



# NEWSLETTER

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cclib.org/psc

## July/August 2015

### *A Letter from Laura*

Mark your calendar for summertime fun!

First, **Ron Shoop**, a representative from Penguin Random House, will be conducting a **Book Lovers' Forum** on **Tuesday, July 14 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.** at the **Hercules Library** (109 Civic Drive). Ron will be discussing great summertime reading titles, so you won't want to miss it. As always, the event is free, and there will be a free raffle for a bag of books.

Next, you won't want to miss the **BIG** party! Our annual **Student and Tutor Recognition Event** will be **Wednesday, August 26 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.** in the main **Pleasant Hill Library** (1750 Oak Park Blvd.). Please come and invite your family members to enjoy cake, punch, and a lovely evening. We'll release our most recent book of student writings, *In Our Words*, hear from several PSC students, and honor some very special tutors. Congratulations to **Jane Copps, Susan Couch, Wendy Helms, Steve Hemperly, Connie Pfahl, Kay Sasek, and Penny Snyder**, who each volunteered more than 1,000 hours with Project Second Chance! And well on their way to this amazing milestone are **Kathy Bishop, Cathy Brown, Kathy Cook, Gabrielle Essner, Joanne Hughes, Marilyn Lloyd, Arlene Mornick, Sherry Sankey, Nick Taddeo, Shirley Wright, and Steve Zanki**, with more than 500 volunteer hours each. Finally, we'll honor a very special community partner **Joanne Durkee**, recently retired from Mt. Diablo Adult Ed, for her help and support throughout the years.

Please call (925) 927-3250 by August 19 to let us know if you (and any guests) will be attending.

- *Laura*

### Get a Book Club Consultation AND Help Project Second Chance!

Book club coordinator and bookstore manager Cheryl McKeon loves to talk about books, and she loves PSC.

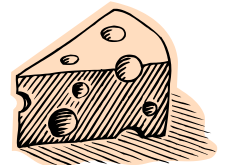
For your book club (or group of reader friends), this can mean an evening or a Sunday afternoon of book recommendations, with lists of new releases and books selected for your group's interests, in your home, at a mutually convenient time. Presentations last about 90 minutes, and a lucky reader wins a bag of books! In exchange, please make a donation to Project Second Chance of at least \$75.

Cheryl has given book talks for 15 years, first as a bookstore book club coordinator in Seattle and now with Book Passage in San Francisco's Ferry Building. This offer is limited to presentations reasonably close to the Pleasant Hill PSC office. For questions or to schedule a gathering, email [mckrocker@comcast.net](mailto:mckrocker@comcast.net) and specify PSC Book Talk.

### PSC BOOK DISCUSSION

Pleasant Hill

Students: Is "read a book" one of your goals? Try this short book and come talk about it with PSC friends!



**When:** Monday, August 31, 12:30 - 2 p.m.

**Book:** *Who Moved My Cheese?* (by Dr. Spencer Johnson, 96 pages, 1 hour audio CD) - bestselling fable about dealing with change and finding happiness. An engaging story with a useful life lesson.

Read or listen to the story over the summer and come ready to chat about it with PSC friends on Aug. 31. Ask for the book/CD now. Questions? Ask Kate.

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:



Students are reading:

Nadya K. – *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Phoenix C. – *The Bonesetter's Daughter*

Parvin G. – *This One Summer*

Chiwon S. – *Georgia O'Keefe*

Faina G. – *Letter from Chicago*

Leticia B. – *Sarah, Plain and Tall Series*

& *The Distance Between Us*

Akisha A. – *The Things They Carried*

Congratulations, **Hassan M.**! After working with his tutor Jim Riley for a year and a half, Hassan got a job in San Francisco. That's wonderful news!

**Gladys L.**, a former PSC student, began her first college class at LMC this past January and finished with an A! She credits her work with her former "angels," tutors Connie Pfahl and Jim Bowers, for her success.

Congratulations, **Daniel K.**! With the help of his tutor, Roxanne Sue, Daniel recently passed the HVAC exams. He will be getting his license soon. Fantastic!

Congratulations, **Adaugo N.**! With the help of her tutor, Nichole Coggiola, Adaugo has completed her classwork and internship to become a licensed Pharmacy Technician. Way to go!

## Work completed:

**Gabriela O.** with Linda W. – *Wilson Steps 1 & 2*

**Tierra J.** with Celia Lawson – *Wilson Step 1*

**Julie C.** with Mary Ann Knets – *Challenger 2*

**Mahshid G.** with John Coughanour – *Challenger 3*

**Dina R.** with Carleen Goeckel – *Challenger 6*

**Wanika H.** with Celia Lawson – *Challenger 6*

**Ferozan M.** with Leslie Satin – *Wordly Wise 6*

**Lisa G.** with Cathy Brown – *Wilson Step 6*

**Lucy E.** with Megan Brown – *Wilson Step 9*

## What is a Leader? What Makes a Good Leader?



PSC hosted one of California's three 2015 Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI) boot camps over the weekend of June 5-7 to answer those questions and to prepare participating literacy learners to take on leadership roles in their personal lives, jobs, and literacy programs. With 17 learners from all over the Bay Area, the conference room was buzzing with participants excited to meet and learn from each other. Facilitated by graduates of past ALLIs, including PSC's **Danny W.** and **Consuelo S.**, topics covered were networking, setting goals, self-esteem, and public speaking. PSC's learner participants were, **Yuen C., Steven F., Paula G., Olena L., Maryam N., Sandra S., and Elaine W.** Congratulations to all!!

## Welcome new tutors!



Julie Armstrong

Dan Auslander

Judy Azzopardi

Constance Brown

Jordan Brown

Mary Bujaci

Laura Burbidge

Mary Ann Campbell

Mary Ellen Crisp

Cheryl Eiselman

Melanie Ladra

Taina Libbey

Pamela Manning

Carmen Ochoa

Laura O'Rourke

Diane Plume

Maria Pratt

Parinaz Rabbani

Vera Rowsey

Linda Sanchez

Helena Sen

Eva Vasquez

Kanwal Virdee

Diana Volovelskay

Jackie White

Linda Wood



## WANTED: More Tutors!

Does your office/club/shop/other have a place to hang tutor recruitment flyers? Do you have friends or colleagues you could send emails to about PSC? If so, we'd be happy to send you flyers and/or email wording.

Registration for **New Tutor Training** starts August 5. Training is September 16, 19 & 26.

# Tutor Tips



## Summer Breaks

by Karin

Summer is marked by long, warm days and breaks from the usual routine of tutoring sessions. Breaks are good—we come back renewed, energized and ready to tackle more learning. Summer is also a time for students to apply what was learned in textbooks to their daily life activities.

If your student is traveling during the summer, have them put new skills to use in planning the trip and reading road signs, travel guides, and tourist information. Students could keep a journal of their trips, send postcards, e-mail tutors about their adventures, or take pictures and write notes about them. Teach them to preserve their memories through written thoughts.

If you will be out of town, PSC has three computer labs for students to use in your absence. Talk to staff about scheduling a session or two. If the student uses a home computer, check out free online sites, such as *Lemons for Literacy*, *vocabulary.com*, *TV411*, and *Spelling City*. Do they use apps on their iPhone? Try *Phonics Genius*.

The library is also rich with resources. *Discover & Go* offers free or reduced price tickets to a variety of Bay Area museums and venues. Beginning in July, we are excited to have available on the library's website two new programs. *Pronunciator* is designed to help people learn any of 80 languages, including English. The Testing and Education Reference Center includes study skills and practice for standardized tests, such as the GED, TOEFL, US Citizenship, and many technical trade exams. The theme of the library's Summer Reading Festival is *Read to the Rhythm*. Ask your student to read a book or listen to the audio, and then write a review in order to be entered in a drawing for a Kindle Fire, Berkley Rep tickets, or other nice prizes. There are programs for all age groups and many special events in the branches around the county. Make summer reading a family event!

## More Information on Summer Reading



Speaking of the Library's Summer Reading Festival, participants may enter the drawing (as described in *Tutor Tips*) by writing reviews of activities they complete as well as for books they read or listen to. For example, the review could be written about a library program or a *Discover & Go* venue you attended. For more information, visit <http://ccclib.org/reads/summerreading/>. In the yellow bubble, click "Activities & More" and then click the "Summer Reading Is For Everyone" tab. Enjoy!

## Family Fun with *Stories to Go (STG)*

by Veronica



With long summer days ahead, there will be plenty of time to do things you enjoy and want to explore. If you want to read to a child, the library will have kits for your use. The kits are called *Stories to Go (STG)* and are developed for adults to 'spread the joy of reading to young children from birth to age seven. The kits consist of 5 themed picture books and a related activity, all housed in a canvas carrying bag. Each *STG* kit circulates as one item.'

To get *STG* kits, use your library card to check out one from your local library's circulation desk. With a 21 day loan period you'll have plenty of time to enjoy the entire kit with your child.

## West County Corner

by Veronica

### SAVE THE DATE

for the next  
Book Club Discussion

**Book:** *Caleb's Story*  
by Patricia MacLachlan

**When:** Wednesday,  
September 30

**Where:** San Pablo Library Story Room

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the book club discussion group, check out *Caleb's Story* from the library or get the audio recording from the West County PSC office. This is a great book to read during the summer!

