

LOOK AT US!



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

Fall 2005

IT'S A MATCH

Randy and Estaire

Learner Randy Campbell and tutor Estaire Press have been meeting at Central Library for over 9 months. They both answered the same set of questions to give an insight into their experience with the Adult Literacy Program. Randy went first.

Randy, what made you decide to try the literacy program?

It was my idea to come here. It means enough to me to learn to read. I had not been in school for 31 years – since 3rd grade.

What learning tool do you like best?

I like reading the stories in the Skill Books best.

How do you use what we learn here out in the real world?

I try to find and read words I have learned. It has helped me send out mail and read signs.

What has been the most fun?

The most fun was going to the basketball game with Estaire. I read the name of the team for myself – the L.A. Sparks. But there hasn't been anything I didn't like.

You were offered a chance to have a reading assessment done by a graduate student. How did you like that?

The assessment was long but it was fun. I really enjoyed it.

Now it's Estaire turn to answer the same questions:

What made you decide to try the literacy program?

I found out about the literacy program from one of the fliers posted at work. I was looking for a volunteer opportunity and this turned out to be a great one.

What learning tool do you like best?

I enjoy the reading, but I must admit I like flash cards best. I also like the ideas and help I get from the coordinators using other materials in the center (thank you, Beverly, Julie & Jim!)

How has this helped you out in the real world?

It has made me very aware of how much I enjoy reading and how every facet of my life depends on my ability to read. It has made me very sensitive to the reading abilities of others around me.

What has been the most fun?

Randy's enthusiasm each and every meeting has been the most fun for me. He gets so excited about his successes and his skills. It is really contagious!

You were offered a chance to have a reading assessment done on Randy by a graduate student. How did you like that?

It was a wonderful way to get an objective view of Randy's strengths. It also included practical ideas for our ongoing lessons. These have been very helpful.

What an inspiring dialogue from this tutor-student pair. We wish you many more lessons together!

CONGRATULATIONS

Adult Literacy Services would like to say congratulations to the following Learners:

Guadalupe Antonio completed Reading Upgrade, earning both the Bronze and Silver Certificates of Achievement. She is now striving for the coveted Gold while at the same time starting on Comprehension Upgrade. Tutor Bonnie Oliver has encouraged Guadalupe to expand her reading experiences, guided by subjects of interest to her. You will enjoy Guadalupe's essay *The Park* in this issue of the newsletter.

Bill continues to make outstanding progress. Tutor Tom Pikor says he is amazed at how quickly Bill can now make his way through a paragraph. His pronunciation has also vastly improved. In fact, Tom says gratefully to the library, "Thanks for giving me the opportunity to help improve's my student's quality of life." Way to go, Bill and Tom. We're proud of both of you.

Mary Cooksey, when she first came to the Literacy Center, was frustrated and anxious about the writing process and was especially worried about the essay portion of the CBEST exam, an exam teachers must pass in order to receive their credential. Mary worked hard, learned how to write stronger essays, and has now passed her

CBEST essay exam. When she left the test, she was more confident than ever, exclaiming to a friend, "I passed. I'm a teacher!" You can be our teacher any day, Mary!

Don could hardly glance at the front page of a newspaper last year. This year he is not only reading books, he's writing book reports (See the Book Report section of this newsletter). His tutor, Tamara Rosenberg, is ecstatic. And so are we. Good work Don!

Fatau Keita, after several prior attempts at cracking the written test for the California Driver's License, recently passed with flying colors. With the help of her tutor Angela Agosta, Fatau worked hard to prepare herself this time. Despite being offered an oral version of the test, she insisted on taking it in written form because she believed she could do it. Her persistence paid off. Congrats, Fatau, and don't forget to buckle up, advises Literacy Coordinator Amit Mehta.

Sook Mar, who came to the United States from Korea 14 years ago, has been working with her tutor Nazelie Elmassian for the past 2 ½ years. Sook likes challenges. In addition to reading the Bible to the homeless, Sook offered to interpret when a social worker at the Adult Healthy Day Care Center in Los Angeles where she is program aid asked for help. One of Sook's goals is to write good sentences. She has completed Challenger One, which gives her a good start at reaching her target. She is also eager to improve her expressive language and is speaking with greater confidence. Sook is an enthusiastic learner and, according to tutor Nazelie, an absolute delight to work with. She is a model for us all.

Yolanda Rodriguez is one of the most upbeat, cheerful students in our program, according to Literacy Coordinator Luva Coulson. Why is this? Because a year ago, at age 68, Yolanda announced, "I don't have much time left. I want to learn to read better NOW." Since then, she has been meeting faithfully with her tutor as well as studying on her own at the Literacy Center, even volunteering at the Friends of the Library bookstore once a week. She has become a steady fixture at the Pacoima Branch this past year, always smiling, always cheerful, always willing to help someone else. Due to some health issues, she is leaving for El Salvador soon, but, says Luva, "I am grateful that I have been privileged to know this lovely woman." Luva isn't the only one who will miss Yolanda. The entire library will. Good luck, Yolanda. We will all miss you.

Nellie Silva set to work on Reading Upgrade on her own, earning the Bronze Certificate of Achievement while waiting to be matched with a tutor. Way to go, Nellie!

Edward Smith, with the help of his tutor Christine Gengaro, is becoming a more confident and independent person. This edition of the newsletter offers his first public writing venture. When you read his essay, you will find he is very open in sharing his goals. What a great attitude!

Graduates of the July Tutor Training Workshop:

Kimberly Bieber	Fritzi Horstman	Roberta Miller
Barbara Bordenave	Agnes Jenkins	Chad D.D. Nash
Michelle Brooks	Vanessa Kendrick	Hilda Sanchez
Sheryl Brooks-Nash	Ann Kwak	Theresa Stevens
Eva Cohen	Joyce Holmes	Jon Taylor
Nancy Cunningham	Jim Lawson	Herbert Toch
Levi Escobar	Felicia Matz	

Graduates of the August Tutor Training Workshop:

Jeremy Bagnini	Linda Fuller	Theresa Lomas
Margaret Gill Bayer	Benjamin Gabriel	Walter McDonald
Kharis Catchings	Tiffanie Griffin	Ruth Martinez
Peter DeMornay	Marvis Hughes-	Mersing Nguyen
Phyllis Donley	Broullon	Sara Petit
Wayne Edwards	Charles Jereb	Laura Reid
Adrienne Elloie	Stephen Kanter	Marin Silvers

Graduates of the September Tutor Training Workshop:

Anthony Arn	Meredith Kavovit	Matt Post
Lana Buckingham	Richard T. Kim	Arthur Selly
Norman Cohen	Jacqueline Mraz	Sonya Sorenson
Jo Ann Dawson	Sara Paul	Annette Stovall
Daniel Gorelick	Shelley Pierucci	Nancy Townsend
Vicki Heali	Linette Pakroo	Sue Weiland

FUTURE TUTOR TRAINING:

Tutor training workshops will be held on the following dates and locations:

October 15 at the Exposition Park/Dr Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch
November 19 at the Pacoima Branch
December 10 at the Jefferson Branch

THANK YOU
from Don

I would like to thank the Los Angeles Public Library, for all the help these give me in the reading program. The mind is a terrible thing to waste. I would like to thank Mr. Bill Well for his help in give me a Great-Great teacher like Ms Tamara Rosenberg in the reading and computer department. I have readed five book since I have started the program. I enjoy reading more more today and I enjoy, my computer. I do feel bad that I waited so long to go to the reading program, thanks again.

Thank you, Don, for coming into our program. We are glad we could help!

CREATIVE CORNER

The Park
By Guadalupe Antonio

My family and I like to go to the park. All the time we go to the park we enjoy it, especially my little boy. I can tell the happiness in his face when my husband says we are going to the park today. My little boy starts jumping up and down and runs around my husband just because he mentions the park. He puts his shoes on and dresses up by himself quickly to get ready to go to the park.

When we get there he is the first one to get out of the car and run in the park. He goes straight to the playground. He goes up the slide and slides down. After that he goes to the swings and the monkey bars. My family has fun when we go to the park.

My Life Story
By Michael Hoy

I, Michael Hoy, was born in Chicago, Ill. to Marian and Raymond Hoy. I was delivered at Michael Reese Hospital on January 10, 1959. When I started school in 1965, I found out that I was different from the other children. I couldn't read or write. In kindergarten I learned how to read "Mary Had a Little Lamb." I went from kindergarten to the eighth grade and received a diploma even though I could not read or write. I kept on going knowing that reading and writing was an essential part of my education; and I struggle with this today. At times I feel inferior because of this.

I took the time to return to school at Southwest College, where my skills were enhanced to a certain degree. I heard about the Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Program through the South Central Health & Rehabilitation Programs. I applied at the Exposition/Bethune Branch of the LAPL, and was accepted. I am now being tutored by

Norma A. Washington twice a week for 1 ½ hours per session. My wife and my tutor are great inspirations in helping to build my reading and writing skills.

Today I still struggle, but I am more confident in the reading and writing skills that I have learned from the LAPL Adult Literacy Program. In the future my goal is to be able to apply for a construction or a custodial job with the City of Los Angeles; and, to enjoy the benefits of my new found skills.

The Big Cruise by Freddie Johnson

My girlfriend and I went on a cruise. It was six days and seven nights – one of the longest we’ve ever been on. The ship was very large and very pretty.

The food was excellent, there was lots of it, and all kinds – ham, chicken, fish, potatoes, rabbit, bread, roast beef – you name it and they had it. And it was good. If you were there, you would have hurt yourself or made yourself sick.

We saw glaciers slide into the water – real large ones. I could not believe my eyes. For some reason, the captain knew when a glacier was going to fall because he would shout, “look at one o’clock!” or “four o’clock!” or “six o’clock!” and one would fall.

And here come the goats. Hey, they were the largest goats I have ever seen. Man, you would have thought they were cows! I guess they eat like pigs.

We had so much fun that we are planning another cruise in January, maybe to the Caribbean.

CHANGES

It has been a good experience in the literacy program and a life changing effect. The program has opened many doors for me and has given me ambition to strive in life. When I started out in the literacy program I wasn’t able to read. This has showed me that no matter what level one’s in you can achieve your goals if you have the ambition and support. The literacy program has done all of these and more for me. This program has helped me tremendously because I am graduating high school and looking forward to going to college. Don’t be discouraged to go back and refine your education because it’s never too late. I could happily recommend anyone to take the literacy program because it could change your life.

By Joshua Rodriguez

I think reading is the window to the world. It has helped me in so many ways to open my mind and thoughts to new experiences.

Such as: speaking in public to organized events, writing letters of grievance and letters thanks, and it builds my confidence, my self-esteem and help me with creativity.

By Sanchez Shockley

My name is Edward. I'm 44. I would like to make progress with my spelling and math. I'm not getting any younger.

I would like to take up a trade and improve my circumstances. I would like to be independent and be capable to provide not only for myself but for my family and household. I will make an effort toward success.

By Edward Smith

BOOK REPORT

Al Jolson—You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet!
By Don

The moment Jolson walked on a stage you got the impression that something important was going to happen.

Billy Emerson said no one has ever captivated the audiences like Jolson.

Jolson was a child and like a child he demanded care, devotion, and attention, at specific times. If he failed to receive it he would throw a tantrum or become morose (sic).

His mother had died when he was a child, but the audience was deathless. It would never leave him.

Jolson didn't miss the opportunity of having his Father see him on stage and their four children.

Al Jolson couldn't sleep by himself.

Big Al didn't like competitors.

Mr. Jolson love to sing and dance and also to play the horse and play cards and go to the fights and get Married in that order.

Mr. Jolson was a very hard man to work with.

Mr. Jolson was the greatest performer in the twenty century.

To sum up The great Al Jolson life—You Ain't Heard Nothing YET.

That's right. You ain't heard nothing yet – until you've heard what our learners have to say. We are so very proud of all of you. Keep up the excellent work!!!

TUTOR INFORMATION MEETINGS, Summer 2005

By Sheila Weisberg

The meetings were held to stress the importance of setting goals for students. In California, the library literacy programs don't rely on testing for grade levels for adult students; rather tutors ask students what goals they have set for themselves by using the Roles and Goals forms. It is felt that accomplishing goals is more important to adults to gauge their level of competence and growth thereby insuring they will stay in the program long enough to gain on basic literacy skills and have the satisfaction of achievement.

The first meeting was held at Exposition Park Branch and was led by June Brandon, from Expo, and Shelley Taylor from the Watts Branch. Their display of materials by roles for each adult (life-long learner, family member, worker, and community member/citizen) was especially helpful.

The second meeting was at the Baldwin Hills Branch and was facilitated by Nevelyn Crouch from BH, Carolyn Barelli from Cahuenga, and Amit Mehta from Pio Pico/ Koreatown and Washington Irving. They explained how our materials can be used to achieve goals and told about our computer programs.

The third meeting was at the Singleton Literacy Center at the Central Library and was led by Beverly Pichardo from Central and Alicia Chavarin from Robert Louis Stevenson and Lincoln Heights. Working as a team they had a fascinating display of materials of all sorts to use with students.



Meeting number four was at the Mid-Valley Regional Library and the facilitators were Mary Anne Arensdorf from Mid-Valley, Luva Coulson from Pacoima and Holly Schoch from Panorama City. They went into some detail about specific Roles and Goals subjects.



The last meeting was at the Venice branch and was hosted by Bill Wells from Venice and Rueben Serrano from Wilmington. They had the biggest turnout and they encouraged sharing between tutors.



All tutors who attended seemed to enjoy the workshops and were newly inspired to help students attain their goals.

We hope to see even more tutors at our next TIM, which will also be a tutor appreciation day. Look for it in the Fall.

TUTOR TIP:

What's in a phone book? Lots. The Eastside Literacy Idea Exchange (<http://www.eastsideliteracy.org>) points out that phone books are full of odd and interesting tidbits. For example, you can find:

1. Places to go, such as zoos, parks, museums. You and your learner can practice deciding on places to go and then locating the address and phone number.
2. Libraries and other government office locations, which you can use to discuss where to go for certain kinds of services, such as getting a Driver's License.
3. City maps, which you can use to teach map-reading skills.

4. Diagrams of local theaters and stadiums, which will help you teach how to buy the best tickets for your money.

Use the phone book to teach a reality-based lesson!

EVENTS:

International Literacy Day

In September, Singleton Literacy Coordinators Julie Simonson & Diego Mora attended International Literacy Day at the Skirball Cultural Center, hosted by the Literacy Network of Los Angeles. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the event's keynote speaker, shared his vision for improving literacy citywide in years to come. Acknowledging that illiteracy is a pandemic problem within our city, Mayor Villaraigosa pledged to continue support programs such as the Adult Literacy Program, a department of the Los Angeles Public Library.



Faithful Central Bible Church reception

Faithful Central Bible Church held a beautiful reception Sunday afternoon, August 21, 2005, to acknowledge their Church volunteers. Among those recognized and saluted were our Adult Literacy Program partners, the Faithful Central Adult Literacy tutors. Thank you for your involvement in the community.

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.