



# NEWSLETTER

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ccclib.org/psc

## May/June 2018

### *A Letter from Laura*

*It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure. —Ernie Harwell*

After more than 12 years with Project Second Chance (PSC), I will be retiring at the end of July. It has been a wonderful ride! I started with PSC as a volunteer tutor in 2005 and eagerly applied for a contractor role in 2006. I achieved full employee status about a year later and became Program Manager in 2008.

I vividly remember my first interview. After working for many years at Bank of America, I was concerned I didn't have the desired background or experience for PSC. So I told the interview panel that while they would likely be interviewing people with more traditional qualifications, they wouldn't be interviewing anyone who wanted the job more than I.

That is still true today. You may have heard me say that this is the first job I've had where I cry for good reasons (I cried plenty at Bank of America, but they weren't happy tears!). I love the tears of joy when a student achieves a literacy goal they thought was out of reach. Or when a tutor speaks of how much they have gained from their experience tutoring. Or when the PSC staff celebrates the important work we do. I will miss all of this and all of you immensely.

But it is time to say hello to a new adventure. I don't know what retirement will hold for me, but if it provides me with anything close to the satisfaction I've gained from being part of PSC, it will be rewarding and wonderful. Thank you for being my PSC friends and heroes. I will never forget our time together, and I leave knowing that there is an amazing and talented team ready and able to carry on and thrive.

### Private Library Orientation for PSC Students (and Tutors)

Wednesday, May 23, 10:00 a.m.  
(Note new date)  
Pleasant Hill Library  
(RSVP by Wednesday, May 16)



Do you want a library card? Or do you have one that sits unused because you don't know what it can get you? Come learn how to get a library card, use the checkout machine, find things, search the website calendar for programs, look things up online, and participate in Summer Reading. Orientation is just for PSC students (and tutors) with a Pleasant Hill adult services librarian and PSC staff member.



### Introduction to Podcasts Workshop

Thursday, May 24, 1–2 p.m.  
Pleasant Hill Library DEN  
(RSVP by Tuesday, May 22)

You may have heard the buzz about podcasts, which are a series of audio files you can download to your phone, iPad, or computer. Themes range from politics to health to narrative and are a great way to build reading comprehension. Come hear samples from all kinds of popular series, learn how to download podcasts on your own device, and how to incorporate them into lessons. Students and tutors are welcome.

### LAST CALL for *In Our Words!*



Let's celebrate student writing! Send us 1–3 pieces for our annual book of student writings **by May 31**. Any topic, 1–400 words, written or dictated, perfect or imperfect—we want them all.

# Student Achievements

## Success Stories:



Students are reading:

PSC Central Book Club—*A Gift of Hope, This I Believe*

Karen W.—*Marley and Me*

Olga N.—*Treasure Island*

Pia Y.—*1984*

Tina K.—*Caleb's Story*

Young N.—*The Secret*

Tutor Sandy Stright reported that **Mayra V.** mastered OverDrive, the Library's eBook check-out system. Mayra downloaded the app to her tablet, configured it, and checked out books on her own. That's fantastic!

**Vilma A.** was very excited to see that her hard work with tutor Pat Stevens has allowed her to follow along with the lyrics to songs at church. That's wonderful!

## Work completed:

<b>Chi won S.</b>	with Kathy Urban— <i>Word Devils Cards</i>
<b>Larisa N.</b>	with Verna Allee— <i>Words 1</i>
<b>Rachel F.</b>	with Peggy Perry— <i>Megawords 1</i>
<b>Yeonhee K.</b>	with Mary Jo Pugh— <i>Endeavor 4</i>
<b>Rachel F.</b>	with Peggy Perry— <i>Challenger 7</i>
<b>Harriet W.</b>	with Sue Klingman— <i>Wilson Step 8</i>
<b>Michiko L.</b>	with Iris Hillman— <i>Endeavor 8</i>
<b>Richard W.</b>	with Kim Van Hoesen— <i>Wilson Step 9</i>

## **Concord Library Closed May 6–28**

We have good news and bad news. The good news is the Concord Library is renovating its public restrooms. The bad news is the library will be closed from May 6–28 during the construction. If you conduct your lessons in the Concord Library, please look for another tutoring site during these weeks. PSC staff is available to help you brainstorm other locations.



## **Immigration Law Clinic**

**Tuesday, May 22, 6–8 p.m.**, Pleasant Hill Library. Sign-ups start at 5:30 p.m. for limited, 15-minute spots. Free, confidential, one-on-one consultations with an immigration lawyer. Open to anyone with personal concerns.



## **Book Club—PSC Pleasant Hill**

**Book:** *This I Believe 2: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*

**When:** **Thursday, June 28, 10:30–12**

What do you believe in: hard work? talking with strangers? the healing power of cupcakes? Read or listen to this book of diverse essays with different styles and voices, but all interesting. Read them all or just a few, then come chat about them. Consider writing your own essay, too! Ask for the book and audio CD now.

## **No Children in Tutoring Sessions**

While PSC loves little ones, please make sure they don't attend tutoring sessions with their parents this summer. Children may read quietly in the library without adult supervision if they're 8 years or older. Kids younger than 8 must be accompanied by someone 15 years or older.

## **Reminders:**



**GOALS FORMS** – We hope that you have been seeing great progress and having fun playing High Five Bingo these past six months. Central and East County tutors: check your mailbox for your goals mailing. We will need both forms (one noting progress made and one setting new goals) returned to the office. The mailing will also include new PSC ID cards for you and your student. West County tutors: Laura H. will contact you directly. **Forms are due June 27.**

**BINGO** – Don't forget to finish off your Bingo card and turn it in **by June 29**. Students with five in a row completed get a PSC bookmark that is so much more, and get entered in a grand prize drawing.

# Tutor Tips



## Using Games to Learn

by Maya

We all know how important it is to teach phonics and grammar, but after slugging through lesson after lesson on a dense topic, it's easy to feel bored or restless. Try breaking up your lessons with engaging, educational games. Having fun not only helps people learn, but it keeps them motivated when they're feeling stuck.

In the Pleasant Hill Library's Discovery & Exploration Nook, or DEN (formerly the Computer Lab), we have games and activities organized by skill. You and your student may come and try any of them, or you can use these ideas to create similar tutoring activities in your local library.

**Phonics & Spelling:** Letters and sounds are the foundations of reading and writing, but they can also be difficult to teach. Check out PSC's kinetic sand, which allows you to sculpt 3D letters and words. Sand letters are not only relaxing and fun, they're also more forgiving and less intimidating than paper and pen. The DEN also features foam paint, which is great for sight words or tricky sound patterns. Shaving cream works just as well. Just be sure to cover your work space with newspaper, or do this outdoors in the summer.

**Reading:** The DEN has one reading comprehension board game. Players read passages and answer questions about them in order to escape from a desert island. For a fun reading exercise that can be done anywhere, print lines from a short scene or play to run through with your student. Aspiring actors who want the classic dramas without Elizabethan slang can try the website No Fear Shakespeare ([nfs.sparknotes.com](http://nfs.sparknotes.com)), where plays are rewritten in modern-day English, line by line. Extra credit for costumes!

**Writing:** Because writing often requires imagination, it can be both scary and fun. The DEN has a small box of questions like, "What would you most like to do for someone else if you had the money and time?" A great piece of writing could begin as a conversation, sometimes a silly or strange one. Record your conversation with your phone or PSC's USB voice

recorder. When your student is ready, have them write their words as they listen to their own recorded voice. The DEN also features a choose-your-own-adventure game on the bulletin board. Spin three colored wheels to find a character, a setting, and an action, and then see what kind of crazy story comes from it. If you're offsite, try a laid-back game of scrabble (phone scrabble works just as well) to generate words your student is comfortable with. At the end of the game, have your student write a paragraph using some words on the scrabble board.

The joy of using games to learn is that there are no repercussions for mistakes. Relax, laugh, and of course, don't keep score.

## New Tutor Training

Know anyone interested in volunteering as a PSC tutor? We're offering a two-day, weekday training class for new tutors on Tuesday, July 24 and Thursday, July 26.

Help us fill this class by spreading the word to people with the time and heart for this rewarding gig.

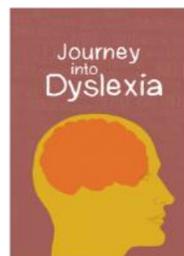
Registration starts June 12. Information and registration at: <http://ccclib.org/psc/index.html>.



## West County Corner

Some sad news in West County: The El Sobrante library is closed indefinitely because of a fire that broke out at the end of February. A relatively small part of the building burned, but the smoke damage is extensive. On the bright side, the library will be repaired and get a face-lift, too. If you need a place to tutor or study, consider the San Pablo Library—it's just 2.5 miles away.

But some glad news, too. The El Cerrito library is now open 7 days a week! New hours at [ccclib.org/locations](http://ccclib.org/locations).



**Join us at the San Pablo library for a screening of the HBO film, *Journey into Dyslexia*.** Learn more about learning disabilities, including dyslexia, and hear interviews with successful people who have dyslexia. Friends and family welcome!

**Where:** San Pablo Library Conference Room

**When:** May 15, 1–2:30 p.m.

**How:** Call any PSC office before May 10 to sign up.