you are going to invest your time doing a parenting class, you want to be confident that you will get results. The Napa Library offers this 10-week parenting class throughout the year, and we have definitely garnered amazing results! See page 7 for information about the class.

Here’s what Virginia, a parent/former student, had to say about this life-changing program:

"Hello, my name is Virginia. I am a mother of two boys. My oldest is 6 years old and my youngest is 5. I am very thankful for the library’s support given to parents to learn how to sharpen our parenting skills.

I was in a very dark place in my depression, dealing with my anxiety and health issues—and, worst of all, family problems—in a failing marriage and learning how to be a mom alone with no guidance. Just going with the flow like most parents do, taking it day by day. My luck changed when I got referred to Rafael Ortiz, the instructor for the Triple P Positive Parenting class.

I used to vent about my marriage and complain about my kids to my best friend. She told me, “Virginia, I can’t help you solve your problems, but I know who can help you because the change you see in me now is because of Mr. Rafael Ortiz’s class. He teaches parenting classes at the library.” I was silent after that. I would visit her often and observe the patience she had gained with her two girls. The tone of voice she used was unbelievable. She seemed like she had it all together. She made it look so easy. My friend would tell me, “Believe me, it’s not easy, but if you allow someone to teach you how to be the better version of yourself it can get easier.” So, I decided to make that one phone call that changed my life, to the Napa Library.

I decided to get help, and I thought I have nothing to lose by trying to fix my marriage. I still had hope. I knew I wanted things to work out or at least be better. I didn’t realize I was a hot mess! I learned a whole lot about myself. I learned how to analyze, stop, and listen. I learned to listen to those who are speaking to me. I learned to be more sensitive to their feelings/needs and my own feelings too. When I was stressed out, I would yell, cry, and have uncontrollable emotions inside of me dying to come out. I had lots of anger, no patience, lots of resentment, a big ego, and was totally in denial, holding onto things from the past that I did not realize I was carrying—all this unnecessary weight I needed to let go of. I forgot how to smile and, worst of all, I forgot how to love MYSELF. It broke me when I realized that this was the version of me I was offering my family. I needed to change soon.”

(continued on page 6)
I decided to take parenting classes thinking that this was going to help me straighten my kids out, but, to my surprise, it helped change ME. Rafael taught me three things: How to be 100% an individual woman, how to be 100% a mother, and how to be 100% a wife. We would do activities that involved parents role-playing how we would discipline our kids, which was an eye-opener. I loved learning from other parents—the rights and wrongs. Lots of times, hearing other parents tell their story, I would connect with them because I had a similar situation as they did. As I was learning more, I became more at peace with myself and others. All this time I thought it was everybody else’s fault but mine. I was more and more excited to go to class every Wednesday. I was now able to understand people. We are not alone, we just don’t know that this help exists. To me these classes are life gems. There is nothing more precious than these classes that are given to parents, and the best part is that they are FREE.

I learned how to teach my kids how to be independent and not to depend on mom or dad or anybody for things that they are able to do on their own (Responsibilities). I learned how to pick and choose my battles with them, how to do time-out correctly, and how to have lots of patience. I learned how to talk to my kids with the respect that they deserve. I used to believe in spanking kids, and I learned that putting hands on the innocent ones that you say you love is not necessary. I don’t need to hurt my children.

There is an answer for the problems that arise thanks to the program and to Rafael. My husband and I now work together as a team for the sake of the future for our kids. We learned how to control our emotions better and we learned how to communicate with each other what we are feeling. If we need some support, we give it to each other. We stopped the blaming/boxing game. I am very happy with the NEW me. And I’m very thankful to know how important it is to keep on educating yourself. It all starts with YOU.

I definitely recommend this wonderful program to parents. I wish a lot of parents would take their time to go so they can see what I see and feel what I feel. This world would be a better place if we would work harder on ourselves.

Once again, thank you so much."

Virginia
TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
from 5:45-7:45 p.m.
10-week sessions
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

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

Read the story on the following page from a parent who recently attended the class.

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

FRIDAY MORNINGS
from 10 a.m-12:30 p.m.
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

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.
INTERESTED IN GETTING YOUR CITIZENSHIP?

CLASSES IN NAPA COUNTY:

- **NAPA VALLEY ADULT SCHOOL**
  - Classes on Wednesday & Thursday Nights from 6:00-8:30 p.m. on Zoom
  - Citizenship classes start October 26th.
  - Register for an orientation on October 20th by calling 707-253-3594.

- **IMMIGRATION INSTITUTE OF THE BAY AREA**
  - Classes are in-person on Mondays, 5:00 p.m. in Spanish and 6:00 p.m. in English at McPherson Family Resource Center (2670 Yajome Street, Napa, CA).
  - To register, please call 707-738-3345 or email napacitizens@gmail.com

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.

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BASIC MATH IN SPANISH

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

**AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY**

**WALK-INS WELCOME**

**ENROLL NOW!**

TO REGISTER, CALL 707-253-4237

Beginning and intermediate math. Prepare for the GED and go at your own pace. This class is helpful for beginning math students.

**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."
LEARNERS ON THE MOVE

- Anayeli has improved speaking skills, vocabulary and reading fluency.
- Armando is reading with more expression and understanding. He learned how to study for the DMV exam.
- Mauricio is now talking to his daughter in English and watching the news in English.
- Aurelia has made progress; she is now attending a conversation English class at the college.
- Elizabeth continues to improve in reading and phonics and is beginning to learn the basics of writing. She wrote a letter to Human Resources.
- Fabiola has improved her skills in writing, pronunciation, and vocabulary development.
- Felipa passed her Nutrition class at Napa Valley College.
- Francisco has completed three or four sermons for his congregation in English.
- Guadalupe completed the textbook on phonics. She has made so much progress and is doing work on her own.
- Jocelyn has improved pronunciation of words ending in -ed and improved recognition and pronunciation of vowels.
- Krishna has more confidence speaking in public situations and has improved listening comprehension.
- Guadalupe continues to improve in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.
- Lourdes completed Career Online High School and now has a high school diploma and a job.
- Luz is highly motivated and challenges herself on pronunciation, phonics, and writing skills, which is helping as she is making improvement with pronunciation.

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.
According to the US Census Bureau, high school graduates earn over $200,000 more in a lifetime than those without a diploma. You can obtain an accredited high school diploma and career certificate at the same time. All work is done online with full support and the flexibility to learn from anywhere.

Step 1: Complete the online survey here: ca.careeronlinehs.org/are-you-ready-survey
Step 2: Enroll in Part 1 prerequisite to see if it’s a fit (2 weeks to complete)
Step 3: Upon completion of Part 2, attend the interview with library staff and enroll in the full program

For more information, call Nicole at 707-253-4610.

Here’s what former student, Lourdes had to say:
"The time I spent during the online lessons for the High School Program was a total enjoyment to me. Before I used to think that it was a complicated thing to carry on for months but then I realized it must be what I should do since I was searching for a job in the meantime. I started in between July or August 2021, and finished on August 2022. My first coach was Kelley N., a wonderful person who emailed and called many times, which made me feel that I was doing a good thing. She was born to be a coach, I can assure that definitively.

At the beginning of the lessons I had some little problems, which is normal if you do not have previous experience. The patience and support of the Public Library Staff encouraged me to continue my lessons with a smile every time. I want to thank, with all my heart, Nicole and Robin, both excellent staff members of the Napa Public Library."

Sincerely,
Lourdes T.
FALL CRAFT KITS
FOR FAMILIES ENROLLED IN THE LITERACY PROGRAM

OCTOBER
MASKS

NOVEMBER
SUGAR SKULLS

DECEMBER
PIÑATAS

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.
HALLOWEEN
Monday, October 31st
Napa Main Library 9am-4pm

We’re brewing up some fun with crafts, games and prizes! Trick or treat at each service desk—and be on the lookout for hidden black cats throughout the library. Find them and be entered for a prize!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, December 8th
Napa Library 11am-7pm

Join us for story time, piñata making, and a holiday movie!

11am: Bilingual holiday stories with Ms. Kelli.
Hear classics in Spanish & English.

2pm: Make a family piñata (limited to 10 families).

5pm: Join us to watch a classic holiday movie!
(Film to be determined.)

Refreshments will be served and free holiday books given out!

RSVP Nicole at 707-253-4610
We had a successful summer full of fun times and togetherness. Every year we give away backpacks at the Napa, American Canyon, Yountville, and Calistoga library branches to help parents prepare for going back to school. This year our Back to School Day event was another success. We also had a great time at Fuller Park with lots of fun activities.

We had tug-of-war, a water balloon fight, outdoor bowling, corn hole, and badminton game, and great snacks. The children read and took books home. Thank you, parents, for bringing your family to have fun, as we know that parent and child together time (PACT) strengthens emotional bonding and learning.
Library New Hours

Napa Main
M-Th 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Fr-Sat 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.

American Canyon
Mon-Tues Thur–Sat 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Wed 12:00-8:00 p.m.
Sun CLOSED

Calistoga
Mon-Tues Thur-Sat 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Wed 12:00-8:00 p.m.
Sun CLOSED

Yountville
Mon-Sat 9:00 a.m -5:00 p.m.

Fall Literacy Calendar

October

October 20-21 & 27-28: 4-Part Tutor In-Service on ESL Strategies
9:00-11:00 am

October 31:
Halloween (trick or treat, crafts, prizes—check your local branch)
9:00am-4:00pm

November

November 11:
LIBRARY CLOSED

November 24 & 25:
LIBRARY CLOSED

November 30:
Career Online High School and GED Graduation Ceremony
6:00-7:30 pm

December

December 8:
Holiday Open House (storytime, holiday piñatas, & movie)
11:00am-7:00pm

December 24 & 25:
LIBRARY CLOSED

Tell a friend!

January 18 & 19:
2-PART Tutor Training
10:00am-3:00pm

January 27:
Tutor & Learner Appreciation Event
6:30-8:30 pm