

Vision LITERACY

Partners Creating Opportunities

408.262.1349

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, 540 Valley Way, Milpitas CA, 95035

www.visionliteracy.org

Tutor & Volunteer Newsletter

September 2009

CELEBRATE THE DIFFERENCE YOU MADE!

8,556 hours of free tutoring. 465 goals met by learners. 2,047 books given away. These are just some of the successes that you – the tutors and volunteers of Vision Literacy – made possible this year. And now it's time to celebrate!

On October 17, the Friends of Vision Literacy will host the annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the Toll House Hotel in Los Gatos. Come gather with other volunteers, staff and board members for fantastic food and joyful conversation. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., and brunch will be served at 10 a.m.

All tutors and volunteers are welcome, so if you have not yet received your invitation to this fun annual event, please call the Milpitas office at 408-262-1349.

BEGINNING-LEVEL COMPUTER CLASSES RESUME IN GILROY

A new season of beginning computer classes recently kicked off in the South County. Taught at Eliot School in Gilroy by part-time teacher Frank Hernandez, the classes will meet Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. through November 18. Learners who would like to participate can contact the Gilroy office at 408-848-5366. Registration is required, and space is limited, so don't delay!

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

Congratulations to the 27 men and women from across Santa Clara County who recently completed Vision Literacy's tutor training program. This

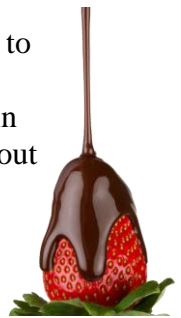
session's successful graduates included Melissa Bautista, Ellen Costa, Kelly Ear, Vanessa Eaton, Becky Hansen, Barbara Harper, Ann Haskell, Evelyn Herrero, Bob Kutter, Lisa Kutter, Sharon Lakin, Judy Levin, Deborah Maxwell, Subhashini Muthukrishnan, Cara Mia Perlas, Belinda Rangel, Steven Schuler, David Taylor III, Lucina Uddin, Jean Wang, Yeisen Wang, Ian Yap and Maria Zarate.

Thank you, new tutors, for choosing to dedicate your time and talents to help adults in the community.

MORE COOKBOOK RECIPES NEEDED

There's still time to send in your favorite recipes for the Vision Literacy cookbook – a unique collection of recipes that will be published to raise additional program funds. Go to www.cookbookfundraiser.com (group login name: Literacy, password: recipe) and fill out the online form to share your recipe.

If you have questions, call Marina at 408-262-1349. Recipes are due October 8.



Tutors: Please submit your monthly progress report by mail or online at www.visionliteracy.org. Reports are due October 3. Thank you!

NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR EVENT HELPS GENERATE AWARENESS OF ADULT LITERACY

Vision Literacy participated in National Semiconductor's Dare to Care Fair on September 18.



Volunteer and National Semiconductor employee Shalabh Goyal, along with Vision Literacy staff members Marina Dols and Kristin Seitz,

answered questions and promoted volunteerism at the annual event.

TUTOR TIP: MAKING LISTS

Making lists is an easy, controlled-writing activity that can help learners improve a variety of skills, including spelling and vocabulary.

First, ask your learner a question or set a task related to a reading or the learner's life. For example,

- List the names of people in your family.
- List the jobs you have held and the dates you held them.
- List the names of the people on your Christmas list and what you will get each person.
- Make a list of chores for family members.
- Make a list of items you need at the grocery store.
- Name the tools you need to fix a flat tire.
- Make a list of what you have to do this week, including day and time.

Next, discuss the list with your learner. Is the list complete? Were there any spelling surprises? Did you discover any new vocabulary words?

An alternative to making a list is to begin a calendar together in order to track writing assignments, appointments, meetings or special events to remember.

*This month's tip is adapted from **Second Start Adult Literacy**, a service of the Oakland Public Library (<http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/services/SecondStart/index.html>)*

LEARNERS HOST PARTY TO SAVE CLASSTIME CHILDCARE

Faced with a funding shortage and the prospect of losing childcare services during classtime, learners in Vision Literacy's ESL class at the Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA) recently hosted a "Kermesse" festival to raise money for the program.

"Most of the women in this class have little children at home and can't come if there's no childcare," said Marina Dols, associate manager – north county, who oversees the program. "Unfortunately, childcare is expensive, and the FIRST 5 funds that used to pay for it got cut during the recession."

The Kermesse, which was held at the MACSA center, offered a variety of traditional Mexican food and games and raised nearly \$300.

COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 8 Deadline for Vision Literacy cookbook submissions
- Oct. 10 Volunteer Orientation
Gilroy Office, 42 Martin Street
10-11 a.m.
- Oct. 13 Volunteer Orientation
Morgan Hill Library
660 West Main Avenue
6-7 p.m.
- Oct. 15 Volunteer Orientation
Gilroy Office, 42 Martin Street
6-7 p.m.
- Oct. 17 Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
Toll House Hotel
140 South Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos
10 a.m.-noon

Registration is required for all events. Contact 408-262-1349 or email info@visionliteracy.org.

Let us know if you have a question, comment or submission for the newsletter. Contact Kristin Seitz at 408-262-1349 or info@visionliteracy.org.
Next deadline for submissions: Oct. 13.

