



February 2019

Providing **Free** Adult Literacy Services
at Sonoma County Libraries since 1986

Upcoming Holidays/Library Closures:

February 18: Closed President's Day
March 31: Closed Cesar Chavez Day
April 21: Closed Easter Holiday

February is Black History Month

*Does your
Learner Know?*
Our Adult Literacy
Collection has
wonderful books
and stories about
black leaders,
entertainers,
poets, authors,
athletes and trailblazers.

All our Sonoma County Library branches will be featuring displays highlighting Black History Month, and we encourage our tutor and learner pairs to celebrate with us and learn along the way. One of my favorite reads of 2018 was a graphic novel series (Books: One, two & three) entitled: *March*, which tells the story of Civil Rights Leader and Congressman John Lewis – You can check it out from your local library.

~Alisa Adams, Adult Literacy Services Coordinator

Once you
learn to
READ,
you will
be forever
FREE.

-Frederick Douglass

The Literacy Skill (Art) of Writing

Some of you know that our Adult Literacy Program publishes an annual Learner Writing Collection each fall, and many of our learners have come to embrace and enjoy the experience of seeing their writing in print.

We will be launching our next Learner Writing project later in February - March. A complete packet with instructions on how to encourage your learner's efforts and submit their writings will be sent to you by mail later in February-March.

Learners will be given 4-6 full weeks to work on their writing with the help of their tutors.

This announcement is just to encourage some healthy anticipation. So... sharpen those pencils and break out those composition books. This year's suggested theme is: *My favorite place in Sonoma County.*

Office Communication with Learners & Their Families – Update

Our Student Coordinators – Jessica & Christine -- have been calling all our adult learners in the one-to-one tutor program with good news: Our program has received funding to expand our Family Literacy Services. We are planning to provide more high quality children's books and resources to the children regularly involved in the lives of our adult learners (parents, care givers, au pairs, day-care employees, relatives, etc). We plan to do this for children aged 0-14 years (our previous program served 0-5yr olds).

Jessica & Christine have been calling the learners to find out how many additional families/children we can now serve with these FREE books and services.

Learner Goals – Needed Now

Thank you to all of you tutors and learners who have sent in their updated Learner Goals form. These were due January 31st.

We will be contacting all those who missed this deadline to ask you to turn them in within a week. These goals are important to evaluating the health and effectiveness of our program, and we must collect and report this information. If you need help completing these forms with your learner, we're here to assist: 707-544-2622 or

literacy@sonomalibrary.org

Accomplishing Great Things Together

Adult Learners Tell Us ...

- When I was a volunteer in the Christmas Food Baskets distribution, I had good communication with the other volunteers.

Adult Literacy Tutors Tell Us ...

- Learner read about Mark Twain, said she fell in love with Tom Sawyer!
- Learner reading books and building vocabulary. We're also working on writing for meaning.

Adult Learner Leadership Workshop Information

Is the Learner you are working with interested in public speaking, advocacy and leadership skills?

The Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI) will be providing a FREE training workshop weekend (3-days below) to build these skills. This year's ALLI workshops will be held at:

Pleasanton Public Library from Friday, May 17 – Sunday May 19, in the Library Meeting Room. Pleasanton, CA.

Please note: This is an English-only weekend with fast paced dialogue; learners must be able to participate in the discussions without translation. Learners must also be able to attend all three dates and arrange their own transportation. Meals, accommodations—a shared room with another workshop attendee – and mileage reimbursement is provided by the organizers.

If your learner meets these requirements and has been in our program for 6 months or more, please contact me for a 1-2 page application that I will ask you to help them complete and return to me for my required signature and forwarding to the hosting library.

These applications are due **Friday, March 15, 2019 – so please contact me by in February, so we can get the application started.**

Alisa Adams, Adult Literacy Services Coordinator

aadams@sonomalibrary.org

707-544-2622



Happy Valentine's Day, Dear Tutors
Thanks for Sharing Your Love of Reading

~ The Adult Literacy Team: Melissa, Jessica, Christine & Alisa