



NEWSLETTER

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cclib.org/psc

November/December 2015 Happy Holidays!

A Letter from Laura

Wonderful news! Project Second Chance (PSC) is thrilled to welcome **Maya Dobjensky** to the team! Maya will begin working in our Pleasant Hill office on Tuesday, October 27. One of Maya's responsibilities will be to revitalize the Pleasant Hill computer lab and transform it into a true learning center. We are excited to see where her leadership in this area will take us.

While Maya comes to PSC with a strong background in tutoring, instruction, and mentoring, most impressive is her heart for the important work we do. Please join me in welcoming Maya!

- *Laura*



Fundraising Flash!

From PSC, Inc.

Score a two-for-one on your to-do list with **Charity Choice** gift cards!

Charity Choice offers gift cards that allow the receiver to select a charitable organization to benefit from the funds on the card. PSC is on the list of eligible recipients at: www.charitygiftcertificates.org/Purchase/

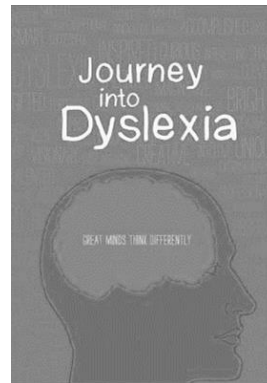
You can buy a Charity Choice Card, present it as a gift, and suggest your recipient select Project Second Chance. To redeem for PSC, simply enter "Project Second Chance" in the "Search for a Charity" box on the website.

Visit the website, buy Charity Choice cards, and get a head start on your holiday shopping. Then present the cards to spread the word about your support of the Contra Costa County Library's adult literacy program.

One size fits all! And your generosity always "fits" adults learning to read.

***Journey into Dyslexia* Film Screening**

Thursday, November 12, 6-7:30 p.m.
PSC Pleasant Hill



PSC students and tutors are invited to a screening of *Journey into Dyslexia*, an HBO documentary from 2011. Hear from a number of successful adults with dyslexia as they describe their childhood struggles and how they have come to view dyslexia as a gift.

Adult family members and friends are welcome to come with you. Be sure to RSVP to the PSC office at (925) 927-3250 by Monday, November 9. Under-enrolled events may be canceled.

6 Syl • la • ble Types for Tutors:

How to Sound Out the BIG Words

Wednesdays, December 2 and 9, 1-3 p.m.
PSC Pleasant Hill

PSC invites tutors to a two-session class to learn how to break up those big words, and how to read and spell them.

You must attend the first class to attend the second. We will learn the six types of syllables in the first class and how to divide words in the second class.

Register by Wednesday, November 25 at (925) 927-3250. Limited to 10 tutors.

Student Achievements

Success Stories:



Students are reading:

Pleasant Hill Book Club – *Twelve Angry Men*

Chi Won S. – *Yes, Chef: A Memoir*

Ferozan M. – *The Breadwinner*

Parvin M. – *Nina Dyer: The Black Panther Queen*

Jane Copps let us know that both of her students, **Ehte A.** and **Parvin M.**, are excited about using *Pronunciator*, the Library's new language instruction program. Glad to hear PSC students are making use of the online programs offered by the Library!

Elizabeth B. reported that **Maggie N.** is making good progress on completing her goal of eighteen Continuing Education credits that are needed for her job. Great!

Chi Won S. and her tutor Kathy Urban have been reading Chi Won's local city news to get informed and the Contra Costa Water District newsletter for tips on water conservation. Three cheers for civic engagement!

More exciting news - Sandy Stright let us know that her student **Mayra V.** got a new job! She will be keeping track of sales and paying employees at a service shop.

According to tutor Geneva Henry, **Sandra B.** recently signed up for a library card. We are glad she is excited to check out materials. That's wonderful!

Thank you to our wonderful student and tutor pairs who spoke at the last tutor training. **Martha G.** with her tutor Sheryl Sankey and **Maggie N.** with her tutor Elizabeth Bognar did a great job sharing their stories. PSC really appreciates their willingness to inspire new tutors!

Work completed:

James W. with Eileen Seeburger – *Wilson Step 3*

Chi Won S. with Kathy Urban – *Endeavor 4*

Ying Q. with Amy Wolf – *Endeavor 5*

Maggie N. with Elizabeth Bognar – *Endeavor 6*

Angelica S. with Janice Hicks – *Challenger 6*

Shoop! Shoop! Shoop! Shoop! Shoop!

Ron Shoop from Penguin Random House will be conducting one of his popular Book Lovers Forums on *Tuesday, December 1 in the Pleasant Hill Library from 6:30–8 p.m.* Ron will offer his picks for your personal reading pleasure and book club discussions.

The event is free and open to the public, and there will be a free raffle for a bag of books. Great Good Place bookstore will be on hand to sell any “must have” titles, and they will donate a percentage of the proceeds to Project Second Chance. Hope to see you there!

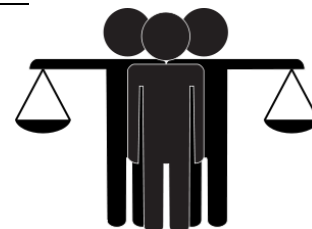
BOOK DISCUSSION

PSC Pleasant Hill

Monday, February 8

12:30-2 p.m.

Get the materials in December.



ALL PSC STUDENTS (and their tutors) are welcome!

Do you want to try reading or listening to a well-known book with your tutor's help, then come talk with PSC friends and staff about the story?

Twelve Angry Men (by Reginald Rose, 73 pages, 2-hour CD): In this award-winning story, written as a play, twelve jurors must decide if a 19-year-old boy killed his father. What seems like an easy decision is not easy at all. This classic tale explores human nature and how the U.S. jury system works. It always generates lots of discussion.



Welcome New Tutors!



Alexa Smith
Cheryl Davis
Claudette Campos
Claudia Lewis
Dee Mollenbernd
Diana Walker
Holly Pablo
John Toy
Laurien Jones
Loreen Atallah
Lori DePole
Margaret Mahon
Marilyn Price
Marj Cordova
Matt O'Neal

May Loney
Megan Reasor
Michelle Applegate
Nairy Colello
Nancy Horstman
Nicole Clabaugh
Pat Stevens
Rose Vargas
Ruby Fujimoto
Sandra Cornish
Susan Yahn
Vaidehi Seshadri
Victoria Naulleau
Yvonne Soy

Tutor TIPS



POWERS: The Writing Process

by Megan

When we teach writing, it is important to emphasize that good writing is the result of a process. This acronym can help your student remember the steps.

Pre-write: This step can take many forms. Just sitting down and free-writing is one method. Another method is free-talking. Others make lists. The main goal here is to come up with a topic. Pre-writing can also spark facts or other details to support the topic.

Organize: Once a topic has been chosen, students should formulate a plan. Using a web or cluster to organize supporting details can be really helpful. Others prefer the more traditional outline.

Write: Using the plan, students draft the first version. Ease their minds! They should not worry about spelling or grammar now. Focusing on those concerns will make it harder to get their ideas down on paper.

Edit: Once the students have a completed draft, editing is the next step. This involves both checking for clarity and organization of their ideas as well as for correct spelling and grammar. It is best to have students focus on editing their ideas first before checking the mechanics of their writing.

Rewrite: After identifying what needs to be fixed, students will rewrite their drafts, fixing mistakes as they go. The editing and rewriting process can be completed multiple times. Remember “writing is rewriting.”

Share: Publish and celebrate! Encourage students to actually mail the letter they wrote, email their writings to friends, or share it with the PSC staff. Don't forget that students are also welcome to submit up to three compositions for the next PSC book of student writings, *In Our Words - Volume 3!*

Adapted from *A Student's Guide to the Writing Process* by Carl Young

West County Corner

by Veronica

Learning in the Computer Learning Center



The holiday season is approaching quickly. Many of you may be planning to purchase new electronic devices, including a computer. If you'd like a refresher session or want to start at the beginning, basic training is being offered on –

- how to use a computer
- keyboarding
- using the internet, and
- setting up an email account.

The training sessions will be held on Tuesdays, December 1, 8 and 15. All sessions will be in the Hercules Computer Learning Center from 2 - 3:30 p.m. To sign up for one or more sessions, call (510) 374-3175 no later than November 24, 2015.



West County Book Club

A few months ago, the West County Book Club met and discussed *Caleb's Story*, which is the third book in the *Sarah, Plain and Tall* series by Patricia MacLachan. The discussion was skillfully led by PSC tutor Arlene Mornick.

At the end of the meeting, those who had not read or listened to *Skylark*, the second book in the series, decided to read it on their own. The Book Club plans to meet again in the spring of 2016 to discuss *More Perfect than the Moon*, the fourth book in the *Sarah, Plain and Tall* series. It's not too late to join us. Stay tuned for the date and time.