



# August 2018 Learning NEWS

Providing **Free** Adult Literacy Services  
at Sonoma County Libraries since 1986

## Adult Summer Reading Bingo – *ends August 31st*

Sonoma County Library's Adult Summer Reading Bingo Challenge runs through August 31, 2018. Be sure to turn in those bingo cards!

<https://sonomalibrary.org/summerreading2018>

## Join Us For a ...



The Annual Adult Literacy Celebration  
& Release of: **Impressions**  
*The 2018 Collection of Adult Learner Writings*

**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

**4:30 pm – 5:30 pm**

Santa Rosa Central Library – Forum Room

*Invitations for Tutors & a guest and Learners and immediate family to be mailed later this month*

## Library Updates -- Did you Know?

- ✓ Effective July 12<sup>th</sup>, Sonoma County Library welcomed Interim Director Susan Hildreth.
- ✓ Library headquarters: The center of library operations and administration for our countywide system is now in Rohnert Park. The library Director's office, Budget & Finance department, Human Resources and Collection Services & Facilities are all located here.

To receive information about **Sonoma County Library News & Activity in your inbox**, subscribe to the Sonoma County Library e-newsletter:

<http://libraryaware.com/939/Subscribers/Subscribe?embeddable=true&showonlyinterestgroups=true>

## Upcoming Holidays/Library Closures:

September 3 – All libraries closed Labor Day

September 27 – All libraries closed – All-Staff Training

## Welcome to our New Literacy Specialist

We are pleased to welcome Christine Whyte to our Adult Literacy office as a library literacy specialist, providing additional student assessment services and program support at our Santa Rosa office and library branches in our countywide system by appointment. Christine begins her training and orientation on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Changes Ahead

The Adult Literacy Office Annex Building located at 725 Third Street in Santa Rosa (behind the Central Library) will be closed for abatement and repairs at some time in the next few weeks or months. We will make all necessary arrangements to provide conversation class space and adult literacy office services at a nearby location during this time period.

We will notify all annex building tutor/learner pairs, instructors, and conversation class facilitators via email as soon as we know the dates of our building closure and alternate location. Check those emails; we will keep you posted.

In the more distant future, our Adult Literacy Program will be gradually changing how we report hours of instruction and track student Roles & Goals. Nothing is changing now, but during the next several months we will be adopting an online tutor reporting system called *America Learns*. This new online reporting system will replace our current manual monthly tutor reporting form.

Full training and support will be provided for all active tutors to ensure a smooth transition for everyone.

The new system will provide immediate online tutor resources, notifications to our office for service requests/need for follow-up contact & regularly scheduled reminders. We will be sharing more information about training with you in the coming months.

# Accomplishing Great Things Together

## Adult Learners tell us:

- “I completed my story about my daughter in long and short versions. I’m very happy with my progress. Thanks to my tutor.”
- *(From a note addressed to Jessica, Adult Literacy Student Coordinator):* “I hope you can come to my ESL completion ceremony at Santa Rosa Junior College. You provided me a very supportive tutor who spent hours and hours explaining what I didn’t know. As a consequence, I have reached this step. Thank you so much.”
- “First I was afraid to speak and write until I took advantage of this wonderful program.”
- “I have been writing, spelling and working on doing letters for my mother. I have been reading new books.”

## Volunteer Literacy Tutors tell us:

- Learner is reading novels easier and figuring out vocabulary from context clues.
- Learner completed his resume, interviewed, and got a job.
- Just got a message from Learner – she passed her GED. She is very excited and will be attending her graduation ceremony this week.
- Learner got a library card for herself and her son.
- Learner was able to secure Medi-Cal coverage for her daughters completely on her own.
- Will finish last story in *American Lives* (collection) by our next meeting!
- Biggest success is Learner’s writing submission for the upcoming collection. Writing this story in English refreshed for her how much she enjoys writing (even in a new language) and she recalled former times when she was complemented for her writing pieces in her native language.
- Learner passed DMV signs test – YAY! Reading book at home.
- Learner is reading to her 5 year old grandson and baby grandson. In 2017, she had her essay published in the Adult Literacy Program’s collection of adult learner writings and another essay accepted for publication in the *Easy English Times*.
- Learner returned from ALLI (Adult Learner Leadership Institute training) workshop highly motivated.
- Vast improvement in putting vocabulary words into her own sentences; writing more sentences.
- *(Reported as two learners left our program to relocate for a new job in a new location):* Just heard that they received their green card, too! Learner successfully interviewed and got the job in the city they are moving to. His chosen program goal was to get a new job and practice his interview skills. This learner was always ready to learn. This couple (both program learners) really dove in and worked hard with their tutors and conversation classes, and it paid off.
- Learner has been working on her writing for two months and this activity has made it easier to use a computer. We will soon be exploring the Internet.
- *(Note from a community outreach classroom aide to Adult Literacy Coordinator):* Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do this. It is such a rewarding experience to see the students slowly gain confidence.