

ADULT LITERACY COMMUNITY

Quarterly articles, features, and highlights



Summer's Here: Have the Good Times

Another summer, with its **vibrant** energy, has arrived! This summer, I wish my friend and co-worker: Literacy Associate, Christine Whyte, a joyous retirement (Pg. 5) and thank her for six years of **dedication** and good humor. I would be sad about this, but happiness for Christine and summer itself, steps in to say: celebrate, have the good times (instead)!

At all Sonoma County Library branches, summer is a celebration of reading featuring fun Summer Reading Challenges with prizes, interesting (and free) cultural events, and interactive projects for all ages from June - August.

Check out your library's website calendar pages at: www.sonomalibrary.org to see this **bounty** of summer offerings. I really think you'll find something to explore on your own and with friends or family.

Summer's here and will be gone before we know it. It's once again time to open the doors and windows of our homes and our minds. Gather together and have the good times!

A. Adams

**Adult Literacy Supervisor
Sonoma County Library**

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- **HIGHLIGHTS**
- **GLOSSARY**
- **INTERVIEWS**
- **IDIOMS**
- **STUDENT WRITING**
- **AND MORE!**

American Culture Corner

The word **glamping** comes from a combination of the words “glamorous” and “camping.” It is a form of camping where the **accommodations** and **facilities** are more **luxurious** than those of regular camping. Camping is normally associated with bringing a tent, stove, and other things to make sure you are comfortable outside. When you are glamping, these things are already provided for you and often include: electricity, a bed with a mattress, and a real shower. Here are some pictures of glamping sites:



Who Were They?

Galileo Galilei was an Italian inventor and scientist who challenged the commonly held belief that the sun **revolved** around the earth. His theory that the earth and planets orbited the sun proved to be true. This **theory** caused him to come in to conflict with the Catholic Church and he was almost burned at the stake for his discovery and beliefs.



Galileo Galilei
1564 - 1642

He also invented the thermometer, made major improvements to the telescope to allow better **observation** of the stars, and was responsible for many other inventions.

Glossary

vibrant: pulsating with life, vigor, or activity

dedication: a devoting, loyalty, or setting aside for a particular purpose

bounty: something given generously

accommodations: something supplied for convenience or to satisfy a need

facilities: something that makes an action, operation, or course of conduct easier; or something that is built, installed, or established to serve a particular purpose

luxurious: characterized by opulence, sumptuousness, or rich abundance. Relating to, or marked by luxury

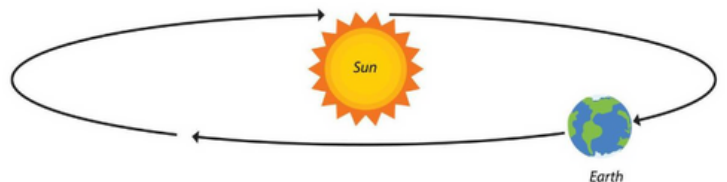
revolved: rotated; caused to go round in an orbit

theory: a scientifically acceptable general principle/set of principles offered to explain something

observation: an act of recognizing and noting a fact or occurrence often involving measurement with instruments

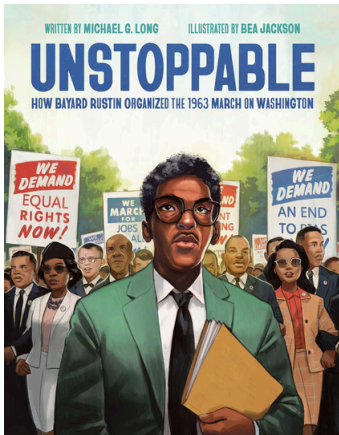
non-fiction: writing or cinema that is about facts and real events

exhilaration: strong feelings of happy excitement and elation: thrilling



Summertime is a great time to grab a book and read! Here are new books in our Literacy Resource Room collection that we think you and your learner might want to check out.

Christine’s pick:



Unstoppable is a beautifully illustrated picture book about Bayard Rustin, who was an activist for peaceful protest against war, racial segregation, and discrimination. Former President Barack Obama said: “Bayard was a great leader who was denied his rightful place in history because he was openly gay.” Bayard organized the largest civil rights protest in U.S. history, the March on Washington in August 1963. About 250,000 people attended and heard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. share his famous “I have a dream” speech about freedom.

Alisa’s pick:

2024 Writer to Writer Anthology

Alisa recommends the latest *Writer to Writer anthology*, which features twenty letters to authors written by adult literacy and English language learners in library literacy programs across California.

Why I loved it: Reading the letters adult learners wrote to authors reminded me why I fell in love with reading. Many of the letter writers described a magical feeling they got when they were reading a story written by a stranger and suddenly they felt a deep connection to the author or the story and their own experience. The words came off the page and into their lives.

Letter writer Suzie Kim expressed it this way in her letter to *Humans of New York* author and photographer Brandon Stanton, whose book inspired her to take pictures and interview members of her own community: “Now I have a collection of beautiful photos and I also have a whole new community of people that I am friends with because we have shared the experience of storytelling with one another. I hope we will always continue to take photographs and tell stories.” Me too!

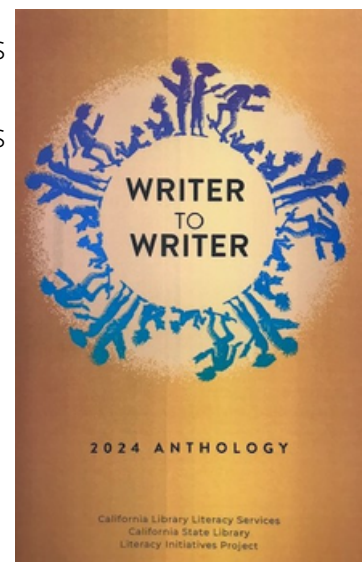
And...The Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy team congratulates these adult learners (and their supportive tutors), who challenged themselves to read a book and submit a letter to the author for this year’s Writer to Writer Challenge:

Anonymous

Alicia Caldera (Tutor: Bob Alwitt)

Martha Espinoza (Tutor: Cynthia Denenholz)

Leslie Yang (Tutor: Linda Frank)



Tutor Meetup!

Thank you to all the tutors who were able to join us for our June 17 Tutor Meetup. Tutors learned about formative assessment (a way to check a learner's understanding of a topic), received basic tips for improving pronunciation, and were introduced to new books and curriculum available now in the Literacy Resource office. Tutors had the opportunity to meet and support one another in program-specific groups (Adult Literacy or English Language Partners) by sharing their tutoring challenges and successes.

Save the date for this future Tutor Meetup Training (lunch provided) to be held at Central Santa Rosa Library:

- **September 18, 2024 from 1 - 3 PM**

If you missed the meet-up - don't worry! We will send all tutors a summary of the highlights covered in the training.

Here's what tutors said about this last meet-up:

"Well organized and presented as usual."

"It was helpful to be able to share ideas with other tutors."

"I liked meeting other tutors and hearing their stories."

"I really enjoyed learning about different tutoring strategies and resources."

"I benefitted from every part— thank you — very upbeat, non-stuffy event."



Staff member Joe Ayala talks with a tutor



Tutors seated at the English Language Partners table with staff members Leti Soria and Christine Whyte

Steal this (Writing) Strategy!

Tutor Lisa and Learner Silvia watch wildlife camera videos and use images to listen and learn before writing about a topic. Then Silvia writes sentences about what she has learned and was able to produce this **non-fiction** essay (below). If you and your learner like learning new things and building better listening and writing skills, give it a try.

Student Writing

Blue-Footed Booby

By Silvia Isquierdo (Tutor Lisa Pollack)



The blue-footed booby was standing looking around. He was whistling. His feathers are gray and black and white. His beak is long and thin. His eyes are small and gray. He was standing on a rock. Next to him were green plants and rocks.

He was trying to keep the female booby's attention by dancing. He was making a lot of movements. He was twisting his neck and opening his wings. He was making soft sounds. He had a twig in his beak and tried to give it to the female. He was showing off his chest and he was dancing with his feet.

Other booby facts:

- Booby comes from the Spanish word bobo.
- They eat fish. They can dive down 100 feet from the air and 80 feet under the water.
- The brighter the blue in their feet, they are more attractive to a mate.
- They lift their feet when a mate is looking at them to show off their blue feet.

Does your learner have any writing they would like to see published?

Send it to us at

literacy@sonomalibrary.org



Mother's Day

We have two lovely stories written by learners honoring Mother's Day 2024.

If your learner has any stories they'd like to submit to the newsletter for publication (on any topic) please email us: literacy@sonomalibrary.org

Student Writing

My Mother

By Inés Pizano (Tutor Alex Love)

My mother's name was Dominga.
Her dad named her Dominga because she was born on a Sunday.
Dominga means Sunday in Spanish.
My mom was so pretty and friendly.
She was always my friend.
She died twelve years ago, but I remember my mom every day. I love my mom and miss her a lot.
Happy mother's day up to the sky!



Mother's Day Celebration

By Martha Espinoza (Tutor Cynthia Denenholz)

We have to enjoy every moment and day. In Mexico, we are celebrating 10 de Mayo, Día de las Madres. Most of my friends are Mexican. They want to celebrate too. I thought of brunch, games, and raffles.

We had a Mother's Day brunch. The weather was beautiful. I was worried for the decorations but I bought a lot of mini roses. It was beautiful. Somebody's idea was to wear pink dresses. Everyone brought some food to share. We had egg bites, potatoes, waffles, cake, pupusas and fruit. My friend Rita brought champagne and juice for the mimosas. They were delicious. We had a lot of fun toasting to ourselves.



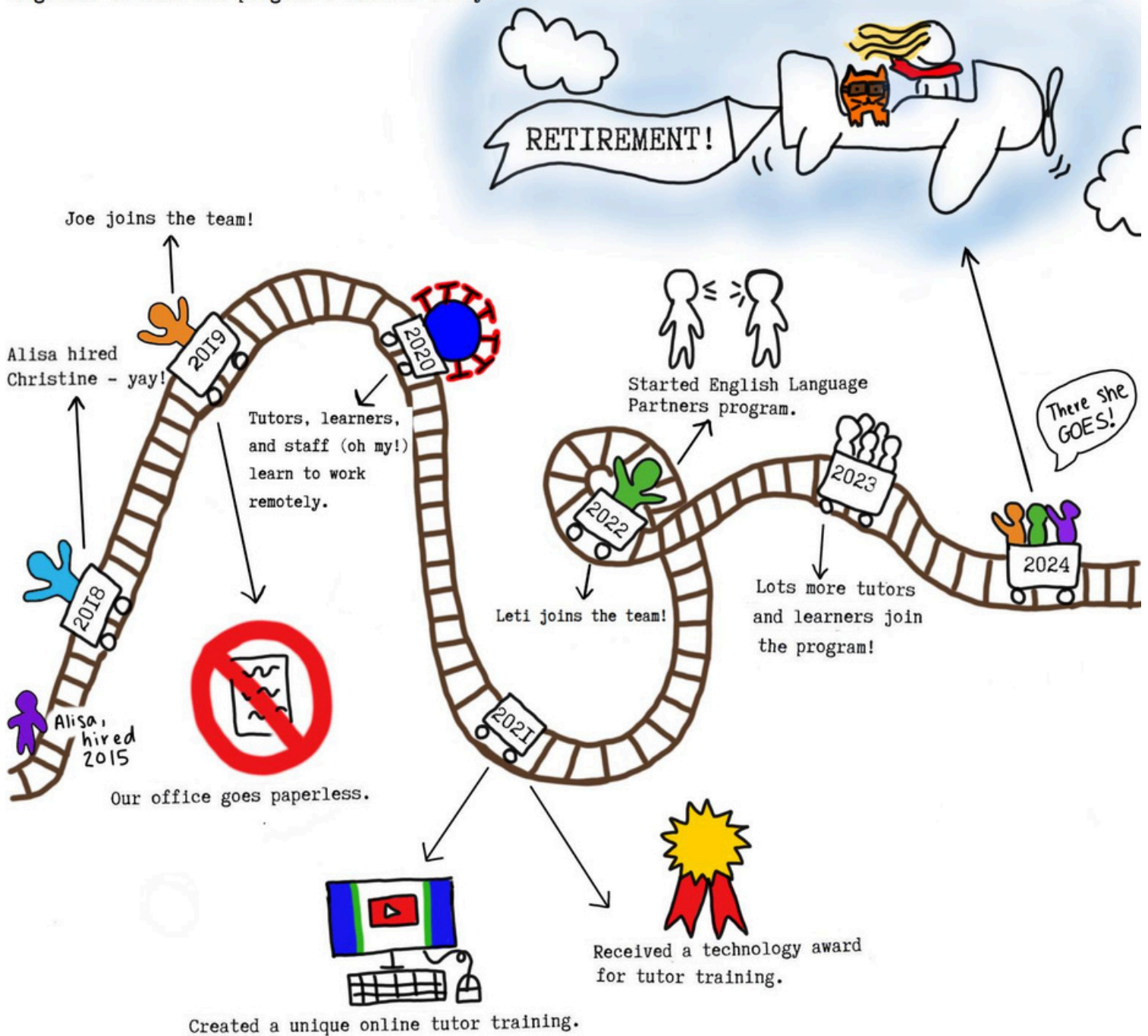
Martha's Mother's Day Brunch Guests



Christine's Swan Song

With both sadness at leaving and exhilaration about what comes next, I decided to retire from the library as of June 28. My **swan song** is to tell you about the "wild ride" of my six years with the Adult Literacy program, meaning lots of ups and downs, changes and challenges. I wouldn't have had it any other way since this was my favorite job ever - both meaningful and

fun. We decided to describe my experience using Joe's clever illustrations. I feel fortunate to have worked with the wonderful staff (Alisa, Joe, and Leti), and all the learners and tutors who worked together to make our program a success story!



Celebrate Your Work Together

All entries generated from tutor reports -
THANK YOU!

- She got a new full-time job this month! It is in retail, which is new for her, and she must interact with the public in the store and on the phone. Every work day is a challenge for her now, which has created a renewed commitment and motivation to learn English.
- She can read an entire story without much correction of pronunciation. Great progress.
- She wanted to apply to the ALLI leadership training so we worked on that for some of our tutoring time. She was excited to go for it!
- She felt confident enough in her conversational skills to take a second job as a hostess at a restaurant.
- She'll be applying to San Jose State in July and doing coursework online.
- "Attack of the Black Rectangles" is a 6th-grade text her grandson read in class. She is reading it to me and we discuss.
- Slowly but surely, he is improving. His co-workers tell him he is speaking English better and has fewer grammatical errors.
- She is attempting to converse most of the time in English. We are relying much less on Google Translate! We are working a lot on reading comprehension.

Get to Know the Conversation Class Facilitator



Nick Alexander

Interviewed by Leti Soria

After his recent graduation from Sonoma State University, Nick Alexander is looking forward to a fun summer. His plans include taking a road trip to Arizona and Washington. The soundtrack to this scenic road trip is likely to be full of his favorite 80s music and songs from video games. In his free time, Nick enjoys activities like hiking and playing tuba.

In 2022 Nick learned about the Adult Literacy Program at the Windsor Library and quickly decided to become a volunteer. He joined the group of English Conversation Class facilitators because he likes "talking to people and getting to know them." The years he spent studying Spanish (he earned a B.A. in the language) and tutoring bilingual Spanish-English elementary school students gives "a cultural and language background I can tap into with learners."

In conversation class, Nick often asks learners to practice ordering food or desserts in restaurants. "I like this because it's a fun way to practice real-life conversation situations." Nick shares: "Students learned unfamiliar names for different flavors, like Bubblegum or Cotton Candy. One student brought her grandkids on screen to practice their skills in ordering ice cream, too. It was a fun and educational experience for all."

Nick was also an Adult Literacy tutor: "I think it's a great program that helps a lot of people." A major highlight of tutoring was "seeing the 'A-ha' moments that my learner got when understanding a new word or concept." When it comes to achieving goals, Nick says: "It's all in your hands. Choose something that excites you and that you care about. Practice helps a lot, too. The more you practice, the more likely you are to meet your goals that you've set for yourself."

Idioms

Each newsletter, we will bring you a new English idiom.

Swan Song

A swan song refers to a final accomplishment, effort or public performance (It does not literally refer to a swan singing).

For example: Christine has retired, but her swan song on page 5 was her last professional project before leaving.



What's Cooking?

Have a favorite recipe or food related story to share? Send it to literacy@sonomalibrary.org

Brazilian Lemonade

Ingredients:

- 4 limes
- 1 cup sugar
- 6 cups water
- 6 tablespoons sweetened condensed milk

Recipe:

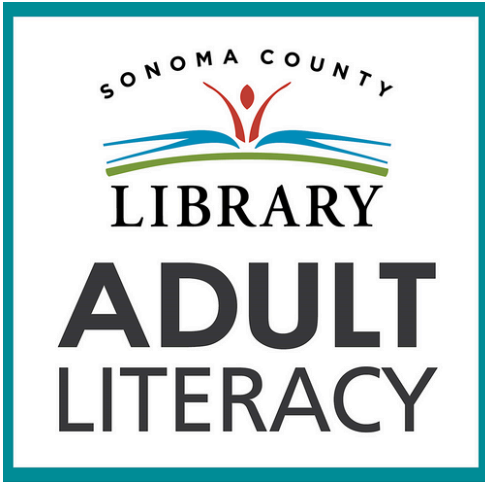
Wash your limes with soap and water making sure to get all the soap off. Cut the ends of each of the limes off and discard. Then cut the limes into 8 pieces each.



Put your lime pieces, 1 cup of sugar, and 6 cups of water into a blender and blend for no more than 2 seconds. Pour the liquid from the blender into another container through a fine mesh strainer. Return the strained liquid to the blender and add the sweetened condensed milk.

Blend for an additional 5 - 10 seconds until the sweetened condensed milk is completely dissolved.

Serve right away (this drink does not keep very well) over ice (and maybe play some bossa nova music).



Adult Literacy Office

Our office is located inside the Central Santa Rosa Library, 2nd floor
211 E Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Adult Literacy Hours

Our office is open Monday - Friday
10 AM - 3 PM
You can reach us at (707) 544-2622 or literacy@sonomalibrary.org

How to Submit Your Work

Submissions to the Adult Literacy Community newsletter are welcome! We cannot guarantee publication, and materials cannot be returned. Please include your name, address, and phone number. Student writings and photos can be sent by email to: literacy@sonomalibrary.org

How to Get Involved

New Learners: Call 707-544-2622

New Tutors: Call to preregister for an upcoming new tutor orientation:

Thursday, August 1, 2024

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Thursday, September 12, 2024

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Ongoing Classes Open to All:

Join our Conversation Classes for practice speaking English at all levels.

Classes take place on Zoom on the following days:

Wednesdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Thursdays 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Register for classes at

sonomalibrary.org/conversation

Upcoming Library Holidays 2024:

July 4 - Library Closed - Independence Day

September 2 - Library Closed - Labor Day

October 10 - Library Closed - All Staff Training