



NEWSLETTER

☎ Central (925) 927-3250 ☎ East (925) 754-8317 ☐
☎ West (510) 527-7558 ☐ ☎ FAX (925) 646-6461
cclib.org/psc

May/June 2017

A Letter from Laura (S.)

A smile is the universal welcome.
-Max Eastman

Exciting news! I am pleased to welcome Laura Hydeman to the Project Second Chance (PSC) team. Laura is new to the Bay Area – she hails from Denver, Colorado – so let’s all help her feel at home. Her background includes managing an adult education program, teaching, outreach, and more. But I’ll let Laura introduce herself to you more fully in our July/August newsletter.

Laura H. will eventually be located in West County, but she’ll spend her first several weeks in PSC’s Pleasant Hill office learning the ropes. Please stop by the office to say hello and give Laura a smile. We will be holding a reception on **Tuesday, May 23 from 1 – 2:30 p.m. in the Hercules Library Computer Lab** to introduce Laura to West County students and tutors. The reception will also be an opportunity to thank Maya Dobjensky for holding down the fort so ably in West County over the last ten months. Maya has done a wonderful job and has accomplished much in the one day per week she has been spending in Hercules. She will be going back to her regular schedule in the Pleasant Hill office beginning in June.

I know it will be confusing to have two “Laura’s,” but we’ll work it out. Just please don’t refer to her as “new Laura” and me as “old Laura!”

Please join me in welcoming Laura H. and in thanking Maya!

- *Laura*

WHAT SHOULD I READ NOW? Book Lovers Forum

If you’ve been fretting about where you’ll get your book recommendations now that Ron Shoop from Penguin Random House has retired, worry no more!

Our good friend, **Angie Cozad** from **Real Books**, will be holding a forum on **Tuesday, June 6 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Library**. Angie will be discussing books that will be wonderful summer reading for you or your book club.

True to tradition, the event is free and will feature a free raffle for a bag of books. Angie will also have the books she recommends on sale if you can’t bear to go home without one or two of the titles. Thanks for your past support, and we hope to see you on June 6.

PSC BOOK DISCUSSION

Is “read a book” one of your goals?

Thursday, June 15, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
PSC – Pleasant Hill

The Circuit, by Francisco Jimenez
(128 pages, 3 hour CD) – read or listen to this boy’s engaging, true story of a family of undocumented immigrants from Mexico working as migrant workers in California. Read the book and/or listen to the audio CDs, then come to the meeting for a friendly small-group chat with PSC friends about the story. Tutors are welcome to come with their student. Ask for the book and CDs now.



Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Ferozan M. – *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Christian the Lion*

Farida M. – *Jane Eyre*

Thank you, **Richard W.** and **Vance C.**, for speaking to our new tutors at the winter tutor training. Along with their tutors, Kim Van Hoesen and Claudia Lewis, they shared their literacy stories with the group, inspiring future tutors. Thanks to all four for doing a great job!

With the help of tutor Sandy Stright, **Mayra V.** improved her GED class enrollment score so much that she's now taking her first GED prep classes at the adult school. Her hard work and commitment to learning are paying off!

Tutor Marcia Farrar reported that **Catherine L.** joined an Albany Library book group and successfully navigated traveling on BART, both impressive milestones towards her goals. Well done!

Work completed:

- Amber G.** with Peggy Perry – *Wilson Step 1*
Harriet W. with Sue Klingman – *Wilson Step 3*
Vilma A. with Pat Stevens – *Challenger 3*
Richard W. with Kim Van Hoesen – *Wilson Steps 3 & 4*
Hana Y. with Sally Paris – *Challenger 6*
Misao S. with Mari Kay Breazeale – *Challenger 7*
and *Words 3*
Elaine W. with Tammie Nichols – *Wilson Step 7*
Ying Q. with Amy Wolf – *Endeavor 7*
Rowena D. with Mary Ellen Crisp – *Wilson Step 9*

ROOM RESERVATIONS:

If you end up not needing a library study room that you had reserved, either through PSC or directly with your local library, please remember to cancel so that others can use the room. Thanks!



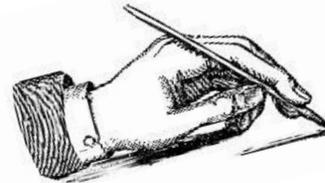
6 Syl • la • ble Types for Tutors: How to Sound Out the BIG Words

Tuesday, June 20 and Thursday, June 22
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
PSC - Pleasant Hill

If you are working on phonics with your student, this two-session workshop is for you. You will learn how to teach your student the steps for breaking up big words for reading and spelling purposes.

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 Tuesday, June 13 at (925) 927-3250.
Limited to 10 tutors.

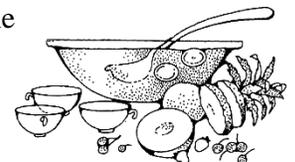


LAST CALL: **Student Writings** **Due May 31!**

If you've been to a PSC Recognition Event, you know how much we love to celebrate the group of *In Our Words* authors every year. Students may give us 1-3 pieces of writing for the book on any topic – a letter, personal experience or opinion, book or lesson response, poem, or whatever they want to say. Each piece can be anything from just a few words to a maximum of 400 words. Writing does not need to be perfect! Email, mail, or deliver your story before May 31. We'll hand out copies of *In Our Words* at the Recognition Event on Thursday, September 14 in the Pleasant Hill Library.

SAVE THE DATE:

PSC's Annual Recognition Event will be on **Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Pleasant Hill Library. PSC students, tutors, friends of the program, and their families are invited! RSVPs will be requested later.



Tutor Tip



Help in Hard Times

by Megan

Tutors can't be everything to their students – and PSC doesn't expect you to be. But we know our tutors are caring, supportive people who want to do as much as they can to help. However, boundaries are important, and there should be limits to how you help. For example, you shouldn't act as a therapist, a financial counselor, or a legal advisor. The best way to help your student in hard times is to **act as a referral source**. Here are some resources to keep in mind:

1. 211 – Students can call 2-1-1 (a toll-free number) and speak with a Contra Costa County referral professional or volunteer who will direct them to relevant health or social services. If your student would rather not use the phone, there is a website one can access free of charge: www.211database.org. If your student's goal is to use the internet, you could incorporate finding a specific service on the website into a lesson. Both the phone number and website are available any time, any day.
2. One Stop Career Centers – To help your student find a job, encourage your student to take advantage of One Stop Centers. There are several located in the county (Antioch, Brentwood, Concord, Richmond, and San Pablo). To access their services, students would need to register online at www.eastbayworks.com/cccounty. Then, on their first visit to the actual office, students are given a card that allows them to access available services. Services are free and can include career counseling, skill and need assessments, internet and phone access, training in specific computer software programs (ex. Word or Excel), and periodic workshops on topics ranging from customer service skills to stress reduction. Use of these services is a great example of how one might meet the "Access Community Resources" goal on your student's goal sheet.
3. Library – Your local library has a wealth of information available, and if you and your student

aren't sure where to start, ask a library staff member; they can often point you in the right direction. Using the library as a resource would be a great way to teach research skills. Also, some libraries have volunteers available to teach computer skills if your student wants more computer help than you can offer.

4. PSC Staff – Don't forget to ask us! We hear about resources through professional connections as well as from tutors and students. It is possible that we might have the name of an organization that can help.

REMINDER: No Children at PSC Lessons

Even when children are out of school for the summer, please remember that PSC students should not bring their children to lessons. It is difficult for students to concentrate 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.

Computer Lab News

Looking for a way to shake up your lessons? The websites englishmaven.org, englishforeveryone.org, and readtheory.org are sister sites devoted to helping new readers and writers.



English for Everyone and *English Maven* are very helpful to developing writers. They offer a variety of worksheets on grammar and the craft of sentence and paragraph building. These sites also feature games, such as cross word puzzles and word searches, for days when you need to relax and have fun while learning.

Read Theory is geared toward comprehension and vocabulary in context. The site allows you to read a passage and then answer comprehension and vocabulary questions once you're finished. It requires a log-in with a valid email address whereas the first two websites can be used without creating an account.

All three websites can be used within the frame of a lesson or as supplemental practice at home. They also may be perfect for those summer months when folks go on vacation. Print out the worksheets and hand write the answers, or use the exercises in the PSC computer lab or anywhere with internet access. Enjoy!