

LOOK AT US!



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

WINTER/SPRING 2006

IT WAS A PERFECT MATCH!

Sigi Mora and Dorothy Samuels

Sigi and Dorothy first met 6 years ago. They no longer work together, but their story is an inspiring one. The section is divided into two parts: Sigi and Dorothy. The artwork is his.

Sigi's Tale

My name is Sigifredo Mora and I was one of the millions of people who didn't know how to read or write. But I found hope in the Los Angeles Central Library. The Literacy center provided me with a tutor, Ms. Dorothy. She taught me how to read and write; she didn't do just this, she made me believe in myself. She gave me confidence. Even though I was feeling ashamed because I couldn't read or write she made me feel comfortable and had a lot of patience with me.

Ms. Dorothy is still a part of my life. Every day I'm reading something, the newspaper or art books, or looking up things on the computer. (Being) able to read has made my life a lot easier. I was able to go back to school and take oil painting classes. I was so excited my first day of school, I didn't need to worry about reading the instructions.

Now when I begin a new painting I read first about colors to mix, what brushes to use and the values of the paint. I'm glad I made the choice to go to the library and ask for help. I'm now heading in the right direction to accomplish my dream of becoming a professional artist. And I owe it all to Ms. Dorothy and the Los Angeles Central Library.

Dorothy's Tale

I became Sigifredo Mora's reading tutor nearly six years ago. I feel very fortunate to have had such a motivated and appreciative student, and I'm so proud of Sigi's accomplishments. Sigi excelled in the Laubach program; he scored 100% on his DMV written motorcycle license test; and now he's become an artist.

I first noted Sigi's artistic talent when he learned cursive writing; he copied the cursive letters in the Laubach workbook so perfectly that I couldn't tell the book's example from his script. Sigi

had told me that loved to draw as a child, and had won a school prize for his art, but that he hadn't drawn anything in years. Then one day, he brought a pencil sketch to our meeting, a wonderful futuristic cartoon character, drawn entirely from his imagination. In time, he drew a whole collection of dynamic original figures. Then Sigi joined a community art class and began drawing in colored pencils and pastels. A few months ago, he began working in oils, learning brush techniques by painting from illustrations. For Christmas, I was amazed and thrilled to receive the beautiful woodland scene that he painted, and I treasure this gift from my friend, Sigi.

Art By Sigi



CONGRATULATIONS

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

Raymond Anguiano, a student at the Pacoima Library, wrote about his hopes and dreams for the future with the help of his tutor, Stephen Deichen. His story is featured in the Creative Corner section of this newsletter.

Solange Boujolly appeared on the PBS program *Life and Times* on Jan 2, 2006, in an episode about a computer program testing senior driving habits.

Ramon Elias, after a year's hiatus from the Adult Literacy Program, returned to the program last September. He is doing very well and has made so much progress he now loves to sit with his son and read to him, something he could never do with his older children. His boss at work is happy with Ramon too, because he can read his own reports at meetings now. Ramon's life is changing, thanks to his wonderful tutor, Lillian Kleinman. According to literacy coordinator Luva Coulson, he is an outstanding student. Bravo, Ramon!

Kyoo Il Kim has successfully graduated from the Adult Literacy Program. When he and tutor Dr. Mark Chun first started to work together last summer, Kyoo Il had three goals: to read English better, to speak English better, and to understand and use slang words in the English language. By the end of last month, he had succeeded in these goals and more. Not only has he improved his reading and speaking skills in English and his usage of American slang, he also has a job application letter prepared for his upcoming job search and is done with his job talk presentation slides. "Good luck and congratulations!" exclaims Mark. And so do we. Best of luck, Kyoo Il!

Maribel Romo, who is studying at the Pacoima Library, wants to speak and understand English better so that she can help her children do well in school. She brings her five children to the library after school so they will have a quiet place to do their homework. Meanwhile, she reads to her preschool son. She likes to read the books her older children are reading and to learn what they are learning. No wonder her children are doing so well in school! You will find a story Maribel wrote in the Creative Corner section of this newsletter.

Andrew Sherlock was living at the Claire Foundation when he started the ALP program. Thanks to the help of tutor Norman Cohen, Andrew is now in his own apartment and has a new job. "The world is his plum now!" exclaims coordinator Bill Wells. And what a plum it is. Congratulations, Andrew!

Shirley Smith does not do regularly assigned written homework, because, as she says, she doesn't do anything to write about. However, on December 1, 2005, Shirley noticed that Rosa Parks was being honored on the bus with a ribbon on a front seat reserved for her and in memory of her. Inspired by Rosa Parks' courage and encouraged by tutor Marilyn Cuttrel, Shirley woke up the next day eager to write. After all, as Marilyn notes, writing

is just “talk on paper” and this is the first step to learning how to write. Keep up the good work, Shirley!

Terry Stanley, who has a story in the Creative Corner section of this newsletter, just graduated from our program and we are very proud of her. Congratulations, Terry!

Reyna Victorica, according to tutor Theresa Kammermeier, “has made fabulous improvements over the past several months and is becoming a very successful reader.” The pair is currently meeting one of Reyna’s goals, which is being able to read for pleasure from a novel, and have chosen to work on a collection of short stories from Stephen King. Happy reading, Reyna!

Graduates of the October 2005 Tutor Training workshop:

Rochelle Bates	Jacqueline Guzman	Marcela Plazas
Joan S. Bell	Tanika Hardin	Gary Reiss
Tamara Boutcher	Margaret Hatfield	Susan Sysler
Emma Dewald	Santino Hernandez	Nancy Vimla
Catherine Feeley	William (Bill)	Sujata Watts
Heather Glenn	McGovern	Sylvia Weisenberg

Graduates of the November 2005 Tutor Training workshop:

Renee Abrahamy	Peyanka Harris	Melissa Maddela
Marlene Allen	Nan Hoskins	Tariq Marshall
Diana Beard	Sioban Hubbard	Sila O’Gradaigh
Peter Bonerz	“Jerri” Pitchapuk	Erin O’Neill
Rita Cardenas	Jirawongsapan	Jason Ross
Greg Cormier	Stacey Jones	Ron Rouda
Shieva Davarian	Linda Katz	Tony Saenz
Yourie Gibson	Christine Lennon	Valerie Saenz
Alex Gray	Nancy Loncke	Miriam Schneider
Tatjana Greiner	Victoria Lyall	Susan Schramm
Judith Groff	Dorothy Mc Quisron	Mark Willis
Charles Guerrero		
Bill Guest	Dayna McTavish	

Graduates of the December 2005 Tutor Training workshop:

Richard Armbruster	Yuri Gonzalez	Myra Robinson
Conrado Ayala	Heidi Harris	Brian Russ
Steve Deichen	Christopher Ibanez	Bill Thomas
Dan Diamond	Raquel Kuronen	Manuel Valdivia
Irene Esquivel	Terence Lyons	Clare Varesio
Michal Gabay	Kimmie Pemberton	
Debbie Gaylor	Lorraine Raisma	

Graduates of the January 2006 Tutor Training workshop:

Hazel Anderson	Sharon Kipfer	Edith Sanchez
Tim Arretche	Joshua Kipper	Leo Soto
Melissa Butts	Jenette Kyte	Christelle Telesford
Paul Chavez	Rosario Palacios	Bob Thatcher
Ileana Cortez	Elizabeth Petta	William Thomas
Kevin Grimm	Juanita Pope	Evelyn Thomspson
Scott Herbstman	Joaquin Rapela	Rosemary Williams
Ola Morris Jones	Roberta Robinson	

FUTURE TUTOR TRAINING:

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

February 25 at the Lincoln Heights Branch
March 18 at the Westwood Branch
April 22 at the Pacoima Branch
May 20 at the Pio-Pico Koreatown Branch
June 24 at the Exposition Park Branch

LEARNER OF THE MONTH

Meet Martha Riano
By Julie Simonson



Martha Riano

One of the hardest-working students to emerge from the Singleton Literacy Center in recent months is Martha Riano. Originally from Bogotá, Colombia, Martha has been studying English in Los Angeles for the last four months. A regular participant in our Conversation Class, Martha began working intensively on Reading Upgrade to improve her literacy skills. For one month, Martha came to the Literacy Center and used Reading Upgrade five days a week for 3 hours at a time. In that time, she completed the program and has since moved on to Comprehension Upgrade. Her tenacity has paid off, as both Martha's reading and speaking skills have remarkably improved.

Noting how much it's helped her, Martha loves to bring friends to the Literacy Center who are seeking to increase their reading skills as well. She also studies English with her 15 year old daughter, Maria Fernanda. Martha says she "likes the variety the library offers" and is entertaining the idea of becoming a citizen. She feels a big problem for immigrants is not being

able to read or speak English, and without those abilities, she likens it to “being blind in a sighted world.”

Martha is a great example of what happens when you combine hard work with optimism. Well on her way towards achieving her goals, we wish Martha Riano much continued success as she takes advantage of everything the library has to offer.

CREATIVE CORNER

A Story
by Raymond Anguiano

My name is Raymond. I'm 25 years old. My goal is to better my reading and writing and later do things real fast. I want the confidence to study things and do things like get my license and study computers and graphic design. I would like to use a keyboard quickly. My uncles are a sheriff and a detective and they tell me, “You should join the force.” And I would like to study to be a police officer. But my first step is to get my GED.

A Story
by Juan Jaramillo

Before I met my tutor John Kralick I had a hard time with the English Language. I did not know how to pronounce words the right way. When I spoke English I stammered. I felt depressed and afraid when someone approached me and spoke to me in English. Also some of my friends used to make fun of me, by saying that I had finished High School but I do not speak English, that really embarrassed me. One day I went to the Wilmington Library and I asked a man named Rueben Serrano about the Adult Literacy program, if he could find me a tutor. After a few weeks he did find me a tutor. Six months now have passed with my tutor and I have really noticed my progress. Now when someone speaks to me in English I take the opportunity to practice my English because I am more confident. Actually my friends are amazed at my progress. What surprises me the most is that I decided to take time to enroll in College Classes. I'm also taking classes with my tutor in the library. I want to let you know how grateful I am to have my tutor John Kralick, I really appreciate what he has done and continues to do. Also I want to thank all the people who make this program possible. Thank you very much.



Juan Jaramillo & John Kralick

The Library
by Maribel Romo

I bring my children to the library two or three times a week. Sometimes we come every day. We love to go to the library. It is fun and very interesting.

My children like the books in the library because the books open their minds and help them imagine good things. They feel good when they read and read. My little daughter likes to read about how the people live in the different countries and the customs of the different countries. She reads about Italy, Germany and many other places. I like to read the books, too. It helps me learn English.

A Story
by Terry Stanley

Hi, my name is Terry Stanley and I have been working on my reading with the Challenger book. I love this book a lot. It is helping me to read and spell and sound out my words. And I do Reading Upgrade on the computer and I love that too. The people in the library who help me are very nice.

I am going to a new school called The Foundation for the Junior Blind. This is a school that helps the blind and people that are like me. You get to have your own room and have your classes there. I love it. I also help out whenever I can. I am a hostess for the Crenshaw Christian Center and I love what I do. I love to help people as much as I can. I help in the Ministry. I can do four things at one time sometimes and I do what I can to help out as much as I can.

BOOK REPORT

Ernest Hemingway
"The Great One"
by Don Beckerman

Critics call him the greatest writer of this century, a man who had a zest for life.

Ernest lived his books.

He loved excitement and challenges, but yet he never felt 100% secure in life.

Ernest worked from six in the morning until 12 noon, then he'd have his lunch and spend the rest of the day doing, what he wanted to do.

Mr. Hemingway was a pretty rough guy, but yet very tender.

Not the kind of guy who would be fighting in bars.

He love animals and yet he love to hunt wild animals.

Cuba was Ernest's big love.

Ernest was born in Oak Park, Illinois, outside of Chicago on July 21, 1899, the second of six children.

I think he would have love to be a great bullfighter,

He had friend who were great bullfighter and hung out with them, and drank with them, he ran with the bulls in Pamplona.

Ernest's inability to get along with his mother made his home life chaotic.

He left his home when he was not yet 18 years old.

His father was a Doctor, in 1928 Ernest's father shot himself, committing suicide and lift him 50, 000 dollars.

"When I asked my mother for my inheritance, she said she had already spent it on me.

The thing that bothered me the most was that I had writer him a letter that was on his desk the day he shot himself and I think if he had opened that letter and read it, he wouldn't have pulled the trigger."

Ernest starter to doubt himself with his writing, he eyes were getting very bad so he couldn't work as much as he wanted to.

FROM A TUTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Tutor Cori Sims has found that she has as much to learn from student Jianyong Ouyang as he does from her. In fact, she is using his real world experience as a learning tool for him. She says, "We are incorporating more discussions where I ask Jianyong to explain something to me that I have little to no background on, such as experiments he conducts in his laboratory. Without a common expectation regarding vocabulary, I can quickly identify when it is difficult to understand his pronunciation, mimicking the situation of teaching a class or conversing aloud with a stranger. When there is a common expectation (such as reading an article on a familiar subject), one might gloss over a mispronunciation because the subject familiarity helps 'fill in the blanks.'

I have also found that having him educate me on an area of HIS expertise shifts the balance of power so that he gains more confidence, which is critical. The greater his confidence, the more likely Jianyong is to ask me what unfamiliar words mean, try out difficult vocabulary words, or guess at the meaning of an idiom he has never heard before. As a side benefit, I know more

about emerging technologies in materials science than I have ever imagined!” Learning goes both ways. What a wonderful story!

MOVIE STARDOM

Adult Literacy Services will be the subject of a channel 35 documentary this winter season. Watch for it!

WRITER TO WRITER

Win a cash prize!

DEADLINE: March 17, 2006

Adult learners write a letter to an author whose writing has had an impact on them. It doesn't have to be long, “just a friendly note to a favorite author.” Check out the [California Center for the Book](#) web site for details.

CALPRO

CALPRO offers free professional development courses that you can access via the Internet from home, work, or elsewhere.

Sample CALPRO online courses:

- Designing Programs for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Awareness for Adult Educators
- Effective Lesson Planning

To register, visit the [CALPRO](#) web site.

Sponsored by the Outreach and Technical Assistance Network (OTAN), a leadership project of the California Department of Education, Adult Education Office.

EVENTS:

Volunteer Recognition Parties
By Sheila Weisberg



Volunteer Recognition Parties were held for all active tutors and the attendance was great.

Buffet dinners from Casablanca Restaurant in Venice were served.

On November 14, 2005 the party was held at the Mid-Valley Regional Branch.



On November 15, 2005 the party was at Baldwin Hills Branch.



November 17, 2005 it was at Central Library.



All tutors received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the City Librarian, Fontayne Holmes. In addition, they received an Adult Literacy Services key chain flashlight.

Those in attendance were given a welcoming speech by one of the Literacy Coordinators and shown a video about adult learners created by the State Library.

Everyone enjoyed him or herself and said they were looking forward to the parties in 2006

TUTOR TIP

Beginning Thesaurus

Explain the similarities and differences between a thesaurus and a dictionary. Then ask your student to read a short story in which you have underlined a few words. Your student then writes down the words, looks them up the thesaurus, and copies over the synonyms for each word.

Next, the student replaces the original word with one of the synonyms and re-reads the story. This simple exercise will help with vocabulary enrichment. (This comes from Oakland's Second Start Program.)

If you have any lessons that work really well for you, please let your Literacy Coordinator know and your tip will be added to the next newsletter.

NEW LITERACY CENTER COORDINATORS:

Adult Literacy Services will be expanding this year and we are looking for new Coordinators.

Most desirable would be a background in education or social services. Some knowledge of the Spanish language would be helpful. Experience with a wide diversity of people is offered. If you have a background in that or might enjoy working with different people in order to be of service, you might find a position with us very fulfilling.

The position is 20 hours a week, consisting of 4 five-hour days, one of which needs to be in the evening or on a Saturday in order to be available to interview working people. The hours have to be when the branch is open to the public.

This is not a civil service position.

If you or someone you know would be interested in working with us please let your coordinator know or call Sheila Weisberg at (213) 228-7544.

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.