



Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services

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

LOOK AT US!

Winter 2010
Edited by Ruth Gooley

It's a Match Part I

In the blink of an eye, Haiti is gone *By learner Solange Bourjolly*

On a beautiful Tuesday afternoon everything was quiet in California. At about 4 p.m. the telephone rang. It was my son Fritz from Florida, telling me to watch the TV. A big earthquake, 7.8 magnitude just hit Haiti. He was screaming, "There is no Haiti, we don't have a country any more. My wife just called me to let me know she is okay. All the big edifices are down." I turn on the TV and saw all the people laying on the ground, some running in all directions, with all the debris and dust all over filling the air. I started to scream, and got hysterical.

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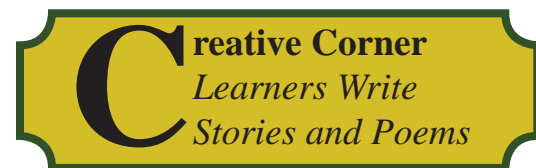
Arline's Story

By tutor Arline Zuckerman

Many, many, years ago, as a very new, young librarian at UCLA, I listened to an older librarian tell about her retirement plans. She was going to teach Laubach adult literacy through her church. I thought that sounded like a very good idea. Thirty-eight years later, as a new retiree, I heard a piece about the LAPL Adult Literacy Program on KCET, and promptly contacted them.

Through the past ten years I have worked with a number of students. They ranged from a product of the LAUSD with a learning

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Goly's Story by Goly Mehraban

Hello, my name is Goly Mehraban. I come from Tehran-Iran. I am 67 years old and in this age it can be very late to start learning a new language. When for the first time I went to Mrs. Mary Anne, in the mid-valley branch library, who is in charge of the literacy program, I thought she will

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Adult Literacy Services are generously supported by the Caroline Singleton Adult Literacy Endowment through the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, the Yahoo! Employee Foundation, a corporate advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the Union Bank Foundation, the I.N. and Susanna H. Van Nuys Foundation, Anonymous, and individual members of the Library Foundation.

In the blink of an eye continued from p. 1

The neighbors came to see what is wrong with me. I told them to watch TV, there is bad news from Haiti. By this time the phone started to ring. The rest of the family are calling me, my children and friends, about the destruction. I was devastated. Then the phone rang again, it was Haiti calling. My sister's number appeared on the screen. I said "Hello, hello", but there is no answer, then the phone died. Now, two weeks later, I have still not heard from her or the brother who lives in Jacmel. After three days I heard that my grandson in Port-au-Prince, and his other grandmother are okay. But they still sleep in the street, because they are still afraid of aftershocks. My home town of Jacmel was badly affected, but we did not know this for five days, because the roads were blocked. There is a lot of loss. I have lost two of my best friends, and the edifices are down there as well. The hospital, St. Michel, where I worked is gone. The patients are on the street. I am very affected, my circle of family and friends still constantly call each other for comfort and news.

Haiti is such a beautiful country, because it is down-to-earth. I love my country, now matter how it is. §



Arline's Story continued from p. 1

disability who began in Laubach One, to ESL students with university degrees from their home countries, working in Challenger One or Two.

When I met Solange Bourjouilly in late 2005, she was different than any of the others. We started working in Challenger Four, which was a real challenge for me. Not being a very creative teacher, I depend heavily on the Teacher's Manuals for guidance, and this was more advanced than I had ever been. Most importantly, Solange is the oldest student I have worked with: she is exactly one year and one week younger than I am. This gave us a rapport, a mutual outlook that was quite different from the others.

Since she doesn't have a car, I find it most efficient to pick her up and take her home from the library. She helps me look out for the other drivers on the road, who she invariably calls "children." For outside reading we bring our copies of the AARP newsletters and magazines to class. We both find the information useful.

Solange is the most earnest of all the students I have worked with. She still feels very deprived about not being able to attend school as a youngster. In spite of that, however, she trained with UNESCO as a midwife in Haiti, and has earned two certificates-- as a nurses aid and as a dental assistant while we have worked together. She made sure that her children graduated from college.

I have learned a great deal from her as well, not just in medical vocabulary, but an improvement in my college French. Solange has progressed in her understanding of complex ideas in English, both while reading and listening. She reports being able to follow conversations on PBS programs. We have become friends, my outlook on various topics has broadened, as has hers. §

It's a Match Part II

Steve's Story

By tutor *Stephen A Kanter, M.D.*

December 16, 2009 and it is hard to believe it is over!

After over four years my student, Misael, has just too much to do each day to even squeeze time at the Singleton Adult Literacy Center into his schedule any more.

Four years of hard work, day after day—up early to get to Friedman Adult School, then to Singleton Literacy Center two days a week, then to a paying job in a restaurant in mid-Wilshire, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., and the bus ride home, if the bus a.) stops, b.) won't stop because another bus broke down and it is full, or c.) just didn't stop because ...



Learner Misael Garcia (left) & tutor Steve Kanter

Then just a few hours sleep and it starts all over again.

But, what do we have to show for it? We breezed through the Challenger series and then read everything we could get our hands on, striving to build vocabulary and proper usage, writing essays, one after another. Misael graduated Friedman with his GED, the first member of his family to finish high school. Now he is at L. A. Trade Technical College, a community college, working toward his goal of becoming a licensed electrical contractor.

I guess “having too much to do” isn't always bad. §

Misael's Story

By learner *Misael Garcia*

Before I started this program my reading and comprehension weren't really good. I was taking high school classes at that time and I had many problems with my comprehension. I needed extra help from somebody, one to one, like having someone tutoring me. I went to the school office and I asked for some program like that, but the answer was negative. The person who was behind that desk didn't know where I could go to get help like that. So I decided to go to the DownTown L. A. library and ask for it; the library had good news for me and happiness came to my face. I had an interview with

the person behind the desk to put me in the program. I was eligible for that and I started to take the classes with my tutor. I really wanted to improve my English, not just pronunciation, but comprehension too. Comprehension was my weak point and still because everytime I read something I couldn't understand very well about what I was reading. This program and my tutor help me a lot with new words, strategies with my reading and writing, too. Dr. Steve, who is my tutor is a really responsible person and he is really straight with my classes. He used diverse kinds of materials like books, newspaper, manuals and the computer. All of this time it had been a sacrifice for me because I've

been taking my college classes at L. A. trade tech in the morning, Monday through Friday and also I've been working in the night shift on the same days. Now I feel more confident and sure about myself. I learned a new vocabulary and when I can use many words in my sentences. Also when I can raise my voice and when I can't in the lecture. This program has a lot of benefits for any person who is looking to improve their skills.

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Creative Corner Stories and Poems

Goly's Story continued from p. 1

asked me “why do I want to learn English in this age?” or she will tell me there is no need for you to learn a new language and so on...all I thought was that she will ask me something negative.

However, Mary welcomed me with a bright smiling face. Afterwards, she tested me with some reading and writing questions. Then, she filled out an application for the program and finally told me that I needed a special tutor to improve my reading and writing skills.

At that time, Mary Anne, told me that it might take a while to find a tutor close to Granada hills' branch library. Soon she called me and arranged a time to see my tutor, Julie Davis.

Julie Davis, who was her first experience to teach in the adult literacy program, in six months, taught me how to read and write more efficiently. Also, I have improved in my speech and communication with others.

Ms. Davis, in addition, helped me to learn and work with computers that were available in the library. I had never known anything about the computer world, but now I can email people and know how to work with computers.

I am so grateful to these two teachers who have inspired me to learn new things and also I appreciate all the tutors and volunteers who help people like me.

Thank you and God bless you... §



Learner Goly Mehraban (right) & tutor Julie Davis

The First Day of Preschool By So Young Oh

Followed Mommy
Into the Preschool
As a little chick



Two eyes of teacher with yellow hair
Crashing on me like white waves on ocean

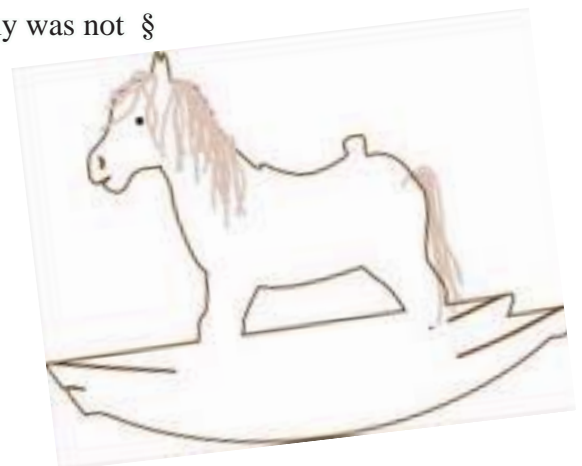
In the classroom spied from behind Mommy
There was no Jong Soo
There was no Yoo Mee.

Like rabbits on meadow covered with snow
Stunned kids like deer caught in light
Crying wang -- wang

Wanted to go home
Mommy was gone
Like toys left at home
She left me



On that day
I was there
Mommy was not §



Tutors Write Thank You's Too

By Diana Kot

I moved to L.A. in February of 2009 and one of the first things I did was visit the Central Branch and take a tour. During the tour the docent mentioned the Singleton Adult Literacy Center and the opportunities for volunteering there. Being a lover of books and looking for a volunteer opportunity, I decided to learn more about the program. I contacted the center, set up an interview and then attended the one-day training session in preparation for my tutoring duties. I was assigned a 25-year-old student who was learning English as a second language since he had moved to L.A. from Mongolia. He was studying for the TOEFL exam with a goal of being accepted into UCLA Extension's Film and Directing certification program. (He already had earned a Bachelor's Degree in TV & Film in Mongolia.) He needed a lot of assistance with comprehension and writing. My experience with my student has been challenging, gratifying and very worthwhile. We improved his writing skills - from writing 50 word essays to writing 300+ word essays (with some corrections needed) in preparation for his TOEFL exam. And, working from the Challenger books we were able to continue to work on his comprehension.

I would not have been an effective tutor without the staff and support of the Singleton Literacy Center. They have always been so helpful. I was contacted soon after I expressed interest in volunteering and had an interview. I attended and greatly appreciated the training session that was given...it prepared me more than I realized to be able to be an effective tutor for my student. The staff members that gave the training session were energetic, prepared and knowledgeable. Any time I had a question, I could always call or email the center and my questions were answered promptly and any materials I needed were always available.

Thank you, Singleton Family, for realizing what a difference literacy makes in people's lives. My student's confidence grew every time we met and it was amazing to see his progress. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to be a part of the program here (even though it ended prematurely for me) and I trust that even though economic times are tough and every one is having to make sacrifices that what ever can be done to keep the Literacy Center open and functioning as much as possible is pursued. You are giving the life-long gift of education and independence to individuals that have probably often felt they didn't have a chance in this world.

Every time I would wrap up my tutoring sessions with my student, he would always say, "Thank you and God bless you" to me as we parted. It was nice to hear, however, I often thought to myself, "thank you and God bless you" should be passed on to the Singleton Literacy Center because that's why I'm able to do what I do....

Thank you and God bless you.

Diana Kot §

*Tutor Diana Kot & learner
Sosorbaram (Soko) Enkhtaivan*





Tutor trainees



More tutor trainees

Tutor hint:

The Language Experience Approach (LEA):

You learned this in your tutor training but you may never have tried it. If not, please do so. Here is how it works:

1. You and your student choose a topic together. Talking about a subject that interests your learner reinforces her verbal skills.
2. Your student dictates while you write down her words.
3. Your student reads her own story.
4. As your student learns new vocabulary words, her reading skills grow.
5. Eventually, your student progresses from reading her own story to other materials.

Check out this free self-paced course on the LEA offered by Thinkfinity Literacy Network. It lasts about an hour and gives examples and descriptions of activities you can use with your learner:

<http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/TLN/courses>
Look for the class called the "Language Experience Approach."

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.

Tuesday & Thursday, April 6 & 8, 2010,
Will & Ariel Durant Branch, 1-4:30 pm.

Saturday, May 15, 2010, Exposition Park Branch,
10:30 am-5:30 pm.

Saturday, June 26, 2010, Mid-Valley Branch,
10:30 am-5:30 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-Wednesday: 3:30-5

Friday 2-3:30

Writing Class:

Monday & Tuesday 2-3:30

Wednesday & Thursday 5-6:30

NEW: ESL (all levels) & Citizenship through LAUSD's Distance Learning
Thursday 3:30-6:30

Mid-Valley Regional Branch:

English Conversation Class:

Wednesday 3:30-5

Thursday 12:30-2

Washington Irving Branch

English Conversation Class:

Tuesday 2-3 & Friday: 3-4

Writing Class: Tuesday 3:15-4:15

It's a Match Part III

Kathy's Story

By tutor Kathy Hall

It was a dark and stormy night.....No!
Once upon a time.....Nope!!
I have always.....No way!!!

For about a year, I had warily circled the Singleton Adult Literacy Center during my frequent visits to the Central Library, wondering if I could overcome the teacher burn-out I had incurred after fifteen years' service with the LAUSD. Finally, the desire to make a difference overcame high anxiety. With some trepidation, I stepped in and made an appointment for an interview with Ruth Gooley. At the end of that interview I was scheduled to attend an instructional workshop for potential tutors.

Soon after the workshop, I was scheduled to meet my tutee, Luis Montanez. During this introductory meeting, I observed that Luis was extremely bright, highly motivated and quite well-versed in the pop culture of Los Angeles. As our visit continued we exchanged a few arcane musical references (ozomatli, rammstein, bobmarli, manuchao) and discovered that despite differences in age and nationality, we were kindred spirits!

Although English is Luis' second language, he has the good fortune of being highly literate in his first language, Spanish. In teacherese, this means he has some transferable skills as far as learning to read English goes. At the end of our first book, Challenger 1, we started on some of the simplified literature available at the Center. Luis knocked my socks off when he returned from a short absence and read all of Rip van Winkle aloud, with expression!! (Reading English with the proper expression is often difficult for Spanish speakers because English has one more tone than Spanish.)

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Luis' Story

By learner Luis Montanez

One day I went to the Central Library to check out some books to learn English. As I walked down the hall I discovered the Literacy Center. I stopped and read the schedule of classes. I went in and asked what day the classes started. Beverly Pichardo gave me all the information and she told me they offered free tutoring at the library. She asked me if I was interested in taking the test to get a tutor. She told me that the test would show the level of English reading I had. After two months I received a phone call from the library telling me they had my tutor. They asked me when I could come in and meet her.

After I met Kathy I came twice a week for 1 ½ hours. I started to read, write, and understand more English. I started to feel more comfortable talking to people, too.

With Kathy I can talk about anything- music, art, politics, cultures, whatever. Sometimes we read The L.A. Weekly or different things like literature, science, geography or history. She is a marvelous person. I think she is a great human being for giving her time to help me read English. She's fun and patient, too.

Thank you, Kathy §!



Tutor Kathy Hall & learner Luis Montanez

Creative Corner Thank You Notes

Dear Carolyn,



Delia Campos

I want to thank you for patience with me. I have learned to speak and understand more English. I want to thank the Library Foundation for this program. I want to take this opportunity for learning to read and write English. I meet every week with my tutor, Ms. Francis. I think this program is very good. I am learning according to my capacity. The Reading Upgrade program helped me to read and understand how to write and to read sentences in English.

Four years ago, I was crying, I didn't understand English. Many thanks to the library for this opportunity. I want to learn English for my son and for myself. I want to find a better job.

Delia Campos §

Reading, Writing and Tutoring

My name is Michael. I am learning to read and write. My teacher's name is John Butler. He has taught me to read for 4 years. I can now go to the library and check out a book. Now I can vote. I never voted before. My wife can see the improvement in my reading. I am also going to read the sports page myself. And also, I can write a letter with a little help. John, my teacher, has spent a lot of time with me. I can now read signs on the street every day. I thank God for the tutoring I receive. Thank you John for helping me.

Michael Singleton §



*Learner Michael Singleton (left)
and tutor John Butler*

Kathy's Story continued from p. 7

As we continued through Challenger 2, I enriched the short content area passages with pertinent popular DVD's and outside reading from Center and other materials in order to take Luis further into the content. This was to assist him in working toward his goal of passing the GED. We also began introductory test taking skills at this time.

We are currently working in Challenger 3. Our efforts here are intensely focused on vocabulary, idioms, and context clues. We begin each session with a short, timed quickwrite to help Luis get more comfortable with writing English. We also do some reading from The L.A. Weekly and other realia.

Every session with Luis is a joyful discovery for me. He has a wry sense of humor which brings out the more creative side of my explanatory process. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to observe Luis' progress as he makes the transition from the popular spoken word to academic literacy in his second language. Helping him to do so is truly a privilege. Teaching has become FUN again! Thanks, Luis!!! §

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates of the Tutor Training Workshop

November 2009
at the Ben Franklin
Branch Library

Jessie Alba
Leilani Allmon
George Ambartsumyan
Jonathan Ceja
Ryan De Rosa
Karen Du Bose
Laura Finkelstein
Shampa Gangopadhyay
Larry Gordon
Kevin Haddad
Lisa Ingalls
Rebecca Juarez
Hanif Madyun
Elizabeth Marchelewski
Karina Moore
Lisa O'Brien
Tom Perez
Cheryl Pittmon
Mileydi Ramirez
Bernadette Scully
Beverly Tiffany
Shirley Weaver

January 2010
at the Platt Branch Library

Darryl Adams
Asal Askariuum
Brooke Barnett
Valarie Barsky
Robert Blackman
Judy Bollier-Carroll
Dian Brissett-Sipes
Raquel Burayu
Juan Camacho
Marti Caruso
Dolores De Guzman
Lisa De Niscia
Lia Evans
Robert Fately
Margaret Fernandez
Sherifa Fuller
Meenadchi Gunanayagam
Barbara Harding
Carol Harris
Janis Hinman
Hillary Hintzen
Annmarie Hunter
Jennifer Jennings
continued next column

*January 2010 at Platt
continued*

Jennifer Kim
Jim Kohn
Stephanie Kowalick
Jacqueline Kulas
Preston Long
Kendra Lugo
Katherine Milgaard
Tracy Mills
Valerie Myers
Bijili Nagarajan
Karen O'Connor
Laurraine Pollard
Jean Salmon
Edward Scott
Lisa Shaw
Victor Shih
Marissa Strickland
Alison Taylor
Liz Toton
Evelyn Ulise
Ruth Wallach
Adam Weissman
Susan Wheeler
Anna Wisner
Lisa Zarowin



Tutor trainees at Platt

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

A Big Welcome to Three New Coordinators



*From left to right:
Laurraine Pollard at Panorama City
& Pacoima
Lisa De Niscia at Wilmington
Nancy Bird at Pico Union*

Progress Report From the Robertson & Venice Adult Literacy Centers

by Penny Mickelbury

Students Ke Wei and Xuqi Chen both recently passed the U.S. Citizenship exam, and Ke also passed part two of the U.S. Medical License Exam, which is an oral exam that now enables him to enter the Residency Program at a U.S. hospital. Both Xuqi and We are natives of China--and both are very proud to be new Americans. Both are tutored by John Doggett at the Venice Branch, who's also very proud of them. Also at Venice, Margarita Hernandez is a new American citizen, having recently passed the Citizenship Exam. Her tutor is Gail Browning. And Venice tutor Lynn Harris reports that her student, Herlinda Ramram, is ready to take the GED! "We've been writing, writing, writing and focusing on verbs and tenses," Lynn says.

At Robertson, student Isabel Rodriguez achieved her goal of getting a better job! "It's because I can read and write so much better," she says, with thanks to her tutor, Luca Struble, who is marking his own achievement: He is completing his dissertation and soon will be known to all as DR. Struble. Also at Robertson, tutor Marshall Kramer reports that his student, Dorota Cymerska, now is ready to take the GRE, allowing her to attend graduate school.

Our congratulations go out to the students for their hard work and their wonderful accomplishments--and to their tutors, whose dedication and commitment to the cause of Adult Literacy help make our program one of the best! §

Misael's Story *continued from p. 3*

Let me tell you some examples of this in the wonderful experience I had. There is a computer program called "New words" and there are diverse characters in cartoons. In that program I found many strategies to read and write; but not just that, I also found interesting stories too. Some of them true, but some of them weren't. The pictures or cartoons helped me a lot to comprehend what the story was about. As I was reading them, I had to answer some questions. My tutor was helping me with them and also he was explaining them to me in the easiest way. I really enjoyed it. Another example that my tutor used was books with stories in them. As I was reading these books, I was finding new vocabulary and my tutor told me to use it in sentences to try to figure out the meaning. It was difficult most of the time because the words had many meanings, but it was good. It was like climbing up a tree, the further I went up the tree, the more I could see more clearly. In these stories my tutor used excellent points to analyze my thoughts. In every session we had he kept asking me about what I read the last session in the story to remember and tell him about it. That was hard, but helped me a lot in my comprehension.

I really recommend this program to a person who wants to succeed in improving their English skills. If this helped me, it could help every person who is in it. I really want to say thank you to Dr. Steve, my tutor, for helping me a lot to improve personally and be more responsible with myself. Thank you for his time and I really want to be honest. No money could pay for his time and his responsibility with this class. An excellent tutor, but more than that he is a great person. Thanks to Beverly, the person who was behind that desk, for giving me excellent information about this program and also because she helped me with the computer programs. And thank you to the person/s who make this program possible for the people like me. Thanks to every one. §

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**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: Jim Kennington, jkenning@lapl.org;
Beverly Pichardo, bpichard@lapl.org; Nancy Bird, nbird@lapl.org

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

Lincoln Heights Branch
2530 Workman St.
Los Angeles, CA 90031
(323) 226-1696
Contact: Carolyn Barelli
cbarelli@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

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

Pacoima Branch
13605 Van Nuys Blvd.
Pacoima, CA 91331
(213) 623-4078 x15390
Contact: Laurraine Pollard
lpollard@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: Peggy Blow
pblow@lapl.org

Panorama City Branch
14345 Roscoe Blvd.
Panorama City, CA 91402
(213) 623-4078 x13990
Contact: Laurraine Pollard
lpollard@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

Pico Union Branch
1030 S. Alvarado St
Los Angeles, CA 90006
(213) 623-4078 x17090
Contact: Kathy Hall
khall@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: June Brandon
jbrandon@lapl.org

Pio Pico – Koreatown Branch
694 S. Oxford Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 623-4078 x10390
Contact: Peggy Blow
pblow@lapl.org

Wilmington Branch
1300 N. Avalon Blvd.
Wilmington, CA 90744
(213) 623-4078 x11090
Contact: Lisa De Niscia
ldenisci@lapl.org

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

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