

# Vision LITERACY

Partners Creating Opportunities

Vision Literacy Tutor and Volunteer Newsletter  
January 2007

## MORE NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Vision Literacy welcomes three more volunteers who joined us this fall: **Hayes Alexander**, **Kari Kobayashi** and **Billie Spell**. We are grateful to have them join our Vision Literacy family.

## SILICON VALLEY READS' BOOK SELECTION EXAMINES IMMIGRATION

The Silicon Valley Reads program has selected as its 2007 book *The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C.



Boyle. This novel looks at the intersection of the lives of two couples in Southern California – one a professional couple living in a gated community, the other a pair of illegal immigrants living in a nearby ravine and reaching for the American Dream.

Addressing topics that touch many lives in our South Bay community, *The Tortilla Curtain* may serve as an outstanding choice of book for learners and tutors to study together. According to the *San Jose Mercury News*, the book is a “superb selection” whose central themes “...about haves and have-nots are a wonderful focal point for community conversation.”

Discussion groups and presentations about the book will take place across the Bay Area throughout January and February, and the author will make a personal appearance at the Mexican Heritage Plaza on Feb. 28 to discuss the themes and characters in the book. Event details can be found at [www.siliconvalleyreads.org](http://www.siliconvalleyreads.org).

## TUTORS NEEDED IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Vision Literacy is looking for volunteers to lead individual and small group tutoring sessions at the Mountain View library, 585 Franklin St. If you are interested in helping, please contact Tim Miller at 408.957.5485 or [tmiller@visionliteracy.org](mailto:tmiller@visionliteracy.org).

## THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

In the month of December:

- **66** tutor-learner pairs were matched
- **56** progress reports were sent in
- **10** reports remain to be submitted

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and willingness to respond to office requests. If you have not yet submitted your report, please send it to the Milpitas office as soon as possible, either by mail or fax (408.956.9384).

## DARE TO DREAM PLAYSHOP OFFERED

Learners, tutors and staff are invited to attend a free Dare to Dream “playshop” at Read Santa Clara on Tues., Feb. 13 from 6:30-9 p.m. Led by life coach and former Vision Literacy tutor Marlene Martin, along with her colleague Sheila Mitchell, the event will provide an opportunity to create a powerful goal that can serve as a touchstone for literacy work, personal growth or balanced living.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot soon. To register, call the Milpitas office at 408.262.1349 or Read Santa Clara at 408.615.2959.

## ORIENTATION COMING UP – TELL A FRIEND!

Vision Literacy will be offering its first orientation sessions of 2007 at the end of this month. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to help share the gift of reading – as a tutor, volunteer or donor – please invite them to call the Milpitas office and register for one of the following orientation events:



**Cupertino Library**, 10800 Torre Ave.  
Sat., Jan. 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Mountain View Library**, 585 Franklin St.  
Tues., Jan. 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Los Altos Library**, 12 S. San Antonio Rd.  
Wed., Jan. 31, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

## TUTOR TIP

This tip comes from the National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities Center in Washington, D.C.:

To emphasize learning strengths and de-emphasize learning weaknesses, eliminate the use of a red pen – a color that reminds adult learners of errors or mistakes.

## SUPPORT VISION LITERACY WITH ESCRIP

Did you know that Vision Literacy is enrolled with Escrip and that you can support our mission just by shopping at Safeway, Macy's and hundreds of other Northern California businesses? When you register with Escrip, participating companies will contribute a percentage of your expenditures directly to us – all you have to do is shop!

If you aren't already supporting our organization using this easy but powerful tool, please visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) today. Our group name is "Friends of Vision Literacy," and our group ID is 500000694. Registering is quick and easy.

## LITERACY SPECIALIST NEEDED IN MILPITAS

Vision Literacy is looking to fill the literacy specialist position recently vacated by Shannon Gomez. If you or someone you know would like to turn a passion for literacy into a paid job, please consider the following position description:

*Literacy Specialist: The ideal candidate for this job has a background in adult education, adult literacy or comparable knowledge. This position will coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate student and volunteer tutor services, including one-on-one, small group and one-time learning opportunities for clients located in Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Milpitas, Mountain View, Saratoga and Sunnyvale. The perfect candidate is an energetic individual who values positive learning environments for adults with low-literacy skills. BA or BS degree preferred; associate's degree with an additional two years related work experience acceptable.*

Resumes can be submitted to [info@visionliteracy.org](mailto:info@visionliteracy.org). Contact Brenda Eitemiller at 408.262.1349 for more information or to make a referral.

## THE TRUE REWARDS OF VOLUNTEERING

Literacy volunteer **Carol Frazer** recently took care of three small children before a class in Gilroy and discovered the need to purchase some books for kids three-years-old and under. After Frazer joked to instructor Elvia Hernandez that she would expect a raise in salary to pay for the books, Hernandez secretly arranged for all the children to give a hug to Frazer before she left. As Frazer said afterwards, "Well, indeed, that was the best pay a person could get!"



## THIS NEWSLETTER'S FOR YOU

Tutors and Volunteers: This newsletter is published for you – and can be created by you, too! These pages are open to everyone for sharing tutor tips, inspiring stories (large or small), or news items that are of interest to the Vision Literacy community.

Tell us about...

- New tutoring resources you've discovered (especially if they're free!)
- Books your students are reading and enjoying
- Helpful or motivational advice that energizes you
- Achievements your student has attained (e.g. registering to vote, signing up for school classes, getting a library card)

Student writing is also welcome. In fact, these newsletter pages can serve as a friendly forum where new writers can see their words in print, perhaps for the first time.

If you or your students have a contribution, please contact Kristin Seitz at 408.262.1349 or [kseitz@visionliteracy.org](mailto:kseitz@visionliteracy.org). We look forward to hearing your stories!

**To DO:**

**Tutors: Please remember to send in your monthly progress reports by mail. Due date: Feb. 3. Thanks!**