

April–May 2013

▶ ADULT LEARNERS ARE WAITING FOR YOUR HELP! VOLUNTEER TODAY1

▶ LEARNING BLOOMS ALL YEAR LONG! CELEBRATE LEARNING SUCCESSES...1 & 2

▶ READ/ORANGE COUNTY CELEBRATES OUR VOLUNTEERS...1, 2, & 4

READ Writes



LIFELONG LEARNING FOCUS ON LITERACY THROUGHOUT THE ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY

READ/Orange County is the adult literacy services of the OC Public Libraries, providing basic reading & writing help to adults throughout Orange County.

Literacy Changes Lives! Volunteer As A Tutor and Change Your Life



Congratulations to our latest class of new READ/OC Tutors, who are eagerly awaiting acquainted with the adult learners with whom they have just been matched.

Literacy truly changes lives - the life of the adult learner, their family, and their tutor who continuously encourages, helps their learner focus on a goal, and remains a patient learning partner.

You, too, can change lives: the life of an adult learner, their family, and your own!

Contact READ/Orange County today for details about how you can volunteer.

Next information meetings: Thursday, July 18 at 1pm or 6pm, and the next Tutor Training will be Saturdays, July 20 & 27 9am-4pm.



Proud Moments Literacy Helps OC Adults Bloom!

Our tutors and learners have had many successes this past month! Here are just a few of their achievements taken from monthly reports:

- Alice helped Massood pass his citizenship test and get his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from CalPoly, Pomona. Massood has decided that he is now ready to continue down the path of lifelong learning on his own!
- After working with Angie, Gloria was able to act as a translator for a friend's visit to the dentist.
- With Laurie's help, Sandra read her first book in English: *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes.
- Joan helped Fari pass the English proficiency test that she needed to advance in her job.
- Richard and Elizabeth watched a movie in English and were able to summarize the story.
- Stephany helped Sunny meet her goal of reading and understanding her business catalog. They have decided that she is ready to continue learning independently without tutoring assistance! Sunny is now able to continue a journey of lifelong learning on her own!

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CHANGES COMING FOR THE GED

The following is an excerpt from the April 3, 2013 issue of *News for You*, a weekly newspaper from New Readers Press/ProLiteracy especially for adult learners. READ/OC tutor, their learners, and OCPL staff may find this information timely and helpful. Please share with those adults whose goals are to get their GED or who are seeking information about the GED.

Students Hurry to Finish GED® Test Before It Changes in 2014

Are you working toward passing the GED test? You might want to finish soon. The test will change next year.

The GED test now has five parts. People will have to start over if they do not pass all five parts this year. The new test will be used starting on January 2, 2014.

The GED test measures adults' skills and knowledge. Passing the test is like getting a high school diploma.

Most states have just approved new standards for schools. They are called the Common Core State Standards. They help students get ready for college and careers. The new GED test fits in with the standards.

The new test will have four parts. Writing is not a separate test anymore. It will now be part of all four tests.

Students will have to take the new test on a computer. This year, they can use pencil and paper. The changes are the first since 2002...About 700,000 adults take the test each year. About 72 percent pass it. More than 1 million may take it this year before the changes.

History and Changes

The GED test was first offered in 1942. It was for soldiers who did not get to finish high school.

Armando Diaz works for the GED Testing Service. "We see that higher ed has new standards," he said. "The workforce (and) the economy (are) changing.

"We decided it's time to give the (test) a face-lift to make it better," he said.

There is one more reason to pass the test now. The new test may cost twice as much.

For more information about the GED Test in California go to: <http://www.gedtestingservice.com>

PROUD MOMENTS continued from Page 1

- Christine and Chin-Mei have been able to read and understand official letters and casual emails.
- Kay and Marc read the whole *News For You* newspaper.
- Stephanie and Yolanda were able to leave a written note to solve a work problem.
- Amber and Trinh achieved their goal of reading and understanding all 100 citizenship questions.
- Kit helped Bolor learn how to do crossword puzzles.
- Matt and Maria are reading the Bible in English for the first time.
- With Patrice's help, Shahin was able to order coffee with confidence at Starbucks.
- After working with Kelli, Jeannie sent an email to her daughter's teacher.
- Dan and Margarita completed their first goal of reading two recipes.
- After working with Patrice E, Marely was able to reserve a room at her church and confirm the reservation in writing.
- Mark helped Jay write and send his first ever email.

Tutors, remember to submit monthly reports. We want everyone to celebrate you and your learners' accomplishments at our Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration on Saturday, June 22 at Irvine Regional Park.



FROC Corner



The Friends of READ/OC (FROC) received a wonderful donation from members of Packaging Corporation of America. At the company's annual conference, attendees thoughtfully chose and donated 678 new or gently used children's books that were meaningful for the givers or their children. At the opening dinner the event's chairperson shared how he explained to his young son that not all children have books or someone to read to them and then presented a copy of his son's favorite book as his donation.

Among the donations were several copies of Dr. Seuss and Little Golden Book classics, selected with reflections of the donors' early memories of being read to and reading to their own children. The books were thoughtfully chosen for all ages. Barbara Neder from READ/OC shared the importance of literacy services across the country. She encouraged each attendee to seek out their local literacy program and get involved. FROC board member, Carolyn Pinney, shared how FROC supports the literacy efforts of READ/OC. The books are already in use by volunteer tutors and adult learners with their families. This generous gift is very much appreciated.

FROC also launched a new fundraiser activity, offering a holiday card to honor someone special with a donation for the literacy efforts of FROC and READ/OC. This new effort has been encouraging, and FROC plans to expand with cards for a variety of occasions. Watch for announcements soon of new cards and messages. FROC is hopeful the cards will not only raise money to support literacy efforts of READ/OC and FROC, but generate a greater awareness of literacy needs in Orange County. Each card contains information about literacy services offered, our websites, literacy facts to vividly personalize the story, and serves as a gift and outreach opportunity as FROC continues to expand its services.

Ryan Ramos presently serves as President and three new board members have recently joined FROC. This year will be packed with many new efforts promoting adult literacy and both organizations. Consider enhancing your life by volunteering to support the work of FROC and READ/OC.



Congratulations, Gussie!

READ/OC congratulates Gussie, for his reading and writing achievements! Gussie recently was recognized for his learning efforts by the Southern California Library Literacy Network's 2013 Writer-to-Writer Challenge for adult learners. Gussie has received the Runner Up award for the Emerging Reader category! Gussie shared, in writing, his feelings about his learning journey by writing a letter to the author of a book he read with his tutor. It was the first book Gussie ever read. He and his tutor, Ed, are very proud of his learning efforts and encouraged as Gussie continues to improve his reading and writing skills, while fulfilling his personal goals to finally be able to read whatever he wants! Way to go, Gussie and much thanks to Ed for his encouraging help!

Do you know someone who needs help with basic reading and writing so they can achieve their personal learning goals? Encourage them to contact READ/OC, and then consider becoming a volunteer tutor with READ/OC! Our next Learner Orientation is Tuesday, June 25 at 1 & 6pm and our next tutor orientation will be Thursday, July 18 at 1 & 6 pm, followed by the tutor training workshop on Saturday July 20 & 27, 9am-4pm. Learners like Gussie are waiting for a tutor's help to spread their wings and fly!



PAIGE TURNER



Dear Paige,

My learner has been cancelling a lot of our tutoring sessions. Is he really motivated?

Driven to Tutor

Dear Driven,

Your learner's goals will tell you what motivates him to improve his reading and writing skills. But remember, just because he is motivated does not mean that tutoring is easy! Think about this example: There are lots of reasons to be motivated to get in better shape. But how many of us actually go to the gym every day? I know that I would need a lot of help to meet my fitness goals, regardless of motivation. Similarly, part of a tutor's job is to help their learner follow through on their motivation. We can do this by being flexible, patient, and understanding with our learners. Sometimes we also need to be honest and challenging. Sit down with your learner to find out what obstacles are preventing him from coming to his session every week. Is the schedule bad? Is he intimidated by how much he has to learn? Is he frustrated because he's not seeing the quick progress that he hoped for? Is there another more immediate need getting in the way? Once you know what the underlying problem is, work together to solve it.

Paige Turner



RESOURCE OF THE MONTH... OUR VOLUNTEERS!



The READ/OC team's favorite resource of the month is our VOLUNTEERS! April has been a month of celebrating and thanking those who selflessly give of their talents and time. It is most appropriate we take this opportunity to recognize the efforts, time and talents of READ/OC volunteers for their commitment to lifelong learning, helping and encouraging others, and working together to make their community, workplace and Orange County at large a better place to live, learn, and grow!

READ/OC tutors commit to a minimum of 15 hours of training, multiple hours each month of preparing learning activities related directly to their learners' goals and tutoring, encouraging and mentoring their learners weekly for 6 months or longer...some for years, others helping multiple learners...and others mentoring new tutors. Our volunteers also share their time and talents helping in the READ office, with tutor training, learner orientations, and as Literacy Center Ambassadors.

Our Volunteers also includes Friends of READ/Orange County to work together to help promote literacy and the efforts of READ/OC, provide resources and supplies for tutor training and outreach, and celebrate lifelong learning by planning and hosting the Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration, affectionately known as AFPAC!

And last, but **certainly** not least, this also includes the entire OC Public Libraries Staff who always look out for READ/OC's best interests - tutors, learners, volunteers, and the job they do to encourage the entire community to celebrate lifelong learning and literacy by reading every day whether its books, magazines, newspapers, on computers, with friends, co-workers...just READ, LEARN, GROW and SHARE!

April-June 2013



Thu., May 2
Tue., May 7
Wed., May 8
Thu., May 9
Sat., May 11
Sun., May 12

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm
Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-7:45pm
Family Reading Time @ Stanton Community Resource Ctr., 6:30-7:45pm

Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library, 7-8pm

Family Reading Time @ Irvine University Park Library, 10am-12pm

READ to your MOM on Mother's Day! (Then give her a big hug & kiss for showing you how to love books, lifelong learning & reading!)

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm

Memorial Day Holiday – Libraries & READ/OC office are closed.

Tutor Training – Follow Up Workshop @ READ/OC HQ, 9-11 am

Family Reading Time @ La Palma Library, 6:30-7:45pm

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 6-8pm

Family Reading Time @ Irvine University Park Library, 10am-12pm

Family Reading Time @ Mesa Verde Library, 7-8pm

Family Reading Time @ El Toro Library, 10am-12pm

READ with your DAD on Father's Day! (Read the menu when you take him out for pie, or the instructions as he assembles his new BBQ, or the Sunday Comics... Sports page... then let him take a nap with the newspaper or ask him to read to you!)

Sat., Jun 22

Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration (AFPAC) Hosted by Friends of READ/Orange County. Join READ/OC at Irvine Regional Park for fun, food, games, awards and more fun! **Save the date and look for your invitation coming in the mail soon!**



AFPAC is Coming!

**Mark Your Calendars...Save the Date...
Watch the mailbox for your invitation!**

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2013

Time: 12:00-3:30 p.m.

**Location: Irvine Regional Park,
Group Area 2**

**Bring your invitation to show at the
entrance for free entry and parking!
Parking is limited, so please carpool and
bring only one car per invitation!**



READ/OC is the adult literacy service of OC Public Libraries & OC Community Resources
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