

ADULT LITERACY COMMUNITY

Quarterly articles, features, and highlights



"Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the tree house; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape; but most of all, ..."

-Harper Lee: *To Kill a Mockingbird*

In this issue, the Adult Literacy team shares their favorite summer places, while *Culture Corner* highlights county fairs and their memorable food offerings along with a debut crossword puzzle activity. We hope you enjoy these along with student stories and interviews of program participants.

And while you're busy making your next summer memories, be sure to check out Page 6 for how to participate in our 2023 - 2024 student writing collection. This writing project is ideal for some focus during your tutor-learner sessions now through October. The topic for this student writing collection is: **What one memory from your life would you hold on to forever?**

I look forward to reading all submissions (due October 31st)!

Meanwhile, wishing you the very best of summer,

A. Adams

**Adult Literacy Supervisor
Sonoma County Library**

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

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

American Culture Corner

In summertime Americans enjoy going to the **County Fair**. At the Fair people can see livestock, enjoy carnival games and rides, and view different **exhibits**. The exhibits are ways for people who live in the area to show off their talent or skill in a particular area such as quilting, jam making, flower arrangement, and other arts and crafts.

There are specific foods that are typically only sold at the Fair such as deep-fried Oreos, cotton candy, giant turkey legs, and **funnel cake**.



A man eating a giant turkey leg



Cotton Candy



Deep-Fried Oreos



Funnel Cake

Glossary

exhibit: public display of an object or collection of art

funnel cake: a fried cake made by squeezing dough out of a funnel into a fryer, and then covering it in powdered sugar

meditative: deeply thoughtful

sea lion: an eared seal mainly found on the U.S. Pacific coast

to take in: to pay attention and understand something when you see or hear it; to absorb, fully process

limeade: a sweet, refreshing drink like lemonade but made with limes instead of lemons

simple syrup: a sweet, thick liquid made by combining one part water and one part sugar

Southern belle: popular and attractive girl or woman favored for her charm and beauty

Office of Strategic Services: an agency of the United States during World War II which gathered secret political and military information

spy: one who keeps secret watch on a person or thing to obtain information

Super typhoon: tropical storm with winds of 120-190 miles per hour

eye of the (storm): the very center of (a storm)

gusts: sudden rushes of wind

torrential: violent/forceful downpour of rain/fluid

apprehensive: feeling nervous or on edge about what is going to happen

wade: walking with effort through water

paddy field: a field where rice is grown

Staff's Favorite Summer Places in Sonoma County

Leti recommends Crane Creek Park:

"It is one of my favorite places. It's an excellent park for a **meditative** walk in the fresh air. It doesn't have many long, steep trails for hiking compared to other parks but it's beautiful and peaceful. There are cattle grazing areas—so lots of open fields with a few trees and a pretty view of the sunset from some of the hilltops. It's also a great place for a nice picnic."



Crane Creek Park: 5000 Pressley Rd.,
Rohnert Park, CA



Goat Rock Beach: HWY1 and Goat Rock Rd.,
Jenner, CA

Jo's favorite spot to beat the summer heat is Goat Rock Beach in Jenner.

"There are hiking trails, **sea lions** to watch, and lots of sand dunes to play in. You can't swim because there are strong currents, but it is a very lovely place **to take in** the ocean and the beautiful California coastline. Not to mention, the drive out there is spectacular no matter if you take Highway 1 or 116 West."

Christine likes to relax and enjoy being outdoors while floating down the Russian River in a kayak.

"Being on the river is calming and peaceful, and tame enough so I'm not worried about whitewater rapids. I'm a beginner at kayaking but taking a class first helped me learn how to paddle and feel confident I wasn't going to flip over. There are a few places to rent and launch a kayak on the Russian River but the Monte Rio Beach is one of my favorites. You can also rent a canoe or paddleboard, but they require more practice."



Monte Rio Beach:
20488 Highway 116
Monte Rio, CA

Staff's Favorite Summer Places in Sonoma County (Continued)

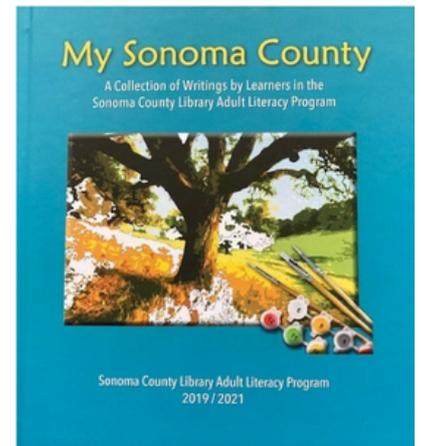
Alisa recommends South Salmon Creek Beach, found just beyond the town of Bodega Bay: "My family has enjoyed picnics and wave-gazing and staycations at South Salmon Creek Beach for many years, and I'm hoping to visit again soon."

South Salmon Creek Beach:
 Bean Ave and Maryana Dr,
 Bodega Bay, CA



Salmon Creek Yacht Club – where locals launch their kayaks!

And don't miss the stories of favorite places that learners shared in: *My Sonoma County* (copies available from the Adult Literacy Program). There's so much to explore, and this collection is a source of inspiration.



Staff's Favorite Sonoma County Places

X	D	K	S	T	J	Q	C	G	R	X	K	F	C
M	S	R	C	T	N	O	C	J	I	M	B	E	R
B	H	D	X	E	G	P	B	T	E	G	J	Y	A
O	G	O	A	T	R	O	C	K	C	N	K	T	N
D	Z	K	L	B	S	V	J	J	B	G	N	C	E
E	D	U	B	E	A	C	H	D	B	X	K	E	C
G	W	P	I	C	N	I	C	Z	J	X	M	D	R
A	Q	R	N	U	S	L	Q	J	D	I	O	A	E
B	W	O	H	O	O	H	K	W	I	P	N	J	E
A	E	M	F	J	U	R	M	J	Z	E	T	Y	K
Y	R	U	S	S	I	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	P
I	Z	M	A	O	E	R	S	H	K	U	R	Z	A
R	O	H	N	E	R	T	P	A	R	K	I	W	R
D	F	A	K	A	Y	A	K	I	N	T	O	M	K

- GOATROCK
- BEACH
- MONTERIO
- RUSSIANRIVER
- CRANECREEKPARK
- PICNIC
- KAYAK
- BODEGABAY
- JENNER
- ROHNERTPARK

A Sweet Summer Recipe

Strawberry Limeade

Serves 2 / Prep Time: 10 mins



Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/2 lb sliced strawberries
- 20-30 mint leaves
- 2 cups cold water

Instructions:

- To make the **simple syrup**, combine the sugar and water in a saucepan, and cook over medium high heat for 5-10 minutes until the sugar is dissolved and the liquid is clear.
- In a large mason jar or a pitcher, combine the lime juice, simple syrup, strawberries, mint, and water. Let sit in the refrigerator for 2-3 hours. Serve and enjoy!



Recipe from FifteenSpatulas.com

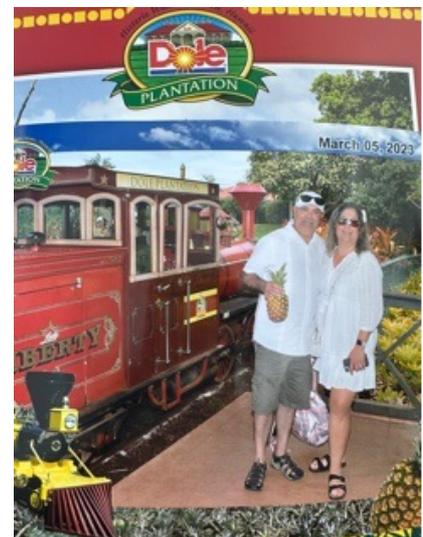
Our Anniversary

By Martha Espinoza

The parents needed to take a break. For the first time, my husband and I went to take a vacation alone. Our 18th anniversary was on March 5th. We had the idea to go to celebrate our anniversary for 7 days. We decided to go to the beach. We went to Hawaii. In Spring, the beach was beautiful, the weather was perfect, and we really enjoyed ourselves.

But I was worried about about my boys. My sixteen-year-old Benito and twelve-year-old Juan were at home with my friend. For my first-time experience, that was hard for me. I felt bad when I thought about how far away it was if there was an emergency. I had nightmares, but I was trying to be positive all the time. Thank God, Benny and Juan are fine.

On Saturday my husband asked me if I want to go to Mexico for Mother's Day (the 10 de Mayo), but this time I want to stay home with my boys. My husband can go to Mexico to celebrate his mom and Mother's Day, but not me this time.



Martha & husband in Hawaii

Congratulations to Martha Espinoza whose writing submission will appear in a future edition of "The Change Agent." For more information on "The Change Agent," see

Page 7.



Authors of the *Arrivals and Departures* anthology were honored at a book release celebration in April 2023.

Learners, are you ready to become published authors?

Each year, the Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy Program publishes a Student Writing Collection featuring stories submitted by learners. We encourage all our learners to write on the following topic for our 2023-24 collection:

- **If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever, what would it be?**

All writings should be under 300 words. Submissions DUE October 31st, 2023

We will accept short stories/essays (under 300 words), poems, etc. on this topic/theme. Submissions can be typed, hand written, sent in by email, or U.S. mail.

For Tutors & Learners: We hope all learners will submit a writing for this collection. This voluntary project provides an opportunity to focus on the literacy skill of writing to build vocabulary and writing structure skills through practice and revisions with supportive tutor instruction and feedback during your regular sessions. Learners and their tutors have until October 31 to work on this voluntary writing project, go over instructional edits, and improve writing skills and vocabulary along the way.

Final submissions should reflect the learner's abilities and let them communicate clearly in their own voice. Tutors should help learners with vocabulary and punctuation as needed, and definitely help learners make their ideas clear to others if they are not. The goal is to preserve the learner's unique voice and improve writing skills so their stories can be widely shared and enjoyed.

Send in/Submit the following by: October 31, 2023

1. The under 300-word writing submission
2. A completed/signed release form (see form insert)

Send both together via email: literacy@sonomalibrary.org

Or mail to: Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy
Central Santa Rosa Library
211 E St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

*If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever,
what would it be?*

RELEASE FORM:

Writing, Photo & Filming Release

I hereby give the Sonoma County Library permission for the use of: photographs, video taken of me and/or my family, or writings created by me, to be used by the Library for educational or promotional purposes without compensation to me. I agree that I will receive no compensation for this release of my:

Writing(s)

Photograph/Video/Film Image of me/my family

Print your Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Write below EXACTLY how you want your name to appear in print in the book:

_____ (Author)

_____ (Tutor/Instructor)

Please attach this COMPLETED release form to your Writing Submission (300 words or less) and turn both documents in together via email: literacy@sonomalibrary.org or

Mail to: Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy
Central Santa Rosa Library
211 E St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Student Writing

Yanet's Prose Poem

By Yanet Nunez (Tutor Randi Farkas)

Many people believe the library is a quiet place but if you listen closely you can hear a lot. You can hear parents teaching their children how to read. You hear students typing their final paragraph for their essay. You hear tutors making corrections on their students' work. You can hear the sound of pages being flipped as a reader goes deeper into the novel.



Santa Rosa's Central Library Branch



A young girl reading to a dog through the library's Read to a Dog program

Thank You



Cate Ogata (1932-2023)

The Sonoma County Library Adult Literacy Program is grateful for donations received in honor/memory of **Cate Ogata** from:

- George, Debbie, Julia & Madison Gowland
- Sal & Anne McAbata
- Elizabeth Sullivan



"The Change Agent" is an online educational magazine which focuses on social justice.

You can access it for free by going to:

<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/> and entering the username **CLLS** and password **CLLS**.

To submit writing, visit:

<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/write-for-us/> to learn what they are currently accepting.

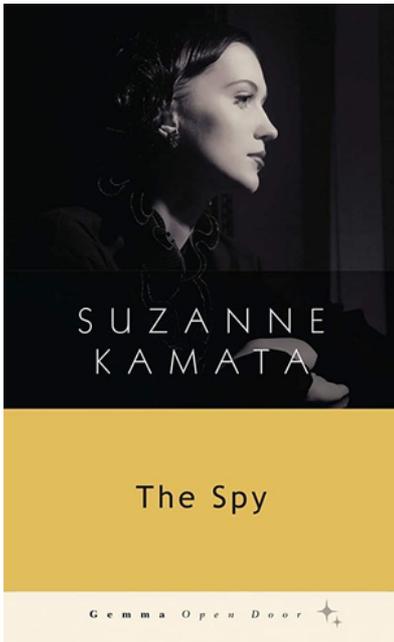
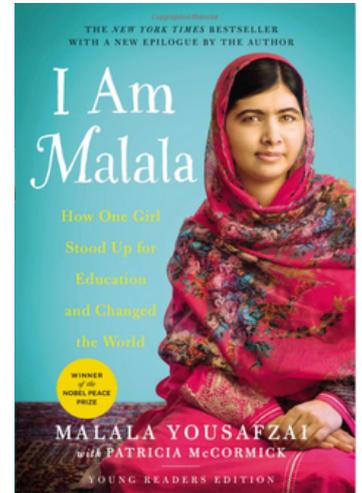
Cool Down with these Hot Summer Reads from the Adult Literacy Collection!

I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)

Read Malala Yousafzai's memoir which follows her story from growing up in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan to standing up for girls' education. Check it out at the Adult Literacy office or your local library!

If this book doesn't capture your attention, we have other biographies at the same level.

(Suitable for intermediate to advanced readers.)



The Spy

Set during the Second World War this story follows Pearl Dubois, a **Southern belle** born in New Orleans to a wealthy family, as she lands a job in Paris with the **Office of Strategic Services** (the first **spy** agency in the United States).

This book is based on the real-life experiences of Gertrude Sanforde Legendre, the first woman to be captured as a spy during World War II.

If this story doesn't capture your attention, we have other stories in this same collection.

(Suitable for intermediate readers.)

Time to Talk

The Hot Summer Race is only a week away. Bob's car is not ready, so he starts calling in sick. "Don't worry," says Bob to his wife. "You watch. I'm going to win the Hot Summer Race. We are going to be rich!" Instead, Mia, his wife, has to get a job. When Mia does not come home one night, Bob knows something has to change.

Bob risks everything for the love of racing—his job, his marriage, and his life. Does he find a way to have it all?

If this story doesn't capture your attention, we have other stories in this same collection.

(Suitable for beginning to intermediate readers.) 8



Celebrate Your Work Together

All entries generated from tutor reports - THANK YOU!

- My learner was impressed by the 2023 *Arrivals & Departures* collection of learner writing; she plans to have a piece of her own in there next year.
- We spend part of each session reviewing texts she receives and sends at work. We focus on spelling, singular vs. plural nouns, and appropriate past, present, and future tenses.
- My learner told me today he would like to attend classes at the Junior College (JC) and will look into getting help at the JC as a learner with disabilities. He is expanding his image of himself as a learner and reader!
- Last week my learner carried on four conversations in English. She said her confidence is growing and her world is opening up.
- From *Arrivals and Departures*, my learner chose to read several stories by some other learners in the Adult Literacy Program who used more advanced vocabulary than my learner was used to. She commented that she could not read these stories at home as she needed her tutor's help. That comment encouraged me to be ready to challenge her with more vocabulary .

Get to Know Class Facilitator Gwyn Tracy



Gwyn Tracy
Interviewed by
Leticia Soria

Originally from California, Gwyn spent the early years of her life moving back and forth between England and Thailand. "Luckily, I really liked the adventure." When she moved back to the U.S. at age 19 to attend college, Gwyn recalls experiencing culture shock: "I didn't understand American teenagers and where they were coming from. It was just so different, it took me a while to adjust." Overcoming this challenging time led to one of her proudest accomplishments: getting her doctorate degree from Oregon State University. "I was really proud of myself and the hard work it took to get there." Gwyn adds, "I love the community college system. It's a second chance for everyone so I wanted my doctorate to be in Community College Leadership."

When asked what inspires her, Gwyn says it was the people she worked with as the coordinator of students with disabilities at Sacramento City College. "They were determined to overcome their disability challenges to go to college. The perseverance they had always influenced me." Gwyn also finds motivation from stories of immigrants. This is one of the things Gwyn enjoys most about being a Conversation Class Facilitator. "I really love meeting the students: getting to know them, their backgrounds, and their experiences as immigrants. In a new culture, it can be so exhausting for somebody in that situation. Yet they persevere and adapt. It's admirable."

When faced with obstacles, Gwyn finds support from "family and friends—and my Buddhist practice and books!" In addition to reading, Gwyn enjoys writing. In 2021 she self-published her memoir titled *A Legacy of Travel* about "some of my experiences adjusting to American culture and then raising my kids, trying to give them the benefit of travel." Gwyn's idea of a perfect day: "When I am traveling in another country with my family and we're exploring new countries, meeting new people. It's so much fun."

Student Writing

Duck Breeders In a Typhoon

By Jerome KiatLiong Kua

"The door of Duck House No.1 was blown down by the wind, and about a hundred frightened ducks ran out to the paddy lot! We have straightened the door!" This was the report that we children sprinted to tell the adults in the central feed and egg center of the duck houses. **Super Typhoon X** was raging, and the **eye of the** typhoon was slowly heading from the Tamsui River out to sea. Extremely strong wind **gusts** and **torrential** downpours were relentless. Our farm was beside the river.

My father and one of my other brothers had gone to the harbor city of Keelung to pick up fresh seafood for duck feed, which they did 365 days a year with the exception of the Lunar New Year holiday. Three older brothers and I had just fed the ducks. My mother was so **apprehensive** about all these situations, she collapsed and sent one of my sisters-in-law to **wade** through the storm and convey her words: *"Don't worry about the ducks anymore. It's more important to save your own lives."*

Four of us left the duck house in a row and emerged into the **paddy field** where we discovered the water had already risen to our waists. I was the third one to step out of the duck house, but once I went out, I could hardly see my two elder brothers right in front of me, and I had no idea whether my last brother was able to follow me out or not. With this complete lack of visibility, we tried very hard to drive the frightened and stupid ducks back into the duck house. They shrank together into a ball of feathers and floated in a corner of the paddy field. After this effort, with great hardship, we made our way home on the flooded road avoiding the ditch beside it. It was more like "swimming" than "walking" home.



Idioms

Cat Got Your Tongue? (can't talk?)

Stan: Come on, Connie! Tell us what you think about our little ride down the rapids yesterday.

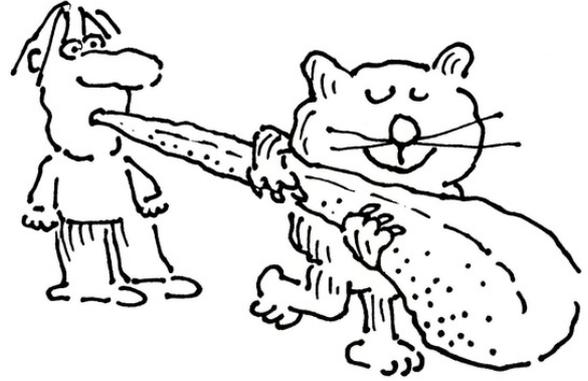
Connie: Well, uh....

Stan: Wasn't it exciting?

Connie: I, uh...

Stan: What's the matter? **Cat got your tongue?**

Connie: If you must know, I'm keeping quiet because I was scared out of my wits!



(can't talk?)

Help Us Spread the Word - New Tutor Trainings

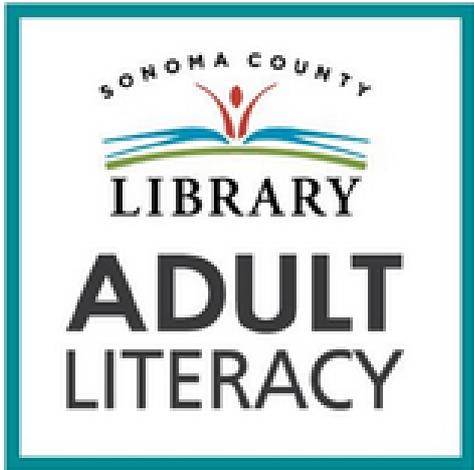
Do you have any family or friends who want to become a tutor in the Adult Literacy Program?

Our program has expanded to include English language instruction as well as literacy tutoring. Call us in advance so we can answer any questions and help people register for one of these new tutor orientations on Zoom:

**Monday, August 21, 2023:
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Monday, September 25, 2023:
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**





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!):

Monday, August 21, 2023: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Monday, September 25, 2023: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

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:
July 4 - Library Closed - Independence Day
September 4 - Library Closed - Labor Day