COORDINATOR’S CORNER

A volunteer recently informed me about Blue Zones and mentioned I should check out the Blue Zone Napa-Upper Valley Project. Blue Zones are areas with the “oldest and healthiest people” on Earth. When I think about the reasons for living a long life, I immediately think of diet and exercise. In the Blue Zone Project, they identify seven other areas: the right outlook, life radius (improving areas around our home), people, places, policy, and connection. Other areas that improve our life are opportunities for continued learning, an abundance of art and cultural activities, a robust transportation system, and strong friendships.

Connection and having a purpose are some of the reasons people volunteer at the Library. Volunteering enriches one’s life; tutors and learners build relationships that make for strong community bonds. Thank you for volunteering and making a difference in our community! We like to think the Library is a central place to build community all year long.

Below are some photos of our recent events: Dia De Los Muertos and our Holiday Movie Night, that bring people together to have fun and celebrate. Which I will list as the ninth reason for longevity. If you would like to learn more about the Blue Zone Project, here is the link: https://uppermnapavalley.bluezonesproject.com/events/

May the New Year bring you health, happiness, and new adventures.

~Robin Rafael, Literacy & Volunteer Supervisor
Kathryn Gooch, English as a Second Language Instructor for Napa Valley Adult Education, will be returning in February to provide practical and easy-to-implement instruction for Second Language Learners. Topics will be chosen from her most requested trainings.

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

February 1st: 9 a.m.
February 2nd: 1 p.m.
February 8th: 9 a.m.
February 9th: 1 p.m.

"Kathryn Gooch is a Master Teacher. She understands the tutor is a novice at being a Literacy Tutor just like the student is a novice in English skills. She demonstrates, models, discusses, and breaks down the process of building literacy in our students and proficiency in the tutor. She is the 'Barefoot Contessa' of teaching literacy—you will always gain new insights from her trainings. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in Ms. Gooch’s workshops."

~Noel R., Tutor

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

TUTOR IN-SERVICE

ADULT LITERACY VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING

January 8th, 10th & 11th from 5-8 p.m
(3 sessions) Dinner Provided
Napa Main, 580 Coombs Street
Community Meeting Room

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 waiting list of learners ready to get started!

Call 707-253-4283 to register.
AMERICA LEARNS

Happy New Year, tutors! We are starting the year with a new platform to collect data, America Learns. America Learns will help us track program data and service hours, and share information. You will gain access to a resource bank of tutoring ideas, all in one location. A third of the libraries in California are using America Learns to track data. The founder was a former volunteer tutor who understands the needs of library programs and volunteers. In anticipation of our launch, we test-drove the platform with eight of your peers. Now when you do the monthly reports, you will report on the America Learns platform. You will receive a welcome email from America Learns asking you to set up a password. Here is the video link to see how it works beforehand: https://vimeo.com/387521911/09eb4442bc?share=copy. There are slight variations in the format, as each library program is set up differently, but overall, it will give you steps on submitting monthly reports.

Here are the training dates for America Learns, which will be in the LifeWorks Room at Napa Main:
- January 22nd from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- January 23rd from 9-10:30 a.m.
- January 24th from 3-4:30 p.m.

Call Robin at 707-253-4283 to sign up.

Here are comments from your peers after trying America Learns:
- It’s easier to consolidate data and share across the community.
- It’s just a click.
- America Learns will send convenient reminders when a report is due.
- Efficient
- All data is in one place.
- Can review your reports beforehand.
- Can use your iPad and work on goals with your student when you’re in session.

All the data we collect in our program is submitted to the California State Library and is compiled with all California library literacy programs into an annual report. Please click on the link below to see the annual report for 2022. Report to the Legislature: The California State Library’s California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Services Program.

Thank you to Nadya Schmeder, Bridget Lippman, Rick Kline, Lynn Hunton, Celia Ramsey, Dora Weber, and Nancy Kaemmer.

TUTOR APPRECIATION EVENT: 40 YEARS!

The Napa County Library Literacy Center will be celebrating 40 years of literacy services!
Look for invitations coming in the mail at the end of January.

In 1984, the California Literacy Campaign was established by State Librarian Gary Strong. In 1978, libraries were struggling due to Proposition 13, which put a restriction on increasing property taxes in the state of California. The passage resulted in a loss of funding for libraries. Strong felt expanding library resources to address adult literacy needs would help adult learners and raise the visibility of libraries and their importance to the community. Napa County Library was one of the first 27 libraries to participate in the Campaign. Strong’s vision was correct. California Libraries have helped over a half a million adult learners and their families increase their literacy skills.
TUTOR & LEARNER STORY

Erika

“To be in the tutoring program is of great help for me. It helps me feel more confident and accomplish my new tasks. It gave me the opportunity to learn new vocabulary, a vocabulary I can implement at work with the confidence of being able to communicate with people that only speak English. Anders, my tutor, encouraged me to speak English even though I don’t know it one hundred percent. That’s when I understood that I could continue and try to learn, that it is not necessary for me to have the knowledge of the language one hundred percent to try to have a conversation. That is enough to use what you learn along the way, the new vocabulary. He believed in practicing what you learn and would encourage me to talk. Thanks to the confidence I gained from meeting with him, I allowed myself the opportunity to learn to operate a forklift and I received the certificate of forklift operator. I am proud of it; I now can grow at work and advance. Anders is one of the first persons to encourage me to push myself to speak the language no matter what.”

Anders

“Last summer it was my privilege to attend a seminar for volunteers on how to tutor language acquisition. It was superbly taught by Robin, Nicole, and Karime. As someone who never volunteered for anything, this seminar provided the inspiration to correct this unfortunate shortcoming of the past.

I was introduced to Erika, a bright college graduate from Mexico. While she had lived in the US for nine years, most of her interactions at work and home had been in Spanish. Our objective was to further improve her written and spoken English.

Not being a grammarian, I soon realized this would also be a learning experience for me. After all, how do you teach something that has been so obvious and simple your whole life? Where do you start? How do you tailor-make a curriculum to address the specific needs of your learner? How much can you realistically accomplish in one 90-minute session per week? What about the pressure to produce results, knowing that a working knowledge of the English language is essential for job promotions?

Robin, Nicole, and Karime were exceptionally helpful in providing advice, as well as material, from the comprehensive resources of the Library. In addition, I was fortunate to have a good friend with extensive experience in language learning. During this first year, I learned that language acquisition is not something that can be force fed or rushed. It takes time to digest something that, for many people worldwide, is a difficult language. Also, there must be a solid foundation of knowledge which cannot be brushed over.

What do we do during our 90-minute sessions? Since Erika’s opportunity to speak English is limited, we always engage in brisk conversation often related to her work. Writing and elements of grammar are regular staples. Homework often includes writing assignments on topics of her choosing, using the spider format. I would like to think that tutoring Erika has afforded me some insight into the challenges of living in a new country and learning a totally different language. Erika has been a delight to work with. She’s diligent, inquisitive, and always turns up for our weekly 6:30 p.m. meeting, even after a long day at work.

A well-lived life is full of memorable experiences. For some people this may come in the form of travel to other countries, or maybe attending an amazing concert. On a personal note, I would include this last year of volunteering.”
LEARNERS ON THE MOVE

- Alejandro is reading and speaking more English.
- Anayeli improved reading fluency and vocabulary.
- Bara’ah is practicing English with family members and she volunteers for the city of Napa.
- Catalina’s reading has improved. She is reading *New York Times* articles and is now reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* to learn about American culture in the Deep South during the Depression.
- Celeste passed the citizenship exam!
- Claudia accomplished her goals with the aid of high frequency words, comprehension, vocabulary, verb tenses, reading charts, interpreting picture cues, and oral reading.
- Cristo’s conversation skills and vocabulary have improved in diverse topics.
- Elizabeth passed the math portion of the GED.
- Eva is reading a more difficult book.
- Fion finished reading *Chinese in Napa Valley: The Forgotten Community*. On to her next book.
- Francisco read the *Napa Register*.
- Hayal’s verbal accuracy in reading and spoken word has improved.
- Irene improved in her vocabulary, pronunciation, and comprehension of material and improved computer skills.
- Jazmin verbal ability is increasing as well as her confidence. She has written notices for work.
- Jocelyn’s skills have improved. Working on her own outside tutoring sessions is helping.
- José learned to use the dictionary. He’s now writing sentences with regular verbs using simple present, perfect continuous, and third person singular.
- Juana is reading aloud with more confidence. She is learning and retaining new vocabulary.
- Lidia has initiated more conversations at work with coworkers and asks them to explain in English when she does not understand. Her reading has improved.
- Lourdes can identify simple regular and irregular past tense verbs in a sentence.
- Luz has improved computer skills and created a business card.
- Marli has improved specific vocabulary for work and gardening.
- Phoung is getting more comfortable reading the newspaper and reading complete sentences without pausing.

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”  
- PELE

Learners on the Move is generated from monthly tutor reports.

Thank you for turning in the monthly reports, tutors. Your responses help us inform the State of California Library Literacy Services of the literacy accomplishments in Napa County.

Reports are due by the 5th of each month.
In my hope and wish to improve my English skills, I visited the Library, when by accident I stumbled upon the Literacy Program. I didn't know there was the possibility of having a tutor who could work with me in a personalized setting. For four years, I've had a friendship with a very caring person who was assigned as my tutor. I am still in contact with the literacy staff, who have always been supportive and helpful. I am happy to contribute to the Napa Library and the Literacy Program for everything they have offered. I have donated two of my books for patrons to check out.

ClaraNapa is a former learner that is going by the name of ClaraNapa.

ClaraNapa's books are available to check out at the Library.

NELSON MANDELA

“Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918. He has a big family, four boys and nine girls. When Nelson was nine years old his father died. To continue school, he was sent miles away to live with a chief named Jongitaba. While living there he started to learn about South Africa's history, politics, and diplomacy. Nelson joined the African National Congress, a political organization to fight against the laws enforced by the South African government. The laws cut off beaches, parks, and public institutions, making it only accessible for Europeans. In the late 1950s, Nelson was accused of treason and put on trial with 156 other men. The trial was dismissed but Nelson was placed on the government's most wanted list. Nelson went into hiding but eventually was captured and sentenced to life in prison.”

~Claudia
FREE CHILDREN’S TUTORING PROGRAM AT THE LIBRARY

We want to help children become successful leaders and students. Our program matches a student with a one-on-one volunteer to work with the child on reading and writing skills once or twice a week typically 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.

Former parent:
"This is an excellent program and I hope it continues helping kids in Napa. My daughter came home excited on Monday saying that her school teacher praised her improvement in reading the past few weeks. In part due to the help, we received from the tutor Lynn and you at the library."

Call 707-253-4283 if you would like to participate in this program and have your child matched with a one-on-one tutor.

MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN’S TUTORING

We have a bevy of materials to supplement homework for children’s tutoring. There are easy readers with CD’s, Ladybug Magazines, books for all ages, sentence strips, flashcards, bingo games (alphabets sight words), letter tiles, analog clock practice, money sets, fraction cubes, base 10 blocks and rods.

We also have the Zoo Phonics program, a fun systematic, multi-sensory approach to learning the sounds of letters.

If you have questions or need assistance selecting materials, please stop in or give us a call: 707-253-4237.
ESL MORNING CLASS
BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE

BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE: Friday Morning Class from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Classes Are From January 19th - June 28th, 2024

TO REGISTER CALL 707-253-4237

ESL EVENING CLASS
BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE

INTERMEDIATE: Monday Night Class from 6-8 p.m. Starts January 29th, 2024

BEGINNING: Wednesday Night Class from 6-8 p.m. Starts January 31st, 2024

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

TUESDAY NIGHTS from 6-8 p.m.
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
707-253-4606

BASIC MATH IN SPANISH

THURSDAY NIGHTS
from 6-8 p.m.
Classes Are From
January 11th - June 27th, 2024

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

TO REGISTER CALL
707-253-4606

Elizabeth (pictured right) just passed the math portion of the GED, you can too!
NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION: CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL!

✅ Step 1: Go to https://ca.careeronlinehs.org/are-you-ready-survey/ and enroll.

✅ Step 2: Choose a career path.

✅ Step 3: Enroll in a Part I Pre-requisite

Call Nicole at 707-253-4610 TO REGISTER

FINISH HIGH SCHOOL ONLINE—FREE THROUGH YOUR CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
Gain the skills you need to succeed through a flexible, supportive, online program.

We have FREE scholarships available. Use previous credits to lessen your courses.

CITIZENSHIP CLASS

CONGRATULATIONS TO CELESTE AND KRISHNA ON BECOMING NEW CITIZENS . . . YOU CAN TOO!

Join the Class
Tuesdays at 5 p.m.
at the NAPA MAIN LIBRARY
January 16th - April 19th

The instructor will walk you through the process to prepare you for the Naturalization Interview. Class includes practice tests, one-on-one help, useful tips, and official USCIS materials!

Call 707-253-4237 OR 707-253-4283 TO REGISTER
The Calistoga Conversation Group (pictured left) joined their tutor for a picnic in Knight's Valley (6 miles northwest of Calistoga) to eat, speak English, and enjoy the view. “Everyone shared food representative of their region or country.” Several learners brought their kids for a total of 16!

We invite learners from the Calistoga area to join the conversation group. Are you working on your English skills and need more conversation practice? This group is here to help and learn with you. Call Karime for more information at 707-253-4606.

CONVERSATIONAL LANGUAGE SWAP

At Napa Main, tutors and learners gather each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. to practice English and Spanish. Equal time is given to both languages in order to hone conversation skills. A variety of topics are discussed from everyday interactions at a grocery store, medical jargon, and interview responses. If you are interested in joining, please call Karime at 707-253-4606.
Wassail was a traditional Christmas toast, derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *waes hael* which meant "be whole" or "for your health." January 5th brings Twelfth Night, an English folk custom that marked the end of Christmas merrymaking and, in ancient Celtic tradition, the end of the 12-day winter solstice celebration. On Twelfth Night, it was customary for the assembled company to toast each other from the wassail bowl.

### TRADITIONAL Wassail RECIPE FROM THEGIVERICRECIPICRITIC.COM:###

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 quarts apple cider
- 2 cups orange juice
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 10 whole cloves
- 5 cinnamon sticks
- 5 star anise
- 1 pinch of nutmeg
- 1/2 cup cranberries
- 1 orange sliced
- 1 apple sliced

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
In a large pot over medium-low heat, add the apple cider, orange juice, and pineapple juice.

Add in the cloves, cinnamon sticks, star anise, nutmeg, cranberries, orange, and apple slices.

Let simmer for an hour or all day. Serve hot.

---

### FEBRUARY: GOOD LUCK CUPCAKES

Enter the Dragon! On February 10, 2024, the Chinese Lunar New Year will begin, and this year is the Year of the Wood Dragon. In Chinese culture, the Dragon is related to success, intelligence, and honor. Each of the Chinese zodiac animals cycle through every 12 years and each is affiliated with a natural element: water, wood, fire, earth, and metal. When the animal returns in its 12-year-cycle, its affiliation changes to a different element. In 2012, we had the Water Dragon. Wood is associated with vitality and creativity, making those born in the Year of the Wood Dragon energetic dreamers and innovators. The previous Year of the Wood Dragon was in 1964. (Everything needed to make the cupcakes below is in our kit.)

### MARCH: STAINED-GLASS KITES

This stained-glass kite craft is easy for kids to do. Our Kit contains everything needed to make these beautiful kites at home.
WRITER-TO-WRITER CHALLENGE

The California State Library invites you to join other Adult Learners in the 2024 Writer to Writer Challenge!

To participate in the Challenge, please do the following:

- Pickup an information packet from a library staff member.
- Read or listen to a book that inspires you.
- Write a letter to the author.
- Give your letter and entry form to a staff member for copying and mailing.
- We must receive your letter and entry form by Thursday, February 15th.

There are four stages of writing—and prizes awarded in each category:

**Level 1:** Emerging Writer. Learners dictate letters to tutor or staff using the Language Experience Approach.

**Level 2:** Beginning Writer. Learners write basic letters using short, simple sentences and phrases of their own.

**Level 3:** Intermediate Writer. Learners write more complex letters using a larger vocabulary of words and detailed phrases.

**Level 4:** Advanced Writer. Learners write letters with little help from their tutor with spelling, grammar and punctuation.

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

ADULT LEARNER LEADER INSTITUTE (ALLI)

- Do you want to help support your Library Literacy Program by talking about it to others?
- Do you want to learn how to speak up in meetings?
- Do you want to be a better advocate for yourself and others in the community?

Then the Adult Learner Leadership Institute is for you! In the Adult Learner Leadership Institute you will learn how to improve your communication and leadership skills. These skills will help you in your family life, at work, and in your community.

Upcoming sessions are Tuesdays, February 6th, 13th, and 20th, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. via Zoom.

If you cannot attend the February sessions, applications for these sessions will be sent out prior to the session date:
- March 13th, 20th, 27th - Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.
- April 13th, 20th, 27th - Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information and an application, call Nicole at 707-253-4610.
Black History Trivia
February 6th, 6-7 p.m.
at Napa Main Library

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.

Painting
February 7th, 4-5:30 p.m.
at American Canyon Library

Meet Us at the Movies!
Bob Marley: One Love
February 20th, 2-4 p.m.
at Cinemark Napa

Join us at Cinemark Napa for a matinee feature of Bob Marley: One Love, a film that celebrates the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity. On the big screen for the first time, discover Bob's powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind his revolutionary music. Only 25 tickets . . . sign up now by registering on the Library’s Event Page.

Movie Night: Story Ave
February 28th, 6-7:30 p.m.
at American Canyon Library

South Bronx teen Kadir (Asante Blackk) is a gifted visual artist who loses his way following the death of his younger brother. Overcome with grief and struggling with the pressures of school and family, he escapes into the thrilling yet dangerous world of graffiti gangs. To prove himself and join his neighborhood's ruling gang, Kadir tries to rob no-nonsense MTA conductor Luis (Luis Guzmán), but is caught off guard when Luis agrees to give Kadir cash if he'll sit down to have a meal with him. Following their conversation and the delicate, transformative friendship that grows out of it, Kadir sees for the first time how his artistic talent could lead to a better life.
### January
- **TRIPLE P POSTIVE PARENTING**
  - STARTS: 9TH TUESDAYS FROM 6-8 p.m.
- **SPANISH BASIC MATH**
  - STARTS: 11TH THURSDAYS FROM 6-8 p.m.
- **ESL CLASS**
  - STARTS: 19TH FRIDAY MORNINGS 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **ESL CLASS**
  - STARTS: 29TH INTERMEDIATE MONDAY NIGHTS 6-8 p.m.
- **ESL CLASS**
  - STARTS: 31ST BEGINNING WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6-8 p.m.
- **TUTOR TRAINING**
  - JANUARY 8TH, 10TH, 11TH 5-8 p.m.

### February
- **BASIC MATH CLASS**
  - THURSDAY NIGHTS FROM 6-8 p.m.
- **ESL CLASS**
  - FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **TECH CLASS**
  - STARTS: 12TH TUESDAY NIGHTS FROM 9-10:30 a.m.
- **TRIPLE P POSTIVE PARENTING**
  - TUESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6-8 p.m.

### March
- **BASIC MATH CLASS**
  - THURSDAY NIGHTS FROM 6-8 p.m.
- **ESL CLASS**
  - FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **TECH CLASS**
  - TUESDAY MORNINGS FROM 9-10:30 a.m.
- **TRIPLE P POSTIVE PARENTING**
  - TUESDAY NIGHTS FROM 6-8 p.m.

### Library Hours
- **Napa Main**
  - M-Th: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
  - Fr-Sat: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
  - Sun: 1-5 p.m.
- **American Canyon**
  - Mon-Tues & Thur–Sat: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
  - Wed: 12-8 p.m.
  - Sun: CLOSED
- **Calistoga**
  - Mon-Tues & Thur–Sat: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
  - Wed: 12-8 p.m.
  - Sun: CLOSED
- **Yountville**
  - Tues-Sat: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Library Closures
- **January:**
  - 1st - New Year's Day
  - 15th - Martin Luther King’s Birthday
- **February:**
  - 19th - President’s Day
- **March:**
  - 31st - Cesar Chavez’s Birthday