



NEWSLETTER

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ccclib.org/psc

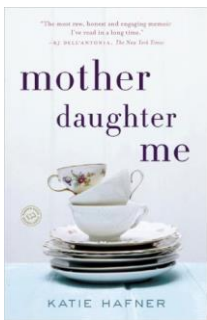
September/October 2015

A Letter from Laura

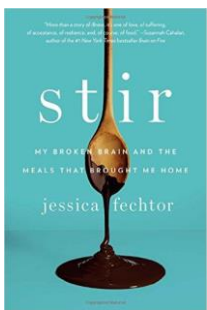
Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope. And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day.

E.B. White

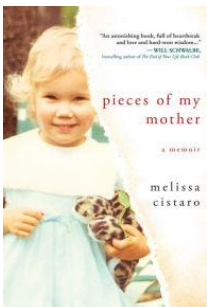
**Thursday, October 15, 6 – 8 p.m., Oak View Room,
Walnut Creek Library (1644 N. Broadway)**



We have an exciting event coming up to benefit Project Second Chance! It is called ***Mending Lives: A Conversation with Bay Area Memoirists*** and will feature a panel discussion with Melissa Cistaro, author of *Pieces of My Mother*; Jessica Fechter, author of *Stir: My Broken Brain and the Meals that Brought Me Home*; and Katie Hafner, New York Times Science reporter and author of *Mother Daughter Me*. These women faced emotional and physical adversity with determination, hope, and grace, and ultimately triumphed. PSC students also succeed when faced with adversity. This discussion will not only raise dollars to promote literacy in our community, but also bring hope to those who struggle.



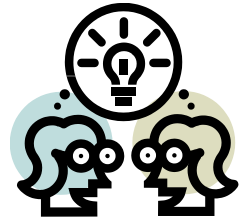
There will be a delicious array of desserts and a raffle featuring hand-made quilts, wine, restaurant gift cards, bags of books, jewelry, and more! Tickets are \$20 each and are available for purchase at www.pscfundraising.org. All proceeds from this lovely event benefit PSC.



- Laura

ESL TUTOR SUPPORT MEETING

Thursday, September 10
2:30-4 p.m., PSC Pleasant Hill
RSVP now at 925-927-3250



Come meet for an hour with fellow tutors and staff for an open discussion of any challenges or successes you're experiencing in tutoring sessions. Bring questions or issues to troubleshoot. Share the names of materials, websites, or activities you particularly like. Or just come to listen. Then stay for a 30-minute video demonstration of the Library's new *Pronunicator* program (see *Tutor Tip* on page 3), either to show your English-language learner for extra practice or to work on learning a foreign language yourself.

Fundraising Flash!



Welcome to a new newsletter column from the PSC Inc.'s fundraising committee. We'll share ideas on how YOU can join in on fundraising efforts. Remember, all financial contributions support the important work of building adult literacy in our community. You make a difference.

This month: **Matching Contributions.**

- Does your (or your spouse's) employer offer matching contributions? Ask your HR department if your company has a plan – it could be as easy as signing up for it. PSC staff can provide documentation on tax-exempt status.
- Do civic organizations in which you participate make annual donations to support the local community?

Watch your mail for the annual PSC appeal letter in September. As you plan your financial contribution to PSC, ask about matching programs. Together, we can spread the PSC message and multiply our generosity to do even more to support adult literacy!

- PSC, Inc. Board

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:



Cynthia S. – *What Color is My Parachute?*
Pleasant Hill Book Club – *Who Moved My Cheese?*

Years of hard work paid off big time for **Lucia L.** She passed the California Real Estate Salesperson Exam! Congratulations to her and her tutor, Antonia Lowe.

Miguel D. successfully passed his welding qualification test, reports his tutor, Prince Ibe. Congratulations!

Tutor Helen Beyer reports that **Ike E.** has sent three submissions to a poetry contest in Lincoln, California. Good luck, Ike!

Congratulations, **Cynthia S.!** We just learned from her tutor, Susan Couch, that Cynthia has found a volunteer position. That's wonderful news!

Work completed:

Hassiba H. with Sandy Blasingame – *Edge on Spelling 1*
Hilda A. with Susan Beyerle – *Endeavor 7*
Cecilia C. with Eileen Mascaro – *Challenger 8*

SUCCESS!

In fiscal year 2014-15:

- 200 PSC tutors provided instruction to 217 learners.
- PSC tutors and friends volunteered over 16,564 hours.
- Students achieved 394 goals, including 70 students who read a book for the first time; 42 students who met a new writing goal, such as writing a letter; and 25 who got a job or promotion.

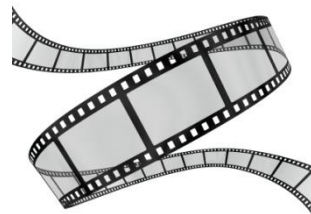
Thank you for another successful year!

Film screening of - *Journey into Dyslexia*

Date: Thursday, November 12

Time: 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: PSC Pleasant Hill



This film screening is open to both tutors and students. Feel free to bring an adult family member or friend, too. Just let us know how many are coming with you when you call the PSC office to sign-up.

Look in the November/December newsletter for more information.

New Tutor Training Classes in 2016



PSC needs new tutors! Thank you for all you do to talk us up to friends, family, and colleagues. Hearing about your experiences with tutoring encourages others to learn more about PSC and to consider becoming a volunteer tutor.

1. **Post a Flyer** - Do you belong to a club, place of worship, or place of employment with a bulletin board or other place to post a flyer about volunteering with PSC? Talk to us - we'd love to send you flyers or cards to display.

2. **Spread the Word** - If you know someone who would make a great PSC tutor, share the dates for the 2016 tutor training sessions with them:

Winter 2016:

Wednesday, January 20 and Saturdays January 23 and 30

Spring 2016:

Wednesday, April 27 and Saturdays April 30 and May 7

Fall 2016:

Wednesday, September 14 and Saturdays September 17 and 24

Registration for New Tutor Training always begins six weeks before the Wednesday night session of training.

Wilson training usually follows a few weeks after the second Saturday of training. If you wish to take the Wilson training, speak to a PSC staff member.

Tutor Tips



New Online Gifts from the Library

by Kate

Here's more proof that Contra Costa County Library is the best deal around. In addition to other services that you may already use through the library website – free museum passes (*Discover & Go*), eBooks, streamed audiobooks, and digital magazines (*Flipster*) – now there's more!

1. Language Skills – *Pronunciator* is a wildly exciting new library offering for our ESL students and anyone who wants to learn a foreign language. This is *Rosetta Stone* on steroids, and it is available on both Apple and Android phones and tablets, too.

Program Features:

- 80 languages are taught
- a choice of 50 languages for the narration/instruction (When learning English, a Korean speaker can elect to get explanations in Korean.)
- lots of lesson material: 350+ hours of instruction
- shorter courses for travel basics and citizenship
- progress tracking and certificates of completion
- scores, progress, and bookmarks are synched across all your devices (phone, laptop, etc.)

To use:

- Register at www.pronunciator.com with your library card. You'll then be emailed a user name and password.
- Log in, select your language, and explore!

The comprehensive “Main Course” in *Pronunciator* assumes no prior knowledge of the new language. Click around for lots(!) of activities with grammar, real-time pronunciation scores, job interview questions, music lyrics, captioned movies, virtual conversations, and more.

Alternatively, “Learning Guides” are more structured, 8-week classes offered at different starting levels. A logical way for PSC students to start would be to choose a level in “Learning Guide,” go to the “Drills” tab and select “Listening.” After finishing the drills, move on to the “Quizzes” tab.

2. Test Prep – The *Testing & Education Reference Center* database has prep materials and online practice tests for anyone studying for vocational or immigration exams. To access, go to ccclib.org, then click through to

Research > Articles & Databases > Testing & Education Reference Center.

For test prep for the U.S. Citizenship Test, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), and Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC), choose *International Tools*.

The *Career Tools* section has resources that could be useful to job hunting students and tutors alike, such as resume writing tools and computer tutorials, as well as preparation for vocational tests in real estate, cosmetology, accounting, postal service, and more.

3. Movies – *IndieFlix* is a free service on the Library website with unlimited access to thousands of film festival shorts, features, and documentaries. Watch movies on any Internet-enabled computer, smartphone, or tablet with a Web browser. Sort by language, genre or film length.

West County Corner

by Veronica

West County Book Club

Book: *Caleb's Story*

by Patricia MacLachlan

When: Wednesday, September 30
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where: San Pablo Library

Preview: *Caleb's Story* is told from the viewpoint of a boy who lives his life on the prairie.

Joining the book discussion is simple.

1. Check out *Caleb's Story* from the library, or
2. Get the audio recording from the West County PSC Office.

West County Recognition Event

PSC hosted a wonderful student and tutor recognition event in Pleasant Hill in August. If you didn't get to attend the Pleasant Hill event or if you had so much fun you want to come to another party, you're in luck. West County will host a Project Second Chance recognition event on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Hercules Library. Stay tuned for more information.

