



NAPA COUNTY LIBRARY
**LITERACY
CENTER**

WINTER 2018



Happy New Year in
2018
with

**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE
MORNING ESL CLASS!**

COORDINATOR STORY

FROM THE ASHES



“Natural disasters were in full force this year. It felt like we were barely through one disaster when another occurred somewhere else in the world. Hurricanes, floods and fires, seemed to intensify our Country’s on-going sense of disillusionment and division. When the fires hit Napa, it felt like a long continuation of bad news. Yet, from the ashes something else occurred - hope. People at work, on the street, at the grocery

store all asked each other “Are you okay is your family okay?” First responders, neighbors and strangers, heard the call for help and responded. Altruism (selfless concern for the well-being of others), was alive and well as thousands of firefighters came from Idaho, Canada, San Luis Obispo, Riverside, Ventura, San Diego, Australia and Oregon to help. My friend lives in one of the areas

that was evacuated. A handyman that worked on her house a few months prior, heard on the radio that the fire was approaching her neighborhood. He rushed over to her house to dig a fire line. The fire consumed her shed, barn and trailer and would have burned her house if not for this man. The fire came within a foot of her home and he saved her house. A few tutors in our program lost their homes and some learners were left unemployed as the fires consumed their employers businesses. Yet, all of these people set aside their own tragedy to check in on one another. There was no talk of red states, blue states, democrats, republicans, rich, poor, liberal or conservatives. Labels disappeared as people came together to help one another and as a result our community was strengthened from the ashes. People may see many divisions, but in Napa in October I saw our humanity. People coming together to take care of one other, from tragedy I see hope.”
- Robin Rafael, Literacy Coordinattor

Lunch with Literacy



Tuesday, February 20 from 12 -1:30pm
at the Napa Main Library

Rebecca Scott, Dean of Library & Learning Resource Center at Napa Valley College will be presenting information on how the brain works and how to spot learning difficulties in adults. RSVP to Nicole at 253-4610 Napa Main Library-Community Meeting Room



Share the Gift of Literacy with an Adult Learner

Tutor training is on March 27th and March 29th,
from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Call Robin at 253-4283

SPOTLIGHT ON: Maria E. Gonzalez



“The last three months I worked on my GED. I went Tuesday and Wednesday to my GED classes. My class was from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Now I’m so happy! I finished my classes and I completed my exams. I need to prepare for my graduation. My graduation will be on December 20th at 6:00 pm. I will be going to

Santa Rosa Junior College. I’m very excited because this is something new for me.”

Maria’s tutor is Barbara Langham.

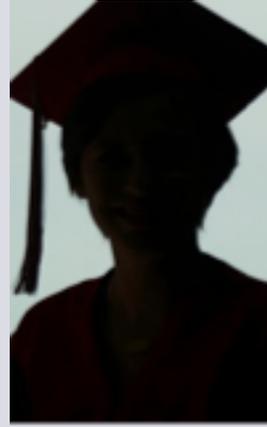
SPOTLIGHT ON: Ariadna Rodriguez



Congratulations, Ariadna!

Through hard work and dedication, along with the encouragement of her tutor, Ariadna completed the 12-week course of the Human Resources Management Program Certification from Sonoma State University School of Business and Economics. Ariadna’s tutor Bridget Lippmann was involved in the whole process, she reviewed and discussed the topics in the textbook with her and even attended the class with Ariadna. This was a fun opportunity for Bridget as her major is in business.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Gina Peterson



Gina is the first person to graduate High School while in Napa Jail.

Napa County Library Literacy Center in partnership with the Napa Valley Adult Education and the Napa County Department of Corrections helped to facilitate what would become a historical day for the Napa County Jail and our Adult Literacy Program. Gina was 35

units shy of graduating from high school when she left in her junior year. While incarcerated, Gina was matched with a library tutor. She told him one of her goals was to finish high school. Through collaboration with adult school instructor Kim Wildman, Gina was able to do independent study to make up the credits. Kim arrived weekly at the jail with a packet of general subjects for Gina to complete. With the help of Dan Martin her library tutor, Gina completed the assignments. Through hard work and encouragement Gina was able to finish all the units she needed to graduate. In a special ceremony at the Jail, Gina graduated and will be released in December. She will walk with her graduating class in June. Gina plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian technician.

Find Gina’s story in the Napa Valley Register:

<http://bit.ly/2yFPIKE>

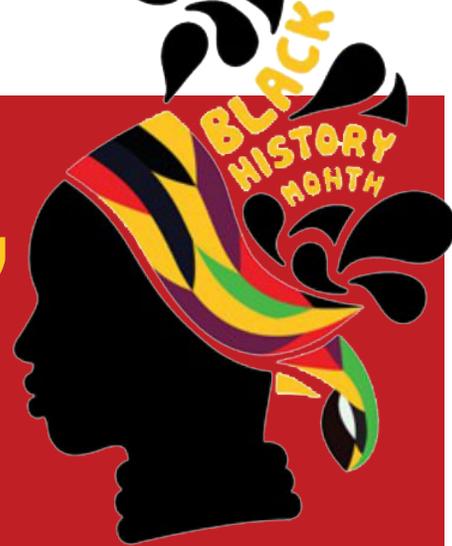


Jose Campos and his tutor Richard Tres, have been working together for three years. Jose’s mobile window tinting business, Cheveto, is going so well that he no longer needs to take on a second job doing construction. Check out the hats.

EVENTS

CELEBRATING

Black History Month is an opportunity to learn more about the important contributions by African Americans to art, literature, sports and pop culture.



African American Women in the Military;
Wednesday, February 7 at 6 p.m. (Napa Main)

Join us at Napa Main for a conversation on African American Women in the Military. Delphine Metcalf-Foster is an Army veteran, daughter of a Buffalo soldier, and the first African American woman to lead a national veterans organization (the Disabled American Veteran's).



Sayles Family Wines;
Tuesday, February 20 at 4 p.m. (American Canyon)
The owner of *A Limo Excursions & Wine Tours* and the maker of Sayles Family Wines, Brian Sayles talks about his experience in the wine industry.



Movie: Thurgood -
Thursday, February 1 at 5 p.m. (AC)
Movie: Cracking the Code -
Wednesday, February 7 at 6 p.m. (AC)
Movie: Cracking the Codes -
Tuesday, February 13 at 6 p.m. (Napa)
Movie: Thurgood -
Wednesday, February 21 at 6 p.m. (Napa)

SERVICES

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 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. in the Literacy Center.



LEARNER ORIENTATION

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

- January 9th, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- January 17th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- February 8th, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- February 27th, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- March 6th, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- March 8th, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Evening ESL Class starts January 8th and continues every Monday from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Napa Main Library.

Morning ESL Class starts January 12th and continues every Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. at the Napa Main Library.

GED Prep Class in Spanish starts January 9th, prepare to take the GED Exam and get your high school equivalency. The GED open doors to more job opportunities. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday night from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Tuesday night focuses on basic math and Thursday night focuses on algebra.

Please contact Karime at 253-4237 if you are interested in enrolling in the GED and/or ESL classes

TUTOR/LEARNER STORIES

“We have consistently worked on Cecilia’s conversational ability in English and she has improved dramatically. Her confidence in English speaking situations has soared. This happened pretty early on and I view this as a great accomplishment on her part. She has started to make jokes in English, which is a tribute to her proficiency. We consistently work on vocabulary, not in a structured sense but as we talk and write. We always have new vocabulary words each week as homework. We both like it and find it fun. Cecilia is preparing to take her GED. She is more than ready to do so. She has a perfectionist personality and wants to KNOW she will pass it, so she studies and studies. Cecilia is good at math and taking a GED math preparation class. Cecilia’s comprehension has soared, partly because I shared with her that reading is really a lot about comprehension. She said no one had ever told her that. To read is to understand what the writer is trying to say. One idea, from one mind, to words and paper, to be read and understood in another mind. This has really sparked her and provided clear motivation. I also got her a Thesaurus and that has worked wonders, both when reading and writing. A great tool.”

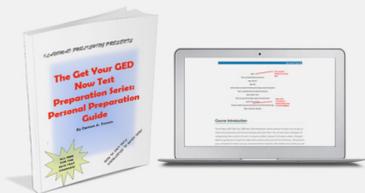
Melissa Moravec, literacy Volunteer

“My tutor Melissa is excellent she helps me a lot. She comes to the sessions very prepared, always on time and is very knowledgeable. Melissa found out I was interested in the GED and she gave me many resources that are very helpful. Before I met her, I was not relaxed speaking English and now I am more comfortable. Melissa also knows a lot about the Mexican culture, which gives us a connection. Melissa is humble and kind and I enjoy our time together.”

Cecilia Anguiano, student



TUTOR MATERIAL RECOMMENDATIONS



“I have been working with several of the GED workbooks. I settled on working with Peterson’s *Master the GED test 2018*. Same idea, diagnostics and practice tests and strategy. I just liked it a little better than the Kaplan. There is a series of videos, as well as a workbook by Damon Tinnon (a Napa person!). I am checking out the videos and workbook. I like his approach; he focuses on strategy and is clear and concise. He says “My GED Philosophy: The GED Test is a Pass/Fail test. Prepare to pass it, not ace it. Save the rest of your valuable time for college coursework. The GED test is a stepping stone in your path.” His website is www.mygedlive.com.”



“We use a Google App for translating English to Spanish and vice versa. It has been invaluable to us both. The app helps us get the understanding of the word right.”



“I like *Easy English Times*. It is the little newspaper that is available in the office. Bitesize articles, with some pronunciation assistance on timely subjects.”

Resources provided by Melissa Moravec.

CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL



**A New Year.
A New Start.**

**Earn a High School
Diploma and get
Workforce training in
less than 18 months
online at the library!**



“I left school to work because I had to provide for my family. In my high school years we were homeless and my sister and I needed to work to pay the deposit and the first month’s rent. I quit school and never looked back. I’ve done well for myself, I work as a custodian for Napa Valley Unified School District, but now I am a father and my son has begun school, so how can I look him in the eye and tell him he needs to go to school when his father has not even completed it. I want to take this challenge to prove to myself that I can do this for me and my family.

The COHS program is going well, I really like it. I like the fact that I don’t have to be in a classroom and in some kind of way I’m going at my own pace. I also like that it’s very easy to understand and to follow with the audio voice. If I don’t understand it I can easily rewind it and play it over. I like the fact that I have a lot of support from my coach. If I have any questions or if I’m struggling I know I can easily get a hold of her to help me out. I would definitely recommend it, I believe it’s a great option for people like me who are still willing to learn in the comfort of their home.

The picture is of me and my son a big part of the reason why I’m doing this is for him.”

- Arnulfo Delacruz

ONLINE • FLEXIBLE • FREE

707/253/4610

Countyofnapa.org/library/COHS

LEARNER ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Maribel Aguirre is attending the Wednesday night conversation class, Intercambios. Seen here with her tutor Jane Zastrow.

“She enjoys those meetings and feels positive about her ability to not only hold a conversation in English but also be helpful to those who are working on their Spanish.”

Yolanda Gallegos finished Challenger 1 Book

Gina Peterson received her High School Diploma

Maria Gonzalez completed the GED Exam

Jose Campos finished Voyager 3

Maria T. finished *Call of the Wild*

Aurelia’s Rios reading is getting much smoother, and her cursive is improving.

Coria Marin completed workbook Endeavor 7

Marvin’s reading has improved beautifully. He is now reading many books by many different authors. He talks about the different writing styles of the authors and describes his learning experience as he transitions from one author to another. He is making good use of a higher-level dictionary. He also is breaking sentences up to look for the subject & verb. This is a practice, which was difficult before and made him uncomfortable. I now witness his enjoyment as he seeks to solve “the riddle” of the sentence as he describes it. I am extremely proud of his progress. Good job, Marvin!

NEW TUTORS

**DAVID ASH : RICH COLLINS: BETTY FORESTER : BOB FORESTER: MECHELE HAGGARD
NANCY LAFORTUNE: CARLEE PEARSON : GREGORY RAMOS : KATHY WALLIS**

GAME NIGHT

It was a quiet game night due to the fires raging throughout the valley. In case you missed it, we have a bevy of games for you to use. Games can break up the regularity of textbooks. Games are also fun learning tools.

Here is a list of games available for your next session:

Bananagrams

Literacy Bingo
(alphabet, rhyming, synonyms,
parts of speech)

Uno

Scrabble

Headband

“Games aren’t just “kid’s stuff.” They’re motivational tools for adults and kids alike. People who are having fun and paying attention learn better. My students work all day or have family responsibilities; they’re often tired, and games help energize them in a way that fill-in-the-blank worksheets and rote exercises simply can’t.” -Lorraine Hopping Egan, author and board game designer

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



LEFT: Art Grueneberger of Puppet Art Theater Company demonstrating his techniques. **ABOVE:** Families enjoying the black light Halloween puppet show.

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL
2017 FUNDERS:**

**STREICH FAMILY
ENDOWMENT**

**CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
LITERACY SERVICES**

**ST. HELENA FARM WORKER
COMMITTEE**

TURLEY WINERY

NEW LIFE TABERNACLE



CONTACT US!

707-253-4237

ROBIN RAFAEL
robin.rafael@countyofnapa.org

NICOLE THOMAS
nicole.thomas@countyofnapa.org

KARIME JACOBO
karime.jacobo@countyofnapa.org

www.napalibrary.org/Literacy
580 Coombs St.
Napa, CA 94559