There is something soothing about the fall season: the changing colors on the vines, gray-sky mornings, and cool blue-sky afternoons. I remember, as a little girl, running through the pumpkin patch in Half Moon Bay with my brother and sisters. We would all scatter to find the “right” pumpkin for its size or misshapen features that would be great for carving. We would carry a pumpkin twice our size, or a few small ones in our arms, and drop them multiple times on the way to the car. There is something magical about going to a real pumpkin patch!

Fall brings along a feast of holidays and traditions. The Library will be hosting several events and activities for families. Please join us for Halloween! Bring the children to trick or treat and stay for craft activities. In honor of Día de los Muertos, we will be decorating sugar skulls and will have the altar (ofrenda) up where you can place photos and memorabilia to honor loved ones that have passed on. Lastly, join us for a movie and a cup of hot chocolate in December. A detailed list of our events is on page 13.

~Robin Rafael
ANNUAL LITERACY HIGHLIGHTS
(JULY ’22-JUNE ’23)

Top Learner Goals Met:
100% Spoke to others about the Literacy Program.
100% Used the Library.
83% Filled out a form or application.
77% Learned the alphabet, letters, and sounds.
71% Got a driver’s license.
67% Took a family member to a library program.
67% Prepared to vote.
67% Learned to read the news and magazines.
60% Learned math skills.
56% Performed current job tasks better.
51% Read a book.
50% Read the news or magazines.
43% Became a US citizen.
32% Got a job or a better job.

Volunteers:
Number of Volunteers–99
Volunteer Hours–4524
Adult Learner Instructional
Hours–3748

Tutors:
Number of Tutors–97
Male Tutors–25
Female Tutors–72

We served 312 Learners with one-on-one tutoring
and classes.

The majority age of Learners was between
40-49 years old.
**TUTOR TIPS**

“My tutor tip: When you are asking your student to do something, explain why it is effective. An example: I suggested to my student to use a ruler or piece of paper or finger when reading a passage out loud or in their head. I explained that it helped tactile learners to stay focused on the text. I reassured them that even if they were taught to not do this when they were in grade school, it’s okay to do when learning English.”

---Noel R.

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“Use the voice memo or voice recording app on your phone to create dictation homework that you can text to your students. Record a few sentences or a short paragraph, taking pains to speak each word distinctly from the others. Then make a second recording of the same material, speaking at your normal pace.

Ask your student to write what they hear; they can leave blank spaces for the words they don’t understand. Go over the exercise when you next meet and make corrections. Ask them—which recording was easier to understand? The two recordings help students understand when words end and begin when confronted with hearing a continuous thread of sound.

Also, I encourage students to watch movies with English subtitles. For native Spanish speakers, they might try watching the same movie more than once or twice. They get a visual of written language as they listen/watch.”

---Celia R.

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**ADULT LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING**

JANUARY 9th, 10th & 11th
3-NIGHT TRAINING 5-8 pm
Dinner Provided

Volunteer tutors make a big difference in the life of an adult learner. Tutors help adult learners improve their reading and writing skills, and become confident members of their community. The Library Literacy Center provides the training and materials. We have a waiting list of learners ready to get started!

Call 707-253-4283 to register.
TUTOR TIME

Tutor Time is an opportunity to meet with other tutors to exchange ideas, discuss challenges and learn new techniques in an informal setting. We will email a survey to learn the type of trainings you would like to see and the best times and days to have them. Check your email for a link from Survey Monkey soon!

TUTOR IN-SERVICE

Kathryn Gooch, English as a Second Language Instructor for Napa Valley Adult Education, will provide practical and easily implemented instruction for Second Language Learners.

October 19th, 9-11 am
October 20th, 1-3 pm
October 26th, 9-11 am
October 27th, 1-3 pm

Napa Main Library (580 Coombs St., Napa)
Lifeworks Room, across from the Reference Desk

"The In-Service 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, tutor at the Napa Library

Contact Robin at 707-253-4283 or robin.rafael@countyofnapa.org to sign up.

ZOO PHONICS

Zoom Webinar: November 7th, from 10 am-1 pm

Zoom phonics was a recommendation from a tutor, who is a retired reading specialist, thank you Sheila. This multisensory language arts program uses a kinesthetic approach to teach all aspects of language arts, including vocabulary development and articulation, based on phonics and phonemic awareness. Zoo phonics teaches children in a fun and interactive format, and will be made available for our children’s tutoring program. However, if you are working with an adult learner on phonics, you are welcome to use the materials and adapt accordingly. In preparation, we will be hosting a three hour webinar, by the creators of Zoo Phonics on Tuesday, November 7th, from 10 am-1 pm.

Please register at 707-253-4283 to receive the Zoom link.
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Why Voting Matters

Voting gives you the opportunity to create positive change in your community. From funding libraries, to safe drinking water, education, health care availability and job growth, who you vote for directs the changes you will see in your community. The more people vote, the better chance we have of having government dollars and resources spent where we want them.

Please come by in November to pick up your Easy Voter Guide. The Easy Voter Guide is a non-biased source of information about why and how we vote. The pamphlet is written in an easy user format, to make voting accessible to as many people as possible. The guide is written to inform and encourage active participation in government. By breaking down issues in an easy to digest format to understand public policy issues. The Easy Voter Guide is made possible in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, and the League of Women Voters.

Every registered voter in California will receive a ballot in the mail about a month before Election Day. You can choose to return the ballot by mail, drop it off, or vote in person. On the ballot in November 2023, voters will choose which candidates will move on to the general election.
One of the founders of adult literacy, Dr. Frank Laubach, was a prominent Christian missionary who helped teach people to read all over the world. He developed a system using “key words” to teach consonant and vowel sounds and eventually worked with words from the Moro people in the Philippines. His philosophy was “Each one, teach one.” The following story about Luz, exemplifies his philosophy.

When Luz came to the Library Literacy Center for reading and writing help, she never imagined where her journey would take her. Luz said she was spurred to try harder when her tutor, Cristine, said, “Your English is good, but it can get better.” As Luz became a better reader, writer, and English speaker, her confidence grew. Luz is now a one-woman advocate for her family and community. When the Library Literacy Program started one-on-one tutoring for children, Luz was one of the first parents to sign up both of her girls, Airam and Alejandra. Luz’s oldest daughter is struggling in math and her youngest daughter needs help in reading.

Luz continues to advocate for her family. She told her sister about the tutoring program for children, and now her two nephews are getting reading help at the Library. Luz said, “I really see changes in my husband.” Yes, Luz encouraged him to sign up for the Literacy program too! She said, “My husband Alejandro is more confident and he feels more secure talking in English at work. He studies and reads at home so he can talk about the book when he sees his tutor, Cheryl. I am proud that I feel more confident to advocate for my family.” Luz also advocates for her daughters at school. She heard children can be assessed at school if there is a suspected learning disability. In the spirit of “it takes a village,” Luz’s tutor, Cristine, helped her draft a letter to the school as one of her writing tasks, and her daughter’s tutor, Sherri, a retired teacher, attended the team meeting at the school to get her daughter services.

Luz is giving back to her community in a big way! She has joined a conversation class in English and Spanish at the Library, which helps participants practice Spanish and English in an informal setting. After Luz’s natural leadership ability was noticed, she was asked to volunteer with Puertas Abiertas, a Napa community resource for families to access to health and social services, and Lideres Campesinas, a network of female farm worker leaders who help their community. Luz is a liaison between the farm worker community and public agencies and service providers. She has helped people who have experienced domestic violence, food shortages, and housing issues, and has helped raise money for people devastated by recent fires. Luz always tells people about the Library and encouraged two people to sign up for ESL classes at the Library.

At a recent event, I saw Luz in action. With clipboard in hand, she was letting attendees know about services and programs available in the community. I foresee a strong leader in the making and I’m excited to see what she does next.

Luz’s girls have been in the Children’s Tutoring Program for six months, and Luz says they have “improved a lot since they got a tutor at the Napa Library. Both girls are happy with their tutors.” Luz said, “Both of my girls feel confident when they are in school, especially with the subjects they struggle with.” Airam said, “I am doing better in math and I understand it better than last year.”

See more details on the Children’s Tutoring Program on page 7.
NEW! CHILDREN’S TUTORING PROGRAM

As a literacy program, we know the importance of learning to read and starting early. The ability to read with competency is the best tool in understanding all other subject matter. All core subjects—math, history, science, language arts—require some form of reading. We want to help children become successful readers and avoid having to struggle in school.

If you or someone you know has a child struggling with reading, please share our number. And if you know someone who would like to tutor a child in reading please have the person give us a call.

HOW IT WORKS
A student is matched with a volunteer to work with the child on reading and writing skills once or twice a week for an hour. The one-on-one time, along with a nurturing environment, helps students significantly improve their skills and build their confidence to succeed.

Call 707-253-4237 OR 707-253-4283 TO REGISTER

CITIZENSHIP CLASS

ARE YOU READY TO BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN?

Mondays at the NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

Study to become a US citizen. Class will include practice tests, one-on-one help, useful tips, and official USCIS materials!

“For the first time in this country, I felt heard and part of its democracy.”

IF INTERESTED, CALL 707-253-4283 OR 707-253-4606
ESL CLASS
BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE

MORNING CLASSES:
Friday Mornings
from 10 am-12:30 pm

EVENING CLASSES:
Monday Night Intermediate Class
from 6-8 pm

Wednesday Night Beginning Class
from 6-8 pm

TO REGISTER CALL
707-253-4237
OR 707-253-4606

BASIC MATH IN SPANISH

THURSDAY NIGHTS
from 6-8 pm

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."

TO REGISTER CALL
707-253-4237
OR 707-253-4606
TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM IN SPANISH

TUESDAY NIGHTS from 6-8 pm
10-week sessions
AT THE NAPA MAIN LIBRARY
STARTS January 9, 2024

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.”

TO REGISTER CALL
707-253-4237 OR 707-253-4606

TECHNOLOGY CLASS IN SPANISH

TUESDAY MORNINGS from 9-10:30 am
NAPA MAIN LIBRARY

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.

TO REGISTER CALL
707-253-4237 OR 707-253-4606
LEARNERS ON THE MOVE

- Adou read her first chapter book aloud in English. She wrote a paragraph using superlative and transition words.
- Anayeli improved pronunciation, reading, and conversation.
- Catalina enhanced her reading/comprehension skills by reading newsletter articles and printed materials aloud and at home. She also learned new subjects of interest through reading materials and discussion in English between the two of us. Those subjects included Abraham Lincoln and lab-grown chickens. We went to the movies together and watched the film “Oppenheimer” since a past subject of discussion was radiation poisoning from Chernobyl.
- Cristobalina enrolled her four-year-old into T-Kindergarten at a local school and loves it.
- Elizabeth started reading the book *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande.
- Erika got a work promotion.
- Eva completed work on the Clear Speech workbook and continues to successfully read a more difficult book.
- Fion attended a book signing. She picked out the book *Chinese in Napa Valley* by John McCormick to read and discuss with her tutor.
- Guillermo has improved his speaking and writing skills.
- Hayal has improved pronunciation and reading comprehension.
- Jazmin’s confidence and ability to speak with fluency is increasing. She got her library card and checked out books.
- Jenny has increased her vocabulary knowledge and can identify the main idea and details. She is reading aloud.
- Jose continues to make progress in phonics and is improving conversational skills.
- Krishna is now a citizen. She passed the exam and had her swearing-in ceremony.
- Leonor continues to improve her English.
- Lupe has made progress with pronunciation and grammar.
- Luz is making progress in writing and reading.
- Macaria’s grammar and vocabulary is improving.
- Maria continues to strengthen her reading skills.
- Maria’s pronunciation and spelling are improving. She is proud of a letter she wrote to her boss.
- Maribel completed *Front Desk* and is now reading *Room to Dream* by Kelly Yang.
- Martin is improving word recognition and pronunciation.
- Perpetua passed the Language Arts GED.
- Phoung is building her vocabulary, reading the newspaper with more confidence, and learning vocabulary via context.
- Salvador wrote a résumé, read a book, wrote an essay, and worked on materials related to obtaining his GED.
- Sonia has learned essay writing, summaries, vocabulary development, spelling, prefixes, and idioms in English.
- Teresa and her tutordid a field trip to San Francisco to learn about and see Julia Morgans’ buildings. Teresa is studying for the state architect’s exam.
- Zuly passed the GED!

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.

“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled is a spark.”

VICTOR HUGO
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."

~Lourdes J.
The tradition of making sugar skulls is three thousand years old! It comes from Central Mexico from the Aztecs to honor their ancestors. The ritual stems from a belief in the afterlife and that souls return from the dead and communicate with the living. Dia De Los Muertos is a celebration of those who have passed on. It is celebrated on November 1st for the children and November 2nd for the adults. Families celebrate their loved ones with food, song, storytelling, and the building of an altar (ofrenda), which is where the sugar skulls come in. Alters are made in the home and are decorated with the photos of the departed, along with flowers, typically marigolds, lighted candles, sugar skulls and food for the exhausted spirits. The first time I took part in the ceremony was traveling with my friend’s family in Sonora Mexico. We gathered around the gravesite of their relatives and cleaned and decorated their graves. We brought food, listened to music, laughed, and told stories. I thought it was a wonderful way to celebrate the memories of our loved ones, not how they died but how they lived.

- Robin Rafael
HOLIDAY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

HALLOWEEN

Tuesday, October 31st
Napa Main Library 9 am-5 pm

Trick or treat at all branches!
Enjoy crafts and refreshments in the LifeWorks Room at Napa Main Library from 9 am-4 pm. Join the party in American Canyon from 3-5 pm with crafts, costumes, and candy!

DIÁ DE LOS MUERTOS

Friday, November 3rd
Napa Main Library 5-8 pm

Join Literacy and Library staff for an evening of family fun!
Crafts, free books, refreshments, face painting!
Families are welcome.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS!

Thursday, December 14th
Napa Main Library 5:30-7:30 pm

Join literacy staff for a holiday movie and hot chocolate in the Napa Main Library LifeWorks Room.
Summer
snapshots of the
Napa County
Library Literacy
Center engaging
with the families
at the Library and
at community
events.

Our annual
summer event
was a chance for
children and
parents to come
together and take
part in fun
activities. It is
always a joy to
to see families
building with
Legos, painting,
spinning the art
wheel, and
putting together
the giant dinosaur
puzzle, and
selecting books!
Fall 2023 Literacy Calendar

October

TUTOR IN-SERVICE:
19: 9-11 am
20: 1-3 pm
26: 9-11 am
27: 1-3 pm

31: Trick or Treat at the Library,
Napa Main Library: 9-4
American Canyon: 3-5 pm

ESL CLASS MONDAY NIGHTS
6-8 pm INTERMEDIATE

ESL CLASS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6-8 pm BEGINNING

BASIC MATH CLASS
THURSDAY NIGHTS
6-8 pm

November

3: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS
Napa Main Library: 5-8 pm

7: ZOO PHONICS
from 10 am-1 pm

11: Library Closed

23: Library Closed

24: Library Closed

Library Hours

Napa Main
M-Th: 9 am-8 pm
Fr-Sat: 10 am-6 pm
Sun: 1-5 pm

American Canyon
Mon-Tues & Thur–Sat: 10 am-6 pm
Wed: 12-8 pm
Sun: CLOSED

Calistoga
Mon-Tues & Thur–Sat: 10 am-6 pm
Wed: 12-8 pm
Sun: CLOSED

Yountville
Mon-Sat: 9 am-6 pm

December

1: Library Closed

14: HOLIDAY MOVIE & HOT
CHOCOLATE WITH LITERACY
Napa Main Library: 5:30-7:30 pm

24: Library Closed

25: Library Closed

Library Closures

November:
11th
23rd
24th

December:
1st (Staff Development)
24th
26th

ESL CLASS MONDAY NIGHTS
6-8 pm INTERMEDIATE

ESL CLASS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6-8 pm BEGINNING

BASIC MATH CLASS
THURSDAY NIGHTS
6-8 pm