



NEWSLETTER

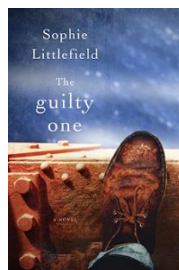
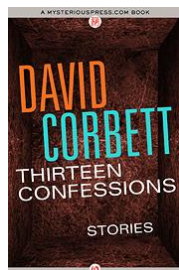
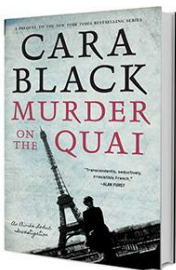
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September/October 2016

A Letter from Laura

"A Mysterious Author Affair"

Wednesday, October 26, 6 – 8 p.m.
Oak View Room, Walnut Creek Library
(1644 N. Broadway)



Calling all mystery lovers! I'm excited to let you know about a fundraising event to benefit Project Second Chance, with mystery writers **Cara Black, David Corbett, and Sophie Littlefield.**

The evening will feature a panel discussion with the authors; book sales and signings; a delicious array of desserts; and a raffle featuring bags of books, wine, restaurant gift cards and even a one night "stay-cation" at the Renaissance Club Sport!

Tickets are \$20 each and are available for purchase beginning September 14 at www.pscfundraising.org.

Farewell to Ron Shoop!

Fans of Ron Shoop from Penguin Random House have two more chances to hear Ron's picks before he retires.

- Tuesday, September 20
- Tuesday, November 15

Both events will be from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Library. Hope to see you there!

- *Laura*

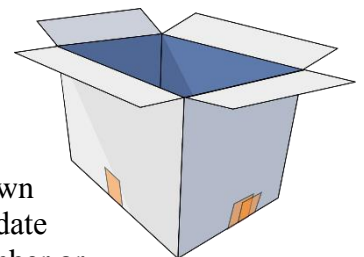


A Book Talk, Just for Your Book Club

Get a Book Club Consultation *and* help Project Second Chance (PSC). As a book club coordinator, bookstore manager, and former PSC tutor, Cheryl McKeon loves to talk about books and loves PSC. For your book club, this can mean an evening or Sunday afternoon of book recommendations, with lists of new releases and books selected for your group's interests. A lucky reader wins a bag of books, too! In exchange, Cheryl asks your book club to make a donation to Project Second Chance of at least \$75. This offer is limited to presentations reasonably close to the Pleasant Hill Library. For questions or to schedule a gathering, email mckrocker@comcast.net with the subject line: PSC Book Talk.

An Update on the Move

Yes, the Pleasant Hill PSC office will still be moving down the hall, but we don't have a date yet. It will likely be in November or December. But no worries, the only thing that will change is where you will find our smiling faces ☺ and materials. We will update you further in the November/December newsletter.



Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Alicia F. – *Little House on the Prairie*

Ferozan M. – *Alice in Wonderland*

Chi won S. – *The Book Thief*



Adaugo N. passed her Certified Nursing Assistant licensing exams with help from her tutor, Nichole Coggiola. Congratulations!

Richard W. got a library card and checked out a book. Way to go!

When **Lisa J.** was recently asked to write at a church group meeting, she was pleased to discover that she could write two pages independently. Her time working with tutor Wendy Helms is bearing fruit. We're so pleased!

According to tutor Alestra Menendez, **Nancy G.** read her first English novel, *Charlotte's Web*, and has started emailing all of her children's teachers. Fantastic!

Work completed:

- Richard G.** with Carol Schapker – *Wilson Step 1*
Richard W. with Kim Van Hoesen – *Wilson Step 1*
Hana Y. with Glyn Taylor – *Challenger 1*
Misao S. with Mari Kay Breazeale – *Words 2*
Whilkia F. with Rich Viglienzoni – *Endeavor 4*
Sandra S. with Vicky DeYoung – *Wilson Step 5*
Carol W. with Colleen Brown – *Wilson Step 6*

News for You – Online!

Exciting news! PSC is the recipient of a subscription to the full online version of *News for You*, a newspaper written for adult literacy learners. PSC tutors and students will have access to this online resource through spring 2017. (We will continue subscribing to the print edition as long as budget allows.)

To try it out, contact PSC staff for the password. Then, visit www.newsforyouonline.com. Type the password into the login box at the top of the page. Happy reading!

SAVE THE DATE:

EASY JOURNALING:

A Workshop for Students & Tutors

Tuesday, November 29, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

or Wednesday, November 30, 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

Pick one session and RSVP by 11/21

Pleasant Hill Library Meeting Room



Come see samples of different kinds of journals, including journals with checklists, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer prompts, as well as get ideas for what to write about. This workshop is good for writers of any level (beginners welcome!) and tutors looking for writing ideas for their student.

Did you know...

Many famous, successful people have struggled with reading, often due to a learning disability like dyslexia. Here are a few of them:

- **Charles Schwab** (business leader) failed English twice while working on his college degree in economics.
- Filmmaker **Steven Spielberg** learned to read two years after the other kids at school. He found out he had dyslexia when he was 60 years old.
- Even though **Jamie Oliver** (TV chef) has written many cookbooks, he didn't read his first book, *Catching Fire*, until he was 38 years old.
- As a child, actress **Keira Knightley** promised her parents that she would practice reading every day if they hired an agent for her.
- Children's book author **Patricia Polacco** didn't learn to read until she was 14 years old.
- **Whoopi Goldberg** (actress and comedian) dropped out of school when she was 17 years old, but she still enjoys being read to as an adult.
- Lieutenant Governor **Gavin Newsom** had to stay after school three days a week for remedial tutoring. He still has to read newspaper articles twice in order to understand them.

Tutor Tips



Voting Made Easy

by Maya

This year's upcoming election is proving to be action-packed. Reading up on candidates and ballot measures, filling out voter registration forms, and researching local polling places are all great ways for students to get involved in their communities while practicing literacy skills.

Why is voting important? The heated presidential campaign isn't the only thing to get excited about. California voters will elect 53 candidates to serve in the House of Representatives and one candidate to replace Barbara Boxer as U.S. Senator. The U.S. congressional election is important, especially since the open seat of the Supreme Court relies on congressional confirmation. We also have a number of big statewide ballot measures this fall, including the elimination of the death penalty, the prohibition of large capacity ammunition magazines, and the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8. Of course, the first step is registering to vote. California makes voting easy with absentee voting and early voting. The deadline for registration is Monday, October 24. Register online at registertovote.ca.gov. (Come to the PSC computer lab if you don't have access to the internet.) You can also pick up a registration form at your local library or the PSC office and mail it in. To register to vote in person, visit the DMV, your local elections office, or any other government office. Pick up an *Easy Voter Guide* for simplified ballot issue explanations in the PSC office, any library, or online.

Here's a list of online resources that make finding your polling place and researching the issues easier:

- votesmart.org
- vote411.org
- newsforyouonline.com
- smartvoter.org
- learnenglish.voanews.com
- ballotpedia.org
- easyvoterguide.org



West County Corner

by Maya

Since last year's West County Recognition Event was so successful, we'll be hosting another one on Tuesday October 18th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Hercules Library. For those unable to attend the Pleasant Hill Recognition Event or those who want to attend both, this is the perfect opportunity for you. It's also a great chance to meet other learners and tutors in your community. The newest issue of *In Our Words* will be distributed, and we'll serve light refreshments. If you'd like to attend, please call (510) 527-7558 to RSVP by Tuesday, October 11. We hope to see you there!



Computer Lab News:

Dyslexie Font

For many dyslexic people, certain letters, like *p* and *q* or *b* and *d*, look like mirror images and are often accidentally swapped. Christian Boer, a dyslexic graphic designer, has created a special font called *Dyslexie* meant to combat these difficulties. By adding tails to letters like *b* and *d*, slanting other characters, and creating more distinctive openings in letters like *a*, *c*, and *s*, *Dyslexie* gives each letter a unique face. The font also allows more space between individual letters and words in order to prevent the inadvertent blurring of letters. Periods and commas are bolder and capital letters are bigger, so sentences are less likely to run together.

While *Dyslexie* is not currently available in our Computer Labs, it can be downloaded at home for free. It's compatible with all kinds of computers. Once it's installed, you can use it in your internet browser and even in Microsoft Word. To learn more about the font or download it for free, visit dyslexiefont.com today!