



# NEWSLETTER

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cclib.org/psc

## July/August 2017

### *A Letter from Laura*

I have much to tell you about...

First, the new San Pablo Library will be opening toward the end of July, and Project Second Chance will have its own office! Once the new library opens, Laura Hydeman, our new West County team member, will be working primarily from San Pablo on Monday–Wednesday, and spending Thursday afternoons in Hercules. We hope you'll stop by San Pablo to check out our new digs. The library is moving from approximately 8,000 square feet to more than 20,000 square feet, so this is quite a step up!

Second, please save the date for our annual **Student and Tutor Recognition event on Thursday, September 14** from 6:30–8 p.m. in the main Pleasant Hill Library. We'll release our wonderful new book of student writings, celebrate our 500-hour and 1,000-hour tutors, and honor some very special community partners. An invitation will be mailed to you in August for this heart-warming and lovely evening.

Finally, PSC will be holding its annual fundraising event on **Thursday, September 28 from 6–8 p.m. in the Walnut Creek Library**. The theme will be *Men of Mystery*, featuring mystery, crime and suspense authors **Tony Broadbent, David Corbett, and Kirk Russell**. In addition to hearing from these three engaging authors, the event will feature delicious appetizers, a raffle for amazing items (including a get-away at an ocean-view condo in Aptos), and book sales and signing. It promises to be a great event, so mark your calendar now!

- *Laura*



### *Hello from the other Laura!*

Funny, when I started this job in April, I never thought that one of the hardest things would be introducing myself. Since everyone already knows PSC manager Laura, I've been searching for a new moniker to distinguish myself. Some ideas: Laura H. (my last initial), Laura B. (my middle initial), the new Laura (but don't call her "the old Laura"), Laura 2.0 (tutor Marc's idea), or West County Laura. Perhaps West County Laura is the clearest because the West County is my new PSC home, as Laura explains at left.

A bit about me: I have always loved libraries, language, and learning! I have a background in ESL and taught in both Japan and the US. Until 2015, I lived in Denver, Colorado, where I managed an independent adult education program for about ten years. Both of these jobs were fascinating because I met so very many interesting people from all parts of the community—and the world!

When I moved here, I couldn't quite imagine what job would be as rewarding until I saw an advertisement for a library literacy assistant. Reading, writing, libraries, AND working with interesting people from all over? Perfection! I am thrilled to join the PSC team and begin working with so many of you dedicated learners and tutors. I hope you'll stop by San Pablo or the Hercules computer lab to introduce yourself and chat. And if you have an idea for a good Laura #2 nickname, let me know!

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:

Students are reading:

**Richard W.** – *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**Sandra S.** – *Hank Zipzer*

**PH Book Club** – *The Circuit*



Tutor Marc Hanson informed us that his student **Rosie A.** has passed her citizenship exam and taken the oath of citizenship. We're so happy for you, Rosie!

Thank you to pairs **Lolita A.** and tutor Celia Lawson and **Mayra V.** and tutor Sandy Stright for speaking to our new tutors during training. Great job!

How exciting! According to tutor Susie Thompson, **Bernard B.** signed up for a library card and checked out an audio book.

Wow! **Ike E.** gave a speech to a group in El Sobrante about his literacy progress. No doubt, he mentioned his tutor Helen Beyer. Thanks for spreading the word about PSC and literacy.

What wonderful news! After several years of working with her tutor, Colleen Brown, **Carol W.** filled out a job application without help. And, she got the job!

Tutor Louise McGuire was proud to report that her student **Hanan B.** received her Early Childhood Education Certificate. Congratulations, Hanan!

Dorothy Walker reported that **Shiyng L.** accomplished her literacy goal of an A.A. degree in accounting and finance. Wow!

## Work completed:

- Tommy C.** with Peter Picard – *Words 1*  
**Lolita A.** with Celia Lawson – *Wilson Step 1*  
**Bernard B.** with Susie Thompson – *Wilson Steps 1&2*  
**Philip H.** computer lab – *Lexia Level 1*  
**Priscilla W.** with Janis Freeman – *American Lives 2*  
**Lucia L.** with Nancy Glenfield – *Wordly Wise 2*  
**Ana S.** with Lynne Childers – *Endeavor 3*  
**Harriet W.** with Sue Klingman – *Wilson Step 4*  
**Richard W.** with Kim Van Hoesen – *Wilson Step 5*

- Linda Z.** with Dan Borsuk – *Voyager 6*  
**Carol W.** with Colleen Brown – *Wilson Step 8*  
**Rowena D.** with Mary Ellen Crisp – *Wilson Step 9*

## STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP:

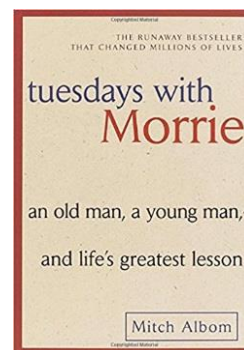
For Students, By Students

**Thursday, August 3**  
**11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**Pleasant Hill Library, Room A**

Former PSC student Martha completed the Wilson Reading System in January. Now she is hoping to help others who might want some extra support as they finish their own literacy journey.

Students, please join Martha and others for a friendly chat. You will have the opportunity to share your hopes, struggles, fears, and successes. And Martha wants you to know that what is discussed at PSC, stays at PSC.

No need to sign up – just show up when you can! Refreshments will be provided.



## *Good Book + Conversation*

**Thursday, September 28**  
**11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**PSC - Pleasant Hill**

*Tuesdays with Morrie*, a PSC Book Club favorite by Mitch Albom: an inspirational true story about a writer's friendship with a wise teacher in his final months of life. Their regular visits turn into one final class on how to live well.

All levels welcome. Tutors are welcome to participate with their student.

1. Get the audio and/or book from PSC now.
2. Listen or read before the meeting.
3. Come to the meeting to chat about it.

# Tutor Tips



## Fake News by Karin

If it's in print, it must be true! That is a common notion among new readers. Even experienced readers are sometimes fooled by fake news. How do you evaluate things you and your learner read? What is fake news and why do people create it? What is the difference between fact and opinion? How do you spot fake news?

There are now many websites you can browse to help you and your student become a more discerning reader.

- Check out the Contra Costa County Library's *Adults 50+ Guide*, <http://guides.ccclib.org/FindingFacts>. There you will find a concise "How to Spot Fake News" guide. There are links to sites such as [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), which monitors the factual accuracy of U.S. political players, and [Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com) to check the accuracy of rumors.
- For a quick guide to sorting facts and weighing information from San Jose State University, go to <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/fake-news>.
- Consider the News Literacy Project's *Ten Questions for Fake News Detection*, <https://tinyurl.com/h8ckwx>.
- See what the Oakland Public Library has to offer at <https://tinyurl.com/ydb9ztfx>.
- Parents can find information to help their children navigate online safely at <http://www.connectsafely.org/>.

### Temporary Parking Change at PSC Office

Due to the Library's annual book giveaway (which starts August 7), tutors and students who come to the Pleasant Hill PSC office before the Library opens will need to enter through the front entrance from July 17 through September 5 to accommodate set up and tear down.

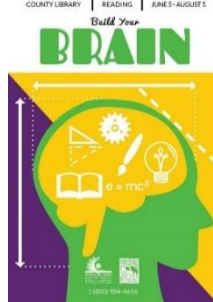
We will be sending out an email with more information soon, so stay tuned!



## WELCOME NEW TUTORS

Anne Kim	Lin Gaylord
Christina Mack	Lonnie Howard
Damon Toroain	Mary Jo Pugh
Denise Renke	Melinda Guelfi
Divya Shankari Raghavan	Mike Slinde
Duayna Pucci	Paul Crissey
Gary Hook	Susan Berg
Gilberto Cooper	Susan Persson
Hanna Jennings	Thomas Nolan
Leah Sicat	Zev Luria

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY | SUMMER READING | SUMMER 2017 | JUNE 5 - AUGUST 5



## SUMMER READING

The Library's Summer Reading continues through August 5, with the theme *Build Your Brain*. There are weekly reading, building, art, internet, and number "challenges" to try. Mark off your challenges to earn activity points towards prizes. This is an all-ages program and anyone can join, even babies. Pick up a program record at your local library. Information at <http://ccclib.org/summer>.



### Like News for You? Find it Online!

Did you know that you can access *News for You* on the internet? Visit [www.newreaderspress.com/news-for-you-online](http://www.newreaderspress.com/news-for-you-online) and enter the PSC password to log in. We will be emailing the password to our tutors the first week of July, so keep an eye on your inbox. Feel free to share the login information with your student.

In addition to being able to access a year's worth of issues in both written and audio form, there are many resources to discover at this site. There are interactive questions students can answer online. Word searches and crossword puzzles are also available. Each issue has an online teacher's guide, and the "For Teachers" link takes you to a list of instructional tips and strategies.

Join us in thanking PSC tutor Marcia Farrar for her kind donation that made this resource available to tutors and students through July 2018.