



NAPA COUNTY LIBRARY
**LITERACY
CENTER**

July - September 2018



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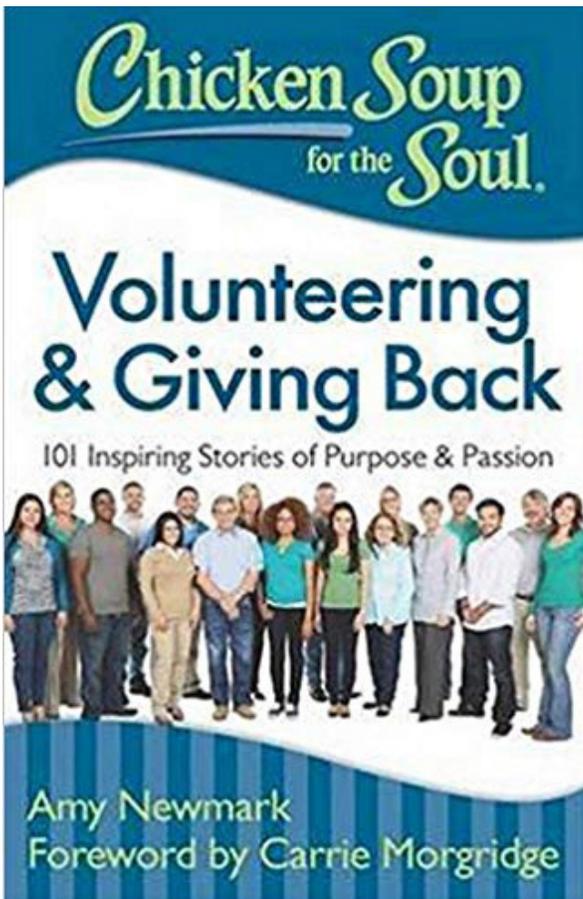
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We purchased a few copies of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. I was reading the book, *Volunteering & Giving Back*. "Volunteers and people who give back choose hope over despair, optimism over cynicism, and caring over indifference." I opened the book to a story titled, "Learning Life's Language." The story is about twenty-five year old Vernon, whose first serious relationship ends. Vernon is eager to fill his time and ease his broken heart. He sees a flyer in the subway station calling for volunteer literacy tutors. When Vernon arrives at the volunteer training, he is struck by the fact that people were not from other countries. They had thick New York accents just like him. Upon seeing this, Vernon pulled the coordinator aside and said, "I thought these people needed to learn English." "They do," the coordinator responded. "This is a literacy class. These are

all native speakers who haven't learned to read or write at an adult level." Vernon was perplexed, "How could that be?" he asked. The exasperated coordinator responded so all could hear, "Your past circumstances do not matter. All that matters is that you are here now to learn from each other." For whatever reason they had not mastered reading and/or writing in school, even though most had jobs and were articulate speakers. "A fire lit within me," Vernon said. This passion has remained alive in Vernon and as a result he has been an adult literacy tutor for the past twenty years. To this day, he begins every tutoring session by saying: "Your past circumstances do not matter. All that matters is that we are here now to learn from each other." As we come to the year-end report, I want to thank all of our adult literacy volunteers for your time and passion to the program. You have helped over 260 learners this year.

By Robin Rafael

Lunch with Literacy

August 21 @noon



Tutors who attended the San Diego Tutor Conference will share best practices, tips and strategies! Napa Main Library **RSVP Nicole at 253-4610**

Tech Night

September 19 from 6:00-7:30pm



Join the literacy staff for a fun night of gadgets, apps, and fun! We will explore the latest in learning apps, test new literacy iPads, tablets and other digital devices for use in tutoring sessions! Bring your student along. Refreshments will be served. Napa Main Library. **RSVP Nicole 253-4610**

LEARNER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GED & COHS Graduation



There was a special graduation ceremony at the library on May 30th. Adult students were given a second chance to get their GED and COHS diplomas in front of family and friends. The library staff, Shao-Jia Chang from Congressman Mike Thompson's office and Supervisor Brad Wagenknecht were in attendance to celebrate the accomplishments of students who faced more than your usual obstacles to graduate. Like Gemma who grew up as one of seven children in Mexico. Gemma's mother was a single parent that washed and scrubbed clothes by hand and sold tortillas to feed her family. Gemma and her siblings had no choice but to quit school to help their

mother to feed the family. Gemma was twenty-three when she moved to the United States. She didn't know any English, had a fourth grade education and no job. Today she is a few classes shy of getting her Associates Degree in counseling from Napa Valley College. Arnulfo, is our first Career Online High School (COHS) graduate. We profiled Arnulfo in our winter newsletter. Arnulfo didn't have the chance to attend high school. His family was homeless and he had to work to help pay the rent. Now in his 30s, his graduation hat read, "Mas Vale Tarde Que Nunca," (It's better late than never)." Knowing their stories and extra sacrifice made for a heart warming event.

GRADUATES

Agustín Millán
Alejandro Menjivar
Ana Álvarez
Arnulfo De La Cruz
Elizabeth Rocío Zamarripa
Felix Ramírez
Gemma Francisca Mejía
Griselda Garcia
Guadalupe Paola Ávila
Lanuz
Irene Lewis
Jessica Rodriguez
José Lima
José Pulido
Maria Elia Gonzalez
Mauricio Garcia Bazán
Mireya Acuna
Mirina Gonzalez
Manuel Ramirez
Melchor Rodriguez
Roberto Santos Bravo
Rosa Elena Tinoco Ruiz
Rosario Ponce
Ruth Rodriguez
Viviana Gutierrez
Xochil Coria

Adult Learner Leadership



L to R: Raul C., Karla A., Cecilia A., Alma R., Rosa T., Erika T., Beatriz S., Ariadna R., Obed S.

By Rosa

"What is ALLI? ALLI stands for Adult Learner Leadership Institute. The institute is a statewide training program designed for adult learners by adult learners who need to improve their leadership, communication and advocacy skills. It is important to say that it was founded in memory of Henry Huffman. He was an extraordinary learner and leader from the Santa Clara County Reading Program. I participated in a boot camp

in Chico on May 11-13, 2018.

This experience was incredible because I learned many themes: self-esteem, advocacy, networking and leadership. I learned what the word S.M.A.R.T. means: S-Specific M-Measurable A-Achievable R-relevant T-time bound. This camp helped me to continue to learn and study English and talk to other people about this program. This program is free and offers many opportunities."

"It was a great experience. I learned a lot" - Erika T.

"It was nice to meet new people including those from my own program" - Karla A.

ESL Advancement

The Monday night ESL classes are a popular library program. One of the big reasons for the classes success is the instructor, Norma Ortiz. She puts a lot of effort in to making the classes interactive and relevant. She has a great desire to see her students succeed. All the students holding certificates passed the Second ESL Module. One student gave a testimonial of how the class was helping him at work. He was voted employee of the month. He is able to speak more English and it has helped him to get to know other English speak-ing employees and understand instructions at work. The Monday night ESL class will resume on August 20th.



Students: Jose Alanis, Audelia Calderon, Maria Calderon, Teresa Carapia, Carusol Cruz, Lenor Esqueda, Javier Garcia, Juan Pena Gutierrez, Maria Luz Garcia, Carmen Herrera, Araceli Lara-Hdx, Jesus Lopez, Mirsha Marquez, Luis Mendez, Pilar Montecillo, Luis Moya, Gabriel Perez, Irene Perez, Edwin Ruiz and Maria Zafra. Instructor Norma Ortiz is in the pink skirt

LEARNER STORIES

Pictured:

Josue and
tutor Dene



My 18th birthday

*It was a surprise party they surprised me after church.
All my friends and cousins were there.*

February 12, 2002, was a day to remember. It was a normal day like any other, right until church service was over. Usually, I would just go home right after the last prayer, but that day, they had something else planned for me. When I was about to go home, one of my cousins asked me to go with him to pick some stuff up from our friend's house. It was all just a distraction for me. While we were at our friend's house, my other cousins were heading in the other direction to get ready for the surprise. Once we were ready to go home, our friend told us he will give us a ride home. But it was all part of the plan. To my surprise, when we arrived home everything was dark, which was a little unusual, but we continued walking into the house. When I least expected it, everyone jumped out of the shadows and yelled out "Feliz cumpleaños." They scared me. But it felt really nice to have that kind of surprise. All my friends and family were there. And that was my 18th birthday. A day to remember."

By Josue



Pictured:

Maria
and tutor
Paula

Napa is Home Now

"I grew up in Mexico. I loved my little town called Los Cruces. I moved to Napa when I was twenty-one, many years ago. I had to have a lot of courage to move here. I missed my family, my little town, and traditions. Napa is a small town. I have lived here for 20 years now. I like the weather in the summer. In the afternoons and some days in the early morning, my family and I enjoy walking in the park. One day, as I was driving, I saw beautifully colored balloons floating in the sky, fields of mustard growing between the vines and along the roadside. Many people like to come to Napa to ride the wine train and see the sunset in the vineyards. I am beginning to feel like Napa is my home now because my children have grown up here. We are making new family traditions in Napa. Napa has more opportunities than where I grew up. My children have had a better education and more education and more opportunities for jobs. I enjoy doing many things that are fulfilling to me and I feel safe here in Napa. Los Cruces will always have a special place in my heart, but Napa is my home now."

By Maria

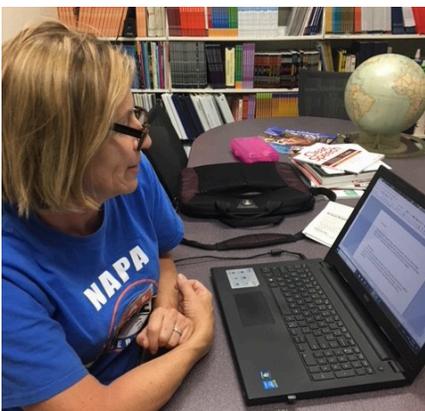


As a child, I thought I could change the world. But I grew up and realized that the best thing I can do is not make it worse. I studied Environmental Engineering in Mexico, and while I was finishing up the last years of my education I worked in a laboratory at a wastewater treatment plant as Auxiliary. I learned to put in practice what I learned. I learned to do simple procedures from preparing solutions, Ph, alkalinity, SST, to more complex processes such as fecal follicles in culture. After I finished my education I got a job in a Laboratory of a Factory where I oversaw environment and quality. Our process in the factory was closed cycle where the water was in recirculation and had no

contact with any chemical, my main task was to monitor basic things such as alkalinity, ph, temperature, SST. Even when my procedures were not difficult I improved the operations by creating a standardized process. The standardization of my process started from the organization of my laboratory applying the Japanese method of the 5s, continued with the standardization of operating procedures, and the planification of my daily bases. All these resulted in an increase in speed of 30%. I came to Napa three years ago. I wanted to be part of the Laboratory, but the language was an obstacle. So, I started to work in a warehouse. After three months I got promoted as a leader. Because of my effort, and my great openness to learn new things, I got promoted again to supervisor. I have been studying at the Napa Valley College for the last three years. Now I'm enrolled in English 90. At the same time my foreign education was verified and evaluated by Wes; showing an equivalency of Bachelor's in Environmental Engineering. A soon as I became confident with the language, I started to work on my resume. I applied to different laboratories, but I face a new obstacle; the laboratory procedures are pretty much the same as in Mexico, but the reporting is different. So, now I'm studying on my own to get certificated by California as a Laboratory Assistant 1. I want to

put in practice my knowledge and learn as much I can. I want to make a career here. Because the Napa Valley Treatment Plant has an amazing infrastructure; clarifiers, digester, aeration basins, etc. This plant takes full advantage of the extractable resources: Energy generator, solid dewatering, etc. Making it the most complex plant I have ever seen. But what makes this plant more special to me is the openness to teach the community, likewise the day by day effort they make to maintain the quality of the water to take care of the river. Working in a wastewater treatment plant is more than a just a job for me. I want to know that my work means something, that my job is helping others. It is a way of returning a little to the nature and making sure that the community has quality water. People around the world are suffering from scarce water. The percentage of drinking water in the world is becoming less. California is not far behind, we are recovering from one of the worst droughts in history. Now is the time to take responsibility and take care of the water that we have available, because no citizen of the U.S should be concerned about having poor quality of water or food contaminated. It is in our hands to leave the world in the same conditions that our grandfathers did for us.

By Karla Amezcua



The first week of October on a Sunday late evening around 10:00 p.m. I smelled smoke. I went outside and it

was very dark. I saw lots of smoke in the air. I told my husband and he said to call the police. Sure enough, there was a fire. It was about 3:00 a.m. in the morning when a police officer pulled up in our driveway. He knocked on the door and suggested the we think about leaving. I decided to go back to bed. The next morning around 6:00 a.m. my husband got up and went to work. I got up shortly after and made some phone calls. I really didn't want to go but a friend of mine suggested that I should leave. That morning I remember I was taking care of a cat over in Browns Valley. I decided to pack up my car with clothes, important papers and also

medications. I also grabbed food for my animals and left the house.

I got to the house where I had to feed the cat. I called the owners to let them know what was happening. They offered my husband and me a place to stay there with my animals. I was outside talking to the neighbor and telling her I had got evacuated. I wasn't sure where I would place my animals. She offered me a place for a few days because her roommates would be gone for a few days. I left my cat, Lucky, over at her house. I stayed the night at Teresa's house with my dog, Katie. The cat that I was watching, Moho would always hide under the bed because she

LEARNER STORIES

Continued from the previous page...

was afraid of my dog.

The next day I took my dog over to the neighbors house. My husband stayed and I stayed at the neighbors with the animals. It worked out well because Louise had been let out for a couple of nights. I couldn't get back to our home. The roads were still closed. I found out that they were escorting people to their homes to pick up medications and to check on their animals.

I went to Nob Hill and got in line. One of the police officers drove me to my house. I had to get my other cat Lucy, feed my chickens and give them fresh water. I thought maybe I lost them because they hadn't had any food or water. I was so thankful they were OK and my house was still there. I picked

up my cat and took her to my step daughter's house so she could keep the cat until we knew when we would be back home. I went back to the house where I was staying. We stayed a few more nights and finally we got a Nixle text that we could go back home. I packed up my car, got my dog and cat and then I drove home. I got back to my house. I first checked to see how my chickens were and gave them fresh water and food. I could not believe how bad the yard looked with branches down and lots of smoke in the air. I went inside and there was electricity but no gas. Our house has a pump but it was not working. We had to call PG&E and it took them a few days to come out. It was very frustrating because they took longer then usual. I had to throw everything out of the

refrigerator and freezer. So I ended up cleaning it out and starting fresh. I had to go shopping to restock food. There were lots of dust and ashes around the house. So I started vacuuming and dusting.

I had been so overwhelmed with all of the fires. We all were. I was very fortunate that we did not lose our home. So many people lost so much even their animals. So many people participated in the County to help all the victims. Lots of people were out of work because of the fires. It effected many businesses for a while. Lots of people were dealing with insurance companies and finding housing. It is very hard on them, and stressful. We still have not recovered from this traumatic fire.

By Ann Cullen

Learner's on the Move

- Kathy reported Gabriela completed units in each section of "Reading for Today"
- Kathy report that Jaime has learned about CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- Richard reports that Jose has improved his English and his now taking classes at Napa Valley College and has passed the citizen-ship test
- Nancy reports that Cruz has met the goal of "reading a book" and is spelling new words
- Kara reports that Rosa has been accepted at Sonoma State University for graduate school
- Peg reports that Honore has improved her spelling
- Nan reports that Rosa has mastered past particples and has finished reading, "Who Was Julia Child?"
- Lynn reports that Teresa has been hired as an architect. She will train for more than 5 years. This speaks to Teresa's positive attitude and her willingness to do everything well!
- Jane reports that Maribel has improved her comprehension
- Cathy reports that Maria demonstrated good comprehension and is able to identify, learn and retain the meaning of new words
- Marian reports that Nouha has completed Endeavor book 5 impeccably!
- Kim reports that Jessica was selected as student of the month at Napa Valley Adult School, was on the interview panel for the new principal, received her high school diploma and a scholarship for the Phlebotomy Program
- Marylou reports that Aurelia completed "Story of My Life" by Helen Keller
- Cynthia reports that Juana is moving along with the COHS; Nancy will be attending cosmetology school
- Kerry reports that Yolanda finished Challenger 2
- Melissa reports that Cecilia passed her GED and is "completely over her fear of computers!"
- Mirna reports that Nhakrish is taking college classes and has earned A's in all her classes
- Donald reports that Rafael has reached his comprehension goal and has gained confidence.

Salsa Contest Re-cap



Winner: Mango Salsa

Ingredients

- 3 Pounds of tomatoes (preferably yellow)
- 2 Manzano peppers
- 1 Habanero pepper
- 5 Garlic cloves
- 3 Unpeeled cucumbers
- 1 Red onion
- 1 Lemon
- 3 Tablespoons of finely chopped cilantro
- 1 Teaspoon of salt
- 1 Big peeled mango - not too ripe.

Directions: Roast the habanero pepper on the stovetop in a small pan. Boil the tomatoes for 5 minutes in two cups of water. Then add the roasted habanero pepper and salt. After the tomatoes and the habanero pepper boil, let them cool off. Meanwhile, finely chop the onion, the manzano pepper and the cucumbers. (If you do not want it too spicy, remove the seeds from the pepper) Once the habanero and tomatoes cool off blend them with the garlic. Put the blended ingredients in a bowl and add the rest of the ingredients. Add lime juice and set aside. Finely chop the mango and add it to the bowl along with the finely chopped cilantro; if needed, add more salt to taste. Note: It is best if you can use homegrown tomatoes, as these tend to be sweeter. If you use store bought tomatoes, add a spoonful of sugar (optional). Enjoy!

Wow! Our 4th annual salsa making contest was a successful event. This year we had the pleasure of having contestants bring a variety of salsas from regular red hot to the spicy green salsa, guacamole salsa, black eyed peas, avocado salsa, taco salsa and mango salsa. A couple of contestants from Peru brought a delightful salsa called

Huancaina, which took second place. The literacy staff was grateful for such a good turn out. A big thanks to all of the participants, volunteers and staff who made this event a success.

By Karime Jacobo

Summer Events & Program Dates

JULY

- 3 Learner Orientation
10-11am
- 18 Learner Orientation
6:30-7:30pm

AUGUST

- 7 Learner Orientation
6:00-7:00pm
- 20 Monday Night ESL
6:00-8:30 pm
- 21 Lunch with Literacy
12:00-1:30pm
- 23 Learner Orientation
10:00-11:00am
- 28 Tutor Training
10:00am-2:30pm

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Learner Orientation
10-11am
- 4 Spanish GED begins
6:00-8:00pm
- 5 ESL Class begins
10:00am-12:30pm
- 6 Learner Orientation
6:00-7:00 pm
- 19 Tech Night
6:00-7:30pm



Does your child need help with homework? There are volunteer tutors available at the Napa Library. This is a great free resource. Walk-in services are offered in the Life Works Room.

Starting August 20th.

Hours:

Monday 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 2:00-4:00 p.m.



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