



# NEWSLETTER

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## November/December 2014 Happy Holidays!

### *A Letter from Laura*

I have some very exciting news to share! Thanks to our wonderful fundraising board (PSC, Inc.), Project Second Chance has the funds to dedicate a part-time staff person to West County. This is a dream coming true, as West County is one of the most underserved areas of Contra Costa County.

Even more exciting is that our very own Veronica Kimble will be filling that role. Veronica will be based in the Hercules Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but you'll still see her from time to time in our Pleasant Hill office. There's no telling where she'll pop up!

We will be replacing Veronica in the Pleasant Hill office, but that will take some time, so please bear with us as we transition Veronica's many responsibilities – particularly our Pleasant Hill Computer Learning Center – to other members of our team. Thank you for your support, and please join me in congratulating Veronica on this exciting new opportunity!

And now, as 2014 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your many contributions to Project Second Chance. The Project Second Chance team is so grateful to each one of you, and we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

- *Laura*

### **GOALS REMINDER**

The "Goals Setting and Progress" forms will be mailed to tutors during the first week of January. Please complete the forms with your student and return them to a PSC office by Monday, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. For those tutors who work in the East Co. office, Karin has your forms and will contact you about them. Don't forget to take time to celebrate your achievements!



### *Good Book + Conversation*

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.

**Mon. Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Pleasant Hill**  
**Tuesdays with Morrie**, a Book Club favorite by Mitch Albom (199 pages, 4-hour CD): an inspirational true story about a writer's friendship with a wise old man in his final months of life. Their regular visits turn into one final class on how to live well.



### **Ron Shoop Book Lovers' Forum!!**

**Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.**  
**Pleasant Hill Library**

FREE!! Raffle for a free bag of books!! Join Ron Shoop from Random House as he recommends books for your holiday gift giving and personal reading pleasure.



### **2015 Leadership Opportunity**

Big News!! PSC will host the 2015 Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI) in June of 2015. This is a dynamic program for literacy learners to improve leadership, communication and advocacy skills. It is led, presented, and facilitated by adult learners who are ALLI graduates. Details on the program and how to apply will follow.

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Martha G. – *Three Cups of Tea*

Ferozan M. – *Lilly's Crossing*

Chloe T. – *Life of Pi*

Faina G. – *A Dream Come True*

Julie C. – *Hopes & Dreams: Making Heaven* and  
*Hopes & Dreams 2: Boat People*



Congratulations, **Fahime S.!** With the help of tutor Joanne Hughes, Fahime submitted a short story to the *Easy English Times* this summer, and it was published a few weeks later. What an accomplishment!

Fantastic, **Regina W.!** Tutor Kay Sasek reports that Regina prepared a presentation on learning disabilities and presented it four different times to groups who work with people with disabilities. She was also named Employee of the Year. Great work!

A big thank you to **Martha G.** and her tutor Sheryl Sankey, and to **Chloe T.** and her tutor Nancy Glenfield for speaking at tutor training. They were an inspiration to our new tutors. We appreciate it!

Way to go, **Ehte A.!** With the help of her tutor, Jane Copps, Ehte sent a wedding card to a relative. She also made her first purchase on EBay. Her husband recently commented that Ehte is more independent—she no longer asks for his help to read. Well done, Ehte!

Tutor Marc Hanson says that **Leticia B.** has become a crossword puzzle enthusiast. At first, she said she couldn't complete them, but now, she is proud of her ability to do so. That's terrific, Leticia!

According to Nancy Glenfield, **Chloe T.** researched volunteer opportunities and began volunteering at the Contra Costa Blood Bank. Excellent!

As a result of lessons with tutor Rosemary Jenckes, **Giovanni R.** got his first library card. That's wonderful to hear!

**Salima E.** has re-enrolled in Adult Basic Education classes at a local adult school after a summer of lessons with Marcia Farrar. That's great, Salima!

**Maggie N.** studied for and passed the health insurance agent license exam that her new job required. Wow! Congratulations both on the new job and on the passing test score!

## Work completed:

**Bernadette P.** with Elaine Becker – *Vocabulary Drills*

**Nobuo S.** with Sandi Gritzer – *American Lives 1*

**Elaine W.** with Tammie Nichols – *Wilson Step 2*

**Esmat M.** with Marilyn Lloyd – *Challenger 5*

**Wenman L.** with John Sindzinski – *Challenger 5*

**Misao S.** with Mari Kay Breazeale – *Challenger 6*

**Martha G.** with Sheryl Sankey – *Wilson Step 7*

**Kenny C.** with Cristine Hilsinger – *Wilson Step 12!*

## WELCOME NEW PSC TUTORS!

Amy Wolf

Bud Sasser

Carl Coates

Carol Schapker

Eileen Seeburger

Gary Ellison

Jeff Soliva

John Coughanour

Louise McGuire

Mary Beth Bergsten

Pat Smith

Andrea Hop

Candice Crenshaw

Carol Rothstein

Darlene Kingery

Elizabeth Bognar

Harleen Lamba

JoAnne Wilkinson

Joy Knight

Marvin Tsao

Merriann Sherwood

Patti Neal

## **Looking for New Tutors**

Registration for PSC's next new tutor training class starts on Dec. 17. Please help us spread the word by telling friends and family. And let us know if you have a good place to post a flier. Thanks!

## **New Pleasant Hill Library Hours!**

The Pleasant Hill Library has extended its hours! The library is now open Mondays from 12 – 8 p.m.  
Hooray for libraries!!

# Tutor Tips



## Discover & Go (Goal: Access Community Resources) by Megan

The Contra Costa County Library has teamed up with many local museums, theaters, and other historical, educational, or cultural sites to offer free or discounted passes. And since some of our students have never visited museums or don't know what venues are available in the area, this library service, *Discover & Go*, is not to be missed.

In order to use *Discover & Go*, students will need to have a library card, live in Contra Costa County, and use a computer. They will need to log in to the system at <http://ccclib.org/discovergo/>. From there, they can browse available passes by date or by venue. Venues include the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose, the Oakland Zoo, and many more.

Although each venue defines what their passes allow, there are generally four different types of passes:

1. General Pass: Free admission for one or more adults
2. Children's Pass: Good for a certain number of children (often requires a paying adult)
3. Family Pass: Includes admission for a certain number of adults and a certain number of children
4. Discount Pass: Offers a discount, such as \$3 off an adult ticket, \$2 off a ticket for a child or a senior, or 50% off a guided tour for two

Students will need to read "the fine print" to make sure the pass will be appropriate for their situation.

Consider incorporating such an experience into your lessons. Select vocabulary words or phrases for students to master before they attempt to find and print a pass (ex. admittance, exhibition, blackout days, venue, restriction, etc.). The *Discover & Go* website also has recommended book lists related to the different sites. The lists include both children and adult level library materials. Here are some ideas inspired by the lists:

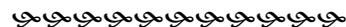
- You or your student could check out the DK Eyewitness book *Cars* (call number J629.222

SUTTON) from the library to read in your sessions before visiting the Blackhawk Museum.

- Read *Peanuts* comic strips (the library has many volumes available for check out) prior to visiting the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa.
- St. Mary's College Museum of Art will be hosting an Andy Warhol exhibit next spring. Before going, your student could watch *Artists of the 20th Century: Andy Warhol*, a DVD documentary (call number DVD B WARHOL, A.) available through the library.
- Read a young adult, children's, or PSC-owned biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt before touring the U.S.S. Potomac.

After or during the outing, students could write about the experience, too.

Remember, tutors aren't required to go on field trips, but feel free to enjoy the experience with your student. And, when your student has successfully accessed *Discover & Go* and visited the venue of their choice, you can mark "Access Community Resources" as a goal met on the semi-annual goal form!



## The Gift of Giving: A Win-Win Situation!

by Veronica



*Lemons for Literacy* and *Free Rice* are computer online resources that provide practice with vocabulary skills. When *Lemons for Literacy* questions are answered correctly, materials are donated to literacy programs by Reading Horizons.



When *Free Rice* questions are answered correctly, rice is donated to the World Food Bank. During the month of **December**, tutors and students are encouraged to visit the computer learning center at least 2-3 times to complete vocabulary exercises. Your participation will increase donations to literacy programs and the World Food Bank. It's a win-win situation!