



# NEWSLETTER

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## July/August 2016

### *A Letter from Laura*

Got the summertime blues? Here's the cure!

First, **Ron Shoop**, a representative from Penguin Random House, will be conducting a **Book Lovers' Forum** on **Friday, July 29 from 10:30 a.m. – noon** at the **Concord Library** (2900 Salvio Street). Our first daytime event was a smashing success, so we're doing it again! Please help spread the word, and come hear Ron's picks for great summertime reading. We hope to see you since there won't be many more opportunities with Ron's retirement in November. As always, the event is free, and there will be a free raffle for a bag of books.

Second, it's time for our annual **Student and Tutor Recognition Event**. I love this event because it celebrates Y-O-U! Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, August 25 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.** in the main **Pleasant Hill Library** and invite your family members. We'll enjoy cake and punch and have a wonderful time.

During the evening, we'll release our most recent book of student writings, *In Our Words*, an inspiring collection of stories, and we'll honor some very special tutors. This year eight (yes, eight!) tutors have volunteered more than 1,000 hours! They are: **Joan Benjamin, Helen DeVol, Carleen Goeckel, Luise Hall-Gustafson, Suzette Leith, Christi McCullough, Leslie Satin, and Carolyn Thiessen**. And well on their way to the 1,000 hour milestone are these tutors who've volunteered more than 500 hours with Project Second Chance: **Bob Baum, Colleen Brown, Vicky DeYoung, Marcia Farrar, Nancy Glenfield, Donna Gold, Sandi Gritzer, Marc Hanson, Elaine Hemperly, Janice Hicks, Celia Lawson, John Sindzinski, and Cheryl Wong-Ng**.

And, of course, we couldn't do the important work we do without the support of our community. This year we will be honoring the incomparable **Ron Shoop** from **Penguin Random House** with our Anne Cain & Friends Award, and we'll celebrate the amazing work of **PSC, Inc.** (the Fundraising and Advocacy Board for Project Second Chance) with our Margaret Leshner Award. For many years, Ron Shoop and PSC, Inc. have been loyal partners and have helped to ensure our program's future.

Please call (925) 927-3250 by August 18 to let us know if you (and any guests) will be attending. Hope to see you!

Last on the list of summer (actually fall!) fun is a fundraising event featuring mystery authors **Cara Black, David Corbett, and Sophie Littlefield**. Save the date for **Wednesday, October 26 at 6 p.m.** at the **Walnut Creek Library**. More to follow.

- *Laura*

### **BEHIND THE MASK: Exploring Your Self-Esteem**

Thursday, August 11  
1 - 2:30 p.m.  
Antioch Library Meeting Room



Current PSC student, Elaine W., will be offering a workshop for PSC students and tutors. Elaine is a 2015 graduate of the Bay Area Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI). Come and discuss who you are behind your mask. Do you stay in your comfort zone because of your limited literacy skills? Come and learn about self-esteem, confidence, pride, and motivation. Have fun and meet others. Please RSVP at (925) 927-3250 or (925) 754-8317 by Tuesday, August 9.

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:

Students are reading:



**Art T.** – *STAT*

**Catherine L.** – *All I Need to Know I Learned From My Cat*

**Ehte A.** – *Maya Angelou: Words of Wisdom*

**Ferozan M.** – *The Giver*

**Lucia L.** – *Little Women*

**Rowena D.** – *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

Wonderful news: **Lucy E.** got a new job – at the library! Congratulations and best of luck.

Terrific job, **Elaine W.** and **Sandra S.!** After preparing with tutors Tammie Nichols and Vicky DeYoung, Elaine and Sandra gave presentations at the Adult Learner Leadership Institute. Rosie, the woman who ran the Institute, told PSC staff that Elaine and Sandra “were very inspiring and good role models to the learners.” We couldn’t be prouder!

**Adaugo N.** reports she has just passed her nursing assistant training exam! She credits the help from her tutor, Nichole Coggiola, for this achievement.

With the help of her tutor, Dorothy Walker, **Shiyng L.** voted for the first time. That’s fantastic!

Way to go, **Lucia L.!** According to Lucia’s tutor, Nancy Glenfield, Lucia registered to vote online, read the ballot, and voted for the first time.

Tutor Eileen Mascaro reported that **Cecilia C.** became a U.S. citizen. Congratulations, Cecilia!

## Work completed:

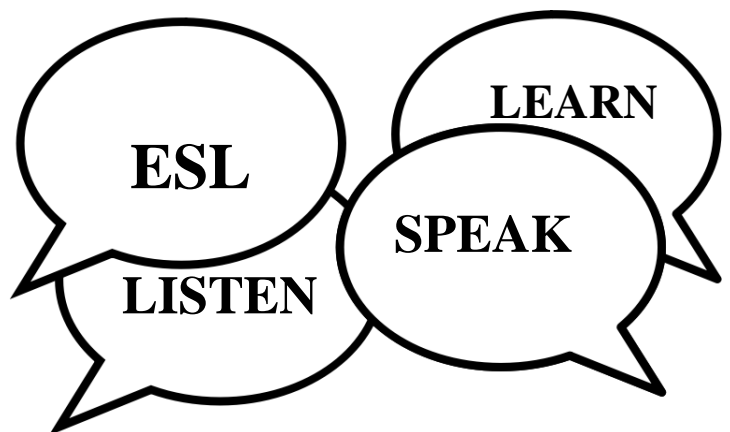
- Greg R.** with Lori DePole – *Wilson Step 1*  
**Sulema M.** with Marjorie Cordova – *Wilson Step 1*  
**Nobuo S.** with Sandi Gritzer– *Endeavor 4*  
**Dacia G.** with Annette Weston - *Challenger 5*  
**Elaine W.** with Tammie Nichols – *Wilson Step 6*  
**Rowena D.** with Mary Ellen Crisp – *Wilson Step 6*  
**Ying Q.** with Amy Wolf – *Endeavor 6*



## WELCOME NEW TUTORS!

Athena Galanis  
Carol Smithers  
Connie Nelson  
Don De Zordo  
Edy Nicolini  
Elle San Pedro  
Juan Kelly  
Kim Van Hoesen  
Linda Bily  
Lynne Childers  
Megan Langner

Marlene Kristensen  
Merry Burns  
Nivedita Krishnaswami  
Pam Wiese  
Peggy Perry  
Rhonda Sarnoff  
Rich Viglienzoni  
Sherri Hedman  
Susan Reid-Adam  
Susan Rotheroe  
Vanessa Holman



Practicing speaking and listening can reinforce reading and writing skills by using the vocabulary and grammar skills you are learning. Many libraries offer friendly practice meetings led by staff or skilled volunteers. No reservations needed, no homework, you don’t have to come every week...just come when you can to practice what you know and to learn more!

Library ESL Conversation Practice for Adults:

- Dougherty Station Library*, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 6:45-7:45 p.m.  
*El Cerrito Library*, Tuesdays, 4:30-6 p.m.  
*Hercules Library*, Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m.  
*Pleasant Hill Library*, Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
*Orinda Library*, Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m.  
*Walnut Creek Library*, Thursdays, 2-3 p.m.  
*San Pablo Library*, Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Open to the public, not just PSC students.

# Tutor Tips



## YouTube Videos: They Aren't All Cats!

by Karin

I've used YouTube videos to learn how to do home repairs, crafts projects, etc., but I was surprised when a student told me she was learning to write in cursive from videos. I hadn't thought about YouTube as a learning tool in that way. Since her time with her tutor was best spent on writing and comprehension, this was a way to learn something relevant to her, independent of her tutor. Videos are convenient and available, as long as you have computer/internet access, to watch when and where you'd like. You don't have to be able to read to learn, just watch and listen!

Videos are often more current than information in a textbook, are short, have a variety of topics to choose from, and offer access to some of the top experts in a field. As in anything on the internet, you need to be sure to check the source of the materials since not everything you find is accurate. Sometimes you encounter videos made by people who just proclaim themselves experts - anyone can post a video.

Here are some videos you might find interesting:

*Speech Sound Production/Phonics* (Note that some videos use British dialect which might be confusing for some.)

- "Jolly Phonics Letter Sounds" (American English, 9 minutes) – woman demonstrates how to say 42 speech sounds in American English; sounds are said twice, followed by an example word and the letters representing those sounds
- "Learning English: Sounds of the Alphabet" (10 minutes) – close-up of woman's mouth as she produces the sounds of the alphabet in order

*Reading, Dyslexia, and the Brain*

- "How The Brain Learns To Read" (3 minutes)
- "Reading Can Change Your Brain" (3 minutes)
- "How the Brain Learns to Read" (30 minutes, Prof. Stanislas Dehaene)

*Famous Dyslexics*

- Steven Spielberg – Dyslexia Interview
- Sir Richard Branson on Dyslexia

*Reading Comprehension*

- Four Strategies to Master Reading Comprehension Skills (3 mins) – learn about skimming, scanning, analyzing data, vocabulary
- Tutoring Tips: Reading Comprehension Strategies (5 mins)
- How To Improve Your Comprehension (38 mins) – strategies for reading magazines, newspapers, and textbooks better and faster; includes Kindle tips



## Computer Lab News

by Maya

Because I'll be in Hercules on Tuesdays for the next few months, the Pleasant Hill

Computer Lab will no longer be open Tuesday evenings. Don't worry; this new schedule is not permanent. Other than this temporary Tuesday night closure, the hours of the lab are the same. Both single students and pairs are welcome. The lab is a great way for students to retain and practice all the wonderful things they're learning while their tutors are on vacation.



## Reminder: No Children at PSC Lessons

Now that schools are out for the summer, PSC students may want to bring their children to lessons. However, please remember that children should not accompany their parents to PSC lessons. It is too difficult for students to concentrate on their lessons if they are overseeing their child at the same time.

Contra Costa County Library policy is that children under age eight must be directly supervised by someone at least fifteen years old. Thank you!