

ADULT LITERACY COMMUNITY

Quarterly articles, features, and highlights



Harvest, a time for gathering...

And remembering. In this issue you'll find a memorial tribute to a Learner who inspired adult literacy staff members and his tutor with his goals and achievements during his time enrolled in our program (Page 3).

Unique to this season and issue, I hope we can gather as many of your: Día de los Muertos tributes, Student Writing submissions, and Gratitude writings as you are all willing and able to share with us – please see the list of projects and how to participate on Page 4.

Finally, let's gather in person! Please drop by the Adult Literacy Office on the 2nd Floor of Central Santa Rosa Library for our Holiday Open House Week: December 18 - 22. We look forward to gathering with you. Stop by anytime 10 am - 3 pm that week to enjoy a holiday treat and exchange best wishes for this season and the year ahead.

A. Adams

**Adult Literacy Supervisor
Sonoma County Library**

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- **HIGHLIGHTS**
- **GLOSSARY**
- **INTERVIEWS**
- **IDIOMS**
- **STUDENT WRITING**
- **AND MORE!**

American Culture Corner

Pumpkin Spice Latte: is a coffee drink made with a mix of traditional Fall spice flavors (cinnamon, nutmeg, and clove), steamed milk, espresso, and often sugar, topped with whipped cream and pumpkin pie spice. The beverage is most commonly associated with Starbucks, which first offered the drink in the Fall of 2003.

It has become a tradition for some people that the release of the Pumpkin Spice Latte in late August signals the start of the Fall season.



An iced Pumpkin Spice Latte

Who Were They?

Bob Barker

(pictured right), who was the **affable** host of **The Price Is Right** for 35 years, died on Aug. 26 at the age of 99. Barker was a **steadfast** presence on television for decades, hosting the longest-running **game show** in U.S. history.



Tina Turner (pictured below), the legendary singer often **dubbed** the Queen of Rock & Roll, died May 24, at 83. She first achieved musical success in the '60s and '70s as part of a duo with then-husband Ike Turner, but divorced him in 1976. In the '80s, Turner reinvented herself as a global rock superstar with songs like "What's Love Got to Do With It," "Let's Stay Together," and "The Best."



Glossary

affable: friendly and good-natured

The Price Is Right: a long-running game show where contestants tried to guess the price of everyday items such as laundry detergent and cereal

steadfast: firm and unwavering

game show: a show on TV where people (contestants) try to win prizes

dubbed: named, to call by a title or nickname

Kwanzaa: African American cultural holiday/festival celebrated December 26 - January 1

avid: eager and enthusiastic

YA: Young Adult (category)

growth mindset: the belief that people's most basic abilities can be developed and improved through dedicated effort and hard work

Afro-punk: refers to the participation of African Americans and other Black people in counter-culture art forms such as **punk** and other **subcultures**

punk: a loud, fast-moving, and aggressive form of rock music, popular in the late 1970s and early 1980s — also a subculture form

subcultures: a cultural group within a larger culture

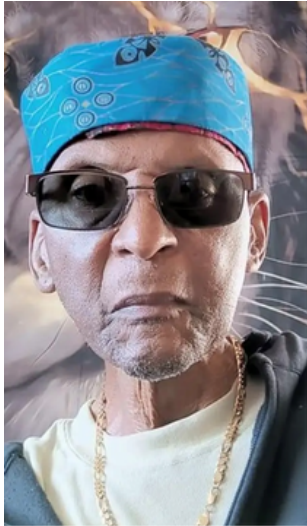
reckoning: a person's view, opinion, or judgement

salvation: being set free from harm, ruin, or loss

incarceration: being confined to prison or camps

grave: (grave moment in history) important, serious

In Memory of Program Learner Rickey Dee



Rickey Dee
(1950 - 2023)

Rickey Dee came to the Adult Literacy program in November of 2021 with the goal of being able to write a letter and read a book. He evaluated his own reading skills at a low level, but it was clear during his assessment that he was capable of much more.

At the time of Rickey's assessment, Literacy Associate Joe Ayala wrote:

Rickey shared that he is very hopeful about the Adult Literacy program and will do everything to complete and accomplish his goals in his time here. I am sure he will prove to be a very dedicated and motivated student.

Indeed, once Rickey was matched with tutor Sheldon Reber in December 2021, they quickly bonded over their shared interest in jazz, Black history, and social movements. They explored graphic novels and enjoyed taking turns reading pages during their sessions.

Rickey registered to vote and successfully voted for the first time in his life with the help of his tutor who reported, "Rickey was very engaged in researching and discussing the candidates and propositions."

A year after his initial assessment, Rickey told Sheldon that he had subscribed to the *Press Democrat* newspaper, and the two enjoyed reading articles together. Among other accomplishments, Rickey learned how to write his own bank checks, read about the history and celebration of **Kwanzaa**, advocate for his medical appointment needs, and fill out a court order to change his name and birth certificate. His ultimate goal was to get a passport to travel; he was very interested in Egyptian history.

Before he passed away Rickey read the book *Five Bold Freedom Fighters* on his own time. This was noted in a monthly report by tutor Sheldon as "a really good breakthrough for him."

The Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy program would like to thank tutor Sheldon Reber for his donation in honor/memory of Rickey Dee.

Interactive Program Opportunities for Learners & Tutors

Is there someone who has died who you want to honor and remember?

Día de los Muertos is a way to reflect on the individuals who have had an impact on our lives, to remember the time we spent together while they were alive, and to share your tribute with others. Here's how...

NOW - October 31, 2023 - Send the following to literacy@sonomalibrary.org

- A digital image/photo of the individual you want to remember – as an email attachment
- In your email, tell us your favorite memory about this person in a sentence or two, and be sure to sign your own name to the email message.
- We will print out the photos and words you send us and place them on our Día de los Muertos altar here in the Adult Literacy office.
- Please send your tributes as early as possible - now through October 31st. We'd like to have the altar available for sharing/viewing November 1 - 3.



Writing Projects!! Build writing skills and share memories and gratitude with our library's Adult Literacy community:

Student Writing Collection continues: Now - October 31, 2023

Remember there's still time to submit student writing for our anthology book. All program **students have until October 31, 2023** to submit a story/writing (under 300 words) on the topic: **If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever, what would it be?** For more information on this project, email: literacy@sonomalibrary.org

Gratitude Writing Project for Learners and Tutors: Now - November 15, 2023

Adult Literacy program learners and tutors are invited to use the enclosed Fall stationary to write down what you are each thankful for right now.

Return the stationary page with your gratitude writing on it in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope now - November 15, 2023.

We will include your writing as part of our annual gratitude-writing window display in the literacy office inside Central Santa Rosa Library

Holiday Open House Week at the Adult Literacy Office:
Please stop by the week of December 18 - 22nd from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Learners and Tutors are invited to stop by the Adult Literacy Office on the 2nd Floor of Central Santa Rosa Library, 211 E St, Santa Rosa to: Enjoy a cookie or a holiday beverage of coffee, tea or cider! Share a wish for the holiday season and the coming New Year! We'd love to see you and wish you the very best this special time of year.



Celebrate Your Work Together

All entries generated from tutor reports - THANK YOU!

- Have had good success with grocery shopping role-play, mock job interview, and other interactive exercises.
- She can now easily identify coins and knows how much each one is worth. She can spell her name and write checks.
- He likes reading/singing songs in English; we find that love songs are easier, as they are mostly predictable. He enjoys using songs to build vocabulary and improve grammar.
- I printed short stories for ESL learners from the internet to read aloud and then have her tell me the story. We go through any words she does not understand. This worked great!
- She continues to build confidence, to order in restaurants and read labels in grocery stores, speak more clearly, and use the correct tense in her conversations.
- He continues to be an eager learner with emphasis on close reading and careful writing exercises. His evolution as a confident learner has truly been amazing – a tribute to his determination to improve despite his learning challenges.
- My learner and her husband were sworn in as citizens of the U.S. in July.

Get to Know Class Facilitator Laura Doty



Laura Doty

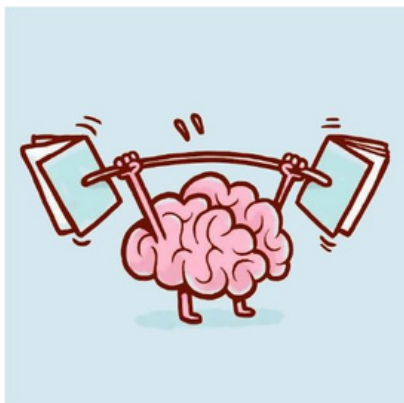
interviewed by
Leti Soria

Laura loves libraries and books. She's an **avid** reader with several books on her reading list. Recently, she read three "extraordinarily moving" **YA** books by Rex Ogle: *Free Lunch*; *Abuela, Don't Forget Me*; and *Punching Bag*. Laura shares her love of reading by doing a book giveaway every Halloween, which is one of her favorite things about Fall. She also likes to "take walks because I love what the sky is like, to appreciate nature in the change of the colors of the trees, and how crisp the air feels. I love that!"

Laura joined the Adult Literacy Program in 2021. She started out tutoring a learner who was preparing for graduate school and now she's a Conversation Class Facilitator. Laura shares: "The thing I adore is just what an honor it is to be working with people from other countries who are motivated to make this place their home and find ways to communicate in their jobs, with family and friends, and in their community." She adds, "I love watching how students help each other. It's been a privilege to help sustain a sense of community and acceptance for people. It's really nice to feel like I'm helping bridge their experience and helping other people connect."

Laura believes patience is key when learning a new language. "The best way to meet long-term goals is one day at a time. Do what you can each day, no matter how small. It's frustrating but also remember that all communication is good. Facial expressions, miming, a little bit of your own language, making up words, whatever you need to do to get your point across is good, because that's communication." Laura also suggests: "Just be playful. There's nothing wrong with making mistakes. So having a playful spirit helps carry us over from caring too much about mistakes. Remember that most of the people you speak to only know one language. You're already one step ahead of them!"

What's a Growth Mindset?



A **growth mindset** is the term for the idea that our minds and our understanding of the world continues to grow as we use our brain in new ways — when we exercise it — like a muscle.

Studies have shown that as early as preschool, children have already begun to adopt attitudes and behaviors about their achievements and failures. So, learners of all ages should be encouraged to think of their minds and their ability to learn as an ongoing growth process.

Growth Mindset Tip for All Ages: Talking About Mistakes

Examine how *you* feel about your own mistakes first, and how that might affect how a child or another adult will feel about trying hard even when they don't figure something out easily or with their first try. It's worth it to start trying to value what we all learn from mistakes and the incredible learning potential there is in trial and error.

Share an example of how you made a mistake but learned something really important that helped you in the process.

Ask an adult or child who is struggling to learn a new skill: "What did you learn when that happened?" or "Did you make a mistake that really helped you figure out your next step?"

Asking for help:

When we realize we need more help, we are on the way to healthy collaboration and the very useful strategy of asking for help from others.

When you observe someone trying hard and knowing when to ask for help, celebrate that skill and strategy. Be sure to try it for yourself when needed.

Remember, a **growth mindset** helps learners of all ages believe in themselves and their ability to keep learning through hard work and persistence over time.

Study Pods

Study Pods available to request at select library locations.

Study pods have been installed in the Sonoma, Petaluma, Northwest, and Central branches. These state-of-the-art pods are equipped with a white board, an air circulation system, and a table and chairs for comfortable studying. The pods are not sound-proof, but do provide an isolated space for tutoring or studying to take place.



Adult Literacy Staff, Christine and Alisa, show how the pod offers your own space for tutoring.

The Adult Literacy staff took a field trip to see Sonoma’s pod, affectionately named the “SonoPod”.

So far, Sonoma and Petaluma branches are able to offer our library program tutors and learners a chance to request a reservation in advance. If you would like to inquire about reserving a pod for an upcoming tutoring session, call the library branch directly and talk with the staff at the branch to reserve in advance (if available). If you see a pod at your local branch, talk with the staff there in person about reservation options.

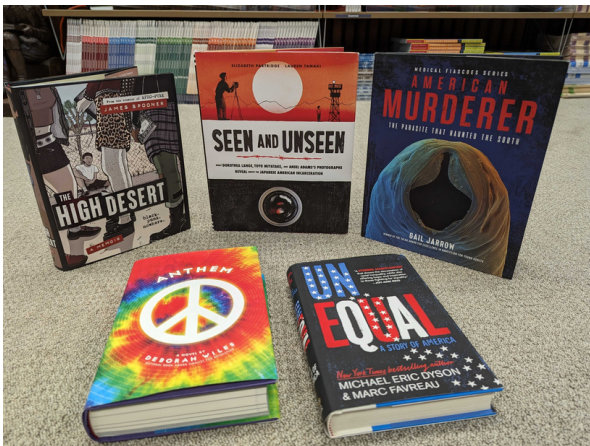
We hope you will enjoy these study pods as much as we do!



Adult Literacy Staff, Joe and Leti, demonstrate how the SonoPod could be used for tutoring.

New Books in Our Collection

Have you been to the Adult Literacy office Resource Room lately? If not, you might not know we have added new books to our collection for intermediate to advanced readers! Read about a few of them below:

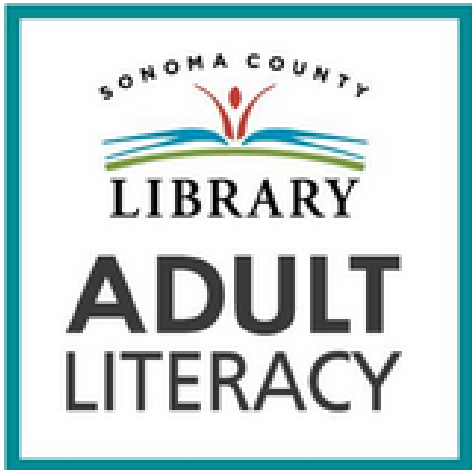


The High Desert is a formative coming-of-age graphic memoir by the creator of **Afro-punk**: a young man's immersive **reckoning** with identity, racism, clumsy teen love and belonging in an isolated California desert, and a search for **salvation** and community through **punk**.

Seen and Unseen: this nonfiction work features powerful images of the Japanese American **incarceration** captured by three photographers—Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams—along with firsthand accounts of this **grave** moment in history.

Learn more about all of these new books as well as others in our collection through our online Resources Listing. Email us at literacy@sonomalibrary.org for access.

From left to right: *The High Desert*, *Seen and Unseen*, *American Murderer*, *Anthem*, and *Unequal*



Adult Literacy Office

Our office is located inside the
Central Santa Rosa Library, 2nd floor
211 E Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Adult Literacy Hours

Our office is open Monday - Friday
10 AM - 3 PM

You can reach us at (707) 544-2622 or
literacy@sonomalibrary.org

How to Submit Your Work

Submissions under 300 words for the *Adult Literacy Community* newsletter are welcome! We cannot guarantee publication, and materials may be edited and cannot be returned. Please include your name, email, and phone number. Edited student writings and photos can be sent to:

literacy@sonomalibrary.org

How to Get Involved as a New Tutor

Call or email to preregister for a new tutor orientation (or refer a friend!):

literacy@sonomalibrary.org

(707) 544-2622

Ongoing Classes Open to All:

Join our Conversation Classes for practice speaking English at all levels.

Classes take place on Zoom:

Wednesdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Thursdays 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Find and register for classes at

sonomalibrary.org/conversation

Upcoming Library Holidays 2023:

October 26 - All Staff Day - Library Closed (All Branches/Programs)

November 10 and 11 - Veterans Day - Library Closed

November 22 - Day before Thanksgiving - Library Closes at 6 PM

November 23 and 24 - Thanksgiving - Library Closed

December 24 - Christmas Eve - Library Closes at 3 PM

December 25 - Christmas Day - Library Closed

December 31 - New Year's Eve - Library Closes at 3 PM