



# Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services

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

## LOOK AT US!

Spring 2010  
Edited by Ruth Gooley

### It's a Match

#### Laurie's Story

*by tutor Laurie Sheppard Pannone*

How do you balance work and volunteering? When the economy took a turn, I found I had a few less clients and a little more flexible time. Rather than ramp up and work harder to get new clients, I decided to fill that time with volunteering. (I've always volunteered on short-term projects, but with a full time coaching business, I hadn't had the time to commit to anything more than that.)

I isolated my primary interests. One is to be involved in music and connect with other women, so I started a working women's singing group in L.A. for mid-life women. The

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*Learner James Jordan and tutor  
Laurie Sheppard Pannone*

#### James' Story

*by learner James Jordan*

Before I started studying English I had applied for jobs and it was a little shaky, because there were some things they expected from me, like reading the chemical labels for cleaning supplies, which I couldn't do. I had trouble writing my name.

After 7 months of tutoring, I was able to leave my graveyard shift maintenance job and apply and get a full time food service prep and delivery job at a large company. It gives me a good salary during the school year.

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#### Creative Corner *Learners Write Stories and Poems*

#### Christmas by Jorge Solis

We celebrate merry Christmas because it is the birth of Jesus Christ. It's a custom for Catholic people to celebrate Christmas Eve every year. The Spanish conquerors brought it to America. With them came missionaries, who Christianized the Indians from Mexico. When I was a boy, I

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**Laurie's Story *continued from p. 1***

other thing I wanted to do was become an adult literacy tutor. Both of those are so fulfilling, and with my family and exercise time offer me “balance.”

Balance is definitely a function of the choices we make and our effectiveness in organizing our time. If you recognize everything you do is your choice rather than feeling put upon by your circumstances, then you have more freedom in how you view your life and where you want to spend your time.

A friend and I were talking recently about what we base some of our decisions on. Sometimes we forget we don't have to be and do all the things we see other “experts” in our same field doing. Two important questions we asked ourselves were, “Are you dancing to the beat of someone else's drum?” And, “What is my concept of success?” I share these because you too may be putting off things you'd really enjoy doing for things you think you should do. I've added these questions on post-its stuck to my computer, to remind me each day.

Sometimes life is chaotic and uncertain and I've been known to try to fit in more than my schedule (and peace of mind) can handle. But I'm getting much better at realistically assessing what I already have on my plate and not overloading it, as well as making trade-offs to do those things I prefer. For example, volunteering is a way I can give back to my community. Of course, everyone has to make a well-reasoned choice between serving their needs with paid work and engaging in non-paid activities, but volunteering always gives back dividends too rich to ignore.

To do this as an entrepreneur, I let go of some projects, delegated certain business responsibilities, and am not driving my marketing as much. I now spend quality time on work activities, as well as the calmer pursuits of singing and volunteering as a tutor for fun and learning. Yes, I'm happy to say my students teach me, too.

It's gratifying to experience how letting-go still yields results without working at it so hard and lends itself to life balance, which I know I'm not alone in practicing daily.

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Laurie Sheppard Pannone has been a tutor since January 2009 and worked with four students during this time. One of her current students was unable to read or write when he started. He now has a full-time job and is able to read simple stories to his two sons. Laurie welcomes comments on this article at: [info@creatingatwill.com](mailto:info@creatingatwill.com). §

**James' Story *continued from p. 1***

I just applied for a summer, part-time job for the school district and I feel I did pretty good on the job application, so I'm sure I'll be called for an interview. I was even okay to tell them I needed the extra time for their testing because of my dyslexia.

Now I can take turns reading with my two sons and even put expression in how I say the story. I'm still getting cursive writing down and spelling, but I can print great.

Coming here, meeting Laurie, and studying has been the best opportunity for my reading and writing skills. §

**Crime DOES Pay!**  
*by Penny Mickelbury*



*from left to right:  
Coordinator Peggy Blow, author Lee Childs  
& coordinator and author Penny Mickelbury  
Photo credit: Madeira James*

The Adult Literacy Program is proof that crime DOES pay! On the evening of March 13, 2010, in a banquet room of the Omini Hotel in downtown L.A., an outfit called Left Coast Crime held a benefit auction for the Library Foundation of Los Angeles and the Adult Literacy Program, raising approximately \$7,000. A very reputable sum for a group calling itself Left Coast Crime!

Left Coast Crime is an organization of mystery writers and their fans from all corners of the Left...ah, West...Coast, and they gather in a different city every year to talk about and celebrate their favorite mysteries, thrillers, crime novels, and the folks who write, sell and read them. One of the Guests of Honor at this year's event was the award-winning author of the 14 Jack Reacher novels, Lee Child. He also was the biggest donor to the Adult Literacy Program with his very generous bid of \$2,000 for a set of Mickey Spillane novels.

The theme of the 2010 Left Coast Crime gathering was "Booked in L.A." but it's no mystery who the good guys are in this scenario. §



## Creative Corner Stories

*Christmas continued from p. 1*

didn't believe very much about god because my grandfather told me always you have to obey god and the government, but at that time I saw too much injustice in my homeland. I saw people use the name of Jesus to oppress the weak, make them slaves and keep them in poverty.

Jesus wanted to change humankind but his own people didn't believe in him and they still don't. I see many people who say they are Christian, but I don't think so. Jesus came to teach us how to be humble, not arrogant and selfish, and how to be real. In this world I see too much materialism. Belongings seem more important than people. §



*Learner Jorge Solis*



*Learner Anna Avila*

### **Independence Day** by Anna Avila

Independence Day in my country, Colombia, is celebrated on July 20. It is a special holiday because on that day in 1866 my country got its freedom from Spain.

In my opinion, Independence Day is the most important day in Colombia for many reasons. First, we were led by the both the Spanish language and culture. We took its customs like the Catholic religion and the Spanish language. Though it wasn't bad, we needed to have our own culture.

Additionally, Spain exploited our people for many years. Our people worked for a long time and were badly treated.

Besides, the Spanish king stole our resources. For example, they took our gold and they sold it in Europe.

Absolutely, today we appreciate Simon Bolivar, who fought on this day for our independence so that we can lead ourselves. We have many religions, everybody can think and believe in good, and nobody can forbid it. This is a great day because it symbolizes that we have our own ideas, culture, thinking and governance. §



# SHEILA RETIRES!

After 24 years on the job, Sheila Weisberg, Library Assistant II and supervisor of the Adult Literacy Coordinators at 20 branches and Central Library, decided to retire. She will be greatly missed.

## AT THE PARTY



*Sheila, right, receives congratulations from Betsey Hoage, left, while Peggy Blow, middle, looks on approvingly.*



**Literacy coordinators Alicia Chavarin (left) and June Brandon.**



**Literacy coordinators Susan Casmier (front), back row left to right: Carolyn Barelli, Amy Hanrahan and Carolyn Francis.**

## Hints from Susan by Susan Casmier

This is from LDonline.org. It's about children, but surely, there are applications for adults. To read more, go to their web site.

### 3 Great Reading Anxiety Reducers

What's something you are not good at? Basketball? Singing? Giving directions? How often do you do this? Adults tend to avoid tasks that are difficult for them.

Similarly, struggling readers are reluctant to hit the books because they fear failure. Here are some ways to help kids with reading disabilities overcome their anxiety and start to enjoy reading:

#### Captioned Media: Literacy Support for Diverse Learners

Subtitled movies and TV shows, though intended for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, can motivate and engage all readers. The next time you're watching, put the captions on to build decoding skills, word recognition, and comprehension.

#### Reading Software: Finding the Right Program

Reading software allows students to work independently yet also receive on-the-spot support. These applications have the ability to read text aloud while highlighting individual words or entire sentences.

#### Helping Children with Learning Disabilities Understand What They Read

Reading isn't much fun if you don't understand the words. Strategies such as chunking, multisensory activities, and visual organization can boost comprehension and make reading more pleasurable. §

## 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, June 26, 2010,  
Mid-Valley Regional Branch, 10:30 am-5:30 pm.

Saturday, August 7, 2010,  
Cahuenga Branch, 10:30 am-5:30 pm.

Saturday, September 25, 2010,  
Robertson 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: Monday 3:30-6 Thursday 3:30-7:00

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



## Creative Corner Poems & Essays

### Pomegranate

by learner Susie Pae

When I go to the market, I'm looking for a pomegranate.  
It reminds me of one of my friend.  
While I had flu, he gave me that fruit.  
He dug out all the seeds and packed them in a bowl.  
It takes about 30 mines to prepare one pomegranate.  
He said that the fruit is good for women.



This is a fruit with covering many seeds.  
The dark reddish skin is rough.  
I taste sweet juice on my tongue.  
I enjoy separating the seeds and the juice.  
It's sweet and a little bit sour.

The shape of the fruit looks like woman's hips.  
There are many cells in its round shape.  
While I suck each cell, it feels like eggs.  
But I can't make any more eggs.  
He told me "We don't need any protection."  
What should I do?

When women are getting older, they love this fruit.  
It helps them stay young.  
I cannot find the fruit nowadays.  
Next time it's in season, I will buy a lot and make the juice carefully.  
If it makes stain, it does not come out easily.

I love that color of wine.  
Whenever I wear burgundy colored dresses, I always have a happy mind and a smile.  
Suddenly I want to taste one right now. §



Learner Susie Pae

### Learning To Read

by Keith Tally Fulton

I was not able to go to school like other kids my age, but I always wanted to learn to read and write, so when I got grown I joined the Adult Literacy Program. First I learn the alphabet, days, months and numbers. I went to library computer classes. I got an email account, then learned how to reserve study time on-line, do job searches and place beginner books on hold. Also, I learned to type a little at the same time.

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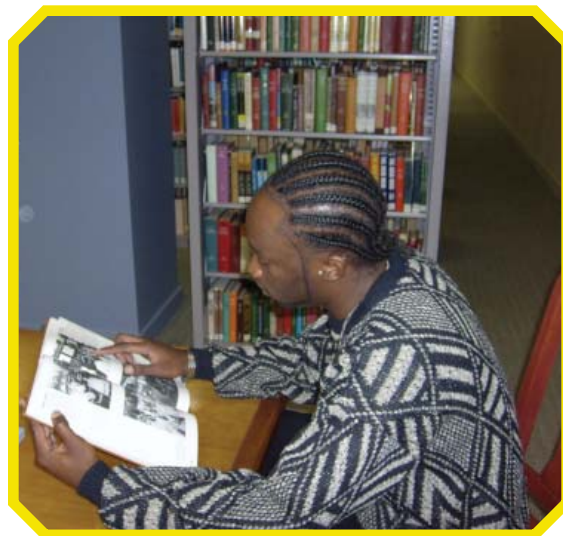
## Creative Corner Essays

*Learning to Read continued from p. 7*

I became friendly with ALP and library staff. I began checking books out for beginner readers and learned to spell and write small words. After that I was able to read and write some small words on a job application. I started reading at a higher level, filling out some parts of the job application and learning how to write a sentence. I started to learn about vowels and consonants and how to break words down into syllables. Next I began writing sentences and paragraphs about things that I read in the books.

My reading writing and typing got better. I went on-line and retyped a résumé of mine and learned how to drag and store it and other information onto a flash drive. The ALP encouraged me into finding my self esteem and confidence. I started applying for a job preparation class, model and hair cutting positions. I got the hair cutting position, completed the prep class and I have been called in for the Modeling position. I registered and am now attending Adult School.

I would like to thank my tutor Kathy for her time and patience. I thank her for the motivating skills that she instilled in me, to learn to read and write. I thank the Adult Literacy Program. I think it is an outstanding program, because it gives people the strength to strive for excellence, and I thank God for the opportunity. §



***Keith Tally Fulton***

### Cleo's Shadowbox



This is a shadowbox I created for my tutoring student. It's to celebrate her achievement in submitting all her language arts requirements for her GED. It took us some time, but here's what I spent a bit of time creating for her. I'm really proud of it!  
***by tutor Cam Frierson for her student Cleo Thompson. §***

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Graduates of the Tutor Training Workshop

**April 2010 at Durant**

**February 2010 at Venice**

Sara Alongi  
Gregory Alvarado  
Scott Bowser  
Andrea Bromberg  
Carol Butler  
Tess Carstens  
Rose Chhun  
Cathy Cohen  
Jessica Cohn  
Carolyn Davis  
Karen Espanol  
Delphine Frost  
Mashal Givvens  
Katie Glick  
Chance Goldberg  
Linda Grillo  
Mats Grunlund  
Dominic Guerena  
Erin Hernandez  
John Hogan  
Aquilla Houston  
Marlene Klansek  
Vivian Koo  
Jenny Le  
Joel Levinson  
Barbara Marino

Rod Marlow  
Loraine Mason  
Alan Matuny  
Shannon McCallum  
Andi McCarrel  
Joe Medina  
Joan Mezori  
Nina Moss  
Frank Navarro  
Kathleen Newell  
Rosa Ramirez  
Linda Rollins  
Leah Rothman  
Joshua Sevilla  
Roderick Smith  
Andrea Sobel  
Kate Stiefvater  
Martha Stevens  
Jennifer Theune  
Walter Toma  
Janeeta Verdi  
Cheron Wells  
Merelean Wilson  
Susie Zigmond  
Yim Fan Yan

Aullybux, Amina  
Auslander, Sachi  
Cabrera, Ana  
Casillas, Sandra  
Chaisson-Cox, Oki  
Arum, Melodie  
Garcia, Frankie  
Kass, Laura  
Klein, Leslie  
Lee, Anastasia  
Lemus, Stephanie  
Linsky, Linda  
Lytle-Asfaw, Saundra  
McGill, Cherie  
Millbauer, Dale  
Mongan, Cymry  
Onstad, Karena  
Pitt, Sandra  
Rodriguez, Karina  
Schenk, Yvonne  
Schneir, Nanette  
Soria, Vanessa  
Swinhart, Gary  
Tortoro, Michael  
Thomas, Shakima  
Wade, William  
Webber, Sophia  
Wegener, Amy  
Wulfemeyer, Julie  
Yamamoto, Yumi

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

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## Creative Corner Stories

### **Seung's Story: Going to Work at Hyundai** *by learner Seung Joo Kim*

In Korea, military service is mandatory for men, and they usually choose to do their service during college. Seung did his service near the beginning of college, and when he came back, he had to decide what he was going to focus on at school. He could either focus more on his major, which was Chinese Studies, or he could decide to focus more on business, so that he could work for a large company when he graduated.

An opportunity arose for Seung to go to China. This was a rare opportunity at the time, because Korea did not have a political relationship with China and students did not get many chances to go there. Seung went to China for two months by himself and traveled all around the country and was very happy. He studied English and Chinese languages and he learned a lot about the Chinese culture while he was there. In China, he met some businessmen from Korea who worked for some large companies that were leaders of industry in Korea, such as Samsung and Hyundai.

When Seung returned to school he thought of his time in China and the businessmen he had met and he decided it would be exciting to work at a large company like they did. He took more business classes in school.

During his junior year, a friend went to Chicago to study and invited Seung to come to the U.S.A. for his vacation. For most Korean students, the senior year of college is the hardest, because everyone is studying for their final exam. Students study more in their senior year than they did in their first years, so it was risky to take a vacation during that time. Seung wanted to experience American culture, though, so he went to visit his friend in Chicago. He was glad he went, because this turned out to be a great memory.

While Seung was in Chicago, he began to look for the type of company he would work for. He decided he wanted to work at a large company so that he could get international business experience. His friend suggested that he go to the Chicago Motor Show, so he went. At the large gate that was the entrance to the show, signs said “Welcome” in all different languages, including Korean. It made him proud to see the Korean cars at the show. While he was looking at these cars, he decided he wanted to work for an auto company.

Back in Korea, Seung got an interview at Hyundai. The interviewer was happy and impressed to hear Seung's story of the Motor Show and his pride in Korean automobiles. Seung was given a job at Hyundai, and his dream of working in international business and working with export cars came true. At Hyundai, they exported vehicles to 120 countries. He worked with 5-10 of these countries, including China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao.

In Korea, workers get promoted every five years, so long as they meet their requirements. After five years, Seung moved to a different project, where he provided vehicles to the UN Peacekeeping Operations. Hyundai provided them many vehicles, from small cars to large trucks.

For his next project, Seung was assigned to work with French Polynesia, which was very nice—his co-workers would joke about him going on vacation when he was getting ready to go there on a business trip. He thought it was very nice in French Polynesia and he liked the seafood there. Seung liked his job at Hyundai a lot because he was able to see the results of his work everywhere he went when he saw Hyundai vehicles in all the different places he would go. §

## Creative Corner More Stories

### **My Favorite Vacation** *by learner Dora*

Three years ago I went with my sister to New York for the first time. I saw the Metropolitan Museum, where I saw a lot of sculptures and paintings. We took the subway; I heard a lot of sounds of the trains and cars. We walked up 5th Avenue and through Central Park, but it was too cold. We ate in the Central Market and tasted different kinds of food. We enjoyed visiting different hotels. At night, my cousin and I took a ride to New Jersey and ate pizza. §

### **My Favorite Vacation** *by learner Benjamin Sanchez*

We went to Griffith Park in Los Angeles. I played soccer with my friends for an hour. After the soccer game we ate a barbeque. Today it is no longer permitted to have a barbeque because of fire danger, but then it was okay. I helped to make the barbeque. Then, we went to the observatory, which was wonderful. I watched the planets with a telescope. My friend Mario de Leon showed me the planets, because he likes astronomy. That day I went to Griffith Park, I was very happy. §

### **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

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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](http://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](mailto: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:** Beverly Pichardo, [bpichard@lapl.org](mailto:bpichard@lapl.org); Nancy Bird, [nbird@lapl.org](mailto: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](mailto:cfrancis@lapl.org)

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

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

**Echo Park Branch**  
1410 W Temple St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
(213) 623-4078 x10890  
**Contact:** Peggy Blow  
[pblow@lapl.org](mailto:pblow@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](mailto:jbrandon@lapl.org)

**Jefferson Branch**  
2211 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
(213) 623-4078 x11790  
**Contact:** June Brandon  
[jbrandon@lapl.org](mailto:jbrandon@lapl.org)

**Junipero Serra Branch**  
4607 S. Main St  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
(213) 623-4078 x10790  
**Contact:** June Brandon  
[jbrandon@lapl.org](mailto:jbrandon@lapl.org)

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

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

**Pacoima Branch**  
13605 Van Nuys Blvd.  
Pacoima, CA 91331  
(213) 623-4078 x15390  
**Contact:** Laurraine Pollard  
[lpollard@lapl.org](mailto:lpollard@lapl.org)

**Panorama City Branch**  
14345 Roscoe Blvd.  
Panorama City, CA 91402  
(213) 623-4078 x13990  
**Contact:** Laurraine Pollard  
[lpollard@lapl.org](mailto:lpollard@lapl.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

