

Vision Literacy

Partners Creating Opportunities

Tutor and Volunteer Newsletter

April 2008

MEET FRIENDS OF VISION LITERACY: Jennifer Low, Board of Directors



How did you become involved with Vision Literacy? I started as a tutor with Vision Literacy's FAMTRACK program in Milpitas. This was a family literacy program.

Why are you interested in Literacy? I have always liked to read since I was a child and I want to make sure that everyone has the ability to read.

What books are on your reading shelf? and why? "Marie Antoinette – The Journey", by Antonia Fraiser. I recently saw an exhibit about Marie Antoinette and the Petit Trianon at Versailles and wanted to learn more about her life.

What was your favorite children's book? The Harry Potter series although I read them as an adult. When I was younger I really enjoyed reading the Judy Blume books with the Fudge character.

You live in Milpitas, what is your favorite thing about Milpitas? The diversity. There are many different things that you can do here, shopping, eating, hiking, and walking.

What are you most proud about from your involvement with Vision Literacy? Vision Literacy was recently granted funding by United Way. I feel that this gives the program recognition in the community.

You are involved with Macy's Community Shopping Day how does this tie in with Vision Literacy? Macy's sponsors a program called Community Shopping Day that gives local non-profit organizations the ability to earn funds by selling tickets to a special sales event. Vision Literacy is participating in Community Shopping Day at Macy's Valley Fair on Saturday, May 17th. All donations go directly to Vision Literacy. To donate go to www.visionliteracy.org or call 408-262-1349.

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Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara County Library

STUDENT COMPUTER SPOTLIGHT:

Louise Shields, Associate Manager – South County

Vision Literacy – Gilroy has numerous student computer success stories! Working with United Way, we just finished our second session of Basic Computer Classes with 15 students recognized with a small honorary ceremony and pot luck last week. We will start our third Computer Class at Eliot School on April 14th. The classes are already full with 34 students signed-up. They meet on Mondays and Wednesdays 6-8pm.

Starting April 21st Gilroy is also offering Basic Computer Classes twice a week to residents of the Gilroy Apartments on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11am-1pm. Tutor Nancy Mumby will be teaching this course. Classes have grown to twice a week due to higher need. The partnership between United Farm Workers and Vision Literacy make the computer classes possible.



Success Story by Angelita Martinez

This computer class has helped me a lot to know how to get information and to find out where to go to get information that I need. I was able to find directions on a map (MapQuest) in order to get to my Dr's. Appointment. I was not able to do this before I took this computer class. This made me feel good. Computers have helped open more doors for me in my everyday life.

You really need to know computers to survive in this world. Without this knowledge, there are no open doors.



Eliot Elementary School
Escuela Primaria Eliot



If you have a question, comment or submission for the newsletter, please contact 408-262-1349 or info@visionliteracy.org.
Next deadline for submissions: May 3rd.



**2008
WRITER TO WRITER
CHALLENGE!**

If you could write a letter to any author, living or dead, whom would you choose? Writer To Writer is a Writing Challenge for adult learners.

Tutors, please encourage your adult learners to write a letter to an author whose writing has changed the way they think about themselves or their life. The letter does not have to be lengthy – this is just a friendly note to your favorite author of 500 words or less. Everyone who submits a letter will receive a certificate of participation.

**SUBMITTING ENTRIES DEADLINE* THURS., JUL. 31
WINNERS ANNOUNCED* WED., SEP. 8**

AWARDS CEREMONY IN SAN JOSE* FRI., NOV. 14

*Dates subject to change, please check with Vision Literacy.

READING TIPS FOR PARENTS:

In honor of the Month of the Child, this tip comes from U.S. Department of Education's No Child Left Behind brochure.



www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov

- Read with your child every day.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read.
- Read your child's favorite book over and over again.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat.
- Discuss new words.
- Stop and ask about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and more.

APRIL: MONTH OF THE CHILD

According to Veronica Castro-Sumano, Choices for Children Resource Specialist, parents have said about their classes: "I always come back to class because I am learning new things and I know that my child is well cared for in the same location that I am in." And, "I feel grateful and happy to see my child thrilled when he shows me the book he made about our family."



Due date: May 3rd. Thanks!

Tutors: Please submit monthly progress reports, by mail or online at www.visionliteracy.org. 408-262-1349



BOOK MARK THE DATE!

**ENGLISH CLASSES
MACSA Youth Center
660 Sinclair Dr., E. San Jose**

Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11am
Choices for Children and Vision Literacy are partners.
For info and to register call 408-262-1349.



**PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME
A SIX WEEK SERIES TO ENHANCE FAMILY READING**

Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St
Tue. April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 20, and 27 6-8pm
For info and to register call 650-903-6897.

**GILROY INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED ESL CLASSES
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 651 Broadway**
Starts Tue. Apr. 22 6-8pm (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
For info and to register call 408-848-5366.

**WRITER TO WRITER WORKSHOP (OPEN TO ALL)
MEET WRITER TO WRITER WINNER, WORKSHOP FACILITATOR AND LEARNER DONNA JONES!
GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR TUTORS AND LEARNERS
Santa Clara City Mission Branch Library
1098 Lexington Street**
Sat., May 3 from 10-12 (NOTE Date Change)
To sign-up call 408-615-2956 on or before Mon., Apr. 21.

**FESTIVAL OF BOOKS
Santa Clara Valley Medical
Center in San Jose
751 S. Bascom Avenue**

In the lobby and grassy knoll.
Thurs., May 1 11am-3pm
Free and open to the public. Need Volunteers.



**DO YOU ENJOY SHOPPING, GETTING A DISCOUNT, PRIZES, SPECIAL EVENTS AND WANT TO HELP VISION LITERACY? ENJOY MACY'S COMMUNITY SHOPPING DAY!
Valley Fair Shopping Mall OR
Union Square in San Francisco**

Sat., May 17 10am-9pm
Vision Literacy is one of many non-profits involved with this event. For more information or to purchase tickets for \$10 apiece contact Vision Literacy at 408-262-1349 or go to www.visionliteracy.org to purchase on-line.



**2ND ANNUAL MILPITAS FAMILY DAY
Milpitas Community Center
457 E. Calaveras Blvd.**

Sat., May 17 10am – 2pm
City of Milpitas Parks & Recreation Services' Youth Program Team (YPT) provides various recreational and educational opportunities.

