



NEWSLETTER

☎ Central (925) 927-3250 ☎ East (925) 754-8317

☎ West (510) 307-9937 ☎ FAX (925) 646-6040

cclib.org/psc

July/August 2018

A Letter from Laura

So much to celebrate; so little time! ☺ Fortunately there is plenty of time for you to mark your calendar to participate in PSC's annual **Student and Tutor Recognition Event**. It will take place on **Thursday, August 23 in the main Pleasant Hill Library (1750 Oak Park Blvd.)**. Please come and invite your family members too! There will be plenty of cake and punch to enjoy.

This event is always the highlight of the year as we release our most recent book of student writings, *In Our Words*, and celebrate our inspiring student authors. We'll also honor some very special tutors. This year **Jane Cops** and **Neil Konkel** have reached the 2,000-hour milestone of volunteering with PSC! That's amazing. And **Bob Barbero**, **Cathy Brown**, **Janice Hicks**, and **Arlene Mornick** have each volunteered more than 1,000 hours. Finally, an additional eight volunteers have reached the 500-hour volunteer mark. They are: **Marj Cordova**, **Claudia Lewis**, **Rosemary McKay**, **Kristin Nicola**, **Pat Stevens**, **Kim Van Hoesen**, **Susan Yahn**, and **Amy Wolf**. Congratulations!

We're fortunate this year to also recognize some very special community members with a passion for the work we do at PSC. **The Beyer Family Trust** will be honored with our Margaret Leshner Award, and Library Assistant **Jeff Takao** will receive our Anne Cain & Friends Award. For many years The Beyer Family Trust and Jeff Takao have partnered with PSC and our tutors and students to keep our program strong and thriving.

Who would want to miss all of this?! Please call (925) 927-3250 by August 16 to let us know if you and any guests will be attending. We are looking forward to celebrating with you.

- *Laura*

Summer Reading at the Library

June 4–August 4

Info at: cclib.org/summer

With special library programs and challenges, such as “try a food from another culture,” “attend a library event,” and “complete one of the hands-on challenges at your library,” this year's summer reading program is not just about reading! Pick up a “Passport” at your library to start checking off activities. There are branch-level prizes every other week and county-wide prizes at the end.



Retirement Send-Off for Laura

Tuesday, July 31, 12:30–2 p.m.
PSC Pleasant Hill

PSC tutors, students, supporters, staff, and fans are invited to stop by for an Open House to wish Laura Seaholm a happy retirement on her last day at PSC. Treats will be available, of course, and a card for you to sign, if you wish. There is no need to RSVP—just come when you can. And if you can't drop by on July 31, feel free to sign the card any time before the end of July.

Thank you, Laura, for all you have done as PSC's Program Manager for the last ten years. We'll miss you!

Book Giveaway: Aug. 7–11, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

The Library's annual book giveaway will take place this year behind the Pleasant Hill Library for one week in August. Students and tutors are welcome to come and take as many books as they wish – all for free!

As a result, students and tutors who use the back parking lot to enter the PSC office before the library opens will need to park in the front and access PSC by ringing a different doorbell starting July 16. We will be sending an email with more detailed instructions soon.

Student Achievements

Success Stories:

Students are reading:

Kay N. —*Skylark*

Olga N. —*Jane Eyre*

Richard W. —*Lilac Girls*

Steven F. —*Bite Club*

Pleasant Hill Book Club—*Twelve Angry Men*



A big thank you to both **Harriet W.** and her tutor Sue Klingman and to **Vance C.** and her tutor Claudia Lewis for speaking to our new tutors during the spring tutor training. You all did a fantastic job!

According to tutor Andrea Hop, **Nadia K.** passed the citizenship test! Way to go, Nadia!

Three cheers for **Chi won S.!** According to her tutor, Kathy Urban, Chi won read the entire Berkeley Wellness Newsletter despite some very difficult terminology.

With the help of her tutor, Nancy Glenfield, **Lucia L.** studied all of the issues on this June's ballot and voted. Good work!

Work completed:

Akisha A. with Michael Marable—*Wilson Step 1*

Karen W. with Lainey Pleet – *Wilson Step 1*

Jim T. with Laura Hydeman—*Wilson Step 2*

Ju C. with Carleen Goeckel – *Endeavor 3*

Ricky R. with Bob Baum – *Wilson Step 3*

Olga N. with Edy Nicolini – *Endeavor 4*

Vilma A. with Pat Stevens – *Challenger 4*

Alicia F. with Marilyn Lloyd – *Endeavor 5*

Erik S. with Janice Hicks – *Challenger 5*

Nobuo S. with Sandi Gritzer – *Endeavor 6*

Pia Y. with Nairy Colello – *Endeavor 6*

Bernard B. with Susie Thompson – *Wilson Step 7*

Chi won S. with Kathy Urban – *16 Extraordinary Asian Americans*

County Block Party

Thursday August 9, 5:00–7:30 p.m.

Civic Park, Walnut Creek

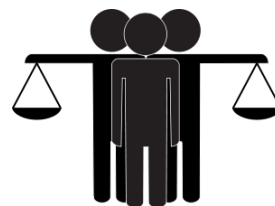
The Contra Costa County Library is partnering with other county offices and non-profits to bring all your service needs to one location. Register to vote; sign up for CalFresh or Medi-Cal; receive a copy of your marriage license, animal license, and other important documents; or enroll in job training opportunities. This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the public.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, September 6

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

PSC Pleasant Hill



ALL PSC STUDENTS (and their tutors) are welcome!

Twelve Angry Men (by Reginald Rose, 73 pages, 2-hour CD): In this award-winning story, written as a play, twelve jurors must decide if a 19-year-old boy killed his father. What seems like an easy decision is not easy at all. This classic book explores human nature and the U.S. jury system. It always gives us lots to talk about.

Read or listen to the audio version, with your tutor's help, or watch the movie version of this well-known book, then come talk with PSC friends and staff about it.



Welcome New Tutors!



Bev Farrell
Candace Bradley
Cathleen Kirk
Claire Hazlett
Dan Thomas
Darlene Kingery
Diana Lynn
Kirsten Miller

Lauren Fuentes
Lois Hutchinson
Mayumi Takata
Paula Costa
Philip Baker
Sara Tancredy
Ruth Thornburg
Vicki Turano

Viji Ramachandran

Tutor Tips



Goldilocks Books for Adult Readers

by West County Laura

We all want to encourage our students to explore and find books in the library's general collection, but the truth is that most adult library books are just too long, too hard, or too complicated for our students (yet!). As Goldilocks would say, we need books that are "just right" and support our emerging readers by building fluency and comprehension while retaining adult interest.

The library collection has a series of 24 "Rapid Reads" books which might offer a just-right book or two for your learner. "Rapid Reads" are low-level (around 3rd grade) books under 150 pages but aimed straight at the adult reader with their high-interest, sophisticated topics. Most fall in the thriller, mystery, or true crime genres, but there are some fantasy and family drama stories, too.

To find a book, search for "Rapid Reads" in the library catalog (www.ccclib.org). The first three pages of the search will turn up books from this series. You can use a library card to reserve one (or more) of the titles that looks interesting and have it sent to your library of choice. This whole process of finding, choosing, and reserving a book can be a fun activity for a tutoring session, too.

Here's a sample of "Rapid Reads" titles:

The Next Sure Thing by Richard Wagamese

A young blues guitar player risks everything when he signs on to pick winning horses at the race track for a violent mobster.

Epic Game by William Kowalski

Kat is a tough, independent woman who makes her living as a professional poker player but begins to realize that all the money and success in the world don't mean a thing unless you have someone to share it with.

The Goddaughter by Melodie Campbell

A young gemologist who happens to be related to the local mob is reluctantly recruited to smuggle diamonds across the border with hilarious consequences.

Him Standing by Richard Wagamese

When an Indigenous carver agrees to produce a spirit mask for a mysterious stranger, he falls under the spell of a dangerous sorcerer from the dream world.

Reading a whole book for the first time can be an immensely satisfying and confidence-boosting experience for your learner. Check out the "Rapid Reads" books and let us know what you think!



West County — Introduction to Podcasts Workshop

Thursday, August 16, 4:30–5:30

San Pablo Library

(RSVP by Monday, August 13)

Podcasts—series of audio files you can download to your phone, iPad, or computer—are a great way to learn new vocabulary and build reading comprehension. In this workshop, you'll be introduced to a variety of popular series and learn how to download and stream podcasts on your own device. iPads will be available for use, but we encourage you to bring your phone or tablet as well as headphones or ear buds. This event is open to students, tutors, technology experts, and technology beginners.

Computer Lab News

Some sad news for those who use *Pronunciator* at home: the Library ended its subscription to this program as of June 30th.



However, the Library is adding the very popular *Rosetta Stone* to its list of free databases! Starting July 1st, anyone with a Contra Costa County Library card can access lessons in thirty languages from home, all for free. English lessons will be available in all five levels that *Rosetta Stone* offers, each level containing more than fifty hours of instruction. According to the software company, individuals who complete all five levels will be able to read a newspaper in English.

Also new to the library's databases is *Brainfuse*, which allows you to connect with free online tutors. Tutors are trained to help with academic subjects as well as résumé writing. Tutors are available every day from 1–10 p.m., in English or Spanish. This is a great resource for students whose tutors are on vacation this summer or for those still waiting for a tutor.

Want to try these resources but don't have a library card? Just bring a piece of mail into your local community library and show your ID to the friendly library staff to sign up for one.