



Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services

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

LOOK AT US!

Summer 2011
Edited by Ruth Gooley

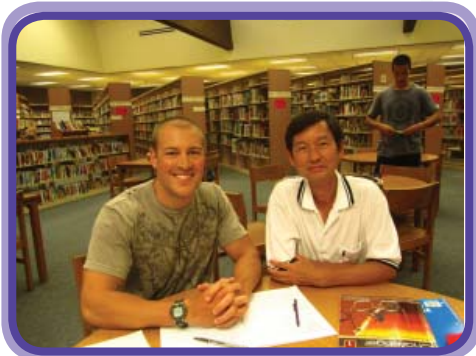
It's a Match Part I

Zachary's Story *by tutor Zachary Walter*

I recently completed my service with the U.S. Marine Corps and have been preparing for graduate school. During this transition period, I wanted to serve the local community. I love any kind of instruction, whether it is teaching or coaching, so I was excited when I discovered the Adult Literacy Services.

Working with Manoon brings me joy and fulfillment, and I look forward to our meetings every week. He approaches his learning with eagerness, diligence, and humility, and has progressed very well.

continued on p. 2



*Tutor Zachary Walter & learner
Manoon Thamlikitkul*

FREE BOOKS FOR PARENTS!
See page 10 for details!

Manoon's Story *by student Manoon Thamlikitkul*

My name is Manoon Thamlikitkul. I have two children, my son (22) and daughter (18). My children need to study in the United States, so after I have completed my retirement in December 2005 I moved to the United States at beginning of 2006 to support their education. Eventually, they have finished High School in the United States.

Living in the USA is not convenient and comfortable, as communication is obviously big problem. So I try to improve my English, taking class in

continued on p. 2

Creative Corner *Learners Write Essays and Poems*

Yosemite National Park *by Elisa Gomez*

Since I have been in California, I have been in most of the amusement parks. I really like them and enjoyed them, but one of the places that really got my attention and that I really like is the Yosemite National Park.

continued on p. 3

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, State Street Bank and Trust, and individual members of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

Zachary's Story *continued from p. 1*

Our sessions go beyond me teaching him, and are an exchange of lessons. I admire his devotion to his family and the sacrifice he makes to ensure the success of his children. His values are clear because he lives them.

I feel blessed to work with such a humble, genuine, and caring person. He has taught me as much as I have taught him, and I am grateful to have touched Manoon's life, even if just a little. §

Eagle Rock Public Library. My tutor is a young man and friendly. I enjoy learning English with him. Mr. Zach try hard to improve my pronunciation as well as reading. After past about 12 hours, I think my English pronunciation get better as well as reading.

Sincerely thanks very much for value help and participation to the tutor, Mr. Zachary Bret Walter and the program coordinator, Ms. Kathy Hall. However, I'll continue to study and practice English to have effective English communication. §

Manoon's Story *continued from p. 1*

Adult School is one way to improve that. But my English pronunciation is poor. Fortunately, I saw a newsletter of LA Public Library at Eagle Rock Library regarding Adult Literacy Services. I'm interested about that and call the program coordinator, Ms. Kathy Hall of Lincoln Heights Branch soon.

She is so kindly to looking for a good tutor for me. About a month, she introduced a good tutor, Mr. Zachary Bret Walter. I met my tutor on May 31 at

It's a Match Part II

John's Story

by tutor John Goldfarb

After retiring last year from my job with the Department of Corrections, I was looking for something fulfilling to do with part of my week when I discovered a link to the Adult Literacy web site. This soon led me to Coordinator Kathy Hall, then a day of training, and finally to my learner, Maria. Since our first meeting last January, Maria has provided me with a consistent example of cheerful industry in her approach to learning and living. Over the years that she has lived in this country, she has periodically sought out opportunities to improve her English, most recently through Adult Literacy Services. She spends a significant amount of time preparing for each of our meetings and accepts my feedback on her homework graciously. In working with her, I get the chance to explore fundamental aspects of English that I might have forgotten or taken for granted, and am constantly reminded of the beautiful complexity of the language. When Maria tells me that her co-workers have commented lately on the greater fluency of her speech, I feel gratified to be a participant in her learning process and a tutor on Kathy Hall's team. §

Maria's Story

by learner Maria Rodriguez

When I came to USA I was 17 years old. I was by myself. I had very little money. Then I had to look for a house to live in and a job. I did not have an opportunity to go to school, but now I have a tutor from the library. John taught me how to speak English better and I feel good to speak English. I'm happy to find a tutor because before when I went to school they didn't give me enough attention. In school nobody corrected my pronunciation because there were too many people. §



Maria Rodriguez & John Goldfarb



*Half Dome (photo
by Laura Greffly)*

Yosemite continued from p. 1

The park has beautiful trees, plants, and animals. It is a beautiful natural scenery. The birds, wildflowers, trees, etc. are mine to enjoy. I enjoy walking under the trees, to see the waterfalls and admire the cliffs.

I loved and enjoyed the beauty of the park. In 1994 a friend of mine moved to a Yosemite vicinity called Coarsegold. I used to visit her quite often. She told me that Coarsegold was named for the quality of gold found there. Coarsegold attracted many people during the Gold Rush. Coarsegold is on Highway 41 in the south entrance.

I was very fortunate to have had a friend in the Yosemite area, because I enjoyed visiting her and enjoyed the wild animals in the natural surroundings. Birds are abundant, and many animals, such as squirrels and coyotes, are often observed, and in the evening you can hear them too. Deer and bear are very popular too. Late in the evening is the best time. In fact on several occasions, I saw a deer on the roadway.

My friend used to have chickens in a corral with chicken wire, to protect them from the danger of the wild animals, especially the coyotes. But, even with the wire, the coyotes took the chickens.

The cascade falls, the waters of the cascade creeks, and scenery really brought me great memories of my hometown. I come from the State of Guanajuato, Mexico. Of course, it is a small place, but the natural scenery is unmatched anywhere.

I love the wild plants, trees, animals and the natural scenery of Yosemite Park. §

My Life in LA by Sachiko Honda

I have been in LA for one year. I arrived at LA airport on May 13th 2010. Before coming here, my image of Los Angeles was a dangerous place. The law prohibits carrying guns in Japan. I had thought most of American people had them. Therefore America looked dangerous. When I arrived at LAX, I was tensed up and held my bag tightly.

I didn't have friends and I couldn't understand English. I have been nervous for one week. But after we finished moving to an apartment and my husband started working, I became eager to enjoy my life in LA. I joined a circle for foreigners and started studying English at the adult school. I made friends with people who came from a variety of countries. I adapted to my situation smoothly.

My life in LA wasn't only fun but also hard for me. The disaster occurred in my hometown Sendai on March 11th, 2011. Before then, I had thought Sendai and LA was not far nowadays, because I could contact my parents by the Internet. I hadn't felt a distance, but it was my misunderstanding. When I knew the news, I was so shocked and called my mother many times. Actually the center of the earthquake was close to my

continued on next page



Sachiko Honda (left) & Ilse Rosenstein

Sachiko is a delightful person -- always cheerful, anxious to learn. Also, she is very adventurous. Of course, coming to a new country is a big undertaking. But she is also daring in smaller activities. She has gone hiking in Griffith Park and even has learned to roller blade. I greatly enjoy knowing Sachiko.

Ilse §

My Life continued on from p. 3

parents' house. When I turned on TV, I saw Tsunami. I couldn't believe it because it was like a movie. I continued called to my parents while praying for their survival. Fortunately, I could talk with them. When I heard their voice, I couldn't stop crying.

It was the saddest, most emotional incident while I was in LA. I was really moved by Americans. Many people worried about Japan and donated. How humane they are ! Every time an American knew that I was Japanese or I was from Sendai, they worried about me. At first, I had thought America was dangerous. But truth is, it's a humane country. After the earthquake, I like it here more than before. One year flashed by, but I experienced a lot. §

Gringo and Me by learner Vilma Solis

This story is about a special cat. It happened when I was a young girl. I was outside of my school, when I saw one little cat, it was trembling and dirty, it cried, I thought this little cat was hungry and maybe it didn't have a home. I took it and put it in my pocket coat, I said to the cat: "please don't cry." But, before I arrived to my home, I thought if my mother would allow me to keep the cat. At first, she didn't agree to keep him, but later did change her mind, and she told me, "You can keep the cat, but you need to take care of it." I said, "Yes, mother" After this, I did not know my cat's fur color. I gave him a bath when I had a big surprise, his fur was beautiful, it was gold and white. In that moment, I decided his name will be Gringo (Spanish word for blonde).



I also had one more surprise when I fed him different kinds of food, but he didn't eat anything, I thought something was wrong, because he wouldn't eat his food. So then I fed him fruits and vegetables and he ate them all. I realized he only liked those kinds of food. Also, he was special because he would take care of my home.

For these reasons, I think my cat will always have a special place in my heart forever.

I love you Gringo. §

Teresa by learner Marilyn Westby

I will write about Teresa because a sad change in her life happened January 1, 2011 after I saw her that morning.

One morning I called Teresa and she was very sad, depressed, and nervous. I asked her what had happened. She told me her son's house burned down on January first. It was a nice three bedroom house with a big living room and a nice backyard.

When she got home, she turned on the heater in her bedroom and she sat in the living room to watch TV. Later on, the smoke alarm started to beep and she walked to the bedroom to check but everything was on fire. She ran outside without shoes or sweater and she screamed for help.

She went back to the house to take something but was too late. In that moment the firefighters arrived. Teresa and her son lost everything including a black BMW and a gold Toyota Corolla. The sad part is her son was on vacation. Her life had been changed in a minute.

Now Teresa and her son have found places to live. She lives in West LA and her son rents an apartment in Lynwood. They are keeping in touch and they have a good relationship.

When I talked to Teresa about what had happened, I realized how quickly life can change. Teresa's experience has helped me to appreciate life now. I enjoy every minute of my life. §

Stella Molina was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, and as a teenager became an avid reader of love poems. A dentist for many years, she started with the tutoring program in 2009, and, between work and study, she created these poems. She started to write in Spanish and now in English too. She lives and writes in Southern California.

See more poems by Stella on p. 11



Stella Molina

Stella Molina's Translation of a poem by Uruguayan poet Mario Benedetti, original on left

Mi tactica es

mirarte

aprender como sos
quererte como sos

mi tactica es

hablarte

y escucharte
construir con palabras
un puente indestructible

mi tactico es quedarme en tu recuerdo
no se como ni se
con que pretexto
pero quedarme en vos

mi tactico es

ser franco

y saber que sos franca
y que no nos vendamos
simulacros
para que entre los dos
na haya telon
ni abismos

mi estrategia es
en cambio

mas profundo y mas
simple

mi estrategia es
que un dia cualquiera
Ni se como ni se
con que pretexto
por fin me necesites.



My tactic is

observe you

learn how you are
Love you how you are

My tactic is

talk to you

and listen to you
build up with words
an unbreakable bridge.

My tactic is staying in your memory
I don't know how or
with what excuse
but to stay in you.

My tactic is

to be frank

and to know, you are also frank
I don't want to make us fools
of or sell ourselves,
because between us cannot exist
black cloth
and abyss.

My strategy

instead
deeper and

simpler

my strategy is
any day now
And I don't know how, or
with what excuse
finally, you need me.

TUTOR TRAINING

If you are interested in becoming a tutor, you have two options. You may either attend a Tutor Training Workshop in person or you may do it online. Talk to an Adult Literacy Coordinator for details.

In-person tutor training workshops will be held on the following dates at the following locations.

Saturday, August 20
Ascot Branch, 10 am -2:30 pm

Saturday, September 17
Sun Valley Branch, 10 am -2:30 pm

Saturday, October 15
Washington Irving Branch, 10 am -2:30 pm

Reflections on the New Online Tutor Training



Karen Chebatoris

My name is Karen Chebatoris and I recently completed the new online tutor training. I liked the idea that I could complete the training at my own pace, at home at a time that was convenient for me. I was so interested in the training, and I found it so easy to follow, that I actually completed all of the training in one day (with housework breaks). I would definitely recommend the online training to anyone that feels comfortable learning in this way. For those that do not have any experience with this type of tuition I would advise trying it. I now look forward to using my new skills and working with my student. §

I was very impressed with the online tutor training course: the excellent information; clear presentation; well-balanced coverage of theory, method and practice; numerous helpful examples and illustrations, including videos of lessons by an innovative, engaging AL teacher, which I especially enjoyed. It was a pleasure and privilege to learn through this course. I feel well prepared for tutoring, and excited about it, too! §



Patricia Billings

Creative Corner
Essays continued

The Missing Shoe by Virginia Gonzalez

It's early Sunday morning and it's windy outside. Alex is getting ready for Sunday school, but he is missing one of his brand new dress up shoes. Alex can't go to Sunday school with only one shoe, so his dad looked for it. There was nothing under the bed, and in the toy box there were only toys. It was not under the furniture in the living room or behind the curtains. Inside the laundry hamper, no luck at all. They could not find it in the front yard or in the back yard. Alex's dad and grandmother looked all over for the missing shoe.



Learner Virginia Gonzalez

Two months later it was Alex's birthday. The family was decorating the house for the party. When Alex's dad was on the ladder hanging the banner, he found the missing shoe. It was way up on the roof. He also found the dog's chain and five pairs of grandma's missing socks. No one had thought to look up on the roof because it's an odd place for a shoe to be. Alex finally admitted that he likes throwing things on the roof.

Alex's dad told him not to put things where he cannot reach them. We're not sure if Alex will stop throwing things on the roof, but a good thing came of it. Dad realized that Alex has a talent: he can throw high and far. It's time for Alex to get into sports, so Dad puts him on a baseball team. Maybe now Alex will like throwing a baseball instead of his shoes and Grandma's socks. §

A Crazy Night at Work by Francine Rosales
a learner at the Downtown Women's Center

Francine tells how she resolved a conflict at work. The names and places have been changed to protect the privacy of the individuals.

There was an incident during my shift on the 7th floor on the family side of the mission where I work.

In room 496, Mrs. Diaz and Mrs. Rosales were having a problem with the window being open. Mrs. Diaz wanted the window open because it was stuffy in the room. Mrs. Rosales wanted the window closed because she has a five month old baby and did want the baby to get sick. The fan was already on. They were arguing really loudly and it was 3 AM!



I called Ms. Pola and Security in case the problem escalated. It did not. Because of this incident, I recommended that the ladies switch beds to solve the problem, Both ladies agreed that this solution would work, and it did. §

CLASSES:

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

Writing Classes:

Singleton Adult Literacy Center at the Central Library:

Monday & Wednesday 2-3:30 PM

Tuesday & Thursday 5-6:30 PM; Friday: 12:30-2 PM

Downtown Women's Center:

Thursday: 2:30-4 PM (except first Thursday of the month)

English Conversation Classes:

Singleton Adult Literacy Center at the Central Library:

Monday-Thursday: 3:30-5 PM, & Friday 2-3:30 PM

Benjamin Franklin: Friday 1-2:30 PM

Cahuenga: Thursday 2-3 PM

Lincoln Heights: Monday 1-2:30

Mid-Valley Regional Branch: Wednesday 3-4 PM & Thursday 12:30-2 PM

Pio-Pico-Koreatown Branch: Wednesday 1:00-2:00 PM

Platt Branch: Thursday 6:30-7:30 PM

Wilmington Branch: Monday 4-5 PM

ESL & Citizenship through LAUSD's Distance Learning:

The Singleton Adult Literacy Center: Tuesday 3:30-6 pm & Thursday 3:30-7 pm

Pio Pico/Koreatown Branch: Friday 12-2:30 pm

Pico Union Branch: Tuesday 3-5 pm

Washington Irving Branch: Wednesday 11-1:30 pm

Graduates of the online Tutor Training Workshop

May and June 2011

Julio Ascensio
Patricia Billings
Terry Bromberg
Tseng Chan
Madhu Chawla
Karen Chebatoris
Chris Donnelly
Daniel Ellis
Jennifer Hamm
Les Helyes
Thomas Herrera

Christina Hong
Nydia Jackson
Deborah Jarrett
Christina Jin
Mantas Kliminskas
Sherilyn Ko
Angela Law
Lawrence Nip
Carmen Perez
Mujeb Rahman
Abhijit Sadhu



Alex San Martin
Esther Shapiro
Jennifer Smith
Marie Underhill
Daniella Villamin



CONGRATULATIONS

Graduates of the Tutor Training Workshop

**May 7, 2011 at
Palms-Rancho Park**

Adegoroye Adebukunola
Cynthia Aguilar
Leslie Avalos
Chelsea Bagnard
Jacqueline Goldberg
Melinda Gordon
Janet Hansen
William Hitchins
Wilma Hitchins
Jennifer Kramer
Jean Maninger
Judy Meyers
Rebecca Morris
Camille Parker
Alison Riley
Lori Schiffbauer
Sinduja Srinivasan
Nadia Stanizai

**June 18, 2011 at
Arroyo Seco**

Angela Aguilera
Elba Alvarado
Gabriel Barrera
Margarita Carse
Howard Davis
Bertha Delgado-Torres
Darlene Galvan
Jovan Gamble
Sidney Lam
Howard Leff
Margaret MacCurdy
Patrick Magallanes
Yvette Monteilh
Susan Moore
Veronica Ortiz
Patricia Pavon
Melinda Ratliff
Cindy Richardson
Leslie Roseboro
Yolanda Salas
Annie Schmidt
Stephen Son
Gemini Spencer
Catherine Sturgeon
Casey Sullivan
Valerie Tracy
Mary Trivoli
Swathi Vankadara-
Somasekhar
Emese Williams

**July 23, 2011 at
Platt**

Mary Jo Grais
Christine Han
Dhruval Joshi
Matthew Kaundart
Adrienne Krunich
Chuck LaFont
Goldie Levenstein
Carrie Prater
Beth Shube
Bryan Story
Katie Taylor
Alexandra Wagner
Kathryn Walsh

For the schedule
of future Tutor
Training Work-
shops see page 6.



Facebook

- Find out what's new in the literacy world.
- Meet your fellow tutors.
- Ask questions about your student.
- Get hints about how to deal with reading issues.
- Join us on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/LAPLAdultLiteracyServices>

FAMILY CORNER

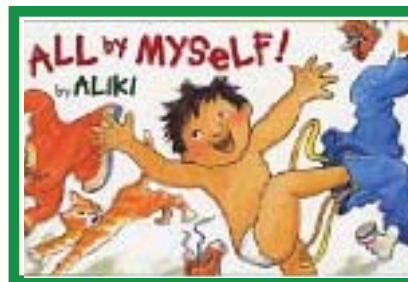


TIPS FOR READING TO YOUR CHILD

Reading should be a fun daily family activity. Try to set aside time every day to read together. You may want to designate a specific time and place, so that it becomes part of your child's routine. You can have a corner with pillows or a favorite chair. The idea is to create an environment that is conducive to reading. Set aside about 20 minutes daily to read together. You may want to do it before nap time or in the evening as part of the nighttime routine. If your child can't sit still for twenty minutes, you may break it down into shorter blocks of time. §

All By Myself -- appropriate for ages 3-6.

In this fun and exciting story, a boy learns how to be independent as he goes through typical daily activities. "Right shoe,/left shoe./Tie,/comb,/done!/Breakfast's ready,/pour,/crunch,/yum!" The youngster gets dressed, goes to school, stops at the library, practices his violin, helps with dinner, and gets ready for bed -- all by himself! .The illustrations are a perfect match for the moods and energy levels of a five- or six-year-old . §



Two Poems by Stella Molina

Una Vez Mas or Once More

One more time
give me from your lips
the sensation of life.

One more time
involve yourself in myself
you feel like we fuse
in to one
into the wind.

One more time
understand that
neither you or me
now can be the same.

Far

Far away your soul
from mine
I don't know
where you are
and your hand
doesn't touch me
The dream
didn't come true
because you aren't
with me.
because I don't know
what is wrong
and I don't know
What you feel.
I give you liberty
but I still love you

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

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

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

**Volunteer tutors work one-on-one, helping adults improve basic reading and writing skills.
Tutors receive free training and tutor two to three
hours a week.**

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



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



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
Adult Literacy Center Locations



Central Library Singleton Adult Literacy Center

630 W. Fifth St., Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 228-7037 / FAX (213) 228-7138

Contacts: 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: Gemini Spencer
gspencer@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: Penny Mickelbury
pmickelb@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: Margaret MacCurdy
mmacurd@lapl.org

Panorama City Branch

14345 Roscoe Blvd.
Panorama City, CA 91402
(213) 623-4078 x13990
Contact: Gabriel Barrera
gbarrera@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
(213) 623-4078 x11990
Contact: Alicia Chavarin
achavari@lapl.org

Venice Branch

501 S. Venice Blvd.
Venice, CA 90291
(310) 821-1769
Contact: Kay Bailey
kbailey@lapl.org

Washington Irving Branch

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

Watts - Alma Reaves Woods Branch

10205 Compton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90002
(323) 789-2850
Contact: Casey Sullivan
csulliva@lapl.org

Wilmington Branch

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

