



NEWSLETTER

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ccclib.org/psc

September/October 2017

A Letter from Laura

HOORAY! It's time for our annual **Student and Tutor Recognition Event**. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 14 from 6:30–8 p.m.** in the main **Pleasant Hill Library**, and invite your family members to enjoy cake and punch with us.

At the event, we'll release our most recent book of student writings, *In Our Words*, and celebrate some incredible tutors. This year, five tutors achieved the 1,000 hour volunteer milestone: **Judy Anderson, Colleen Brown, Cynthia Ding, Marc Hanson, and Kathy Urban**. Six tutors have volunteered more than 500 hours: **Mary Clifton, Vivian Fong, Donna Luckey, Tammie Nichols, Carol Schapker and Sandy Stright**. RSVP by September 7: (925) 927-3250.

The Next Chapter, from Karin

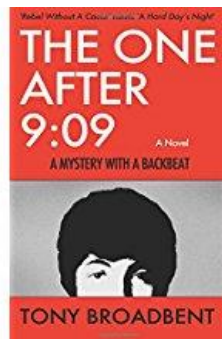
I joined PSC as a volunteer tutor in 1989. After a few years, I was hired at PSC on a short-term, eight-month grant. That eight months ultimately became 23 years! But life happens, and all good things come to an end... and now I'm looking forward to retiring at the end of October.

It has been a pleasure to have worked with such a wonderful group of people. I have enjoyed working with PSC staff, past and present. The tutors in this program are the most kind-hearted, giving people—true treasures! I have been inspired by the students, who overcome challenges and succeed beyond what we imagined. They have been my teachers, and I am most grateful for what they have taught me. A big thank you to the library staff, for without their support we couldn't do the work we do.

I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life and to see what other opportunities life has to offer. Happy reading!

"Men of Mystery" Author Panel & Book Signing

Thursday, September 28
6–8 p.m., Oak View Room,
Walnut Creek Library
(1644 N. Broadway)



Men of Mystery will feature a lively panel discussion with Bay Area mystery writers **Tony Broadbent, David Corbett, and Kirk Russell**. The evening will include an array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts; a silent auction for four nights at an ocean-view condo in Aptos; and a raffle.

Tickets are \$25 for general seating and \$50 for priority seating. Priority seating is limited and includes premium seats as well as a wine and chocolate gift bag. Tickets are advance purchase only at <https://pscfundraising.org/>. All proceeds benefit PSC. Call (925) 927-3250 for more info.

Film Screening - *The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia*

Tuesday, September 19
5:30–7:30 p.m.

Pleasant Hill Library, Public Meeting Room



A 2012 Sundance Film Festival documentary selection, *The Big Picture* looks at the experience of children and adults with dyslexia. Join us to see the video and to participate in a post-film discussion. Adult family members and friends are welcome, too.

Please RSVP at (925) 927-3250 by Friday, September 15. The event may be cancelled if under enrolled.

Student Achievements

Success Stories:



Students are reading:

PSC-PH Book Club – *Tuesdays with Morrie*
Mireya S. – *Where the Wild Things Are*
Richard W. – *All the Light We Cannot See*
Ying Tong W. – *Who Moved My Cheese?*

Tutor Jane Copps reported that **Ehte A.** went to the Social Security Office on her own and independently applied for Medicare. What an accomplishment!

According to tutor Helen Beyer, **Ike E.** is getting so comfortable using the dictionary that he now reaches for it freely. Great job!

Thank you to **Harriet W.** and her tutor Sue Klingman and to **Jinyoung O.** and her tutor Wendy Watling for speaking at our new tutor training. Both pairs were terrific!

Work completed:

Michiko L. with Iris Hillman – *Practical Idioms*
Leticia S. with Diana Walker – *Words 1*
Johnnie W. with Chris Steers – *Wilson Steps 1 & 2*
Jesse L. with Arlene Sirott – *Wilson Step 2*
Erik S. with Janice Hicks - *Challenger 4*
Richard W. with Kim Van Hoesen – *Wilson Step 6*
Whilkia F. with Rich Viglienzoni – *Challenger 6*
Lucy E. with Megan Brown – *Wilson Step 12!!!*

**October is National Dyslexia Awareness Month:
Spread the word!**

For more information about dyslexia and other learning disabilities, visit the following websites:

www.dys-add.com
dyslexiaida.org
www.dyslexicadvantage.org
decodingdyslexiaca.org

The advantage of dyslexia is that my brain puts information in my head in a different way.

-Whoopi Goldberg



Computer Lab News: iPads, Apps & More!

PSC is thrilled to introduce our iPads! Starting in September, students, tutors, and pairs can drop by the lab any time it's open to play with the new technology. (iPads will not be available for check-out.)

Because the number of apps can be overwhelming, we're hosting themed months to explore specific skills:

September:	<i>Letters, Sounds, and Spelling</i>
October:	<i>Vocabulary and Reading</i>
November:	<i>Grammar and Writing</i>
December:	<i>Life Skills and Social Media</i>

During each themed month, anyone who needs help with this particular skill is invited to take a look. If you don't need help with that month's skill, you're still welcome in the lab. However, we can't guarantee that our lab tutors will be able to help you with apps they haven't yet learned themselves. We're all learning together as we go.

If you're not sure what you need help with or don't know anything about iPads, come anyway. We'll have lists of websites and apps for you to use at home if you fall in love with an app and want to use it on your own iPhone or iPad. Many similar apps are available via Androids.

IMMIGRATION LAW NOW: Visas, Citizenship Paths, Sanctuary Cities, Executive Orders and More

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30–8 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library

Whether immigrant, ally, or simply curious, come learn about rules and rights for immigrants under current law. Experienced immigration attorneys from Contra Costa County Bar Association's Immigration Section will tell you the latest and answer your questions. RSVP requested, but NOT required. Pleasant Hill Library (925) 646- 6463.



Tutor Tips



Arrived: Retold Classics

by Megan

With a generous grant from the Pleasant Hill Community Foundation (PHCF), PSC was able to purchase sixteen new abridged classics with teacher guides. The classics range in level from about a level three to a level five. Some of the titles are *Dracula*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Treasure Island*.

The *Timeless Classics* study guides offer tutors a wealth of support resources. First, your student should be given two short articles: “Facts About the Author” and “About the Times.” These readings help the student activate prior knowledge before reading the book. If your student would benefit from a preview of the book’s characters, there is also a list called “Facts About the Characters.” There are exercises for each chapter as well as for the whole book; they include crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, word searches, multiple choice, short answer, and more. These exercises also cover many critical reading skills, such as drawing conclusions, cause and effect, and inference. A glossary of literary terms (ex. symbol) may be needed if your student comes across one of these words in the exercises. At the end of the guide, there is a list of “project” ideas that your student may enjoy.

In addition to reading activities, don’t forget to ask the student to do some writing—even if it is a short piece. In fact, we would love it if your student wrote something (typed or hand-written) related to these books—we could share it with PHCF as a thank you for funding them (with the student’s permission, of course). Here are some activities you could encourage your student to attempt:

- Write a thank you note to PHCF.
- Write a summary of a chapter or of the entire book. (There are sample chapter summaries in the teachers’ guides. If you would like a graphic organizer to help your student, see PSC staff.)
- Write a review of the book. (The teachers’ guides even have a worksheet that will walk a student through this process.)
- Write an alternate ending or a sequel to the book.

In order to be included in the thank you packet to PHCF, we will need all written pieces before March 1, 2018.



Pleasant Hill Community Foundation

PSC would like to give a big thank you to the Pleasant Hill

Community Foundation for funding sixteen abridged literary classics with tutor support materials. These books and guides will provide our students the opportunity to experience great literature at an accessible level. We appreciate the grant!

Student Support Group – Drop-in



Former PSC student Martha would love to help students who are in the midst of their literacy journey. She is a great cheerleader with lots of energy and compassion. Please come for a casual chat with Martha on one or both of these dates:

Thursday, September 7, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Thursday, October 5, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Both meetings will be in Room A in the Pleasant Hill Library. No need to register—just stop by. See you there!



West County Corner

Our West County PSC office in the new San Pablo library is about to open! Incredibly, the new library will be open 7 days a week and will have lots of study space. The PSC office is accessible from the main library space, around the corner from the entrance on the left. Stop by to browse the PSC materials library, get help, or just chat. The PSC office is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during library hours.

If San Pablo is out of your way, I will still be in Hercules on Thursdays where PSC still has a desk, materials, and the drop-in computer lab (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1–2:30 p.m.).

I look forward to seeing you in San Pablo!

—West County Laura