

# READ

A newsletter written by the  
adult learners and tutors  
in Adult Literacy Services.



Tutor Micah Flores and learner Fatima Kian with Fatima's award-winning watercolor

## Summer 2020

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### From the Editor

Welcome to our first READ Newsletter from quarantine! In this issue, you will find a mixture of articles: some written before the pandemic struck and others that were written soon after our world was turned upside down. Regardless of the circumstances, you'll find stories of perseverance and resilience - stories of learners and tutors overcoming obstacles in pursuit of their goals. We hope you will be encouraged and inspired by their achievements! Stay well everyone!



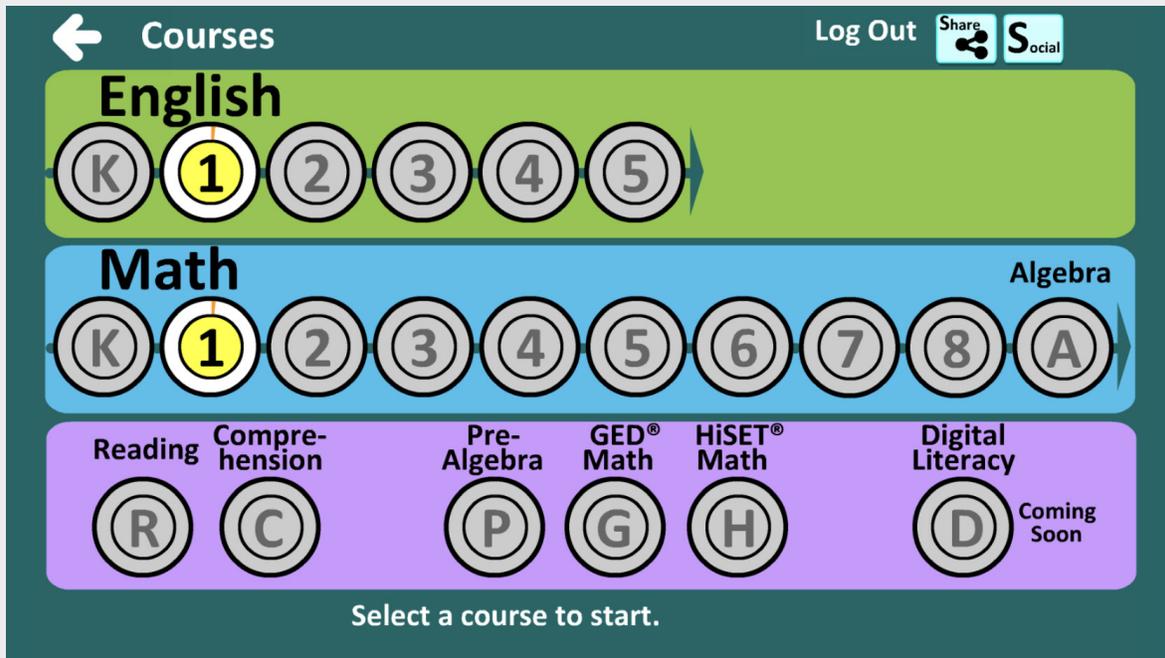
**Randall Hinson**  
Adult Literacy Librarian

# Learning Upgrade for every adult literacy learner!

Learning Upgrade is a fun way for adults to practice reading and math skills between tutoring sessions using a smartphone or desktop computer. Learners have access to 900+ lessons that include songs, video, and games. After a short assessment, learners start

at their current level and earn certificates and awards that keep learning fun.

Learning Upgrade does not replace the one-on-one tutoring experience, but can accelerate learning by providing practice during the week.



**Ask your literacy coordinator to sign you up today!**

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# Adult Literacy Volunteers Recognized

On Thursday, March 19th, the Los Angeles Public Library was scheduled to recognize the 2019 recipients of The President’s Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) with a special ceremony at Central Library. This award *“recognizes, celebrates, and holds up as role models Americans making a positive impact as engaged and deeply committed volunteers.”*

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony was cancelled and will not be rescheduled this year. But, that doesn’t mean we can’t recognize the amazing Adult Literacy volunteers who earned this award in our newsletter!

Here’s to all the volunteers in our program, who have given so much of themselves and their time to help their neighbors improve their literacy skills and their fortunes. You’re all #1 in our book!

## GOLD PIN

(500+ Volunteer Hours)

**Elizabeth Bueno**

**Jennifer Gill**

## SILVER PIN

(250-499 Volunteer Hours)

Linton Bostic

Brad Damaré

Stephen Ginsburg

Diana Linden

Jeff Mandon

Michelle Martinez

Eileen McCarthy

Alyce McLaughlin-Breaux

Linda Rosenberg

Stuart A. Silverstein

Gayle Marie Smith

Brad Vanderhoof

Helen Williams

## BRONZE PIN

(100-249 Volunteer Hours)

Marilyn Anderson

Ruth Michelle Beaver

Sandi Bell

Gloria Burney

Andrew M. Burt

Karen Carlson

Laura Cohen

Pedro de Rivera

Aliya Robin Deri

Madeline Ellis

William Fink

Alfredo Gonzalez

Sylvia Haas Harrison

Phoebe Heywood

Narges Jadidtavaf

Matthew Joy

Henrietta Pauline Kiner

Stanley Kolker

Susan Kolker

Joan Lavery

Jun Hee Lee

Benjamin Long

Cherie LeGess Magnus

Parviz Majzoob

Jeffrey Mandell

Sister Teresa Marry

Alan Matuny

Claire McCall

Faye Melton

Richard W. Merel

Kyle Moreno

Barbara Motz

David L. Motz

Carlos Nuñez Jr.

Jeanette Parish

Melissa G. Parra

Janet Perkins

Edwin Ramirez

Michael Root

Marcia Rosenberg

Richard M. Shamban

Barbara Sirkus

Linda Leigh Truax

Dorothy Ungerleider

David Weinberg

Andrea Wilder

Jennifer Yu

Sidney Zafran

Robyn Orleans

Zelmanovitz

Carol Gordon Zuckerman

# It's a Match

## About It's a Match

A special relationship is created when a tutor and learner are successfully matched together. *It's A Match* allows tutors and learners to express how they feel about their match in their own words.



Tutor Ginger Lawrence and COHS graduate Iris Tobar with her diploma!

## Ginger and Iris Interview

By Gloria Cervantes

It was a Wednesday morning when I sat down with Adult Literacy tutor Ginger Lawrence and her student Iris Tobar to talk about their relationship and the goals they accomplished while being matched. Here's what they had to say:

### How long have you been matched?

Iris: [glances at Ginger and smiles] I don't know?

Ginger: [laughing] I don't know! We have been together forever in our hearts.

### What are the best qualities your tutor/learner has?

Ginger: [glances at Iris and smiles] She has a wonderful sense of humor. Iris is very driven, detail-oriented, and asks the right questions.

Iris: Ginger has a desire to help others, a good heart, and is always there for me.

### What do you have in common?

Ginger: We have similar values, talk about our childhoods often, and I know she will be my friend forever.

Iris: [smiles and nods her head] We always talk about family, traditions, Guatemala, and the United States. I learn so much from Ginger.

### What goals have you completed or are working on?

Ginger: [waves hands in the air] Iris graduated from Career Online High School! We achieved good grades, wrote a resume, and a cover letter. We are still working on the Challenger series to practice vocabulary, writing, and conversation. I also practice my Spanish while I'm with her. [laughs]

Iris: [smiles] The walk-in tutor, Beth Bueno, told me about Career Online High School and the Adult Literacy program. She introduced me to Ashley Binning, the Adult Literacy Coordinator at Pico Union, and she believed in me so much! Then, I was matched with Ginger and she has been my tutor since. I felt so motivated to finish my high school diploma and my son cheered me on, too. He wrote an essay about how proud he was of me for getting my high school diploma. My next goals are to complete the Challenger series, work on my citizenship preparation, and get a job working with special education students.



Tutor Karen Carlson and learner Luis Abarca working on Families For Literacy

## Karen's Story

By Karen Carlson

My parents were both librarians, and my dad worked for the LAPL when I was a child. So libraries and literacy were on my radar when I retired in 2011 and wanted to do some volunteer work. I grew up at the south end of south-central L.A., and my dad worked at the Mark Twain branch, which was not far from our house. When I found the Adult Literacy program through Volunteer Match, I asked to work at Mark Twain. The nearest Literacy Center is at the Watts branch (just a couple of miles away), so I reported to the coordinator at Watts. In the 8-1/2 years I've been with the program, I've seen several coordinators come and go, and I've worked with a total of five learners. With the first two students, we met at Mark Twain, then I started working in the Literacy Center at Watts, which has the advantages of a screened-off place to tutor and more contact

with the coordinator. I am now working with my fourth student, Luis, and a fifth with whom I have just started.

Luis has been an enthusiastic and dedicated learner for the past couple of years. He comes to the library twice a week for learning sessions, and has usually spent an hour or more between sessions on homework and study. He is organized, keeping a tidy loose-leaf notebook for spelling practice and written work, and having all his books and materials in order. He has kept notes given him by another tutor over a year ago and brought them out for reference when appropriate. Luis has taken the initiative in suggesting things to me that might help him. He notices and asks intelligent questions about material he is reading, such as the oddities of English spelling. He reads library and other books as well as the course material, and is willing to challenge himself with reading material a little above his level. He is a pleasure to work with, having a ready smile and friendly attitude towards the people around him. Luis's focus and hard work are paying off in steady progress through the Laubach course.

## Luis's Story

By Luis Abarca

My name is Luis Abarca and I live in Los Angeles, California. I started in the reading program around August 2017. I started doing Walk In first and then I had one-on-one with Raymond. I have learned a lot since 2017. Raymond helped me how to sound out letters and how to hold a pen. I learned how to read smoothly and write letters of the alphabet. I have a new tutor. Her name is Karen. In the Families for Literacy program she helped me to read books for little kids age 4.

### About Creative Corner

*Creative Corner* is where literacy learners share their personal stories, recipes, movie reviews, and other creative writing!

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### My Home Time During The Quarantine

By Claudia Davalos



I never imagined to be in lock-down for over two months. This suddenly changed for everyone from one day to another. The first days of quarantine were nice because I was at home and relaxed. I tried not to be worried, but I feared COVID-19, so I thought I would use my imagination and creative skills with my daughters. For example, we made fun face-masks out of yarn, and shared family time together. Now, we continue to make fun things together, like baking cakes and cute pencil bags.

### What Inspired Me To Do Art By Fatima Kian

I always have been interested to any kind of art. But what inspired me? I have been looking for the answer all my life. I can give you two reasons: first, I am an emotional person, and everything around me attracts my attention. I am drawn to my surroundings from the shape of the clouds to a spider while webbing its home.

Another reason for me is because my passion is watercolor. I guess because 90% of our body contains water. I really love doing watercolor.

### This Time of Technology By Kensuke Ota

How long have I been sitting in front of my laptop?

I've spent too much time to pursue the completion of assignments.

The cushion of my chair shrinks and never gets back.

Suddenly a small window pops up and lets me know someone's opinion.

One after another, it urges me to respond.

Does technology make us free or rob us of freedom?

Should technology be used in this way?

Hell no, hell no, hell no.



## A Weekend To Remember

By Graciela Jacobo

My weekend was excellent because my son arrived from Arizona and my nephew, his wife from San Diego. Together we had fun. On Sunday we went at church and ate at restaurant the China. We had orange chicken and vegetables the it delicious. My son enjoyed the food very much. On Monday my son returned to Arizona because on Tuesday he has class. I am happy when my son visits me.



Tutor Micah Flores and learner Fatima Kian with Fatima's award-winning watercolor



## My First Artwork

By Fatima Kian

Touch this! It's a petal of a rose. Now touch whole flower. It has many of these petals surrounding it. They are soft & thin, and they overlap each other. So I keep one rose in my left hand & draw it with my right hand. I try to mix more water into my paper because I want to make the flower more elegant & draw layers one after another. Then I tilt the same flower & do the petals from that angle. I repeat same the process several times to have many flowers. For last one

I take off some petals to see the center of the rose. Now touch the center! These tiny parts are in different colors, so this time I draw petals surrounding the center.

Now it's time to draw a vase under them to show them in the vase. Touch the glass vase! It's round & I draw a half circle under the flowers to show that they are in the vase. I don't know how you perceive colors, but to me it doesn't matter, the feelings from the painting are more important because feelings speak louder than the colors.



### Purposes In My Life

By Elizabeth Hegedus

After I came to the United States with my family, I worked for a company for 29 years. That company gave me my first job in the U.S. I felt very lucky because my English at that time was really basic. I really liked that company because many people I worked with also came from a different background, so I didn't feel so alone because of my limited English.

Even today, I'm still very grateful they hired me, and it was a really big help for my family. By working for this company, I had a chance to provide the basic needs for my family.

After many good years working there, one day they told us the company had been sold. We were shocked, terrified and awfully sad. I didn't know what would happen after the company closed.

However at that time of my life, I was an age to retire, so again I was afraid I would not be able to find a new job. Because of my fear, I decided to just retire. After that my everyday life became very different. Now I have all that time off. Many times I dream of when I had to get up 6 o'clock in the morning, and sometimes I still miss my daily routine I was so used to for so many

years. When I retired, first I just started to enjoy my free time as I dreamed of when I worked, but after awhile it started to be boring, and I felt without purpose. I had to learn to reorganize my new life with purpose in it.

I wish one day I will have a grandchild because I feel I have lots of love and energy in me. I will give my family all the help I can, and that will be the best purpose in my life that I can wish for.

### Report of My Citizenship Experience

By Mehri Rashidi

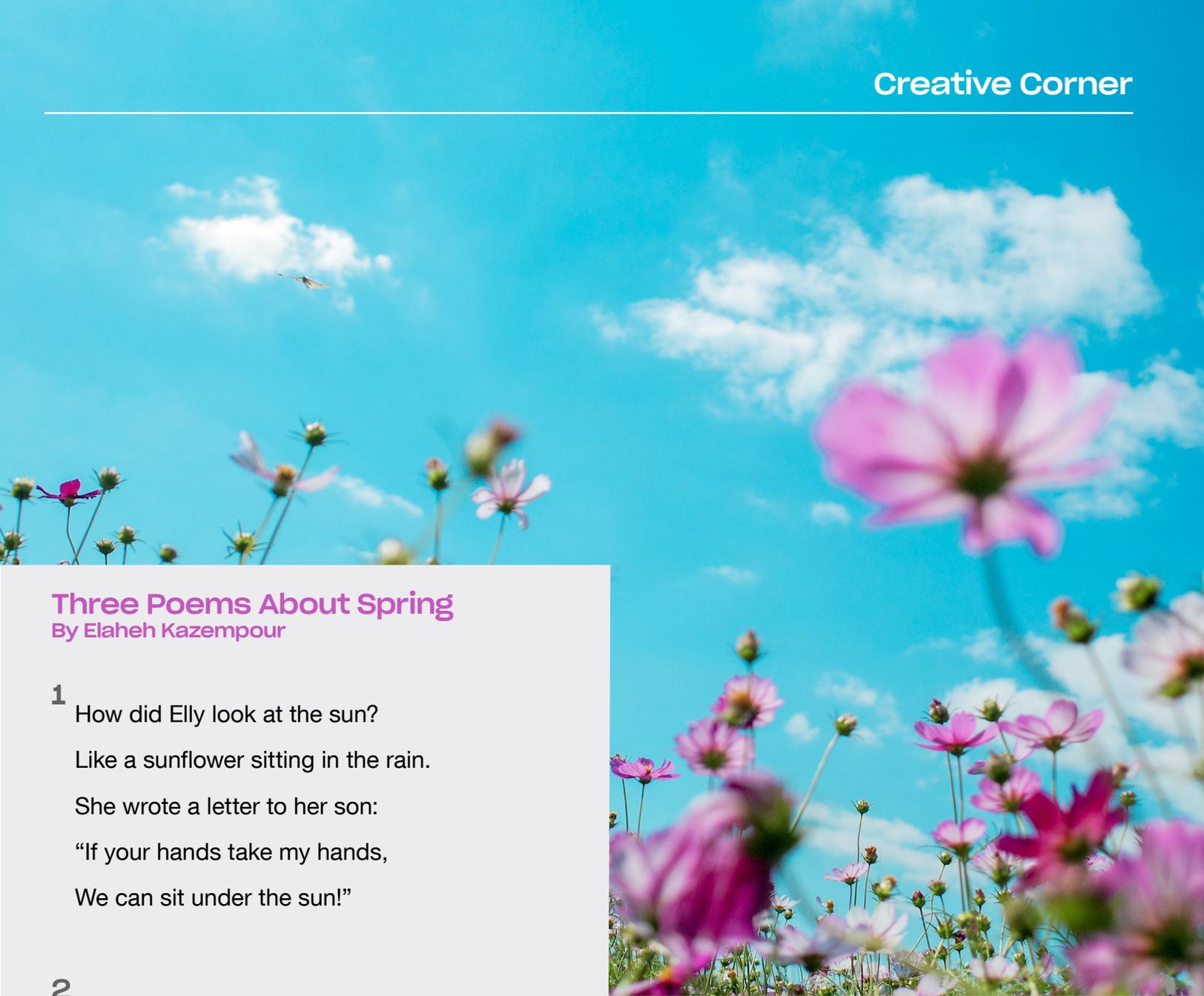
Monday morning my husband and I went on interview for citizenship.

My appointment was 8:45. We arrived at 7:30, then we passed the security guard and gave my letter and that lady took a picture and fingerprinted me. At 8:40 the nice lady called my number and guided me to his room, after the greeting she asked six questions with my specification and then he congratulated me. I was so happy and wondered thanks God.

My kindness teacher supported me too. I also had special thanks to her.

It was a great and nice day for me.





## Three Poems About Spring

By Elaheh Kazempour

**1** How did Elly look at the sun?

Like a sunflower sitting in the rain.

She wrote a letter to her son:

“If your hands take my hands,

We can sit under the sun!”

**2** Spring will be more beautiful,  
If you and I are not alone.

The sound of running streams,

Flowing from the mountain,

Is much more beautiful,

Like the sound of human kindness.

Wild lilies are more beautiful,

When they dance together

With yellow and red skirts in the wind.

Spring is the season of human closeness.

Friendship is very, very beautiful.

**3** I talked to God in the middle of the night.

Spring is the season of birth and life,

Time for dancing, love, and wine.

Now my God, tell me on this dark night

Why bats laugh and lovebirds cry?

Why violets, willows and jasmines are in a storm

And weeds in sunlight?

Why doesn't the moon shine on lovers

On this dark night?

Has the Angel of Death rebelled?

# Achievements!

Before quarantine began, learner **Rosa Cid** was attending an International Rescue Committee financial coaching program and was happy with it. “She said she is learning a lot! Also, she started a full-time job!” reported tutor Claudia Alaix. Since the *Safer at Home* order in April, they have “continued with the online classes. Rosa has kept her interest and has continued to strive to learn every day. We all have adapted to continue the lessons remotely. We mainly do dictation, reading aloud, and games like Hangman.” Congratulations to you both for persevering during this extraordinary time!



Tutor Claudia Alaix, learner Rosa Cid, and learner Juana Juarez playing Hangman remotely

Learner Iris Tobar received her Career Online High School diploma! Congratulations, Iris!!

Tutor Janet Ault has this wonderful news to share: “I am so proud of learner **Amma Tatous!** In completing the ‘Review - Lessons 1-10’ in Challenger Book 6, she had only two errors. I guess that’s a 99.9% achievement!” Great job, Amma!

Tutor Michael Berry would like to commend learner **Ubaldo Najera** for “doing such an exceptional job completing Challenger Book 4! We are looking forward to conquering Challenger Book 5!” Way to go, Ubaldo!



Learner Saeid Sedghi

Literacy coordinator Gemini Spencer says, “Learner **Saeid Sedghi** has been coming to the Robertson branch almost every day for many months now. He attends the conversation class, the writing class, walk-in tutoring with EVERY walk-in I have here, and he also now has a one-on-one tutor. Saeid has also been studying for his citizenship test, which he just took AND PASSED!” Congratulations, Saeid!

Learner **Jamie Ferguson** finished Laubach book 1! Great work, Jamie!

“Learner **Griselda Hernandez** is doing great,” says tutor Emma Dennis. “She’s working really hard, staying very focused, and I can see her confidence growing!” Fantastic news!

“Learner **Jamie Ferguson** participated in a play with a group of friends that meet at Harbor College,” says tutor Catalina Gancz. “We went over the script during class time and I helped Jamie to put some emotion in her lines.” Super cool!

“Learner **Aregash Negusse** began using Learning Upgrade and is extremely thankful and excited about it,” says tutor Treanne Gomes! Awesome!

# Achievements!

Some really exciting progress from learner **Anson Zheng**: tutor Ed Harrison reports that Anson “has begun reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar, which took me by surprise since it is way more difficult than the beginner books, such as Dr. Seuss and *The Berenstain Bears*, we’ve been focusing on!” Terrific!

Literacy Coordinator Priscilla Rojas-Naiman says, “Learner **Martha Madrano** used to only speak in Spanish with coordinators and did not touch a computer. Since she has been working with Reading Horizons, she is now practicing her English. She also shows new students how to enter the system. Her self-confidence has increased tremendously!” Amazing!



Literacy Learner of the Month Edward Tuck and his tutor Elizabeth Krown Spellman

Literacy coordinator Gemini Spencer has this wonderful news to share: “I was able to present learner **Edward Tuck** with his February *Learner of the Month* certificate and gift card this afternoon. He literally teared up! He says thank you and he wants everyone to know that he is so grateful for the program and the “friend for life” he has found in his tutor, Elizabeth Spellman! He said he was too emotional to work now and his tutor replied, “Oh, yes you ARE going to work right now!” They have such great chemistry!”

Learner **Marisela Mendoza** took and passed the citizenship test! Congratulations, Marisela!

Tutor Astrid Montoya is proud to report that learner **Simon Contreras** can now read small words! Excellent!

Learner **Carmen Gonzalez** recently got a certificate in Senior Caregiving! Hooray!

Learner **Somayehsadat Rezaei** recently passed her citizenship test! Congratulations, Leyli!

“My learner, **Tom DeHaven**, received a library card in February,” says tutor Linda Rollins! Wonderful news!

Learner **Elaheh Kazempour** voted for the first time in a presidential primary! Beautiful!

“Recently, we have had a breakthrough,” says tutor Katrese Sutton. “Learner **George Melek** is now getting most of his TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) questions correct because of applied strategies, especially on hard texts with lots of big words. Before he was getting about 50% incorrect each time.” Incredible progress!



Teacher Nora Agaronian and her conversation class at the Wilshire Branch Library

Here’s a beautiful quote from Conversation Class Teacher Nora Agaronian - “There are many ways we can help others that can make a big difference in their lives. In my case, it is volunteering for the Adult Literacy Program at the Wilshire Branch Library.” Lovely!

Tutor Lone Malang has poignant news to share: “Learner **Thao Nguyen** has dropped out of the tutoring sessions to go to work. She accomplished her most important goal of getting her citizenship and paving the way to get her parents here and become residents. This is her main goal now. She thanked me for tutoring her. She is very ambitious and a very pleasant person, and I am sorry she is not continuing.” We’re sorry you can’t continue too, Thao, but we’re so happy that you achieved your most important goal with the help of your tutor. We wish you the best!

# Achievements!

Tutor Isabelle Tranner says, “This month learner **Priscilla Reynoso** finished Challenger Book 4, which is amazing! Now, Priscilla is taking on the new book with great determination.” Amazing job, Priscilla!

“My learner, **Daniel Pirouzian**, has made it his goal to read as many books as he can in this early stage in his literacy lessons,” says tutor Yuhao Wang. Since his favorite young adult books (like the *Harry Potter* series) are too challenging at his level, he’s been following along with audiobooks. So far, he’s completed *Harry Potter* Book 1 within a month with plans to plow through Book 2 and *Animal Farm* in the same manner. As his tutor, I’m proud and I’m looking forward to hearing more weekly updates from him about his progress through his books!” Wow!

Literacy Coordinator Priscilla Rojas-Naiman says, “Learner **Cristina Ochoa** was barely able to read. When she took classes at Abram Friedman Occupational Center, they would keep her at the same level and she did not progress. She now is able to read and is taking Reading Horizons classes at both Singleton and Pio Pico, as well as coming to the library on her own to continue her studies!”



Tutor Carol Zuckerman and learner Mehri Rashidi

Here’s some terrific news from tutor Carol Zuckerman: “Learner **Mehri Rashidi** became a US Citizen!! She is so thrilled with this fact. We studied for hours for her exam!” Congratulations, Mehri!

Learner **Evaristo Sesmas** is now reading children’s books with little to no help! A milestone achievement!

Learner **Fatima Kian** won the 3rd Place Hawthorne Award during the San Fernando Valley Arts and Cultural Center exhibit! “She’s a talented watercolor painter with a lively artistic spirit!” says tutor Micah Flores.

Tutor Cherie Magnus has some sad, but heartwarming news to share: “My learner, **Leonor Carmen**, was upset to hear the library would be closed indefinitely. She said, ‘The library is like my church!’” We hope to see you soon, Leonor. The library misses you, too!



Tutor David Price and learner Agustin Jasso

“Learner **Agustin Jasso** is getting better at numbers,” says tutor David Price. “We work on money exchanges every week and Agustin is improving tremendously!”

“During April, learner **Juana Juarez** participated in the online lessons, taking time between work and home duties,” says tutor Claudia Alaix. “In fact, she started dedicating some time doing homework. Juana has shown great progress, being able to build complete sentences and improving her reading skills.” Great job, Juana!

# Achievements!

Referring to tutoring remotely, tutor Carol Camus-Niwa says, “It’s more difficult to have class by phone, but learner **Maria Anguiano** and I have been able to do it so far. We have moved on to reading prose and there are a couple of unfamiliar words for her on each page, but I make up exercises for her to do: (1) matching words w/definitions, (2) filling in words to sentences I compose (3) having her compose her own sentences. It’s important that we are now able to have lots of conversation together and that we have found prose reading that is highly interesting to us both. The grammar workbook is also very useful.” Thank you for your insight, Carol!

Also speaking of quarantine tutoring, tutor Claire Chandler says, “Learner **Alma Velasco** and I are working well by telephone. I email Alma a section from ‘Quick Civics Lessons’ and recommend an episode of the Kanopy series *Independence*. Then we discuss the video and go through citizenship questions. Alma is increasingly interested in people and events outside her immediate family and neighborhood. YAY! She’s also doing exceptionally well with the citizenship material.” A huge congratulations to you both for progressing and adapting during this difficult time!

Tutor Liz Hicks and learner **Hannah Jung** are also working via telephone during the pandemic. Liz says, “Our meetings always start with casual conversation about our week’s activities. She reads completed puzzles aloud. I listen for her clarity of pronunciation, correct accents, voice intonation. If there are idioms or customs she did not understand, we discuss those, sometimes finding similarities in her primary language. When all homework is finished, we spend the balance of the period solving the next few individual puzzles together, pointing out where we think we see decoding clues. Finally, we agree on our minimum homework (which we usually exceed!)” Amazing work!

“Learner **Javad Bastar** is working on his English writing,” reports tutor Craig Hilary. “He writes on topics I suggest and also sends me homework from his online English adult class. We do this via text and it is working well. Also, he asks me to

correct grammar in his text conversations. He is very eager to improve his English and is doing really well.” Another quarantine tutoring success story! Congratulations to you both!

Learner **Yana Chen** completed Challenger Book 2! “She is doing really well and works really hard,” says tutor Mark Lewis. Way to go, Yana!

“Elizabeth is much more fluent now than when I met her,” says tutor Faye Melton about her learner **Elizabeth Hegedus**. “She has a good vocabulary, sometimes using higher level words.” Wonderful news!

During the *Safer At Home* order, learner **Sharareh Babaie** and tutor Janet Perkins are using FaceTime to work together remotely. “We are working on speech exercises related to the TOEFL test.” It’s so great to hear that you’re still working together during the lockdown!

Learner **Bertha Ramirez** has been practicing her synonyms and antonyms by playing word games with her children! That’s super!



Participants in the Robertson Branch Adult Literacy Program show off their new hoodies!



On April 18th, the Los Angeles Public Library was set to honor the Spring 2020 class of Career Online High School graduates. For months we had been preparing speeches, ordering programs, and selecting the dishes we would serve for lunch after the ceremony. I know that some of you were preparing too: inviting your proud families to join you at the Central Library, to watch you walk across the stage of the beautiful Taper Auditorium and receive the high school diploma you worked so very hard to earn.

***First, we are privileged to bring you the commencement speech of our graduate speaker, Ms. Iris Tobar. Iris is not only a graduate of Career Online High School – she is also a learner in our adult literacy program! While we would much rather hear Iris’s words from her own lips, reading about her inspiring journey is the next best thing!***

As nervous as I am standing here today, I am also proud to be sharing my experiences with you all. First, I would like to congratulate all of the students here including myself for finally graduating and starting a new beginning. I am so excited to graduate from Career Online High School: this has been my dream for a long time. I would like to tell you a little bit about my journey to earn this diploma.

My name is Iris Tobar and I was born in Atescatempa, which is a small farming community in Guatemala. When I was 6 years old, my parents moved to the United States to make a better life for our family and they left me to live with my grandparents. I started school in Guatemala when I was 7 years old in the first grade. My grandparents did not realize the importance of education, so I was not allowed to finish school. I had to stop going to school when I was 13 years old and instead of studying, I helped take care of the house. When I was 22 years old, a school close by was offering classes on the weekends. I attended classes for 3 years in order to continue my education in Guatemala. When I was 25 years old, I came to the United States and I wanted to study in Los Angeles, but my mother told me, “You have to work.” She found me several jobs working for families, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of children for 10 years. While I was working, I still had the desire to study English.

I saw a sign in my sister’s school about ESL classes, so I attended the classes for 5 years at night after work. One day in the library, I saw some flyers about continuing education. Beth, the library tutor, introduced me to the coordinator Ashely Binning,

who suggested Career Online High School. I studied almost every day for 18 months before finally coming to the end. I chose a specialization in child care, because that's my eventual goal. My coach, Kimberly Sher, cheered me on constantly and helped me progress towards completion. I was happy to be able to pursue my education online because my 13-year-old son who has suffered several medical problems needed me. Sometimes, I studied late at night and I would drop my son off at school and come home to continue studying. Career Online High School allowed me to make my own school hours to be able to take care of my family and take classes at the same time.

At first, I was nervous about the math classes, but I was offered tutoring and I am lucky that my husband is good at math, so I had help at home. Ashley introduced me to Ginger Lawrence, my personal English tutor, and we have been working together ever since. We spent a lot of time on reading, writing, creating my career portfolio, resume, business and thank you letters. We also spent a lot of time just talking about our lives and feelings, and we have become real friends.

I have several goals in mind, including working with special needs children with LAUSD, and I plan to apply for citizenship. My tutor Ginger and coordinator, Gloria Cervantes, have promised to help me with all my future goals. I have learned important things, like how to use the library for resources, never giving up, and taking advantage of all the opportunities available to me. I look forward to the future and strive to be a better example for others. I am honored to be able to share my story and participate in this graduation ceremony. Walt Disney said, "If you can dream it, you can do it." No one will stop us from following our dreams.

Thank you!

📺 To watch a video of Iris delivering her speech, go to [tinyurl.com/IrisTobar](https://tinyurl.com/IrisTobar)

**Now, please join me in congratulating all of the graduates of the Spring 2020 Career Online High School class!**

- |                              |                                     |                                 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Enrique Abrego</b>        | <b>Shawneqa Fountain</b>            | <b>Martin Musto Flores</b>      |
| <b>Jose Aguilar</b>          | <b>Flor Escobar Garcia</b>          | <b>Patricia Navarro</b>         |
| <b>Gloria Alaniz</b>         | <b>Tierra Gardner</b>               | <b>Chien Ngo</b>                |
| <b>Maria Alarcon Godoy</b>   | <b>Michael Gavidia</b>              | <b>Ana Isabel Nuñez De Olea</b> |
| <b>Lamonica Albert</b>       | <b>Luis Gonzalez</b>                | <b>Raymond Payne</b>            |
| <b>Iris Alfaro</b>           | <b>Jonathan Henninger</b>           | <b>Sylvia Perez</b>             |
| <b>Martin Alvarez</b>        | <b>Andrea Hernandez</b>             | <b>Shirin Radparvar</b>         |
| <b>Vannesa Alvarez</b>       | <b>Lashonda Holiday</b>             | <b>Banesa Rico</b>              |
| <b>Angel Arcudia</b>         | <b>Karen Jimenez</b>                | <b>Aleli Rodriguez</b>          |
| <b>Teresa Avalos</b>         | <b>Jessica Lopez</b>                | <b>Arturo Rodriguez</b>         |
| <b>Christopher Avila</b>     | <b>Kim Malone</b>                   | <b>Diana Rodriguez</b>          |
| <b>Jose Baqueiro</b>         | <b>Roberto Mancha</b>               | <b>Juan Rodriguez Zarco</b>     |
| <b>Savannah Blessing</b>     | <b>Fabrizio Mangandi</b>            | <b>Javier Roman</b>             |
| <b>Patricia Campos</b>       | <b>Margarita Marcial</b>            | <b>Griselda Sanchez</b>         |
| <b>Janese Carter</b>         | <b>Elizabeth Martinez</b>           | <b>Maria Sanchez Barrios</b>    |
| <b>Priscilla Castellanos</b> | <b>Desmond Mckibbins</b>            | <b>Richard Serici</b>           |
| <b>Emmanuel Cholula</b>      | <b>Alexis Medina</b>                | <b>Lizandro Sibrian</b>         |
| <b>Nanci Contreras</b>       | <b>Irma Meza-Briseno</b>            | <b>Eric Thompson</b>            |
| <b>Ian Dean</b>              | <b>Sofia Veronica Morales Marin</b> | <b>Iris Tobar</b>               |
| <b>Julian Escobedo</b>       | <b>Richard F. Moreno</b>            | <b>Monica Travis Reagor</b>     |
| <b>Sherell Ford McDonald</b> |                                     | <b>Maria Vazquez</b>            |
|                              |                                     | <b>Cindy Zuniga</b>             |