



NEWSLETTER

☎ Central (925) 927-3250 ☎ East (925) 754-8317
☎ West (510) 307-9937 ☎ FAX (925) 646-6040
ccclib.org/psc

September/October 2018

A Message from Megan

Hello PSC!

In March, I celebrated my ten-year anniversary with Project Second Chance. As they say, time does fly! And now, it is my great privilege to be writing you as the acting adult literacy program manager. Since my feet don't yet fit Laura's shoes, there may be a few bumps in the road ahead. But the PSC staff is awesome, and with your understanding and patience, I promise that we will always do our best to help you with whatever you need. The bumps will smooth out in time.

Thank you all for the much-appreciated encouragement I have received this past month. My job will be easier with such caring and supportive PSC tutors, students, and friends. You inspire me!

And now to business... we have two exciting events coming up in early November, so save the dates.

First, **Orinda Books** has partnered with us to host an **author event on Wednesday, November 7 at 6 p.m.** The evening will consist of appetizers, a raffle, and a panel discussion with three local authors: historical fiction authors C.W. Gortner and Adrienne McDonnell as well as author Allie Larkin, who has written two fun and uplifting novels. There is a \$15 suggested donation at the door, and 20% of all book sales will be donated to PSC. Check out Orinda Books' website for more information (<https://www.orindabooks.com/events>). RSVPs will eventually be collected through Eventbrite.

And on **Tuesday, November 13 from 6:30-8 p.m.**, **Angie Cozad from Real Books** will be presenting some of her favorite titles at the **Pleasant Hill Library** and will stay after to sell the ones that tickle your fancy. The event is free, and there will be a drawing for a bag of books.

- *Megan*

Welcome Leslie Mladinich to PSC East!

PSC is thrilled to welcome Leslie Mladinich, our new Senior Library Literacy Assistant located in East County. Leslie comes to us with a background in teaching, marketing, and communication. Once Leslie learns the ropes in our Pleasant Hill office, you'll find her in PSC's offices in Antioch and Brentwood (once the new Brentwood Library opens on September 29th).

Leslie is sure to make a big impact in East County. She has a wealth of outreach experience and energy. So please join us in welcoming Leslie to the PSC family, and look out East County—here comes Leslie!

Letter from Leslie

Little did I know that after volunteering as an adult literacy tutor at the Oakland Public Library, I could make it a career. So twenty years later, I am thrilled to be part of the inspiring Project Second Chance team!

This position combines everything I love: literacy and information, outreach, and helping people.

Out of college, I was a fulltime and freelance magazine and newspaper reporter. While freelancing, I taught ESL at Cal State East Bay and two Bay Area adult schools. I have written media plans and managed social media for nonprofits and businesses as a marketer. Volunteering found me recruiting and training.

I am especially excited to impact the growing East County. I'll put my reporter's hat on to find out how residents can either help or be helped by Project Second Chance in Brentwood on Mondays and in Antioch, Tuesdays through Thursdays! When I am not at work, you can find me swimming in a pool or ocean, walking my Great Dane, and of course, reading. I look forward to meeting you!

Student Achievements

Success Stories:



Students are reading:

- Ferozan M. —*Kabul Beauty School*
Irina S. —*The DaVinci Code*
Jayoung L.—*The Old Man and the Sea*
Kay N. —*Caleb’s Story*
Olga N. —*Tom Sawyer*
Young N. —*Matilde*

Through hard work, both with and without tutor John Sindzinski, **Wenman L.** was promoted to assistant manager in her job. Way to go!

Another hard worker is **Mayra V.**, who just passed the Science section of the High School Equivalency Exam (HiSET). We and her tutor Sandy Stright are thrilled for her!

Congratulations! Tutor Kathy Urban reported that **Chi won S.** completed her interview with immigration and was awarded a green card.

Lucy L. surprised her tutor, Nancy G., by reading a book while on vacation that Nancy neither assigned nor expected her to read. Great surprise!

ALUMNI NEWS: Big news from PSC Graduate **Soledad E.** She completed an M.A. in Museum Sciences this year. She feels that her success proves that “everything is possible.” You never know what working on basic skills now, one step at a time, could eventually lead to!

Would your student like to be acknowledged for an achievement, big or small, in this column? Tell us by emailing us the news or placing a checkmark by “*Check here if we may mention these accomplishments in the next newsletter*” on the calendar that mentions it.

Work completed:

- Ju C.** with Carleen Goeckel—*Endeavor 4*
Eric S. with Janice Hicks—*Challenger 5*

- Alan P.** with Megan Brown—*Wilson Step 7*
Bernard B. with Susie Thompson—*Wilson Step 8*

Wilson Tutor Round Table
Tuesday, October 2, 2-3:30 p.m.
Pleasant Hill Library, Room A
RSVP by Friday, September 28



The Wilson Reading System has recently released its fourth edition. During this meeting for Wilson tutors, PSC staff will share a few tips gleaned from the new Wilson materials. There will also be plenty of time for tutors to ask questions of staff and other tutors, share curriculum ideas, and chat with fellow tutors. We hope to see you there!



Welcome New Tutors!



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Aggie Ordonez | Barb Wiegand |
| Diedre Goree | Dodie Elhakei |
| Dorothy Schumacher-Jennings | Janet Kutulas |
| Janice Gracer | John Willhoit |
| Judy Langberg | Julie Haselden |
| Lily Mullen | Mary Nordheim |
| Nancy Cody | Norma Martinez-Rubin |
| Rae Eckholm | Tamara Artman |

TUTOR SURVEY COMING!

What’s on your minds, tutors? Watch for a simple, nine-question survey coming by email this fall. We appreciate your participation!



Literacy and Dyslexia Awareness

We hope you’ll celebrate International Literacy Day on September 8th and Dyslexia Awareness Month in October! One in five American adults struggle with basic reading and writing skills. Help us celebrate the power of literacy by spreading awareness of this invisible battle. And thank you to everyone in our community who champions literacy every day!

Tutor Tips



All Good Things Must End

by Megan

For some PSC pairs, having a specific goal helps them know when tutoring is completed; when the goal is met, tutoring concludes. However, for others, there doesn't seem to be an end in sight. So, how do you know when you are done tutoring?

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Am I meeting once a week (or less) with my student?
2. Do our sessions feel more like friendly chats than lessons in reading or writing?
3. Are *Challenger* or *Endeavor* level 8 stories (or other PSC materials) too easy for my student?
4. Are we setting and meeting the same goal every six-month period with no change in objective? For example, do I always check "Read a book" because we plan to read another book at the same level?
5. Has my student completed remedial classes at school?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, your student may have progressed beyond the scope of PSC, and you should consider discontinuing your lessons.

To end your tutoring sessions, follow these steps:

1. Discuss the situation with a PSC staff member if advice is needed.
2. Speak to your student about the progress she has made and why her need for tutoring is drawing to an end. A good way to approach this is to explain that remaining enrolled in PSC may be holding her back. After all, the ultimate goal is independence. You are always welcome to stay in touch with your student and be her cheerleader even if PSC may no longer meet her needs.
3. Schedule your last tutoring session. Turn that session into a celebration of your student's success. Honor the fact that she is ready for the next step.
4. Turn in any materials you have checked out and a final monthly calendar. Also, be prepared to provide an update on your student's progress towards her goals.

5. If you wish to be matched with a new student, let PSC know. If not, we will thank you for the time you gave to your student and the program.

Although ending sessions can be a sad time in the tutoring cycle, it is actually a very positive step. It means you and your student have succeeded, and you can both be proud of your accomplishments. Congratulations!

Spread the (Virtual) Word on Nextdoor



Are you like many people who use the online "neighborhood" Nextdoor to find treasures, review rate services, and find out whose cat is missing? Why not post a brief mention of your experience as a PSC tutor? Word of mouth is one of the best ways for PSC to find new tutors *and* learners, and it spreads much more quickly online. We'd be so grateful if you'd type out just a few words about how rewarding literacy tutoring has been for you and your learner. Share our web page (www.ccclib.org/psc/) and phone (925-927-3250) too. Thanks in advance!

West County Corner

DIY Vocabulary Notebook

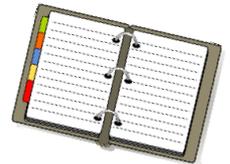
+ Strategies Workshop

Tuesday, October 23, 1-2:30 p.m.

San Pablo Library,

Conference Room

RSVP by Friday, October 19



Tutors, have you been thinking about making a vocabulary notebook for your student, but haven't had time? Feeling unsure how to help your student remember and use all those new words they jot down?

Join this hands on workshop and assemble a vocab binder for your learner—some supplies will be provided. While we're assembling, we'll chat about games, activities, and strategies you can easily implement to help make new words stick (and feel free to share your ideas, too!).

Notebook supplies are available for the first eight tutors who sign up, but more are welcome to join for the how-to and strategies.