



READ WRITES

For You and About You

March 2012

Message from Matthew



Dear Friends,

I would like to take a moment to share with you that, in responding to the Department's new business needs, a few changes have taken place in our READ/OC program. Our Learner Coordinator, Shenikka Barnes, and our Administrative

Professional, Mirna Elvir, have been transferred to a different team within OC Community Resources where they will continue to utilize their experience, skills and knowledge to provide outstanding services just as they did for READ/OC.

In the context of these changes, I have asked the staff to take on additional responsibilities. Some are as follows:

Rebecca – Learner support with all of its facets...

Barbara – Training, volunteer services, outreach, learner orientations...

Tangela – Training, assessment, overall operational team support...

While we will miss Shenikka's and Mirna's direct support, READ/OC plans to continue providing strong literacy services with the assistance of the Friends of READ/OC, and our Volunteers.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to call on you to please consider volunteering, in the areas of your interest, with READ/OC. More than ever, this is when we definitely need your gifts of talents and time. When you see a request for help, please take a few moments to know that your help will make a great difference in our effort to provide services to the on-going needs of so many people.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and continued support of advancing literacy throughout Orange County.

Matthew Le Administrative Manager READ/OC – Adult Literacy Services Volunteer Services Organizational Development

Where Were You in '92? A Legacy of Friends of READ/Orange County

In late 1992 the Friends of READ/Orange County was born, and since then READ/OC has been supported by many leaders and caring volunteers from the community. The FROC Board has had the honor of a diverse and impressive group of Orange County community leaders, many of whom served on the FROC Board for multiple years and in multiple capacities.

Gary Granville, former County Clerk and Recorder, was one of the founding board members of the Friends of READ/Orange County.

Robert Newman, of Animal Lawyer Services in Tustin served as FROC President in 1998-1999. Founder/CEO of Lawsuit Prevention & Management in Seattle, **Donna Knifsend**, served as President while she was adjunct professor at UC Irvine, as well as Chapman and Whittier Law Schools.

The 1998-1999 Friends of READ/OC also had an impressive "Honorary Board," with the Honorable Gail Andler, a Judge of the Orange County Municipal Court, serving as President. Prior to becoming a State Assemblyman for the 69th district in 1994, Jim Morrissey, also served as a member of the Honorary Board. Other Honorary Board members included: Marian Bergeson, former County Supervisor; Harry Buckle, President of the PennySaver Group; Jim Doti, former President of Chapman University; former NFL Player Mike Lansford; Dr. John Nixon, Executive Dean of Rancho Santiago College, Chuck Smith; founder of the Calvary Chapel movement and currently Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa; and Judd Guice Market Manager, Santa Ana Wal-Mart Stores.

From the organization's beginnings to the current Friends of READ/OC Board, READ/Orange County is extremely proud and appreciative of the longstanding volunteer leadership and impressive legacy of Friends of READ/Orange County over the past 20 years.

Volunteers Needed

Call READ/OC at 714-566-3070 to find out how you can help!





The monthly report winner for February is:

Robert Schwartz

Congratulations Robert!

Monthly Reports are due by the 5th of every month. Get yours in on time for a chance to be next month's winner and receive a \$10 gift card to Starbucks.

If you have missed sending in your Monthly Reports, it is not too late to catch up! Remember, the hours you report each month are the only record READ has of your learner's hours!

Of course you can still access monthly report forms online, submit them by email to readoc@occr.ocgov.com or mail them to READ/OC, 1501 E. St. Andrew Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92705



Proud Moments

, SGOAL

Here are just a few achievements in February, taken from monthly reports:

- •Margarita's learner finished reading <u>Little House on the</u>

 <u>Prairie</u> which is a great accomplishment for her as she "hates to read."
- •Nada's learner paid her car insurance bill over the phone.
- Mark's learner completed reading a book.
- •Leone and her learner completed her second LEA and wrote her first letter.
- •Barbara's learner is taking greater responsibility ordering merchandise for the family business.
- •Daniel's learner wrote an essay herself, presented it to her class and received an A on her assignment.
- •Mattvei's learner completed 3 sections of his community college online application.
- •Beth's learner is becoming more skilled at looking at a word and promptly writing it. She now says the letters out loud with confidence and no hesitation as she is writing.
- •Karen observes growing confidence and greater participation from each of the learners in her small group. Her learners are bringing in their writing efforts to review with their tutor and fellow learners.
- •Thuha's learner learned how to play "Go Fish" using upper and lower case letters.
- •Matt's learner is now writing her signature and the days of the week in cursive.
- •Barb's learner has entered her second semester at Saddleback College.



If you are reading this line, call the READ/OC office to claim your "Reader of the Month" prize!



By now, you have been reading great stories about where people were in '92 and you know that READ/OC is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2012. The program has seen many changes over the past 20 years and as you see from Matthew's message on Page 1, we need volunteers more now than ever before.

Friends of READ/OC would like to extend an invitation for you to volunteer to help us plan our 20th Anniversary Fundraiser being held in September. We need people in every area of planning, development and execution! If you have an interest and would like to learn more, please call the READ/OC offices at 714-566-3070.



You can make a difference!

OUTREACH NEWS

We need your help to get our name out and keep it in the front of the community. If you have an idea for how we can create a buzz, we want to hear from you!

We love to participate in:

Book Drives Casual Days Employee Community Fairs Fund raisers

We are available to:

Talk to your Group or Organization Help you create an event to introduce READ/OC

If you would like more information on how to have our Outreach Coordinator come to your place of business or talk to your group, please call 714-566-3070 and ask for Karen! or email karen@lighthousecreativegroup.com.





Next time you are online – "LIKE" READ Orange County and Friends of READ Orange County on Facebook.

While you are there, check out literacy news and events on the Facebook pages for Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) and our very own Friends of READ/Orange County (FROC).

And then share us with a friend - encourage them to volunteer and help change a life through literacy.

Ms. Paige Turner (Fun advice for tutors and learners)



Dear Paige,

My friend is a volunteer tutor with READ/OC. He recently shared a copy of the READ/OC newsletter and how he is helping another adult improve their skills to reach a lifelong goal.

I am curious about such a need. How is it possible that an adult who grew up and went to school here needs help with such basic skills? *-Perplexed*

Dear Perplexed,

You are not alone. Many think literacy is only a second-language issue or a social challenge in another country. When you consider we all are "lifelong" learners and are learning something new every day, the issue becomes more real. There are several reasons why adults in Orange County need help with basic reading and writing skills, and they are varied as the individuals' life experiences. Some are immigrants who may or may not have had access to education in their home country. Others may have grown up in the U.S, struggled throughout their school experience, falling behind more each year. As children, their families may have moved a lot, causing them to miss parts of instruction at a crucial age, and not able to catch up with their peers. They may have a learning style that just didn't work in a traditional classroom setting. There are as many reasons why an adult never learned to read as there are adult learners in our program.

For many adults, this challenge can bring with it shame or embarrassment, and a feeling that the chance to learn has passed them by. Consider the following poetic expression recently published by an adult learner as an answer to your question...and then, please feel free to spread the word and volunteer to help change a life.

-Paige Tuner

TWENTY-SIX LETTERS

Written By Earl Mills

Befuddled by the alphabet-

Fifty years old and can't read yet.

Twenty-six letters have brought me shame.

Someone asked me to spell my name.

Another bulletin at work today-

Who can I ask, "What does it say?"

"Grandpa, will you read this book to me?"

I tell her the letters are too small to see.

I don't have my glasses, I'm running late-

I am a victim to this lie I hate.

Cannot read-won't tell a soul.

Secrets of my youth - now I am old.

Letter after letter I can't figure out.

Frustration inside - a silent shout.

Twenty-six letters can raise so much hell.

They have secrets to me they will not tell.

This secret locked within-

I will not let these letters winners.

From Illiterate To Poet, ©2011

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Earl's book is available for purchase at <u>JasherPress.com</u>, <u>Amazon.com</u> and <u>Barnesandnoble.com</u>

Resource of the Month

Expanding on Paige Turner's encouragement for learners to write and share their stories, the following websites may also provide resources and encouragement for adult learners to share their story through writing.



<u>www.literacygazette.org</u> -- This online resource is for adult learners, by adult learners, and features learners' stories and resources to encourage learners. The site was founded by an adult learner, Daniel Pedroza.

<u>www.ProLiteracy.org</u> – The website for ProLiteracy often features learners and their stories about learning and realizing lifelong goals through literacy.

<u>www.readoc.org</u> – This newsletter regularly features learners' stories, resources for learners, advice and opportunities for learners to meet together and learn from one another. Past issues are also posted on this site, as well as opportunities for learners to use their voice and encourage others.

<u>www.friendsroc.org</u> - This site also provides information on how adult learners of READ/OC can share their story and encourage others in the community to get involved.

Tutors, encourage your learners to write "brief" stories and share their "voice" for the READ/OC newsletter. Use this as an opportunity to work with them through the "language experience approach" (LEA) to gain more writing experience toward their personal goals. Their stories can be powerful tools to help more people become aware of the importance of literacy and lifelong learning.



Volunteer Today...call 714-566-3070

"Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens."

- President Clinton on International Literacy Day, September 8th 1994

WHY LITERACY IS IMPORTANT IN ORANGE COUNTY

In Orange County, an estimated 400,000 people over the age of 16 read no better than the average elementary school child.

The ability to read and write is the basis for all other education; literacy is necessary for an individual to understand information that is out of context, whether written or verbal.

Without basic literacy skills—the abilities to read, to write, to do math, to solve problems, and to access and use technology—today's adults will struggle to take part in the world around them and fail to reach their full potential as parents, community members, and employees.

ADULTS NEED STRONG LITERACY SKILLS

...to raise children who have strong literacy skills.

Learning to read begins long before a child enters school. It begins when parents read to their children, have books in the home, and encourage their children to read. The research is clear: parents who are poor readers don't read as often to their children as do parents who are strong readers; children who are not read to enter school less prepared for learning to read than other children.

...to be good employees.

The employees most in demand in the U.S. have at least a two-year college degree. Workers must be able to read safety regulations and warnings so they and their co-workers can stay safe on the job. And working in a team means that employees must be able to communicate clearly with one another and continuously learn new skills and procedures to work "smart" and be resource focused.

...to keep themselves and their families healthy.

Understanding a doctor's orders, calculating how much medicine to take, reading disease-prevention pamphlets, eating nutritious meals —all are ways adults can keep themselves and their families healthy. But millions of adults lack these essential "health literacy" skills, which adds an estimated \$230 billion a year to the cost of health care in the U.S.

...to be active in their communities.

People challenged by their literacy skills are often less likely to vote or actively volunteer in the community. Such individuals can be reluctant to get involved with community programs and may feel they have little to offer due to their lack of skills. Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Education showed that low literate adults are less likely to vote than strong readers, but become more active in their communities as their reading and writing skills improve.

Keep your literacy skills strong – READ!

Help another adult or family to do the same – VOLUNTEER!

Contact READ/OC today to find out how!

Source: Adapted from www.ProLiteracy.org

READ/Orange County is an accredited affiliate of ProLiteracy

An Annual Celebration of Authors, Readers, and Libraries

Presented by



The 6th Annual Literary Orange Saturday, April 14, 2012 at UC Irvine Student Center

Keynote Speakers:



Paula McLainAuthor of <u>The Paris Wife</u>



Lisa SeeAuthor of <u>Dreams of Joy</u>

...and many other authors!

It's going to be a fabulous day!

Register Today!

http://literaryorange.org

Literary Orange is a joint venture of OC Public Libraries and UC Irvine Libraries. Its goal is to enhance an appreciation of reading and literature by connecting writers and readers for a day of panel discussions, keynote speakers and book signings.



Learn how to download library books. Free! OC Libraries eReader Open Houses

Got one? Bring it! Want one? Try ours first!

Get acquainted with iPad, Sony Reader, nook and Kindle readers and how to "checkout" eBooks from the library!

When: Monday, Mar. 19, 10 am—12 pm Where: Los Alamitos/Rossmoor Library 12700 Montecito, Seal Beach, (562) 430-1048

When: Thursday, March 29, , 2 pm-4pm

Where: El Toro Library 24672 Raymond Way, Lake Forest, (949) 855-8173

When: Tuesday, Apr. 3, 12 pm-2 pm

Where: Katie Wheeler Library

13109 Old Myford Rd. Irvine, (714) 669-8753

When: Wednesday, Apr. 18, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Laguna Beach, Library

363 Glenneyre Street

Laguna Beach, (949) 497-1733

When: Thursday, Apr. 26, 12 pm-2 pm

Where: **Tustin Library** 345 E. Main Street Tustin, (714) 544-7725

When: Thursday, May 3, 12 pm-2 pm

Where: Aliso Viejo Library

1 Journey

Aliso Viejo, (949) 360-1720



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Staff & Volunteer

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If you are interested in contributing an article for READ WRITES, contact us at 714-566-3070.

When you have finished reading this newsletter, please share it with someone so they will know about the services and volunteer opportunities of READ/OC.

Click here to go directly to the READ/OC Calendar of Events







Mark Your Calendars and Tell A Friend or 2 or 3 ~ Many Learners are waiting for help!

Tuesday, March 20
Saturday, March 21
First Day of Spring – Bloom through Reading!
Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification
(Jan. TTW), 9am-11am @ READ/OC HQ
(Veteran Tutors are welcome & encouraged to attend!)

Tuesday, March 27 Special Family Reading Time, 6:30-7:30 pm @ Garden Grove Regional Library

Tuesday, April 3 Family Reading Time, 6:30-7:45 pm @ La Palma Library

Thursday, April 5 Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ El Toro Library Thursday, April 12 Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ Mesa Verde

Library, Costa Mesa
Saturday, April 14 Family Reading Time, 10am-12pm @ Irvine

University Park Library

Family Reading Time, 3-4:30 pm @ Tustin Library
Saturday, April 21 Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification

Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification (Mar. TTW), 9am-11am @ READ/OC HQ (Veteran Tutors are welcome & encouraged

to attend!)

Family Reading Time, 10am-12pm @ Irvine

Heritage Park Library

Tuesday, April 24 Special Family Reading Time, 6:30-7:30 pm @

Garden Grove Regional Library



Volunteers Needed
Call READ/OC at 714-566-3070
to find out how you can help!







READ/OC is the adult literacy services of OC Public Libraries and OC Community Resources

1501 E. St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705 Phone: 714-566-3070 ● www.READOC.org