



Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services

Volunteer Services Office - (213) 228-7540 - volserv@lapl.org

LOOK AT US!

Fall 2008
Edited by Ruth Gooley

NEW "GREEN" EXPOSITION PARK REGIONAL BRANCH OPENS



Members of the National Council of Negro Women-SGV join a crowd of more than 500 eager library users at the opening of the new "Green" Exposition Park Regional - Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library, on Mon., Aug. 18, 2007.

See what June Brandon, Adult Literacy Coordinator at the new branch, has to say on page 10.

IT'S A MATCH

CATHY'S STORY

By tutor Cathy Pack

Several months after starting a new job downtown, I wandered into the Central Library and found the Singleton Adult Literacy Center. I had been searching for a community-based volunteer opportunity and this seemed like a

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YAPING'S STORY

By learner Yaping (Grace) Wang

My name is Yaping (Grace) Wang. I remember when I first came to the USA from China I didn't know any thing in English but ABC. So I felt very bad at that time and even wanted to give up staying here.

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IT'S A MATCH

Cathy's Story continued from p. 1

good way to share my great love of reading.

In July of 2006 I was paired with student Grace Wang. We knew it was a match immediately. Grace is a hard-working, tireless, and driven individual who is also very creative and funny. We began the Challenger Series and Grace quickly formed strong opinions about Kate, Aunt Louise, Ginger, and the detestable Jerome. When I discovered that Grace was a gifted writer we began devoting part of our lesson plan to writing. I laughed and laughed while reading her story about her messy husband.

Some of our lesson activities were not as successful. I adore the "Little House" books and Grace and I made it most of the way through "Little House on the Prairie." A historical story, however, is not the best way to practice the way people speak English now. One year after we started our lessons, Grace enrolled in Community College. She takes a full load of classes and is active in her church. I am incredibly proud of her achievements.

I am also grateful for the friendship we share. She has attended Thanksgiving dinner at my house and impressed everyone with her beautiful singing (she is the only person I know who can sing all the verses of our national anthem). She introduced me to Mongolian hot pot and taught me how to make Chinese tea. Last winter I went to the beautiful region of Yunnan in China on her recommendation. My family and I had a marvelous time visiting ancient Chinese villages and learning about the ethnic customs of this region. Grace has been my tutor as much as I've been hers. Thank you, Mrs. Singleton, for bringing us together!



Learner Yaping Wang and tutor Cathy Pack

Yaping's Story continued from p. 1

One day I was hanging around at the Central Library. I saw the literacy center and a staff member of the center (I found out later his name was Diego) sitting down in the sofa teaching a student. I was so envious. I used my body language to ask a female staff member who sat behind the counter (I found out later her name was Beverly) how to study like this. Beverly told me I can find a tutor to help me while I live here. I couldn't believe what I heard. Two months after I had taken the test, Beverly called me to meet my tutor.

When I had been thinking about my tutor I felt a little bit nervous. I worried about how the tutor will feel about my poor English skills, how much hard work it will be to teach me, how difficult it will be for her to let me understand the books, how tiring it will be for her to help me. But when I met her in person my heart went to the right side. She was a very lovely, patient and nice lady. Her name is Cathy Pack. She has been a very important part

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Special Congratulations

to Dorothy D. Carson

**First runner-up in the Writer-to-Writer contest sponsored by
California Library Literacy Services (CLLS)**

Toni Morrison
Bluest Eye
By Dorothy D. Carson

Hello Toni:

My name is Dorothy Carson and I'm student in the Los Angeles Public Library Literacy Program. When I started the program I was afraid and not sure if I could make it through the program.

Reading your book *The Bluest Eye*, helped me understand more about me. Your book was not an easy book to read or understand. Many parts of the book I had to read several times.

Toni, I have never been a good reader. Your book helped me become a better reader. At a very young age, any words I did not know or that were too long I just skipped over them. Your book was the first book I read each and every word and did not skip one. I had the dictionary close, but I didn't skip a word.

Many parts of the book were familiar to my life. In the beginning of the book when Frieda got sick I remembered my mom as a single parent. If my sisters and I got ill she would put Vicks all over our chest. She would be angry like Frieda's mom, not for us being sick but the thought of having to miss work to care for us, or the cost of a doctor, fear of money or worse. I understood Frieda's mom's pain, because it was a pain my mother had felt.

As I read the book I could relate to Pecola, never feeling like a pretty little black girl. Always wishing and wanting to be something besides an ugly little black girl. This book made me sit and think of my life. Why did Pecola want those bluest eyes? Why do black girls feel ugly? Why is it easier to give up than fight?

As I continued to read I could feel Pecola's shame and pain being raped by her Dad. Then she gets pregnant and gets lost within herself. Lost to real reality but not to her own. Toni, I understand that pain. I had gone to Pecola's world of lost reality and I didn't want to come out when my daughter died.

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Creative Corner

Learners Write Stories,
Poems and Essays

To Travel Around by Fernando Carmo

When it comes to traveling, I am the first one in line. What I like most during my vacations is to hit the road and discover new worlds. The best way to have a wonderful trip can be summarized in three simple steps. First of all, know your location and get as much information as you can beforehand. After all you don't want to end up in a cannibal tribe. The second step is to bring with you just the necessary baggage; otherwise, you might carry useless weight. That may put you in a wheelchair for the rest of your life! Last but not least, bring a pleasant companion to share the good moments; if not, you must be a depressed loner that doesn't have friends. With these basic rules, I'm sure you can have a magnificent time, but, of course, do not forget to invite me.



writing class students

A Generous Person by Philipus Situmorang

She is the one who always supports me in every situation. She is the one who surrounds me with love and advice. I really appreciate her; she is the only one for me.

Secondly, she is a very friendly person. She has many friends who like her very much. Almost every day they call her to share their talk about their lives.

Most of all, she is always there whenever I or her friends are in need. She never limits her sacrifice. I'm blessed that God led me to my beautiful and lovely wife.



learner Rachel McDon

I Feel Good by Rachel Mc Don

It's a good thing to be proud of something. I'm proud that I am able to learn English grammar all over again.

Learning about the parts of speech and punctuation makes me feel really good about myself. Some people have had English writing classes when they were younger. However, as years go by, a person can forget all about their earlier English and grammar lessons.

Therefore, I feel so happy that I can learn over and over again. I am very proud to keep on learning.

Tutors Write Too

Tutoring By Hilda Sanchez

Tutoring Carolina Garcia has been a wonderful experience. I started tutoring in July 2005 and have met with Carolina, who was born in Guatemala, twice a week since then. Carolina was finishing her reading levels when I started with her and I was asked by the library staff if I was willing to help her obtain her GED. I was committed for 6 months (at least that's what I was told during training). Little did I know then, that I would remain for 3 years.

Carolina is a wonderful person, smart and very dedicated in reaching her goals. I am extremely proud of her. We met at the Central Library twice a week for about 2 1/2 years. She would bring, her then 2, year old son with her while we worked. Steven is now 5 years old.

Carolina wants to eventually become a pediatrician and I believe she will accomplish that goal. She is extremely determined. It was truly a pleasure tutoring her. Tutoring is something I would definitely consider doing again in the future.

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

The Bluest Eye
continued from p. 3

All the pain, confusion in my life was tumbling out of control. But in that new place there was no more pain. You grow content there, no reality only the reality you create. I felt and understood Pecola and felt her pain. Everything has been taken from you but this new zone or place gives you a type of peace. After reading this book I cried. I realized I could have stayed in Pecola's world, I wanted to. This book made me look into me. It helped me realize I must continue to fight and be strong and stay out of Pecola's world.

IT'S A MATCH

Yaping's Story continued from p. 2

of my whole life in this strange place. I remember when we had finished a book both of us were very happy. We had a lot of fun during our studying. I was always thinking about the luck I had meeting such a good literacy center and such a good tutor.

I have studied with my tutor since July 2006. She helped me to read 4 Challenger Series books which the literacy center gave us. She helps me to learn the vocabulary, grammar, tense of the sentences and even the slang language of Americans. She also helps me understand the values and morals of America. We discuss what a good personality is, what a bad habit is. We even analyze the people in the books, which one is good, which one is bad. For example both of us didn't like Bob's habit (Book 1) and Jerome's personality (Book 3). We were surprised at how wide the knowledge in the books was (Book 2, 4). I always use the Aunt Louise saying "Good things can come out of bad things when people don't give up". It supports me to do any hard work.

After I studied with my tutor one year I went to college to learn marketing. I have tried to have conversations with people who speak English, listen to the radio and read newspapers. I have also tried to use English to get interviews for jobs.

Right now I have the best confidence I have ever had, I am so proud of myself. I appreciate the literacy center, my great tutor and all the very nice staff. The best words I want say are "Thanks for the great opportunity to be your student." "Thanks very much!"

Dear Susan,

I have a student who won't write because she can't spell. She will spell the same word three different ways in a paragraph. How can I get her to spell so we can move on with the writing?

Tutor in LA

Dear Tutor,

There are myriad reasons for people to find spelling difficult:

There may be problems of visual recall from long-term memory, or poor simultaneous recall (they might be trying also to recall rules, vocabulary, ideas, even letter formation).

It may be an auditory processing problem (they don't hear the difference between short E, A, and I, for example).

It may also be due to:

- Weak attention control.
- Weak recognition of patterns in English.
- Memory problems in general
- Combinations of above problems

Here are some possible remedies:

People with attention-control difficulties can be encouraged to do their writing in stages rather than trying to spell, punctuate, and develop ideas all at once.

Concentrate on the internal vowel: mess, mass, miss, moss, muss; write the vowel first and then write the consonants. Associate pictures with the short vowel sounds: a hand for hand, a fox, a hen, etc.

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FUTURE TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Tutor training workshops will be held on the following dates at the following locations. Please call your local Adult Literacy Coordinator for information.

Saturday, December 13, 2008, Pio-Pico-Koreatown Branch, 10 am-5 pm.

Saturday, January 10, 2009, Pacoima Branch, 10 am-5 pm.

Saturday, February 7, 2009, Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch, 10 am-5 pm.

Saturday, March 14, 2009, Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch, 10 am-5 pm.

Tuesday, April 21, and Thursday, April 23, 2009, Will & Ariel Durant, 1 pm-4:30 pm.

CLASSES:

Adult Literacy Services are proud to offer the following classes. Please call the appropriate Center for more information.

Singleton Adult Literacy Center at the Central Library:

English Conversation Class:

Monday-Thursday 3:30-5

Friday-Saturday 2-3:30

Writing Class:

Monday & Tuesday 2-3:30

Mommy and Me Class:

Thursday: December 18, January 15, February 19, from 11-12

Mid-Valley Regional Branch:

Conversation Class:

Wednesday 12:30-2

Thursday 3:30-5



Dear Susan continued from p. 6

The person should maintain a personal list of misspelled words s/he missed with the correct spelling. Review it frequently.

Use:

- Rhyming games or stories (Dr. Seuss is great here).
- Flash cards created from personal misspelled words list.
- Word-family approach, such as all the "ive" and "ost" and "ought" words.
- Games like Scrabble or Spill and Spell.
- Learning some basic spelling rules and committing them to memory.
- Frequent review of spellings of suffixes and prefixes (ing, tion, pro, pre)
- Assistive technology; that is, a tool that helps the student find how to spell a word. The student can be encouraged to write using a computer with spell check. This is not a panacea because some misspelled words won't be marked because they are also words:

grate & great; break & brake, for example.



There is an electronic device (that looks like a Game Boy) called a Franklin Speller (not the Franklin Dictionary) that comes in several versions. The children's version is my favorite because it talks as well as visually presents the possible spellings. The writer enters a word as s/he thinks it is spelled on the device. The Speller will then give a definition if what s/he entered is a word, or it gives alternative spellings. Choose one and it will be defined. If it's the wrong word, choose another until s/he finds the correct spelling. The Franklin Speller comes in various versions and sells from about \$20 to \$40. You can find it at the stores that sell electronics: Target, Kmart, Best Buy, Fry's, Circuit City, etc.

Web sites with great information and help regarding learning differences:

www.ldonline.org
www.adlit.org (adolescent literacy)
www.allkindsofminds.org
www.hellofriend.org
www.scwablearning.org

CAT IN THE HAT & OTHER RHYMES



SPILL

Scrabble

SPELL

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS

KATHY BRADLEY acquired a new job position and completed Reading Upgrade, receiving the Silver Certificate.

JOCELYN CHANG has made great progress on her goal to improve her creative writing skills in English. In the spring she wrote a script to accompany the music of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition". She also achieved her goal to pass the United States of America citizenship test and in July 2008 was sworn in as a citizen of this country!

JULIA RAMIREZ never lost sight of her goal to become a citizen of the United States of America. By July 2008 she had successfully completed all of the requirements and was sworn in as a citizen. She has registered to vote and is excited to be able to do so for the first time in the November election.

CLEO THOMPSON just acquired her business license, the first step in her goal to own her own business. She has also completed 2/3 of the studies needed to qualify her for her GED, another goal she has set for herself.

Congrats also to the tutors of these four students. The time, interest, patience, belief and encouragement the tutors shared with their students have brought great joy.

CHANGES

HELLO'S

AND

GOOD-BYES

Welcome to our new coordinators:

George Snyder at the Singleton Adult
Literacy Center
Peggy Blow at the Wilmington Adult
Literacy Center

A fond farewell to:

Luva Coulson from the Pacoima Adult
Literacy Center
Rueben Serrano from the Wilmington Adult
Literacy Center

OPENINGS

We celebrate the opening of the new Benjamin Franklin Adult Literacy Center, Alicia Chavarin, Adult Literacy Coordinator.



Luva Coulson at her farewell party

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates of the Tutor Training Workshop

July 2008

Chris Annak
Marilyn Arenas
Alice Buckley
Charles Caporale
Christina Chiang
Yolanda Custer
Anna Davis
Ashley Dixon
Jean Do
Jennifer Fernandez
Michael Frank
Brenda Gordon
F. C. Herbert
Vivian R. Intriago
Maria Cristina Jimenez
Young Hee Kim
Lindsay Klick
Rachel Manderfeld
Judy Meyers
Andrew Overhulser
Ashley Ramos
Alfred Rubio
Lindsey Rundell
Caryn Thomas
Darren Toth
Bob Wightman
Jennifer Wohlner

August 2008

Milo Colon
Sanam Dabiri
Matt Driscoll
Derric Eady
Lamar Fairman
Iris Garcia
Venus Garrett
Leon Heron
Trudie Hines
Samuel Jordan IV
Mary Jimenez
Tess Lai
Jonathan Lamborn
Andrea Marbury
Trula Miles
Michelle Murphy
Ruby Nelson
Obimma Okoye
Abiola Olambiwonnu
Delores Olambiwonnu
Bob Perkins
Erica Rood
Karen Schwartz
Joli Selten
Lynne Stark
Devang Vussonji
Maggie Wineland

September 2008

Kay Alvord
Lisa Arnold
Sarah Ayers
Claire Banchich
Maliheh Barazesh
Yohanna Browne
Marlene Duke
Patty Fernandez
Jeff Fleming
Henry Garcia
Beverly Gardner
Steve Graves
Rachel Haight
Karen Hudson
Garrett James
Sandy Klein
Tracy Klinesteker
Patricia Korten
Kim Krug
Nancy McCarthy
Sandra McDuffie
Nora Meerbaum
Tyche Nettingham
Joseph Paulson
April Popescu
Vicki Popielinski
Kristin Ranger
Corazon Reyes
Ann Richardson
Douglas Ross
Caylor Summers
Lynnzee Winters



tutors in training

For the schedule of future
Tutor Training Workshops
see page 6.



Fontayne Holmes, City Librarian, and Councilmember Brnard C. Parks pose with members of the community at the opening of the new Exposition Park Regional Library

Exposition Park Branch Reopens As a “Green” Building! by June Brandon, Literacy Coordinator

Exposition Park, Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune Regional Branch Library reopened in all of its environmentally correct splendor on a hot Monday morning, August 18, 2008. The library is now located at 3900 S. Western Avenue, approximately two miles from the previous Vermont Avenue site.

The festive day began with a welcome address from our City Librarian, Fontayne Holmes, followed by greetings from the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Council member Bernard C. Parks and other guest speakers. Then the much anticipated ribbon cutting, followed by the rush to enter the building by the throngs of people who had been waiting and envisioning this moment for several years! They were not disappointed. The Branch is designed to maximize the use of the sun’s rays to brighten the individual reading areas, the group study corner, the computer stations and the children’s story telling retreat. The Community room is a state-of-the-art feature and will be used for a multiplicity of occasions. The Adult Literacy Center is attractive and inviting, with ample room to display the extensive literacy collection as well as adequate space to house three literacy computers. The “oohs” and “aahs” are still reverberating!

The newly constructed library received a Gold rating from environmental groups because of the use of solar panels to generate electricity, the reduction in the use of water, the use of recycled materials such as bamboo flooring and the planting of many trees to provide shade and use less energy.

Come see us --- you will enjoy the Charles White mural which hangs above the Circulation desk. The central theme of this work is education and learning. This noteworthy mural, originally housed at the Vermont site of Exposition Park Library, was taken from there, cleaned and re-hung at the new site for all to enjoy and share the inspiration it generates. The entire staff at Exposition Park Branch Library eagerly awaits your visit----you won’t be disappointed!!!

Student's First Date
By Ruth Gooley

I pull on my favorite jeans
and blue denim top.
Blush brushed on, hair pinned back,
I rush for the bus.
Inside, I'm totally stressed.
I tell myself to chill.
Everything will work out.
She will have kind brown eyes,
like Sparky, my poodle.
She will be patient like him,
warm like him, without a bite.
As the bus chugs towards the site,
the branch where we will meet,
I see her hand guiding mine
over the new word, the new world.
My heart slows down.
Together, we will figure it out.

Creative Corner

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Our Vacation
by Neil Uzzauto

My daughter and my vacation was fun!

When we got there, we went to the hotel. Then we went to my Aunt and Uncle's house to say hello. We all went to dinner for my sister's and nephew's birthdays.

We went to the snow and went tubing. The next day, they had a party and that was our trip to New Mexico.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

HELP AN ADULT LEARN TO READ
BECOME A
VOLUNTEER READING TUTOR!

Help others reach their goals!
Share your love of reading!
Make a difference!

Volunteer tutors work one-on-one, helping adults improve basic reading and writing skills.

Tutors receive free training and tutor two to three hours a week.

For Information Please Call (213) 228-7037
or visit www.lapl.org/literacy



If you are a
tutor or student and wish to write
something for the newsletter, please contact
your coordinator or email Ruth Gooley at
rgooley@lapl.org.





LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
Adult Literacy Center Locations



Central Library Singleton Adult Literacy Center
630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 228-7037 / FAX (213) 228-7138

Contacts: ; Jackie Browne, jbrowne@lapl.org; Jim Kennington, jkenning@lapl.org;
Beverly Pichardo, bpichard@lapl.org; George Snyder, gsnyder@lapl.org

Baldwin Hills Branch
2906 S. La Brea Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90016
(213) 623-4078 x14690
Contact: Carolyn Francis
cfrancis@lapl.org

Junipero Serra Branch
4607 S. Main St
Los Angeles, CA 90037
(213) 623-4078 x10790
Contact: Amy Hanrahan
ahanraha@lapl.org

Robertson Branch
1719 S. Robertson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035
(213) 623-4078 x14290
Contact: Penny Mickelbury
pmickelb@lapl.org

Benjamin Franklin Branch
2200 E. First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033
(213) 623-4078 x10190
Contact: Alicia Chavarin
achavari@lapl.org

Lincoln Heights Branch
2530 Workman St.
Los Angeles, CA 90031
(323) 226-1696
Contact: Amy Hanrahan
ahanraha@lapl.org

Robert Louis Stevenson Branch
803 Spence St.
Los Angeles, CA 90023
(213) 623-4078 x11990
Contact: Alicia Chavarin
achavari@lapl.org

Cahuenga Branch
4591 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(213) 623-4078 x12090
Contact: Carolyn Barelli
cbarelli@lapl.org

Mid-Valley Regional Branch
16244 Nordhoff St.
North Hills, CA 91343
(818) 895-3663
Contact: Mary Anne Arensdorf
marendo@lapl.org

Venice Branch
501 S. Venice Blvd.
Venice, CA 90291
(310) 821-1769
Contact: Penny Mickelbury
pmickelb@lapl.org

Echo Park Branch
1410 W Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 623-4078 x10890
Contact: Lisa Hsia
hsia@lapl.org

Pacoima Branch
13605 Van Nuys Blvd.
Pacoima, CA 91331
(213) 623-4078 x15390
Contact: Holly Schoch
hschoch@lapl.org

Washington Irving Branch
4117 W. Washington Bl.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
(213) 623-4078 x14190
Contact: Beverly Pichardo
bpichard@lapl.org

Exposition Park - Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch
3900 S. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90062
(213) 623-4078 x10690
Contact: June Brandon
jbrandon@lapl.org

Panorama City Branch
14345 Roscoe Blvd.
Panorama City, CA 91402
(213) 623-4078 x13990
Contact: Holly Schoch
hschoch@lapl.org

Watts - Alma Reaves Woods Branch
10205 Compton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90002
(323) 789-2850
Contact: Carolyn Francis
cfrancis@lapl.org

Jefferson Branch
2211 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
(213) 623-4078 x11790
Contact: David Baggott
dbaggott@lapl.org

Pio Pico – Koreatown Branch
694 S. Oxford Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 623-4078 x10390
Contact: Stacey Uykim pang
suykimpa@lapl.org

Wilmington Branch
1300 N. Avalon Blvd.
Wilmington, CA 90744
(213) 623-4078 x11090
Contact: Peggy Blow
pblow@lapl.org

Platt Branch
23600 Victory Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(213) 623-4078 x16590
Contact: Susan Casmier
scasmier@lapl.org