

Vision Literacy

Partners Creating Opportunities

Tutor and Volunteer Newsletter

October 2008

MEET FRIENDS OF VISION LITERACY: HONORARY BOARD CREATED TO VOICE FOR LITERACY

When Steve Wozniak, Silicon Valley Icon and Philanthropist, learned that 400,000 people in Silicon Valley read below the eighth grade level, he was shocked. Then he decided to lend his name to the cause and to recruit others to help build a network of community leaders who also care about this problem. Friends of Vision Literacy is introducing this new

Honorary Board to help raise awareness of literacy services.



Wozniak is Chairman of the Honorary Board. Like him, the other Honorary Board members were selected because of their passion about literacy, their community name recognition, and to be a force of voices for literacy.

The names of the Honorary Board members will be included in the materials used to reach out to prospective learners, tutors and donors, including fund-raising events. The Honorary Board of Directors helps Vision Literacy improve the lives of thousands of people in Santa Clara County.

We are honored and welcome the following community leaders who have accepted a role on this new Honorary Board: Dale Bryant, Silicon Valley Community Newspapers; Spencer Christian, ABC7 News; Rigo Chacon, Abrazos and Books; Michelle Rose, Marketing Consultant; Susan Hammer, former Mayor of San Jose; and, Blanca Alvarado, Santa Clara County Supervisor.

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

Due date: Nov. 3rd. Thanks!

Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara County Library



SPOTLIGHT: FIRST 5 PARENTING ESL CLASSES AT GANAS – SOUTH COUNTY

Rosario is a mother of a 3 year old son. Recently, she encountered a medical emergency that required immediate attention. Due to her son's high fever of 104.0 he was becoming lethargic and pale, entering the danger zone of experiencing seizures. Rosario knew she had to act quickly. She immediately drove him to the nearest emergency room at the nearest hospital. She was able to explain to the doctor her child's symptom, his behavior and what actions that she took for the safety of her son. She was able to accomplish this all in English.

In her ESL parenting classes, Rosario studied a unit on health information and vocabulary. She learned how to identify the signs and symptoms of many common health problems, when to call the doctor for advice, and what is considered an emergency. Rosario states, "By attending my English classes and learning about health, I was able to communicate to the doctor's about my son's condition. I am so thankful to these classes because I learn things that will help my children too."

FRIENDS OF VISION LITERACY BOARD STARTS NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MOUNTAIN VIEW GIVING GROUP

Friends of Vision Literacy Board President, Sandy Reed and Board Member, Steve Toy made a presentation last month to a local giving group in Mountain View in called the Windmill Giving Group. This giving group donated over \$3,000 to Vision Literacy and is in discussion with us about increasing computer access for our learners.

The Windmill Giving Group is a group of young professionals known as a giving circle. They strive to become educated about issues in their community and donate money to address community problems in a way that will produce meaningful, measurable, and sustainable results.



**CONGRATULATIONS! TO FERIA
HANNA, WINNER OF THE
EMERGING LEVEL IN THIS YEAR'S
WRITER TO WRITER CHALLENGE!**

Other Vision Literacy participants were: Jean Chunju, Ruben Dozal, Jr., Katherine Lee,

John Nicholson, Klara Polin, Sara Torres, and three additional anonymous entries.

**WRITER TO WRITER AWARDS
CEREMONY LUNCH**

**Martin Luther King Public Library,
San Jose**

Sat., Nov. 15 - 12 noon-2pm
Call 408-262-1349 if you are interested in attending.



THANK YOU TUTORS!

On behalf of the learners and staff, you have served this year, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your hard work to Vision Literacy. Your patience, dedication, kindness and commitment to helping our learners be more self-sufficient are greatly appreciated. We held out second

Volunteer Appreciation event October 18th at the Toll House Hotel in Los Gatos where we honored our volunteers. Story in November Newsletter. **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TOLL HOUSE HOTEL FOR HOSTING OUR VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT!**

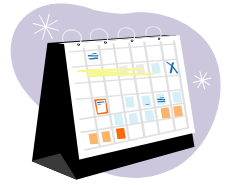


WELCOME TO OUR NEW TUTORS:

Katherine Baker	Arcelia Flores	Sam M. Mulford
Stacy Camiel	Helen Foletta	Jessie McEvoy
Carol Chan	Lucy Liu	Kathryn Nicolino
Tu Chung	Keith Loo	Sterling Presley
Vinhquan Dai	Darrell Martin	Angela Wells
Linda Fleming	Denise Mayosky	Barbara Willson

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING STAFF:

Welcome back Kristin Seitz, Associate Manager of Communications & Events. Kristin and her family recently returned from a year travelling around the United States! Welcome to new staff Literacy Outreach Specialist, Israel Valesquez and Public Ally, Lauren Patron.



BOOK MARK THE DATE!

PRIME TIME – A SIX WEEK SERIES THAT ENCOURAGES FAMILY READING!

Cupertino Library, 10800 Torre Ave.

Wednesdays October 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12 - 6:00-8:00pm
For info and to register call 408-262-1349.

MONTHLY LEARNER MEETING

Sobrato Center, 600 Valley Way, Building 5

Sat., Nov. 8 - 10:30am-12:30pm

For more info call Vision Literacy at 408-262-1349.

**PARENTING WORKSHOP: LEAD HAZARDS IN THE HOME
Gilroy Apartments**

Wed., Nov. 5 - 11am-1pm

Parents will become aware of the dangers of lead in the home, how it can negatively affect children and how to identify it. This workshop will be given by the Santa Clare Public Health Department. For more info call Vision Literacy Gilroy Office at 408-848-5366.

ADULT LEARNER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE IN JANUARY

This is a six-month leadership development program for advanced learners. ALLI students build self-esteem while acquiring public-speaking skills, research techniques, and learning styles. They also learn elements of fundraising, advocacy and special events production. Program dates to be announced. If your learner is interested call 408-262-1349 or email info@visionliteracy.org for information.

ORIENTATION COMING UP - TELL A FRIEND

Vision Literacy offers orientation sessions in January. Tell friends or colleagues who would like to share the gift of reading – as a tutor, volunteer or donor – please invite them to call the Vision Literacy office at 408-262-1349 to register. Please note: orientation may be rescheduled due to low enrollment.

Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue

Sat., Jan.10 - 10:30–11:30 am

Cupertino Library, 10800 Torre Ave.

Mon., Jan.12 - 6:30–7:30 pm

Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Rd.

Thurs., Jan. 20 – 6:30–7:30 pm

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