

CCLC News



The Central Coast
Literacy Council

A publication of The Central Coast Literacy Council

EDITOR'S NOTE: I wanted to begin the new set of CCLC newsletters with a theme. And why not begin at the beginning... with our favorite books? Hope you enjoy this feature and get some ideas for your next trip to our beautiful Santa Maria library!

President's Report



It feels so right to be back with the Literacy Council. After a hiatus of several years, I was very flattered to be approached by Patti and Isa about serving on the Board again.

It is amazing to see the progress made by the organization in the years of my absence. With each new meeting the Literacy Council embarks

upon bigger and brighter endeavors all with the purpose of bringing the gift of literacy to more and more members of our community.

As part of this edition of the Newsletter we thought it would be fun to share some of our favorite books. Being the mother of three (with one on the way) it was playfully suggested that I might choose a children's Book. Well I did.

One of my favorite books for youngsters is The Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes, by Du Bose Heyward. I can't remember exactly when I was first introduced to this book, but it has been with me since my own childhood. Written in 1939, the story tells the tale of the great Easter Bunnies (yes, there are more than one)

and how a small little country girl bunny longs to be one of them.

As a young bunny she is told that she is foolish and that being an Easter Bunny is reserved only for the fastest and strongest Jack Rabbits. As time goes by, she accepts this theory of life and marries and has 21 cottontail babies!

The funny part of the tale is that we are never told what happens to her husband. Instead she raises the babies on her own and teaches them to be kind and orderly. She also assigns each one a special task around the house that significantly cuts down on the amount of work she has to do herself.

Eventually one of the great Easter Bunnies falls ill and a replacement is sought. The Mama Bunny takes all of her children to the great Palace of Easter Eggs to see who will be chosen as the replacement. Well that is all I can tell or I will ruin the story.

The illustrations of this grand old book are beautiful and the story of this single mom, who — even after being told she can't — manages to overcome many obstacles to prove that she is just as good as the old Jack Rabbits, is a story ahead of its time.

As summer approaches, I hope that you and your young friends enjoy this story as much as my family has.

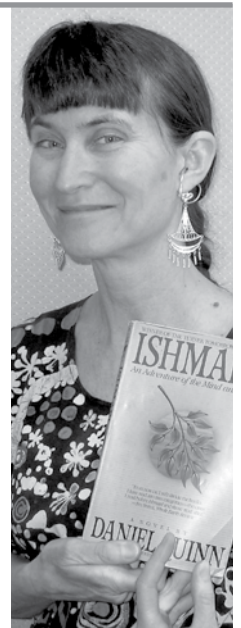
Heather Weare

Heather Weare, President

My Favorite Book and Why I Love It

Wendy Stockton

My favorite book is any free-reading book I'm reading RIGHT NOW. (Most recently, this was Ishmael by Daniel Quinn—a philosophical look at what went wrong with the world and how to change things.) When I read, no one knows the world I'm in and the adventure I'm having in my mind. It's a powerful, incomparable experience. Reading is the best!



Linda White



I selected the book Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys. This novel and the author are one of my favorites. The book is about Antoinette Cosway, the first Mrs. Rochester (from Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre). Antoinette Cosway grows up privileged in the Caribbean and then is sold off into marriage slavery. What happens to her? We all know, but what a wonderful story!

Executive Director's Message



Having moved into the library has opened up more opportunities for CCLC to grow. Two great programs in the works now are family literacy and distance learning. A family literacy program is a must in any city library, especially in a growing community such as ours. In a recent presentation I did for Adam School's parents, my daughter (an elementary school teacher in Los Angeles) helped me put together some data that shows the significant impact that parents have on their children's education. From kindergarten to the time they graduate from high school an average child spends about 16,000 hours in an academic setting; the time spent at home is more than 50,000 hours. Does that tell us something? The obvious issue here is that parents do play a pivotal role as guiding lights for their sons and daughters. Regardless of how good an educational system might be, home is where everything starts, especially today when children are surrounded by so many and varied external influences. A family literacy program is intended to provide parents with strategies they can use at home with their children so that learning does not happen in isolation.

Speaking of isolation, it is not surprising that in our increasingly busy society, many people go about their lives in a constant survival mode that puts them in a difficult category. Some have work schedules that change from week to week, many have more than one job, others spend an unreasonable number of hours commuting, and so forth, and still many others stay home caring for someone else. Individuals who fit these and other circumstances are the perfect candidates for distance learning. Having the opportunity to learn at their own pace, and in their own time should be an option for those who want to take advantage of a mentoring or tutoring situation, especially by means of today's technology and a more individualized approach.

Luckily, our collaborative work with the library offers CCLC an ideal way to present our community members with projects that will enhance and facilitate the magic of learning. And, of course, CCLC can only do this with committed and caring people like you who would give others the invaluable gifts of time and patience. We are now recruiting volunteers with reading or math skills who will spend 2-4 hours working with individuals in the family literacy program in the Literacy Center at the library, and commit to do so for 6 months beginning in June. We also seek volunteer help from "idea people" who will serve on a planning committee for the distance learning program. Call Isa at 925-0951, x836 to volunteer.

Isa Ponce-Jiménez, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Jennie Grimsley



My favorite book is the *Harry Potter* series –which is 7 books in one, and #5 is the best. I am reading the series for the third time. The author is amazing at making everything intertwine and make sense. She will take a little detail that seems unimportant at the time—it's like an amazing puzzle in which everything comes together with the last word on the last page.

More Favorite Books

coming soon

More board members will share their picks in our next newsletter

Tutor training program



Congratulations to our newest tutors who completed the Tutor Training Workshop in March 2009: (L-R) Cindy Stiles, Barbara Spencer, Mar Pines, Carmina Chavez, Shirlee J. Hickey, Joseph L. Macias, Danielle McGraw, Cheryl Mehm, Gloria Mendez.

Sharon Henning

A book I am enjoying now is called *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown.

Why: I had read and saw *The Da Vinci Code*. This came out before. It is kind of interesting with the historical references to Rome and secret brotherhoods and good vs. evil.



Literacy Centers and Directors

(Editor's note: We are in the midst of an interview with Carol Maulhardt at the Riverview Center about her 8 Literacy learners. All are mature women who are taking a very practical approach to literacy learning. You may remember reading a recipe from the group in the most recent Literacy newsletter. Stay tuned until the Fall issue for another report from this talented group!)

- **Bethel Center**
- **Bethel - Santa Cruz Center:** Susan Nielsen, Director
- **CCLC Center**
- **Newlove Center:** Colleen Guerrero, Director
- **Riverview (Guadalupe) Center:** Rev. Herbert Burch, Director
- **Solvang Center:** Lee Wogulis, Director
- **St. John Center:** Dolores Seguí, Director

In **St. John** we have 5 wonderful tutors who enjoy working and teaching students to write, read and speak English. They are: Bennie Anaya in the Literacy Book, Dolores Segui in Book 1, Mary Goodspeed in Book 2, Diane Eddy in Book 3 and Robert Maldeau in the Rosetta Stone Program.

Bennie Anaya was born in Mesa, Arizona, the youngest of 5 siblings. In 1949 he entered the army and was stationed in Viet Nam and Hawaii. He married and had 2 sons. Then, he retired as a Master Sergeant and went to work at the Post Office in Indianapolis until 1995 when he came to California to be near his family. He has been a tutor in St. John since 2003 and all the students love him and appreciate all his dedication.

~Dolores Seguí, Director

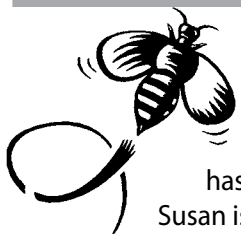


*Book Three Class of 2008/2009
Bertha, Alicia, Diane Eddy (Tutor), Rene
(not pictured) Veronica*

After a few years in the U.S.A., I got married and had two kids, a girl and a boy. My daughter is twenty-nine years old and my son is eighteen. Now I am trying to learn English to have a better future here in the U.S.A.

Students of Class 2008-09 at St. John also published a book of autobiographies written by learners at the Center. Their names are Alicia, Bertha, Rene and Veronica. Alicia's autobiography follows:

My name is Alicia Castillo. I was born in Ameca, Jalisco, Mexico. My father's name was Marcelino Castillo and my mother's name was Concepcion Lopez. I have eight brothers and sisters and I am the youngest. When I came from Mexico, I was a teenager. I was very alone because my Mom was in Mexico and I had to work to support her.



We need Adult Spellers for the Annual Spelling Bee!!!

September 12 and **The 2009 Adult Spelling Bee** will be here before you know it! The spellers books are here;

Cynthia Schur, President of the *Santa Maria Times*, has enthusiastically agreed again to sponsor our event; Susan is updating the ads; and coordinator Isa is looking for sponsors, spellers and advertisers.

Please call Isa at 925-0951, ext. 836 or Susan at 922-8363 to help.



Board of Director News:

Your Literacy Council Board of Directors has taken the following actions since publication of the last CCLC News:

1. **Adopted CCLC Goals for 2009:** The Board adopted ten goals for 2009, including tutor recruitment, Literacy Council outreach, program expansion, targeting specific communities for literacy, Board member involvement, tutor and sponsor recognition, collaboration with the Executive Director and staff, financial solvency, and Board Development.
2. **Adopted a Format Change for the Newsletter:** Due to rising costs, the Board voted to change the format of the newsletter. The Spring 2009 newsletter will be bulk mailed as usual. The Fall 2009 newsletter will be distributed by email to all members who provide an email address to the Literacy office. If you prefer a hard copy of the newsletter, you may pick one up at the Literacy Council office in the new City Library. Or, you may call the office at 925-0951, x836 or x837 and request a copy be mailed to you.
3. **Named Newsletter Editors for 2009:** The Board approved a committee to prepare the newsletter for 2009. The committee includes Linda White, photographer; Sharon Henning, proofreader; Patti Diefenderfer, production; and Wendy Stockton, editor.
4. **Approved Board Member Responsibilities and Personal Characteristics:** The Board considered and approved a list of responsibilities and personal characteristics of ideal board members.

Good-bye to a Valued Literacy Friend:

Lethian Jeanne McFarland Bauer, better known as "Link," passed away February 3, 2009. Link was an active member of the Santa Maria community and served as Literacy Council volunteer for four years.

CCLC NEWS is a publication of the
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CCLC OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday: by appointment only



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My Favorite Book and Why I Love It

Marj Lambe

It's not my favorite book; it's my favorite author: Julia Quinn. She writes the novels I like, from the Victorian period, with lords and dukes and romance and strong women of the day who stand up for themselves!

There are no mousy women in Victorian romance! It bothers me when some woman gets "lorded over"...goes against the grain.



Sasha Silva

My favorite book is called *The Golden Compass*. It's so good! It's a great fantasy adventure. It's the first book in a trilogy of Victorian thrillers, *His Dark Materials*, though it is set in an alternate universe.

I recommend reading it and listening to the book on tape or CD or downloadables because it is performed by a full cast and I always cry when I hear it!



Edna Billings

My favorite book is called *Family Tree Maker*. It includes computer software. If I didn't know English, I couldn't read all the instructions and gather all those 16,000 names in my database.

I have been collecting names for my family tree and for friends for over 40 years.

