



Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services

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

Winter 2011
Edited by Ruth Gooley

LOOK AT US!

It's a Match Part I

Sheryl's Story

by tutor Sheryl MacDowell

I am very new to the program. Lorena is my first student, so we're learning together in some ways.

I do have past teaching experience. I've been retired from public education for about ten years. During my working years, I taught students from kindergarten through post-graduate college students. And those two groups were my favorites because they were the most motivated.

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tutor Sheryl Macdowell (right)
and learner Lorena Reyna.

It's a Pair! See a story by Lorena's husband, Jose Gutierrez, on page 10.

Lorena's Story

by learner Lorena Reyna

My name is Lorena Reyna. I'm from Durango, Mexico. I have a big family, six sisters and five brothers. I haven't seen them for a long time.

I've been living in Los Angeles for almost twelve years and my husband came here nineteen years ago.

My family is the most important thing in my life. I have to girls. The oldest is ten years old and the youngest is five years old. They are the reason why I'm here. I know my children can

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Creative Corner
*Learners Write Letters
and Essays*

BROUGHT INTO LIFE

By Gregg Johnson
October 2010

Brought into life, my mother gave me warmth and love. As she sat my life in the palm of a hand, I felt the strength of love of

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Adult Literacy Services are generously supported by the Caroline Singleton Adult Literacy Endowment, The Council of the Library Foundation, B.K. Simon Family Charitable Foundation, Union Bank Foundation, Anonymous, Left Coast Crime 2010, Amgen Foundation, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, State Street Bank and Trust, and individual members of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

Sheryl's Story continued from p. 1

In the Adult Literacy program I have rekindled the feelings of exhilaration that come from working with a highly motivated student. Lorena is dedicated to making progress, as you will read in her article.

I have been involved in other volunteer roles since retiring, but for me this program is a perfect match. At each session I get a renewed feeling of touching someone's life in a positive way. §

I loved my Mom and I love my Dad. They know that I love my children and sometimes I feel very confused. I'd like to go to Mexico to see my Dad and then come back with my children, but I can't.

The best thing in my life is my husband. He's very patient with me and my girls. All the time he takes care of us. All the time he works very hard. Now he lost his job. It is the first time he is without a job and it is very hard for him and me, but we hope he will find a job very soon.

I'm very proud of my girls because even though my husband and I don't speak English well they're doing very well at school. That's why we want to speak English well. We know it is the only way to have a better life and I want the best for my children. §

Lorena's Story continued from p. 1

have a better life here, even if sometimes I feel very sad because I miss my family in Mexico so much. Sometimes I want to go back to my home to see my father because he's getting older. My Mom passed away two years ago and I didn't see her and that hurts a lot, but I have to be strong. I don't like my children to see me weak.

When my Mom died, I would have liked to stay at home, in the bed and cry, but at that time I was in school and I couldn't stay home.

Sometimes life is hard, but we have to go ahead and I want to show that to my children.

It's a Match Part II

Andrea's Story

by tutor Andrea Sobel

I know it sounds like a cliché, but I get as much out of the time I spend tutoring as Jumkow does. We met about 9 months ago. I had just come out of a very dark period of my life. My business of 20+ years was hit very hard by the recession, and I had had a terrible accident that left me with lots of nerve damage and pain. I joined the adult literacy program to "get outside my head" and make use of a Masters in Education that had gotten very dusty. I was paired with an absolutely lovely woman. Jumkow signed up to improve her grammar, pronunciation, and reading skills. We

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*Tutor Andrea Sobel (right)
and learner Jumkow Hyacinth*

Jumkow's Story *by learner Jumkow Hyacinth*
SEE NEXT PAGE

To the Library Foundation / Adult
Literacy Program :

My Tutor and I have been working
together for 8 months. Though my tutor and
I have worked many things together, one of
main things she has done is giving me courage
to apply for my U.S. citizenship. We studied
questions for the test and prepared all
paper work. Now, I'm ready to apply.

Before this class, I was very afraid to
talk to strangers due to my pronunciation.
My tutor is very patient about correcting
my pronunciation. I'm still scared, but
I have more confidence when I talk to people.

Another area we covered is work on
the grammar. It also helps me to have more
confidence when I speak because now I know

history.

My tutor's name is Andrea.

My name is Jankov.

We meet at ^{the} Sherman Oaks library.

Jankov H. H.
1/20/10

Andrea's Story continued from p. 2

dive into a grammar book, a comprehension book, and a novel every week. While we were reading "Ben and Me", Jumkow shared that she would like to become a citizen, but she was afraid of the test and the paperwork. Over time, we studied (she can answer all 100 questions+) and filled out all the paperwork. She is now on her way to becoming a US citizen. I'm not sure who is more excited! Every meeting is joy because she is so appreciative. Sometimes we make very small strides--knowing the difference in the pronunciation of "gulf" and "golf" and other times she makes much bigger ones. Every time, I am appreciative to have formed a friendship with such a lovely person. §

It's a Match Part III

Julie's Story

by tutor Julie Szende

I was very happy when in August 2009 I got the name of my student from the Adult Literacy Program. She was a Korean woman with a small child, and she lived very near me, just a few miles from my home in Woodland Hills.

We started studying together once a week at the Canoga Park Public Library Multi-Purpose Room, using the Challenger series as the basis for our studies.

At our first lesson I spotted Kim standing in the hallway of the Library. We introduced ourselves. She was a petite, very young-looking girl with long black hair. I was surprised to find that she was in her thirties and the mother

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*Tutor Julie Szende (left)
and learner Kim Sung*

Kim's Story

by learner Kim Sung

When I saw Julie Szende at the first time, she was standing in a nice big hat and sunglasses. She looked stylish and graceful. She smiled and introduced herself to me. She had a soft voice and accurate pronunciation. It was impressive to me to think how I would become close to her because she would be my English teacher. She was an intelligent American woman. She was a very different person from anyone I had had relationships with before, either in my school or at work. We have had lessons for over a year now, and I became to know about her step by step.

Julie got her last name from her Hungarian husband. She has a grown son who is an English teacher in Japan. Because of her background, she may fully understand foreign students.

Our lessons at the Canoga Park Library were a big help to me. We read together books from the Challenger series. We studied vocabulary. We read articles from the newspapers. I had trouble pronouncing certain sounds, like "r" and "l". Julie and I made lists of words that had these sounds in them, and I spoke them to

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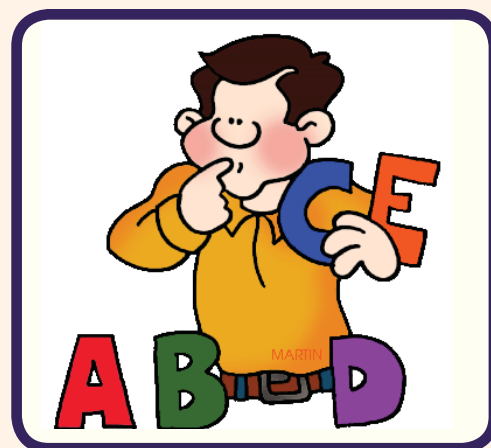
HINTS BY SUSAN

Memory Enhancement Techniques

by Susan Casmier

Some of our students (maybe some tutors, too) have problems storing information in their long-term memory. Others have trouble retrieving information from that memory. Here are some techniques to enhance memory:

- Sort Information: Help the retrieval system by putting new information into categories. You can group by dates, people, formulas, etc. It may help to make a chart as you study. For vowel sounds, practice with word families. Think of your memory as a closet. If it's organized, it's easier to find what you're looking for. If it's jumbled, not so much.
- Review often Studying new information the same day you heard or read it will improve memory significantly. A small review each day is essential if you have memory problems.
- Use humor or exaggeration: Information stays in memory longer if it is related to something novel and interesting. Make up something funny or exaggerated that ties in to what needs to be memorized.
- Explore the senses: Try learning the information visually, verbally, and kinesthetically (with movement) and find which sense works best for you. Some people need to combine two or more senses.
- Color code: By using colored pens, highlighters, post-it notes and flags, index cards, etc. you can make an impression on your memory. This is a way of sorting information for storage as you assign colors. Short vowels, for example, can be red while long vowels can be blue.
- Make visual aids: Draw pictures or cartoon characters, graphs, tables, charts, time lines, etc. to aid memory. Even simple stick figures and drawings are useful if you are a visual learner. Pay attention to pictures, charts, etc. in textbooks.
- Rehearse aloud: Verbal rehearsal is an effective memory tool. Study with someone or use a tape recorder to say aloud what needs to be memorized. They say if you see it, say it, and write it, you will remember it.
- Make it physical: Adding a physical activity such as pacing, jumping, throwing a ball, or writing enhances the memory for many people. Typing or rewriting notes is a very effective memory device for people who need to learn kinesthetically (by movement).
- Turn memory practice into a game: Make cards to match words and definitions, math facts to answers, etc. and play a memory game (like Concentration) by turning over two cards at a time. Time yourself to see how long it takes to match all the cards. The act of making the game also helps memory. §



**Coming soon:
Tutor Training Online**

Details will be announced soon.



Tutors at a training examine a children's book destined for a Families for Literacy learner.

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 March 12, 2011,
Lakeview Terrace Branch, 10 am-2 pm

Thursday April 21, 2011
Will & Ariel Durant Branch, 12:30 pm-5 pm

Saturday, May 7, 2011
Palms-Rancho Park Branch, 10 am -2 pm

Julie's Story continued from p. 4

of a nine-year-old son. His name was Brandon. She occasionally brought him along to our lessons. Brandon, a very charming and intelligent boy, would play video games in the Library while Kim and I studied in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Kim's spoken English was above average. She had studied English in Korea. She had also travelled in Europe and in England. She told me she needed help with pronunciation, and that she needed to improve her writing. These goals were important to her, as her ambition was to attend a local college and obtain a degree in nursing.

During our lessons it became clear that Kim was a highly motivated, very hard-working student. She studied her vocabulary words diligently. She wrote a 200-word essay every week. She was anxious to overcome certain pronunciation difficulties, and we made up a list of "challenge words" which she practiced over and over. Gradually I noticed a big improvement, both in Kim's fluency and in her pronunciation. Her spelling and grammar in her written work also improved.

Kim has been my student now for almost a year and a half. She has made great strides in her studies. Her command of English, which has always been good, is now excellent, and she can converse with fluency on most topics. She no longer has major problems with the sounds which troubled her in the past. She easily reads the articles and exercises in her Challenger books, as well as articles from the newspaper. Best of all, her writing has improved to the point where she can produce competent page-long essays.

Kim is a very busy person. She works part-time, and is the sole parent to her son Brandon. She is planning to attend college next year to obtain her nursing degree. I am happy and proud to think that I and the ALP have helped Kim attain her goals, which were to reach a competent level in English speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are necessary for college. Kim will do excellently in college, just as she has done excellently in the Adult Literacy Program. §

Creative Corner
*Learners Write Letters
and Essays*

Brought Into Life continued from p. 1

my dad. My life is my mom and dad and sister. My life is my home. My life is my school and my room. My life is when I put gas in my mini bike so I could cruise by. Look at me mom and dad!

When my family met the neighbors, you could see that they didn't care. There are good and bad and my dad fought evil to protect the three lives in his home. Is that you dad? Did you see me wave to you on the float? Yes, son, but it's time to go now. Go, dad? Yes, son, go back to sleep now. OK dad.

My life is my mother and my sister. My life is my home and my room and my friends. My life is my dad's grass that I cut in the morning. Life goes on.

My life is my car and girl friends and when I go surfing or when I play pool. But there is no school. Sorry dad. Now my life is grown. My life is a painter. My life is my job. My life is my ATP. My life is my party. Sorry dad. Life goes on.

When I see her, I want to be a part of her life, so I wave. Ten waves got one dinner; ten dinners, one kiss; ten kisses, one time we made love and more. We fell in love. She gave me a son. His name is Eric Royce Johnson. As my son sleeps under the tree, my wife and me, we go around the tree and she gives two more sons to me and now there are three. Life goes on.

My life is not my school. My life is not my wife. Sorry dad. My life is my three sons and my job and truck and home and my life is as a painter.

Now my sons are grown. My life is my son. My life is my mom and ex-wife and you, Evan. I am lost. No job. And now I can't paint for you and me. I can't go to my home, or my car or motor bike...they, I sold. My life is homeless. I used to run my life and now life runs me. Sorry dad.

Oh, one more thing. I will start all over again. I don't know how, when or where. I miss taking my sons out to dinner. I miss working on my paintings. So I hang in there.

My life is my education. My life is my school, so I can learn how to write. My life is my reading and you bring life in the classroom. My teacher, her name is Delphine Frost. She will give me a new life.

I will start all over again, dad. §

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 3-4 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

Pio Pico Branch ESL & Citizenship through LAUSD's Distance Learning
Friday 12-2:30

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



Tutors-to-be collaborate on learning new techniques

CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates of the Tutor Training Workshop

**November 6 2010
at Pico Union**

Gary Anderson
Valerie Barocio
Michael Berry
Elizabeth Castruita
Andrew Chung
Devin Coyle
Jesse David
Cameron Dye
Tanya Enriquez
Eric Estrada
Theresa Futo
Lea Galindo
Jacob Hall
Nancy Harahan
Rebecca Hyatt
Lily Jones
Hope Kinney
Thomas Kofoed
Stanley Kolker
Susan Kolker
Sheryl MacDowell
Eileen Martin
Deborah Martinez
Regidia Mayrena
Laura Mazzarella
Katherine McNenny
David Milian
Yvonne Omari
Julia Payson
Natalie Perry
Judy Rubino
Dylan Russell
Howard Siegel
Joan Springer
Cristi Stitz
Joan Tagle Wong
Tricia Valencia
Walter Viera
Lisa Welch

**December 11, 2010
at Benjamin Franklin**

James Bohling
Barbara Bradshaw
KC Buckner
Sara Bullock
Antonio Cabrera
Esmeralda Castaneda
Michelle Crawford
Lillian Darensburg
Adela de la Torre
Amy Di Dario
Dyana Goldston
Prima Gonzalez
Sai Ho
David Johnson
Monique Judge
Michelle Levin
Vanetta Lockridge
Courtney Lynch
Keith Pelton
Joan Probst
Monique Ramirez
Francisco Rios
Sujal Saraiya
Margaret Shipman
Alec Tomkiw
Toni-Dyan Torres
Mario Valdivia
Sherry Weber
Tehana Weeks
Adia Williams

**January 15, 2011
at West Valley**

Rebecca Alleyne
Joanne Aloni-Boldon
Gary Anderson
Christian Aviles
Scott Blackburn
Maria Childs
Julio Doria
Zoye Fidler
Martha Gallegos
Elizabeth Glick
John Goldfarb
Selene Gonzalez
Ailana Gray
David Joyce
Richard Mend
Lorraine Millings
Parul Narain
Veronica Nikcevic
Brett Padelford
Elsa Padilla
Gayle Pellizzer
Gabriel Perez
Tina Posner
Amberly Scott
Karen Silver
Cheryl Simon
Bradley Spann
Lynn Sweeten
Kristi Tristao
Jaba Tsitsuashvili
Sandra Vega
Carole Weinman
Cindy Young

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



Creative Corner
*Learners Write Letters
and Essays*

Dear Laura,

The Adult Literacy reading program has helped me to read better and my spelling is better. It took a lot of work on my part. Thank you for your hard work. I have finished my lessons in Book 5 of Challenger in 2010. I look forward to succeeding in my other goals in 2011. One goal is to finish my lessons in Book 6 of Challenger. My future goal is to practice studying for the GED test.

Sincerely,
Perri H.

How and When I Started and Quit Smoking by Jose Gutierrez

I started smoking twenty-seven years ago when I was in high school in Mexico. I was fifteen years old when I started to smoke. I am forty-two years old today. I started to smoke out of curiosity because I saw a Marlboro commercial on TV. The people in the commercial wore hats and they were mounted on horses. I thought that it was nice how they looked.

When I was in Mexico, I dressed like a cowboy because everybody dressed like a cowboy. That is why I dressed like a cowboy, and that is why I was interested in the Marlboro commercial.

When I was in high school, one teacher smoked in the classroom. He smoked one cigarette after another. He looked like a locomotive. Nobody in the school said anything. It was unusual, but it is true.

I also liked to watch movies. There were many actors smoking in the movies, like Bruce Willis smoking in *Die Hard* and Mel Gibson smoking in *Lethal Weapon*. They looked interesting and I wanted to be like them.

I smoked my first cigarette while walking home from school with my friends. My friend Jorge was walking close to us. He was walking and smoking. I asked him if I could have a cigarette because I wanted to know how it feels to smoke. Well, Jorge was older than me so he was stronger than I was. At first taste, I started coughing, and at second taste, I felt dizzy. But smoking is like a jail and it is hard to escape.

I decided to quit when I was thirty-six. I didn't want my daughter to see me smoking. I also quit for my health. On the day I quit, I was working in the Broadway Deli with Tino, Juan Carlos, Roman and Gustavo, the bartender. I said, "Look at me guys." I raised my hand up and showed them the cigarette. I said, "It's my last cigarette. It's my last cigarette." They said, "Get outta here." Nobody believed me, but it was true.

There were five workers in the restaurant that smoked, and they asked me for cigarettes. I said, "You know I already quit." That is how I lost five friends when I quit smoking.

Now look at me. I have not smoked for six years. It is very hard to quit, but if you have the willpower, you can do it.

Do you know how people smell after they have smoked? They smell terrible. I asked my wife if I smelled like that when I smoked, and she said, "Yes, you smelled like that."

In closing, I have a funny little story. One week after I quit, I was walking through a parking lot and saw a box of cigarettes. I kicked the box and it felt heavy, so I picked it up and opened it. To my surprise, the box of cigarettes was brand new! Why didn't I find it when I was smoking! §



Kim's Story continued from p. 4

myself every day. Since I wanted attend college, my tutor asked me to write a short essay every week on any subject. After she read them, she corrected them and had me write them over again. This caused my writing to improve very much.

Julie and I have conversations each week. She asks me what I have been doing, and how my part-time job is going. As we talk, I learn new vocabulary words and slang words. These conversations are important to me, because I learn not only the language, but about American customs and ideas.

In October 2010 Julie invited Brandon and me to a debate between Democrats and Republicans before the November elections. In this way she taught me only not a language, but she showed me the way to be an American citizen. As I listened to her stories about her family, friends, and activities, I found out how I could see this American society correctly and more deeply.

My goal is to attend college and to get a degree in Nursing. If everything goes well, I will begin my studies next year. I thank Julie and the Adult Literacy Program for the help they have given me. §

**CALL FOR
VOLUNTEERS**

**HELP AN ADULT LEARN TO READ.
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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: 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

Benjamin Franklin Branch
2200 E. First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033
(213) 623-4078 x10190
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

Echo Park Branch
1410 W Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(213) 623-4078 x10890
Contact: Peggy Blow
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

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

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

Lincoln Heights Branch
2530 Workman St.
Los Angeles, CA 90031
(323) 226-1696
Contact: Kathy Hall
khall@lapl.org

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

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

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

Pico Union Branch
1030 S. Alvarado St
Los Angeles, CA 90006
(213) 623-4078 x17090
Contact: Mark Lovasz
mlovasz@lapl.org

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

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

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

Robert Louis Stevenson Branch
803 Spence St.
Los Angeles, CA 90023
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Contact: Alicia Chavarin
achavari@lapl.org

Venice Branch
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Venice, CA 90291
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Washington Irving Branch
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Contact: Beverly Pichardo
bpichard@lapl.org

Watts - Alma Reaves Woods Branch
10205 Compton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90002
(323) 789-2850
Contact:

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

