COORDINATOR’S CORNER

Happy New Year! I laughed when I ran across the words, “Nine p.m. is the new midnight.” I relate, as I try to hang on until midnight on New Year’s Eve but usually fall asleep just shy of 11 p.m. Awakened by the sounds of horns blowing and fireworks booming, I sit up and say a quick “Happy New Year,” then fall right back to sleep. Whether you ring in the New Year staying up dancing the night away, or stay up just long enough to watch the ball drop in New York City, I hope you have a joyous year in 2023.

They say only 10% of us follow through with New Year’s resolutions. There is something to be said for not making grandiose resolutions we easily break. Little by little, poco a poco, we can have better results. Everyday we see goals accomplished in adult and family literacy. A learner passes their driver’s test, gets promoted at work, communicates better in English, lands a new job, or writes their first essay for a class paper, and with each success they gain confidence. An accumulation of literacy goals met for the year noted significant achievements. 75% of our parents are now sharing books with their children, 83% of learners reached their goal of learning the letters of the alphabet and their sounds, 81% of learners made progress in their reading, and 50% of learners secured a better job. Congratulations for putting in the hard work to make your lives and those of your family better!

As we begin the new year, we have a few additions to our programming. We are now offering ESL classes in the evening as well as the morning. Our basic math and parenting classes are returning. We are pleased to add a new program: free one-on-one tutoring for kids! Over the years, we have had several parents asking if we offer our successful adult tutoring services to children who struggle in reading, math, and other school subjects.

Thanks to the Napa Valley Community Foundation, the Robert and Ellen Streich Family Endowment, Rasmussen Family Fund, and the Freed Family and Thatcher Family Fund who provided a grant to purchase children’s books in Spanish, we are able to enhance our programming. In memoriam Dale Wells Parker, thank you for choosing Napa County Library Literacy Program in your gift giving.

Seen here are two girls enjoying their free books at the laundromat. Thanks to our volunteers for giving generously of their time to help an adult learner and for our funders who understand the value of a literate community.

Robin Rafael
Literacy & Volunteer Supervisor
ADULT LITERACY VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING

January 18th and 19th from 10 a.m - 3 p.m
2-PART TRAINING, Lunch provided

Make a difference in someone’s life, become a volunteer tutor! 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!

Click here to register online or call 253-4283.

TUTOR IN-SERVICE: TUTORING A SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNER

Date: February 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th, 2023
Napa Main Library, 9-11 a.m.

(3rd and 10th in the Community Room
and the 2nd and 9th in the Lifeworks Room)

Kathryn Gooch, English as a Second Language Instructor for Napa Valley Adult Education, will return in February to provide practical and easily implemented instruction for Second Language Learners. Kathryn will do the trainings in the same sequence as she did in November, so if you missed one or two trainings, you have the opportunity to attend the ones you missed.

“This training with Kathryn Gooch taught me how to use my chosen materials better. In particular, I learned how to use the Oxford Picture Dictionary (OPD) as a tool for teaching and organizing my sessions. Kathryn modeled the methods she uses for ESL students, and from this I could see how important it is to slow down and work in "smaller bites."

~Celia, literacy tutor

CALL 707-253-4283 TO REGISTER.

TUTORS, WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Tutor Appreciation will now be held in April during National Volunteer Month! Details announced soon!
Kevin

I asked Kevin how he got interested in adult literacy. Kevin said, after seeing multiple ads in the Napa Valley Register, it piqued his interest. As a recent retiree, Kevin was looking for a new activity where he could make a deeper connection. In the three months he has been tutoring Ana, Kevin said this is the closest connection he has had to an adult from Latin America. "I have lived seven decades and never had that experience." As a former newspaper reporter, he has had numerous interactions with many people over the years, yet those experiences were limited interactions to gather information.

While tutoring, Kevin and Ana have developed a trusting relationship allowing them to learn more about one another. One of the benefits of the library literacy program is the opportunity to engage with people of different ages and ethnic backgrounds. Kevin said, "We were able to establish trust and that is very gratifying."

When asked how he likes tutoring, Kevin said, while the staff guidance and materials have been helpful, tutoring is harder than he thought. "It’s a challenge to know what the learner wants and if you are meeting their needs." Despite challenges, Kevin said, being an adult literacy tutor is what he had hoped for and more!

by Robin Rafael

Ana

"Hello, I am Ana. I was motivated to come to the library to ask for help because of the lack of knowledge of the English language. It is very frustrating. I could not communicate with anyone around me. I could not talk to doctors, my children’s teachers, staff at the market, or ask for help at a department store. The inability to express myself pushed me to seek help at the library to learn English.

My goals are to learn English to be able to express my needs, to stand up for myself, and speak it fluently. I have a tutor and we have been meeting for the last three months. His name is Kevin. I feel that I am learning; we have good communication, and we plan our sessions at the library. My tutor encourages me a lot, he pushes me to challenge myself to learn more and to try different ways to learn English. He is very patient with me and I enjoy working with him; he corrects my work in a positive manner.

I am not just learning English, I am also having fun. We laugh at the activities we work on when they are like my life’s everyday situations. I think I have found an angel in my tutor: he is very patient with me, very positive, and I am learning English with him.

If you are someone that needs to learn English and can dedicate time to yourself, come to the library and ask for help. You can learn. You can find an angel, just like I did. You can find an angel that can teach you English."
LEARNERS ON THE MOVE

- Anabel got a new job at the winery.
- Anayeli’s pronunciation is improving. She has increased conversation in English at work.
- Angeles has better English pronunciation and understanding of simple phonetics.
- Armando got his driver’s permit.
- Omaira, Javier, Dalia, Josefina, Adolfo, Ana are doing well in their conversation group.
- Catalina learned many new vocabulary words.
- Celeste watched a movie in English without subtitles and got a new job!
- Doris is making progress; learning vocabulary related to work.
- Erika C. is improving pronunciation, spelling, and punctuation.
- Erika F. is taking college classes.
- Eva is improving pronunciation and grammar. She's increased in accuracy, comprehension, and fluency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- Fion is reading a more difficult book.
- Gloria is mastering the use of nouns, pronouns, and verbs in her writing.
- Javier is improving speaking skills.
- Krishna continues to improve in conversational comprehension.
- Leonor increased pronunciation of English words.
- Luz improved verb tenses in simple past, present, and future.
- Maribel is improving pronunciation and writing skills.

"The beginning is always today."

-FROM THE SHORT STORIES OF MARY SHELLEY BY MARY SHELLEY

Learners on the Move is generated from monthly tutor reports.

Tutor, 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 also be found on the Literacy page of the library’s website: https://www.countyofnapa.org/700/Literacy.
Free Classes at the Library

PILOT PROGRAM COMING SOON!
CHILDREN'S TUTORING

We are starting a pilot program offering one-on-one tutoring to children, to help them become more successful readers. (Limited spaces as we recruit volunteers.)

Decades of research suggest that tutoring is one of the most effective ways to support a struggling student, getting personalized support on their math, reading, or other academic subject. If your child is struggling with study skills or organization, a tutor can also help them refocus and catch up on their school work.

HOW IT WORKS:
A student will be matched with a volunteer to work with on reading or math skills once or twice a week for an hour. The one-on-one time, along with a nurturing environment, encouragement, and support from a tutor, will help students master or significantly improve their skills and build the confidence children need to succeed.

Call 707-253-4283 if you would like to add your child to the list.

PARENTING
TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

10 SESSIONS
CLASSES START JANUARY 24th
TUESDAY NIGHTS from 6-8 p.m.
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

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.

FORMER PARENT:
"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. 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. I am very happy with the NEW me. I definitely recommend this wonderful program to parents."

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE
OR CALL 707-253-4283
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.

ESL CLASS
BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE
FRIDAY MORNINGS (CLICK HERE TO REGISTER)
from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY
CLASSES START JANUARY 20th

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY NIGHTS (CLICK HERE TO REGISTER)
from 6-8 p.m.
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY
CLASSES START JANUARY 30TH

ESL for Basic and Intermediate Level Students. Students will improve their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

REGISTER ONLINE: (FRIDAYS) OR
(MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS) OR
CALL 707-253-4606

BASIC MATH IN SPANISH
THURSDAY NIGHTS
from 6-7:30 p.m.
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY
CLASSES START JANUARY 19th

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."

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE
OR CALL 707-253-4606
NAPA READS

The yearly community event to encourage reading, the 2023 Napa Reads book will be *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya.

"Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can 13-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all, or is he in for a big, epic fail?"

For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. He almost doesn't notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí. Funny and poignant, *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*, the vibrant story of a family, a striking portrait of a town, and one boy's quest to save both.

The library Literacy Center program will mail everyone in the Literacy Program a book and activity sheet to use in your lessons.

Meet the author on March 9th. We will send out a postcard with the location and time as soon as it's announced!

HOLIDAY BREAK MOVIE & CRAFT

Thursday, December 29
“Movie Matinee”
In the afternoon, we'll be showing the movie, *DC League of Super-Pets* at 2 p.m. in the CMR.

Thursday, January 5
“Super Dog Craft”
In the afternoon, we'll be having a super dog family craft program based on the movie *DC League of Super-Pets* at 3 p.m. in the library Community Meeting Room.
BLACK HISTORY MONTH LESSON

Black History Month began as Negro History Week and was founded in 1926 by historian and author, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He deemed it imperative to recognize and celebrate the many accomplishments of Black Americans in the United States and across the globe. The celebration was held in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas.

Dr. Woodson believed that Black History was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society. He is quoted as saying: “If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated.”

For several years, the focus of the week was teaching on Black Americans in public schools. In 1969, black educators at Kent State proposed a month-long celebration, commencing the following year in 1970. Since 1976, beginning with President Gerald Ford, every US president has recognized February as Black History Month. Other countries also acknowledged the month as the United Kingdom began celebrating in 1987, Germany in 1990 and Canada in 1995.

In recent years, there have been talks to abolish the month long celebration, with perspectives that Black History should not be relegated to a single month. Contemporary studies and trends advocate that dialogue, interdisciplinary education and reflections should be in place every month and all year long.

Have you attended a Black History event, if so, tell us about it.

What do you think Woodson would say of today’s celebrations and new ideology to abolish the month?

Black American History started before slavery, what are some traditions that remain from the diaspora?

Write a short essay of a Black American that you admire.

Vocabulary

Accomplishment: the successful achievement of a task
Recognition: appreciation or acclaim for a service or ability
Diaspora: a population scattered across regions
Abolish: end a system practice or institution
Commence: to begin, start
Smithsonian Exhibit: A Place for All People, Introducing the National Museum of African American History and Culture

February 7 & 8, All Day at American Canyon Library
February 21-27, All Day at Napa Main Library

An exhibition of the museum with posters highlighting key artifacts that tell the rich and diverse story of the African American experience. “A Place for All People” is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in collaboration with the museum.

Movie Night: The Woman King
February 9, 5-7:30 p.m. at Napa Main
February 15, 5-7:30 p.m. at American Canyon Library

Based on the Agojie all-women warriors who were instrumental in protecting the Kingdom of Dahomey from 17th to the 19th century, tells the fictional story of General Ninisca who must train the next generation of all-female warriors in order to stop a foreign enemy. PG-13

February 16: Black History Trivia at Napa Main, 6-7 p.m.

How much do you really know about Black history?

Test your knowledge at our Black History Trivia Night and compete for a prize! You never know, you may learn a thing or two. For ages 13 and up.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE BOOK DISPLAY OF BLACK AUTHORS AT ALL LIBRARY BRANCHES!
GRADUATION RECAP

Our first in-person graduation in more than 3 years!

What a delight to celebrate and honor our recent Career Online High School and GED graduates. There were a total of 9 honorees.

The graduates received certificates of recognition from the offices of Representative Mike Thompson, State Senator Bill Dodd and State Assembly Member Cecilia Aguilar-Curry. We speak for Napa County in saying we are thankful for the recognition of our adult learners by our elected officials.

The festivities included speeches from Dr. Guillermo Gonzalez, GED instructor and student speaker and COHS graduate Lourdes T. It was great to witness the celebratory atmosphere, with smiles and laughter from families proud of their loved ones.

If you know someone interested in obtaining their high school diploma or GED, call the Literacy Center at 707-253-4610.

Join the graduates above and earn your diploma! Follow these steps to get started:
Step 1: Go to https://www.countyofnapa.org/857/Career-Online-High-School and enroll
Step 2: Choose a career path
Step3: Enroll in a Part I Pre-requisite

FREE scholarships available! Use previous high school credits to lessen courses required. Call Nicole at 707-253-4610 for more information.
CRAFT KITS FOR THE WINTER
(FOR FAMILIES ENROLLED IN THE LITERACY PROGRAM)

JANUARY
WINTER SCENE SALT ART

FEBRUARY
CREATE A CARD FOR SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT

MARCH
ST. PADDY’S CHOCOLATE MINT BROWNIES

INGREDIENTS
Brownies:
1 cup (230g) unsalted butter
8 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
1 and ½ cups (300g) granulated sugar
1 cup (200g) packed light brown sugar
4 large eggs, at room temperature
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup plus 3 tablespoons (86g) all-purpose flour (spoon and leveled)
¾ cup (921g) natural unsweetened cocoa powder

ST. PADDY’S CHOCOLATE MINT BROWNIES

Mint Frosting Layer:
½ cup (115 g) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
2 cups confectioner's sugar
2 tablespoons (30 ml) milk
1 and ¼ teaspoons peppermint extract
optional: 1 drop liquid or gel green food coloring

Chocolate Layer:
½ cup (115g) unsalted butter
1 heaping cup (around 200g) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 F, Line a 9x13 baking pan with aluminum foil.
FOR THE BROWNIES: Melt the butter and chopped chocolate in a medium saucepan on medium heat, stirring constantly, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, pour into a large mixing bowl, and allow to cool.
Whisk the granulated and brown sugars into the cooled chocolate/butter mixture. Add the eggs and vanilla and whisk. Fold in the salt, flour, and cocoa powder. Pour batter into a baking pan and bake for 35 minutes.
FOR THE MINT FROSTING LAYER: In a mixer, beat the butter until smooth, and confectioners’ sugar and milk. Add the peppermint extract and food coloring. Ice the brownies and put in the refrigerator for at least an hour.
FOR THE CHOCOLATE LAYER: Melt the butter and the chocolate chips in a medium saucepan and stir for 5 minutes. Once melted and smooth, pour over mint layer. Place in the refrigerator for an hour or more and take out and cut the brownies.
TUTOR TIME

Are you interested in getting together informally with other tutors to share ideas and challenges? Please email Robin if you are interested. Include the best day(s) and time(s) and how often you would like to meet. After collecting everyone’s responses, Robin will get back to you with the consensus from the group and next steps. Robin.rafael@countyofnapa.org, 707-253-4883

Tutor Testimonials: “Having never tutored before, for me the group is very helpful when an issue comes up. I always get an answer to my questions.” And “It’s another tool in our pocket.” The group said it made everyone a better tutor.

LIBRARY 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.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

January 1st-New Year’s Day
16th-Martin Luther King’s Birthday
February 20th-President’s Day
March 31st-Cesar Chavez’s Birthday
January

BASIC MATH CLASS
STARTS JANUARY 19th
THURSDAY NIGHTS
6:00-7:30 p.m.

ESL CLASS
STARTS JANUARY 20th
FRIDAY MORNINGS
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ESL CLASS
STARTS JANUARY 30th
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6-8 p.m.

TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM
STARTS: JANUARY 24TH
TUESDAY NIGHTS
6:00-8 p.m.

TUTOR TRAINING
JANUARY 18 & 19
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
LUNCH PROVIDED

February

BASIC MATH CLASS
THURSDAY NIGHTS
6:00-7:30 p.m.

ESL CLASS
FRIDAY MORNINGS
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ESL CLASS
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6-8 p.m.

TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM
TUESDAY NIGHTS
6:00-8 p.m.

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT
ALL DAY FEBRUARY 7 & 9,
AMERICAN CANYON
& FEBRUARY 21-27
NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

MOVIE: WOMAN KING,
5-7:30 p.m.
FEBRUARY 9: NAPA
FEBRUARY 15: AMERICAN CANYON

BLACK HISTORY TRIVIA
FEBRUARY 16: NAPA MAIN
6-7 p.m.

March

BASIC MATH CLASS
THURSDAY NIGHTS
6:00-7:30 p.m.

ESL CLASS
FRIDAY MORNINGS
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ESL CLASS
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6-8 p.m.

TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM
TUESDAY NIGHTS
6:00-8 p.m.

NAPA READS
AUTHOR EVENT
MARCH 9
(DETAILS COMING)