



Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services

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

LOOK AT US!

It's a Match Part I

Fall 2010

Edited by Ruth Gooley

Barbara's Story

by tutor Barbara Namerow

I arrived at the Westwood library early because I was not sure of its location and parking. I stood in the lobby among a crowd of people for some minutes when all of a sudden Shaopei Wang appeared. Our eyes met and I knew instantly that this was my student, and we would embark on an enlightenment journey together.

At the time, I had been a board member of the Library Council, whose mission it was to raise money for the Adult Literacy

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*Tutor Barbara Namerow (left)
and learner Shaopei Wang*

Shaopei's Story

by learner Shaopei Wang

My name is Shaopei Wang. Several years ago, my friend suggested I go to the Los Angeles Library for English tutoring. After an interview, I was matched with Mrs. Barbara Namerow. I did not know my life would be changed by her enlightenment.

Mrs. Namerow was a very successful lawyer and had an outstanding literary education. She set up a unique teaching plan for my English study in grammar, reading and writing.

Besides finishing the challenge book one to

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Creative Corner
*Learners Write Stories
and Essays*

Las Bahias de Quatulco

By Ana Luiz Ruvalcaba

I went on vacation to a place called Quatulco in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. I was visiting a friend I met here in Los Angeles, CA. She returned back to her home where her

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Barbara's Story *continued from p. 1*

program. I was curious as to how the money was spent, and so decided to become a tutor. My background was in Law and English Literature, and I was not quite sure how this would translate into grammar and reading comprehension, but I was willing to try.

The initial classes offered by the Library to incoming tutors gave me direction, and the Teacher's Manuals made preparing the lessons uncomplicated.

Shaopei has been an extraordinary student. Eager to learn and with degrees from China, she had a sense of the necessary time and concentration it would take to improve her English skills. She has responded with excellence to the core curriculum as well as the additional reading I formulated for her. Her beautiful essays display a unique visualization of the world around her that shows her to be a gifted writer.

Shaopei has taught me as much as I have taught her. I have learned about modern day China, what it is like to be a stranger in a new land, and the force, determination and strength of a truly remarkable woman. §

Shaopei's Story *continued from p. 1*

four, I have read a broad variety of books that Mrs. Namerow brought. They include <Infidel>, <Kite Runner>, <Amy Tan>, Amy Bloom's <Away>, <Shanghai girls> and <Lovely bones>. Those books were very interesting. They enriched my vocabulary and established my instinctive feel for English. After I finished reading the books, I was assigned to write their book reports. Mrs. Namerow always corrects the reports in detail from a comma to the comprehension of the stories. My grammar and writing skills have been improved significantly. Before I could not write a completed sentence, but now I am able to draft an academic essay.

The changes are not only in English progression, but also in real life. We discuss American culture, children's education, political systems and legislation. This knowledge and experience guides me to more deeply understand America, therefore, my confidence and career goals have been increased. A whole new world has opened up for me, and I have come to love this amazing country.

I appreciate Mrs. Namerow's consistent teaching, which has become an important part of my life. I also appreciate the Los Angeles public library adult literacy services. It provides an opportunity for non-English learners to have a better life in America. §

It's a Match Part II

Julie's Story *by tutor Julie Wulfemeyer*

I fell in love with teaching as a T.A. at UCLA. While on fellowship last year, I found I missed having students even more than I expected. So when I learned of the Adult Literacy Program, it seemed like the perfect way to return to teaching while perhaps giving back a little in exchange for the incredible luck I've had thus far in life.

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Carlos' Story *by learner Carlos Ruiz*

My name is Carlos. For many years I could not read and write, but now I am learning to read and write. I started this program without knowing simple names every word every letter did not mean any thing to me. They had no meaning whatsoever. I did go to school, but I never learned

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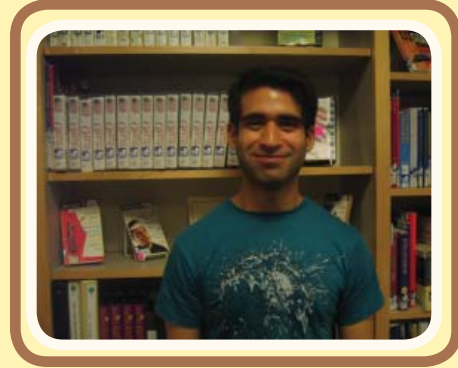
Interns at the Central Library

Kendall O'Connor

For eight weeks in the summer of 2010, I had the opportunity to teach writing and conversation classes on a weekly basis at the Singleton Center. Although I have teaching experience, I had never explored the realm of Adult Literacy before my position at the Central Library--and am so glad I had the chance to do so! Working with adults at the Singleton Center meant working with groups of dedicated, motivated individuals that were a pleasure to instruct. I expanded my horizons as both a teacher and a Los Angeles native through my encounters with learners of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. I honed my ability to think on my feet, and was granted the capacity to be creative and autonomous with my lesson plans. Thanks to the Singleton Center, I not only gained confidence in my potential as a professional teacher, but also met students whose perseverance and enthusiasm never failed to inspire me. While I returned to my university in Philadelphia in September, I will always look back on my time at the Singleton Center fondly, and will look forward to engaging with more students in the future. §



*Kendall O'Connor
in the classroom*



Oliver Romero

Oliver Romero

My name is Oliver Romero and I am currently a Dartmouth undergrad. I was an assistant volunteer at the Singleton Center in the Downtown Los Angeles Branch. The past two months while volunteering at Singleton have not only opened my eyes to the importance of adult literacy programs and the many others of similar function, but also to the necessity of their continual promotion and funding. These programs do a great service in our communities; not only do they open the doors of opportunity to people who are learning what it means to be an American but also help them to understand the importance of empowerment. Once these individuals gain the capacity to implement their newly-acquired ability, they themselves experience the introductory steps into a world of opportunity and of boundless education. Many of the people I spoke with were determined to better their opportunities of employment via the learning and usage of English. Their motivation and ambition became very

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Julie's Story continued from p. 2

After my tutor training, I received a call from Penny Mickelbury informing me that she had a student for me. I was so thrilled. When I spoke to Carlos on the phone later that day, I could immediately tell what a sweetheart he was; he was already thanking me, and I hadn't even done anything yet.

Carlos has proven to be an exceptional student. I can't think of anyone more highly motivated or more dedicated to learning (and this is coming from someone who's spent the last decade in college). The energy and excitement Carlos brought to our first meeting is still there, week after week, and his progress has been both rapid and consistent. Seeing him do so well makes me look forward to our sessions at the library (although I have to admit I also look forward to his hilarious stories about growing up in Venice). On top of being a fantastic storyteller, Carlos is a remarkable person, and I'm proud just to know him §.



*Tutor Julie Wulfemeyer
& learner Carlos Ruiz*

Carlos's Story continued from p. 2

how to read, write, or spell. I was scared to be handed any kind of paper work, but I decided to get help. I met some wonderful people. I made a call, and I spoke to Mrs. Penny Mickelbury. It was very emotional.

She asked me what are your goals. To learn, read, write and spell. You came to the right people, we going to help you. She said it with a wonderful voice. "You will learn how to read, write and spell." Days later I met the most wonderful person who has been helping me very much. She takes time from her busy life to help me. Her name is Julie Wulfemeyer. I can't thank her enough. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to read my first book ever. It is not my last. Thank you for all the support you give every body who needs help. And to all the special tutors.§

Question: Yankee or Dixie?

- Do you call it a "sub" or a "hoagie"?
- Do you say "icing" or "frosting"?
- Do you wear "tennis shoes" or "sneakers"?

Answer:

- Find out who says what by taking The Yankee or Dixie quiz at <http://alphadictionary.com/articles/yankeetest.html>
- "How do we expect people to learn English if we Americans can't agree on what things are called?" laments literacy coordinator Susan Casmier.



HINTS BY SUSAN

Time Management

by Susan Casmier

At work and/or at school, adults are expected to follow routines and complete assignments within certain time frames. They must follow these same guidelines when continuing the learning process at home, managing their time and effort to complete homework assignments and projects on time.

Time management is critical to many expectations, including initiating assignments, taking the appropriate amount of time to complete tasks, meeting deadlines, and maintaining a busy schedule. Time management requires attention to planning and follow through as well as a sense of how long an assignment will take.

Here are some possible signs that a learner is struggling with time management:

- Either rushes through work, not taking the time necessary for a thorough job, or takes an excessive amount of time to complete a task/assignment
- Has difficulty meeting deadlines and/or following an established schedule
- Is often late, frequently not realizing when he or she is running behind
- Has trouble with long-term assignments



Here are some strategies to help learners struggling with time management:

- To help learners get started on an assignment, encourage them to start a homework session or study period by planning what will be accomplished during the session. If necessary, help learners develop objectives that are clear, specific, and measurable (e.g., how long they will work, how long the report will be, how many problems they will do, etc.).
- To help learners understand the appropriate amount of time to allot to tasks, require them to plan for a designated number of minutes, work for a designated number of minutes, review for a designated number of minutes, etc.
- Have learners practice estimating and managing their time. For example, have learners keep track of activities in a log, first recording the estimated time they think the activity will take, and then documenting the actual time it took to complete the activity.
- Have learners keep track of homework time in a notebook.
- Learners who discover they do not plan enough time to complete homework may find additional periods of time they could use (television time, for example) §.

COMING
SOON:
TUTOR TRAINING
ONLINE!

Details will be
announced
shortly.

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 11, 2010,
Benjamin Franklin Branch, 10:30 am-3:30 pm

Saturday, January 15, 2011
West Valley Branch, 10:30 am -3:30 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 PM
Friday & Saturday 2-3:30 PM
Writing Class: Tuesday & Thursday 5-6:30 PM
Wednesday 2-3:30 PM
Friday: 12:30-2 PM

ESL & Citizenship through LAUSD's Distance Learning:

Tuesday 3:30-6 & Thursday 3:30-7:00 PM

Mid-Valley Regional Branch:

English Conversation Class: Wednesday 3:30-5 PM
Thursday 12:30-2 PM

Pacoima Branch:

English Conversation Class Thursday: 7-8 PM

Panorama City Branch:

English Conversation Class Friday 4-5 PM

Washington Irving Branch:

English Conversation Class: Tuesday 2-3 PM
Writing Class: Tuesday 3:15-4:15 PM
ESL & Citizenship through LAUSD's Distance Learning
Wednesday 11-1:30 PM



Creative Corner

*Learners Write Stories
& Essays continued*

Las Bahias continued from p. 1

family lives. My friend Dora invited me to visit her relatives and to show me where she had grown up.

I was amazed to see that she grew up in a jungle. It was a beautiful wild place with large coconut, banana, pineapple and papaya trees. You hear bird sounds all around you. The weather is tropical. When it's hot they cook outdoors on a wood stove.

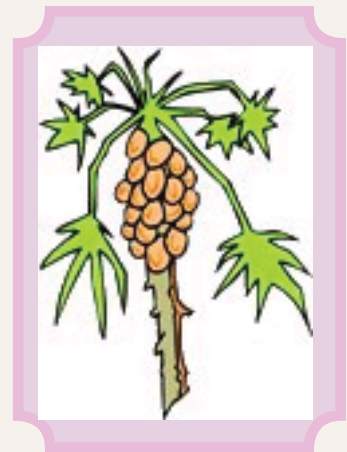
The whole family works for the government taking care of a natural area. They protect the animals such as birds, crocodiles, and other wildlife. There is no hunting of any kind. Some animals they are fed, like crocodiles are fed chicken legs. They also take care of some animals that are in cages. They have porcupines,

coatis and large birds.

This place is open to the public to take a boat ride through the jungle. While riding in the boat, you can see the large birds on the trees with beautiful colors. You also see butterflies flying around.

One of my favorite things that I saw was coconut palms surrounding us. One of Dora's relatives got a ladder and cut a whole bunch of coconuts with the machete. He cut some holes and we would drink right of the coconut. After that we cracked the coconut and ate the meat. It was very refreshing to drink coconut right out of the tree. It is fresh and tender, not like the ones you get at the store.

I would really like to go back to visit my friend and relive all this experience. It was a beautiful place away from the city. Being out in the wild and nature it felt like serenity and peace. §



Choices by *Francisco Tolentino*

The 4th of July is Independence Day for the United States. This was my second 4th of July in this country, but I have discovered many things that this country does to celebrate the day. For example, the fireworks were amazing, when I saw them; also people meet and celebrate the Fourth with their family doing BBQ and other activities.

The best classes that I have taken were at the University with a teacher named Gustavo Benites. He was a great teacher. We never got bored in his classes which were always full of students. The subject he taught was Social Science. I think his secret was that he always treated us students like we were his friends. I won't ever forget him.

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EVENTS



Voting

“Tonight we registered Leticia to VOTE in the upcoming November election--it will be her first. As she only passed her citizenship exam last year, this is a major milestone!” Ramona Cash exclaims about her student Leticia Buenrostro, pictured at left. §

Fund-raising

Two mystery writers meet. Best-selling author Sara Paretsky (on the right) and Adult Literacy Coordinator and mystery writer Penny Micklebury meet at a fund-raising sponsored by Left Coast Crime. The upshot? A check for the adult literacy program. A big thank you to both Penny and Sara. §



Expanding

Adult Literacy Services is expanding. We welcome four new literacy coordinators: Frank Harper and Maria Vargas at the Central Library, Mark Lovasz at the Pico Union Branch and Michael Travis at the Watts Branch. Maria and Mark are pictured at left. §

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates of the Tutor Training Workshop

**August 7, 2010
at Cahuenga**

Kit Bell
Lai Chan
Daniel Coleridge
Aisha Corneal
Eric Dinsmore
Stephen Dolainski
Sonya Eatman
Rebecca Essenpreis
Christie Finley
Rachel Graham
Leon Empastato
Sarah Kim
Mark Lipschutz
Randi Luciani
Joshua McCafferty
Kim McGowan
Oona Mekas
Marie Miller
Lily Mitchell
George Murzynowski
Barbara Owens
Jonathan Peacock
Elenita Fe Perenoud
Alexandra Rainer
Luisabel Rifareal
Sara Roberson
Estela Rodriguez
Amanda Rose
Elise Stawarz
Karen Streeter
Joseph Valeriano
Jamie Virostko
Vita Watkins
Jane Zarish

**September 11, 2010
at Silverlake**

Apodaca, Teri
Bui, Tommy
Cabrera, Annabelle Lyn
Calimlim, Callie
Chenoweth, Rebecca
DeMaria, Richard
Dorsey, Sondra
Fessenden, Marissa
Gawa, Charlene
Gete, Daba
Ha, PhiVan
Harper, Frank
Holliday, Miranda
Johnston, Annie
Kreko, Juli
Legge, Elizabeth
Mascorro, Suzanne
McKee-Clark, Holly
Olson, Joseph
Scofield, Jocelyn
Spencer, Gemini
Swarzman, Linda
Talenti, Pier Carlo
Travis, Michael
Treanor, Abigail
Vargas, Maria
West, Rob
White, Karina

**September 25, 2010
at Durant**

Ames, Judith
Autori, Carole
Baxter, Carey
Berry, Carolyn
Bloom, Joel
Bryant, Tracy
Cha, Jean
Dent, Taylor
Eslami, Emily
Geringer, Anita
Gil, Margaret
Ha, Hang Sam
Kemp, Connie
LaConte, Bill
Lesser, Jo Ann
Linovski, Orly
Lundy, Ben
Marshall, Charlene
Martinez, Rueben
McCarthy, Libby
Meeker, Frederick
Meeker, Margit
Meyer, Gloria
Noe, Harrison
Olsson, Amy
Ordo, Brad
Patton, Jessica
Rojas, Cecilia
Shulman, Jan
Silinsky, Lauren
Silverstein, Adam
Smith, Ramona
Stanfield, Martha
Stone, Margaret
Tapia, Laura
Vanina, Saranne
Wright, C. J.

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

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Graduates continued from p. 9

**October 16, 2010
at North Hollywood**

Abelede, Mariel
Allen, Richard
Avalos, Linda
Bennett, Michael
Bernal, Miguel
Cortez, Victor
Dean, Hazel
Dogood, Jami
Dwelley, Lindsay
Edwards, Beverly
Esquiroz, Maggie
Galloway, Fiona
Granich, Susan
Harahan, Nancy
Honore, Sidney
Hrabec-Snyder, Hana
Intapatana, Dee
Isinger, William
Lane, Nancy
Macedo, Edber
Marcus, Robert
McQuilkin, Christopher
Menendez, Anamaria
Miller, Lerelei
Minassian, Veronik
Nakamura, Christine
Phaneuf, Candice
Price, Robert
Puckett, Anni
Ramirez, Ramona
Salas, Erika
Talbert, Francine
Tianco, Estrella
Valdivia, Danielle
Vasquez, Leticia
Widmer, Stephanie
Yarrow, Abbey

Oliver Romero continued from p. 3

apparent to me while I became the conversation instructor at the Singleton Center. During my weekly lessons, my students would always enquire about the pronunciation of presented vocabulary along with their definitions.

Continually being presented with the same ambitious and curious crowd, I began to have them read Macbeth (which wasn't at all easy) and Ivanhoe. Though many will surely question the material used, it was done to inspire and captivate them, to show them the unimaginable boundaries of English Literature and of English itself and I am proud to say that it worked. Alongside such readings were the use of pronunciation exercises and the usual inquiry of everyone's past weekend or their plans for their upcoming weekend (depending on which day I was teaching). To say the least, my experience at the Singleton is one I will never forget, especially since it touches close to my roots.

Most of my academic career has been oriented towards the importance of research and analysis in the field of history. This being my background, I found the literacy center an obvious avenue where I could put my skills to good use. To be honest, I was not prepared for what I was going to experience. I was stunned to see the amount of work and preparation needed to run such a center. It is essential to emphatically remind people the important role the staff plays in the department's success. These people are truly selfless characters who put their time and effort for the benefit of others. From the administration to those running the center, everyone's role is crucial. During my stay however, most of my time was spent at the center itself where I was patiently guided by the two most inspirational characters I'll ever meet, Nancy Bird and Beverly Pichardo. During my stay, they showed me what it meant to have patience and dedication. To be honest, the job isn't easy; handling phone calls, assisting patrons and curious visitors, entering appointments, updating student and tutor files, and teaching courses was all part of a day's work. I truly think that I made the right choice in choosing this center to volunteer at and I hope many others will continue to do so. §

Choices continued from p. 7

If I were King of the World, I would stop all wars because it's sad that countries fight for power and kill people for nothing. Another thing that I would change is to take better care of children and the elderly. I would try to distribute a lot of food in the poorest places. Many things need to change in this World, starting with love between people and being more supportive with one another. I am sure that these are some of the things that we have to start practicing or doing to help this World change.

The most difficult choice I made in my life, was to resign my job on the ship and come to this country. I am sure that it was the right decision, because in this country I've learned that I will get many good things that will help me improve my life and my family.

Throughout my life, I received advice from different people, especially from my family; but the best piece of advice I have ever received was from my father and I didn't solicit it. When I left my country for the first time, and my family was very sad, my father's advice was that I must not trust any person or friend that looks nice, because nobody knows their heart. §

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Make a difference!**

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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: Nancy Bird, nbird@lapl.org; Frank Harper, fharper@lapl.org,
Beverly Pichardo, bpichard@lapl.org; Maria Vargas, mvargas@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: Kathy Hall
khall@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: Kay Bailey
kbailey@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: Mark Lovasz
mlovasz@lapl.org

Watts - Alma Reaves Woods Branch
10205 Compton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90002
(323) 789-2850
Contact: Michael Travis
mtravis@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: Sophia Webber
swebber@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
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Los Angeles, CA 90037
(213) 623-4078 x10790
Contact: June Brandon
jbrandon@lapl.org

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