



NAPA COUNTY LIBRARY
**LITERACY
CENTER**

FALL 2017



*See inside for the story of
tutoring pair Alma Ramirez
and Angela Jackson

**NEW! Saturday drop-in
services for email, internet and
job application assistance**

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SPOTLIGHT ON: ESL Teacher Norma Ortiz

Since 2013 Norma Ortiz has been a dedicated Adult Literacy volunteer at the Library. Norma specializes in helping vulnerable populations navigate community resources. She goes the extra step of finding out exactly what type of services best meet their need. For the last few years, Norma has significantly increased her role at the Library. Due to her diligence, her ESL classes have grown from being held in a four person study room to a large classroom in order to accommodate the growing numbers. Norma additionally takes time to tutor one-on-one and help students prepare for the GED. Norma is a multi-tasker; along with volunteering, she works as a substitute teacher with Napa Valley Unified School District and as a Certified Citizenship Instructor for the library. Under her tutelage 10 students received their citizenship. Norma is also studying for her Master's in Education and is the mother of the ever intelligent and curious Arlene.



Using Technology

In addition to conversation and grammar, Norma incorporates technology in her class instruction. Thirty minutes of each class is dedicated to using smartphones, numerous mobile sites and apps that are focused on adult learning programs. The class utilizes the WhatsApp to stay connected and exchange information. After each class, Norma summarizes the lesson on WhatsApp and posts the material so that each student has the summary. Group presentations are done using PowerPoint. Thanks to Norma, her students are learning many applications on their smartphones.

The evening ESL class is held on Mondays at 6:00pm at the Napa Main Library.

DROP-IN SERVICES

We offer a range of services to help you achieve your goals. Drop-In Tech Help services include:

- Basic internet and email assistance
- Help with online job applications

Drop-in services are held each Saturday, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. in the Literacy Center.



LEARNER ORIENTATION

Sign up and learn about literacy services for adult learners (help with reading and writing)

October 10 from 10 - 11 am
October 18 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm
November 9 from 10 - 11 pm
November 14 from 6 - 7 pm
December 12 from 10 - 11 am
December 14 from 6 - 7 pm



ESL Morning class

Wednesdays & Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon, in the LifeWorks Room. If interested, contact Karime Jacobo at 253-4237.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 31, 2017

Little ghouls and goblins can pick up treats and tricks throughout the library from

10 am - 3:45 pm
For more info, call 253-4610



Families are invited to enjoy free activities at the library to celebrate Halloween.

4 P M

WINNIE THE WITCH

Can Winnie the Witch save Halloween?
She needs your help!

Join us for a blacklight puppet show presented by Puppet Arts Theater.

Seating will be on a first come first serve basis.

3:30 - 5 P M

Event for Teens only:

Carve your own Jack-O-latern while enjoying a Halloween movie and snacks. Make it silly or scary and they'll supply the pumpkins and carving tools.

SPECIAL THANKS



Thank you Pastor Bledsoe and the New Life Tabernacle Church for hosting a pancake breakfast to support Napa County Library Literacy programs. The event raised \$1,000 and will be used for the continued support of Literacy volunteers and learners.

EVENTS

OCTOBER

October 7
Tutor Appreciation

12 - 3 pm

Thank you for your volunteer service. The staff look forward every year to this event. This year we will have a picnic at Fuller Park. Relax and enjoy a full complement of barbecue, side dishes and of course, dessert!

October 10

Let's hang and play some games!

6:30 - 8 pm

Game Night. Join us in the community Meeting Room for fun and refreshments.

NOVEMBER

November 14
Lunch with Literacy

12 - 1:30 pm



Tutors who attended the Read San Diego conference in June will share highlights from their training. Located in the LifeWorks Room at the Napa Main Library.

DECEMBER

December 5 & 7
Tutor Training

10 am - 2:30 pm

Napa County Library Lifeworks Room. Want to give back and make a life changing difference? Tell a friend about being an adult literacy tutor. Register by calling 253-4283

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

December 11-16
Holiday Open House

All day

Join us in the Literacy Center for cider and goodies



“Hector Meets a Goal” by Andy D.

“Today at a 9/11 memorial event in Napa organized by Latinos Unidos, Hector gave a speech that thanked police, firefighters and the sheriff’s department for all they do to keep Napa a great community.

Hector wrote the first draft of the speech himself in late July and I helped him edit it to get to a solid final draft. I helped him practice the speech during our literacy sessions including delivering it outside the library so he could deliver it in full voice.

The photos here include one of Hector actually delivering the speech (I’m next to him because he asked me to come up and stand there). The other photo is the two of us at the end of the event.

This was a great goal for him as it was a big stretch that absolutely lay within his abilities with a lot of work.

I’m incredibly proud of the effort Hector put into this and look forward to helping him meet future goals.

Cheers,
Andy

LEARNERS WRITING

“The Secret Garden

Characters: Mary Lane, Martha, Mrs. Medlock, Collin, Brother & Uncle

The Secret Garden is a story about Mary Lane. She lived in India until her parents died and she had to move to her uncle’s house in England. Mary found motivation from her uncle’s house and she also made good friends.

All the characters had their own personality. Mrs. Medlock is the housekeeper and she wants to control everything. Martha is an obedient servant, she is a little afraid of Mrs. Medlock and she is like Mary’s confidant. Collin is Mary’s cousin, he is very spoiled and he does not discover the things he can do until Mary pushed him to walk, go out and enjoy the garden. Martha’s brother helped Mary to rescue the garden. Mary’s uncle was estranged from his son because his wife died but after years he changed and showed his love to his son. Mary was a girl that needed her parents love. She is brave and changed Collin’s life. She also gave life to the garden.

In this story I learned that even though bad things happen in our lives, something new and better is coming. It would not be easy but with effort it is possible.

I enjoyed this book a lot. It caught my attention because I was interested in how the story will end. I liked how the story shows how some affairs we have shock our lives but we are able to keep forward. I did not like some fantasy in the story.”

Maria Navarro

LEARNER STORIES

...From the cover



“Alma Ramirez and I first met in February 2017 and our tutoring session is something I look forward to each week.

Alma’s reading, comprehension, verbal skills, and most importantly, confidence, has improved dramatically in the past seven months and it’s a delight to witness her progress and enthusiasm to learn.

Each week, we start with her verbally sharing how her week went, which has helped us get to know one another, as well as allow me to learn what we need to work on from a grammatical standpoint. Some weeks, I also ask her to provide a written paragraph on various subjects, which we then review together.

We are both somewhat spiritual so each week I select a chapter from Joel Osteen’s motivational book, “You Can, You Will,” for Alma to read aloud. We highlight each word that she is not familiar with, or those that are a challenge to pronounce, and I create index cards with these words for us to review each month.

Since February, Alma has enrolled in Napa Valley College to take additional ESL classes twice a week, with the goal to one day receive an undergraduate degree. Another achievement is that Alma now has a resume, which was a project we worked on together.

Alma is a very dedicated and eager learner and I am confident that she will achieve all of her goals and dreams. It has been an honor to “learn together” and we are fortunate to have such a strong literacy program in our community. I applaud the exceptional team at Napa County Library who are making an incredible impact in our community.”

Angela Jackson, Literacy Volunteer

“My name is Alma Ramirez. I am 35 years old. I came to USA in 2003. I was working at Villagio and Spa in Yountville for 6 years as a housekeeper. After this job I had the best experience working as a caregiver for 3 years. Now I am working at Meritage Hotel as supervisor.

My first language is Spanish. But living in USA is very important to learn English as a second Language because it’s the predominant language. Any job or place that I go, I have to understand what people are talking about. Then one day I decided to attend to NVAS and learn English As Second Language. By the present I am in a program at the Napa Library with a personal tutor. Her name is Angela. She is so kind and a good Teacher. Angela is motivating me to start classes in College.

I am scared about classes in College but I will do this because I want to follow my dreams.

My experience at the College was really nice. I attend the class on Monday 12, as the first time taking classes at the College. I was very nervous but at the same time it was a exciting experience because make me to remind lond time age when I was in High School in Mexico.

There are 6 more students. It was excited meet people who have the same goals that I have. Meaning to improve our English as Second Language. The Teacher, Bob, was introducing us each other and was making questions to all of us to know why we are there and improve our vocabulary.

At the end of the class I was not nervous and I felt comfortable being there. I went thru one of my fears then I realize nothing happen and feeling nervous is normal.”

Alma Ramirez, Student

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Multi generations joined in making homemade play dough at Pioneer Park, in Calistoga for our Back to School Kickoff.



Painting in at Pioneer Park.



The library starts its first class at the Calistoga Farmworker Housing Center.



CONTACT US!

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