

LOOK AT US!

A Newsletter of the Los Angeles Public Library
Adult Literacy Service
Edited by Ruth Gooley

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IT'S A MATCH

Anastasia and Liam

Forty-six years old and educationally challenged, Liam Keogh might have given up. He had been in the Adult Literacy Program before, but lost his tutor due to her brother's health problems. He moved to Burbank and joined that program, where, he says, his experience was anything but pleasant. But he persisted, and things have changed for the better. Under the gentle guidance of his tutor, Anastasia Rose, Liam has enrolled in a gardening/landscaping class, where he is learning basic gardening skills, botany, golf course maintenance, irrigation systems – with all the intricacies of valves and sprinklers – and much, much more. In March alone, he attended 20 hours of tutoring sessions, 15 hours of class, and spent 109 hours studying at home. Way to go, Liam!

Anastasia Rose has not let being in a wheelchair keep her from doing anything. Her jobs have been rich and varied, from professional folksinger to advocate for the physically challenged. Early on in her career, she founded ADEPT, a program for the handicapped, because she believed that anyone who wanted to and could work should be given the opportunity to become self-sustaining. Later, while studying at Pierce College, she worked in the Tutorial Department before switching to Special Services, which provides help for physically challenged students. She graduated from CSUN in 1989, and in 1992 she was hired as administrative assistant to the regional director for Catholic Charities, where her jobs were many and varied: assistant to the regional director; administrator of the Guadalupe Community Center, where she coordinated various fundraisers as well as being in charge of special projects, the pantry, the thrift store, and volunteers. In addition to her passion for helping those less fortunate than she is, Anastasia writes, does oil painting, and is a state certified manicurist. It's hard to believe she's retired now!

Anastasia is very conscientious, in the five months she has been a tutor designing her own reading and study materials for her learner. "I must first learn the material myself and organize it in a manner that is more palatable to Liam," she says, "... then, after constructing study materials, I put them on my computer to hand out to him. So far so good; it is very time consuming but I know it will be worth all the effort."

And worth the effort it is. Liam has "absolutely blossomed since being with Anastasia!" exclaims coordinator Mary Anne Arensdorf. "He couldn't be in better hands." He has an extensive vocabulary, can write in long-hand "beautifully," boasts Anastasia proudly, and has a sounder grasp on things than he has been given credit for.

He is driven to learn and his goal is to upgrade his present work experience and to eventually pass the GED. "I believe he has the makings of a real champion," Anastasia states confidently. "With a delightful sense of humor, an Irish smile, and a mischievous twinkle in his eye, he takes his studies very seriously. Truly he is a gentle soul who is just coming into his own."

"Have a glorious day," Anastasia cheerfully says in an e-mail to Mary Anne. We in the Adult Literacy Program wish the same to both Anastasia and Liam.

CREATIVE CORNER

The Giant Peach by Misael Garcia

I am reading the story of the giant peach. My book is marked on page 89. Never, never, ever in the time that I have been studying English, have I read an interesting story such as this. This story is about a boy named James. It begins when a family was leaving peacefully. Then one day James' father and mother went to London to do some shopping. Something terrible happened there: both of them were eaten up by an enormous angry rhinoceros, which had escaped from the London Zoo. Can one even imagine the sadness of this little boy, now left alone with his pain, not only of losing his parents, but also his home? The house that he lived in was sold, and he moved out to live with his aunts. His new room was as bear as a prison cell. His aunts were lazy and cruel, always calling him "little beast" or "miserable creature." On the top of the hill, next to their house, there was an old peach tree...

Every time I begin to read a book, I read three or four pages and I put it away. I never have I been interested in what the author has to say. It was completely different with this book. I kept reading and reading as if I was there, taking part in it.

I now know what it means to really read.

Just a thought, excerpts by learner Norman Fisher

I can see myself now looking in on the little baby lying there in he or she's crib with the two hands and two feet up in the air crying for his or her mother's milk, as she is trying to getting whatever she is doing at that time.

Ah momma, a baby must be taken care of and well fed as well, so momma please take care of me before I starve to death, and you don't want that to happen, no no momma.

Hi, momma, please talk to me if you have the time to do so and if not then you can just let me ly here and listen to the music that you are listening to. Oh wow that sound so good, you must be a expert on picking out good music to listen to. I want to learn to play music like that when I grow up. Please moma please say you will teach me to play, that will sound good like that, and if you can't play music yourself then you can send me to music school. I love you moma I really do.

I like to say hello to my dad for a moment if he have the time to share with me, but if not then I will have to just ly here and wait until he have the time to say something to me or finds the time to pick me up and play with me as well.

Ah you two I'm here and I need a little attention, so please can one of you stop what you are doing and take some time to take care of me?

Owning your own computer
by Norman Fisher

Owning your own computer is like being the boss on the job. The job has a lot of people and you are in charge of them all,

you are in business with them all at the same time. The computer makes everything easy for you to handle or deal with,

because it is there at your arms reach. I have to say please don't cause any crash or let it put you to sleep. Sleeping in front

of the computer is like having a virus and (you) don't know where it comes from, so now you hear my story on owning your

own computer. What are you intend to do about it, are you going to run out and buy a computer so you can be the boss on the job?

CONGRATULATIONS

Adult Literacy Services would like to say congratulations to the following

Learners:

Wayne Bryant is making tremendous progress, according to tutor Sue Rubano, not only with Laubach, but also by checking out the classified ads and looking for a job. He travels from Long Beach to the North Hollywood branch once a week and studies on the train.

Connie Campbell, who recently received her Bronze Certificate on Reading Upgrade, has this to say about her experience with the program: "What I like...is that it helps

me sound out words, upgrade my reading skills, and improve my vocabulary. This program tells me what I need to work on and it helps me also with my computer skills. I think it's a good program for all people trying to improve their reading and spelling skills."

Misael Garcia is making an incredible progress, affirms his tutor Sonja Janecek. "His dedication and desire to learn and express himself in English is something I could only wish for, and not dare anticipate. Thank you for the wonderful opportunity. It has been amazing to witness and be a part of changing people's lives."

Eric Lane, who has been studying with his tutor Hannah Ahmed at Washington Irving, is on Challenger Skillbook 3 and is hoping to secure employment soon. He recently earned a Certificate of Completion from the Los Angeles Technology Center after finishing a 60-hour course in Custodial Fundamentals.

Young Lee passed the TOEFL test, a college entrance exam, which measures a candidate's ability to read, write and understand English. Young had taken the test before and just missed getting a passing score. But she is "a very intelligent person" according to her tutor, Mike Brennan, who refuses to take credit and modestly says he is "happy to have played at least a small part in her passing the test" this time.

Yolanda Rodriguez has lived in the United States for 29 years, first New York, now California. When she was working, she would look at other people reading books in English and wonder if she would ever be able to do that. Now she is retired and working on her reading with tutor Arely Burgos. She works very hard because, as she says, "There is not much time left." She is already in Laubach Book 3. "Yolanda, we are very proud of you," says coordinator Luva Coulson.

Ana Sahonero, who is from Bolivia, wanted to make a traditional dinner for her family and friends. Tutor Mary DeCarlo showed her how to use library resources to look up recipes. The pair checked out some cookbooks, looked at newspaper ads for pricing and availability, and then put together a menu. The two of them worked on this project over several weeks, and had a lot of fun doing it.

The dinner was a resounding success. Everyone loved the food and complimented the chef. As an added bonus, Ana learned to read some new words, follow a recipe, understand grocery store ads, and compare prices. Reading, comprehension, spelling, making a grocery list — what a great learning experience. Ana and her tutor are both very proud of Ana's multiple accomplishments.

Tammy Starnes has been a student in the Adult Literacy Program since June, 2004. Because she was living at Via Avante, a residence for abused and addicted women, her tutor met with her at the residence. She could not read or write when she started the program but has now completed Book 1, more than half of Book 2,

and the first spelling book. At Via Avante she had reports to write and with the help of her tutor she was able to complete the reports successfully.

Now she has graduated from the program and with the help of the staff has written her resume and has gotten her first job. She will soon move to a sober living facility and continue to study literacy at the library.

Tammy says that the two programs together: Via Avante and Adult Literacy have taught her to love and respect herself and others. "Congratulations, Tammy!" exclaims coordinator Luvva Coulson. "You are wonderful!"

Graduates of the January Tutor Training Workshop:

Thomas Bung	Imelda Perez	Athena Vaughns
Sung Wen Chiu	Andrew Purvis	Catherine Walsh
Andrea Dolney	Audrey Robert	Nedy Williams
Harriet Elliott	Chris Schlitt	Ceta Wright
Janet London	Johanna Vasquez	Frederick Ylaya

Graduates of the February Tutor Training Workshop:

Bryan Cunningham	Judy Katz	Tom Pikor
Classietta Davis	William Kostman	Jaime Rubio
Beverly Edwards	Stephanie Lacy	David Shayne
Debi Gero	Barbara Margolies	Lulu Silverio
Mary Hardy	John Murphy	Valerie Smith
Heather Hendy	Dan Ostlund	Thomsen Young
Sonja Janacek	Jose Patiag	

Graduates of the March Tutor Training Workshop:

Angela Agosta	Rhonda Hawkins	George Rembaum
Alessandra Ascoli	Fleurette Hershman	Taylor Segrest
Anna Bongfen	William Lemley	Emmett Shaughnessy
Kelvin Chan	Jeremy Loudenback	Deborah Strayhand
Diana Cheng	Christine Lusey	Sara Sultanali
Eric Deki	John-Philp Mann	Clarissa Thier
Janella Funes	Gabriel Molina	Mariana Valles
Lynda Gomez	Julip Narkevicius	

Upcoming Tutor Training classes will be held on April 9 at the Watts Branch, May 14 at the Pio Pico Branch, and June 11 at the Lincoln Heights Branch

TUTOR TIP

The Language Experience Approach and Adult Learners

What is Language Experience Approach (LEA) and how does it work? LEA basically means that you write while your learner talks. Start by getting to know your learner. Once you feel comfortable with each other, choose a good topic. You can use a picture to spark the talking, a story, a subject your learner is interested in, or an event s/he has participated in. Once you have chosen a topic, have your learner talk about a related personal experience while you write down what s/he says. Sit with your learner so that s/he can see what you are writing down. Be supportive. Help by asking questions. Write it exactly as your learner tells it, without trying to correct mistakes. Errors can be corrected later. Focus on the content, not the form; eventually, the progress your learner is making will become obvious.

Originally geared towards reading skills, LEA also helps develop listening, speaking, and writing skills. Based on the learner's own experience, it shows the learner how writing and reading work and actually helps the learner start to read and write on his/her own.

Taken from "The Personal Experience," by Marcia Taylor, JobLink 2000, Available in the ERIC Digest at the National Clearinghouse for ESL Literacy Education (NCLE).

THANK YOU

Adult Literacy Services would like to thank the staff for their invaluable help at the following branches, where Literacy Centers are located: Baldwin Hills, Cahuenga, Central, Exposition Park, Jefferson, Lincoln Heights, Mid-Valley, Pacoima, Panorama City, Pio Pico-Koreatown, Robert Louis Stevenson, Venice, Washington Irving, Watts, and Wilmington.