



Fall Newsletter - 2010

Central Coast Literacy Council appreciates everyone who helps to make small steps and great strides in literacy possible! Thank You!

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Dolores Segui
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Wendy Stockton

Words of Thanks from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors welcomes guests to its monthly meetings. Please join us at 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, in the Dorothea Nelson Conference Room at the Santa Maria main library.

In particular, the **Board appreciates those members who attend CCLC's annual meeting.** It's the perfect opportunity to get to know your Board members and **renew your membership!** The Board and CCLC truly appreciate and need our members' continuing support.

Under President Heather Weare's leadership, the Board worked on two major projects in spring and summer. First, we kicked off a community outreach project themed "Honey Bee Literate." Board members assembled promotional packets that would introduce local businesses to CCLC. Board members then made personal visits to businesses to request their support for literacy programs. We hope some

of the businesses will choose to support literacy by collaborating in our programs or contributing money to the Council.

President Heather also chaired CCLC's annual spelling bee on September 18, 2010. The event came off beautifully due to her hard work and people skills. Heather corralled the community, board members and CCLC staff at Shepard Hall for a gala afternoon of gallimaufry and horripilation. (Read all about the spelling bee later in this newsletter).

Fall has brought some changes to the CCLC Board. Heather has taken a brief break from volunteer work to spend more time with her young family. Theresa Binney submitted her resignation in order to focus on her demanding duties at Coast National Bank. Two other wonderful literacy volunteers, Kathryn Felix and Regina Ojeda, have stepped up quickly to fill the Director shoes of these energetic women. Thank you to all of you for your service to literacy.

We are always looking for active and energetic people who love literacy to serve on the Board of Directors. Contact Isa at 925-0951, extension 836 or 837 if you or someone you know fits this description.



A Message of Thanks from our Executive Director, Dr. Isa Ponce-Jiménez

November is a wonderful month to be thankful to all of those who contribute to our literacy efforts in Santa Maria, Guadalupe and Solvang. I am always very grateful to all our tutors, and this

time I want to recognize some individuals that have been involved in the training of new tutors.



Central Coast Literacy Council

Dolores Segui, after retiring from the Santa Barbara County more than 15 years ago, started tutoring at St. John Neumann and became a center director not too long after that. She has been actively involved with CCLC, not only as a tutor, but as a board member. Dolores has been very involved in the program development with both curricula and methodology.



We have also been very fortunate to have been the recipients of **Carol Maulhardt's** vast experience in teaching English to adults. She came to us after having taught ESL for several years in Chile and Japan. Carol has been instrumental in helping us restructure our training program by highlighting life skills and by motivating tutors as they become trainers. Actually, this is a good-bye for you Carol, since you are moving to other adventures, and we wish you a lot of fun in your travels. Thank you for all your help and support. You will be missed!

I would like to share with you some biographical information about some enthusiastic individuals who are going the extra mile to make our literacy program stronger. Kathryn Felix, Ralph Tilton and Cleo Wender all took training together and decided to help us start our new center at the Faith Korean Church in 2009.

Kathryn Felix retired from a career in advertising and graphic arts in 2009. At the urging of friends she answered a newspaper ad for CCLC volunteer tutors. After training she became a tutor at Faith Korean Church in Santa Maria where she enjoys the fulfilling challenge of teaching motivated and appreciative Korean adult learners. Kathryn feels that training is essential to provide prospective tutors with an insight into what tutoring entails and to give the prospective tutors skills and tools to begin their rewarding service.



Cleo Wender's most recent employment was in the publishing industry for a history reference book publisher. When she was laid off, she knew that this was a chance to pursue volunteering for the Central Coast Literacy Council, a long-time interest. Cleo enjoys tutoring because reading is a way to help people open doors for themselves and their families. She believes tutor training is important because it gives tutors materials and ideas that they might not know.

Ralph Tilton retired from a career in education and became a tutor because he firmly believes that assisting immigrants with their English language skills helps them enormously with their productivity while they assimilate into American culture. Tutoring results in a mutually gratifying, cross-cultural, learning experience and there is no greater satisfaction than watching immigrants blossom with their newly acquired language skills. The CCLC, through its training program, prepared Ralph to meet the English language needs of our receptive, hard-working, Korean community. Ralph believes that the breadth, depth, and efficacy of CCLC's training were directly related to his sense of confidence and eventual success. Training must be a high priority for any organization seeking to achieve its goals -- as is the case with the CCLC.

Bonnie Royster is a tutor at the St. John Neumann Center and also serves on our Board. A retired entrepreneur, she has put her technical skills to work for us. In tutor training, she also shares with our trainees the importance of measuring students' achievements in their language acquisition.

My sincere thanks to all of you, tutors and tutor trainers, for making my job more exciting and productive!

Our Literacy Center Directors say "thanks" ...

...From Dolores Segui of St. John's: "At St. John we began the 2010-2011 school term with 30 students and 3 tutors. Our students are mostly women who are very appreciative of the time they spend at school; where they don't have to think about cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc. and they also have child care. But more important is they get to learn the language of the country where they have chosen to live and raise their family.



Central Coast Literacy Council

One of our students "Mercy" is from Peru. She has been here a little over 4 years and wants to learn English in order



to obtain her citizenship. Now she is working as a "home care giver" for an older gentleman, who she walks to school pushing his wheel chair. She is very punctual and never

misses class.

Hopefully, this year, we will have many students that are able to reach their goal and become proficient in English."

...**From Bonnie Royster of St. John's:** "I appreciate my

students. I love their commitment and classroom involvement. Tutoring is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. Working with people who truly want to be there and are anxious to learn is such a joy. I can truly see the light come into their eyes when they get a new concept and I receive a zing of energy every time that happens. I come away from each class energized and appreciative."



Bethel-Santa Cruz Center

This fall's enrollment has kicked off slowly, but we have 4 committed students who are a joy to serve. It makes our job as tutors easier since we can focus and tailor the class sessions very concretely to the individual students. The fun and enjoyment really kicks in as the relationships with the students develop. Currently one of our students is served by two tutors who alternate nights with her. She is working on preparing to take the GED. The other three students are served by one tutor and they receive some individual time on the computer as well as group instructional time. We're glad to be making a difference in the lives of the students we serve and look forward to watching them progress as the school year goes on.

Susan Nielsen
Center Director

In Grateful Remembrance...

CCLC expresses its thanks in honor of the memory of three wonderful volunteers who have passed away since the Spring newsletter.

Sharon Hushka, our dedicated Center Director for the noontime program at Bethel Lutheran, passed after a brief illness in May. Sharon gave her heart, soul and countless service hours to the Center program. She also developed the Tutor 911 website. Her work to advance literacy gave her great joy, and many learning successes grew out of her directorship.

Nita Alexander, our tutor for eight years at St. John, passed on May 27th. Dolores Segui writes about Nita: "Nita was a very happy person and volunteered in many different organizations. She loved to dance and many times entertained us with her dancing group. We will miss her tremendously."

After her retirement, **Olive "Jean" Jones** took great pleasure and pride working as a CCLC volunteer. She taught adults to read and write and was well known for her keen intelligence, sense of humor, and a generous, loving heart. Olive passed on October 1, 2010.

Teen Literacy Mentors Earn CCLC's Gratitude

Your newsletter editor, Wendy Stockton, recently spent an enjoyable Monday evening shadowing three teens who serve as mentors and mentor helpers for CCLC's family literacy program. These fantastic teens are **Quinn Cachiola**, **Aya Kasai** and **Jamie Majewski**.

While we waited in Shepard Hall for our participating families to arrive, Quinn quickly readied materials and lesson plans for the evening. Out came literacy-themed games such as "Punctuation Pizza." In keeping with the month's theme, "fables," Quinn selected a book called "The Aesop for Children" from a cartful of potentials sent by Library staff. Quinn also organized a reading-response activity in which each participant would summarize a favorite story and identify its theme. The activities are designed to model for parents how to help children become better students, and also to encourage linking of Spanish



Central Coast Literacy Council

with English words so speaking and writing English will become easier.

We spent the first hour of Family Literacy night doing reading and the reading response activity. The families liked the story about “The Cat, the Cock and the Young Mouse.” They fully understood the story’s theme: don’t judge an animal by its appearance –and also generalized the theme into other situations.



After reading and activity time, the families got to play board games for about 20 minutes. The children played the games eagerly and skillfully. The parents did not take turns themselves, but

sat close by the children and paid close attention. All of the families wanted to borrow games and return them the next week at another family literacy session.

Family literacy night closes with a drawing (the lucky family gets to choose a literacy-related prize to take home) and a 4-question exit survey. Teen mentors and helpers also receive recognition certificates for their service. Families who want to spruce up their literacy skills first sign up for a slot by contacting the CCLC office. Each family that participates gets to spend three weeks coming to family literacy night. The program is very popular; I saw at least 10 families participating on the night I attended.

Congratulations and thanks to all the teen Family Literacy volunteers (and also to their adult helpers, Isa Ponce-Jimenez, Kathy Telleria and Sasha Silva).

CCLC Appreciates Literacy Learners who Write to Authors

In recent years, California Library Literacy sponsored a program called “Writer to Writer Network Challenge.” The program encouraged literacy learners to read books and write imaginary response letters to book authors. Although the state program has now ended, CCLC continues to encourage its learners to read and respond to books in this way.

For 2010, three CCLC learners read books and wrote response letters as if communicating with the books’

authors. CCLC will honor these learners with a certificate during our upcoming tutor recognition luncheon. **Note: The tutor recognition luncheon will be held January 15, 2011. Watch for details on the website.** In addition, we will publish the letters in upcoming issues of the CCLC newsletter.

Here is a letter written by Delkis Millay, CCLC Student:

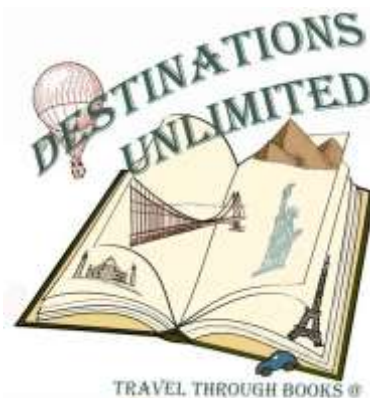
Dear Paulo Coelho,

While I was reading the book *The Alchemist*, I identified with the character Santiago. Santiago was following his dream of discovering his treasure. As I read this book, I realized that I had been following the same dream in my recent years. Like Santiago travelling through different lands, building his life despite many obstacles, I too observe a parallel to Santiago in my life.

My ideal treasure is best described by the following lines: “Tell to your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself, and that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams.”

Now that I’m realizing some of my objectives in life, I recognize them from previous dreams. I always knew that some sort of treasure was waiting for me like what was waiting for Santiago. However, the secret I have learned is to appreciate the present and improve upon it to be a better person in the future. Even today I have many more dreams to reach. “Never stop dreaming!”

Sincerely,
Delkis Millay





Central Coast Literacy Council

Spelling Bee Highlights Donor Generosity

CCLC's 18th annual adult spelling bee started out with a generous donation by Holly Cole of Verizon. Holly presented a check for \$15,000 to Dr. Isa Ponce-Jimenez, Executive Director of the Council. The check is the third in a series totaling \$39,800 in support from Verizon to CCLC. The Board, staff, volunteers and learners thank Verizon very sincerely for this gift.



6 Literacy volunteers appreciated the opportunity to use both Shepard Hall and the Altrusa Children's Theater Room in the library for the bee itself and the speller



gathering/prep. area. Herding 28 spelling teams and their spelling bee accessories isn't easy, but Marj Lambe accomplished the task with military precision as usual. Janice Shoun

chaired the silent auction that accompanied the spelling bee for the second year. We greatly appreciate her efforts to make the spelling bee a doubly profitable event for CCLC.

Many sponsors and volunteers give time and resources to the spelling bee each year. Space doesn't allow for us to recognize each here (you can read all about them in the spelling bee program, available at the CCLC office in the main Santa Maria Library). But we do want to give a special "high five" to the Santa Maria Times. The Times donates printing, advertising, and people each year to the spelling bee effort.

Of course no report about the spelling bee event would be complete without mentioning the participants and their

efforts to fricassee the opposition. This year the 30 teams consisted of ordinary adults and extraordinary students from St. Joseph and Righetti High Schools' advanced placement English classes. When competition ended, these teams emerged victorious:

First place: Linda McCallister and Peggy Blackler

Second place: Edda Bevilacqua and Daniel Slutske

Third place: Trentyn Pues and Adrian Gelera.

Thanks to all who participated in this fantastic literacy event!

Announcements

- **CCLC's annual meeting:** Annual meeting held Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010 at 3:30 pm at the SM Library Dorothea Nelson Conference Room
- **Membership Drive:** Look for a reminder letter in your mailbox soon, and be sure to renew your membership. Bring in a friend too! Your contribution of \$15 is much appreciated. And, it will pay for written materials to be used by one literacy learner for a year. Tutor Recognition Luncheon: January 15, 2011. Watch for an invitation soon; information will also be posted on CCLC's website: www.centralcoastliteracy.org.
- **Spring Training for Tutors:** February, 2011. Call the Council at 925-0951, extension 836 or 837 for details or to sign up to be a tutor for literacy.





Central Coast Literacy Council

Thank You to Our Sponsors

