

# Vision Literacy

Partners Creating Opportunities

## Tutor and Volunteer Newsletter

November 2008

### MEET VISION LITERACY STAFF:

#### RUTH BAILEY, FINANCIAL SERVICES

##### How did you become involved with Vision Literacy?

In 1992, I took the tutor training and tutored for 10 years and worked with about 6 students. I happen to think that being able to read is extremely important. Reading opens the world for people.



##### How long have you been on staff?

Since 2006, I help with accounting. I was an accountant.

##### What successes did your learners have?

One student became a citizen while I was tutoring her and I was very proud of that. When I first started working with a computer, I helped my

student to use a computer.

**What kind of books do you enjoy reading?** I read mostly murder mysteries. I like the suspense of mysteries. One of my recent favorite authors is Patricia Cornwell.

**What was your favorite children's book?** *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.

**Where did you go on your last trip?** My daughter Montela and I went to Peru in May and we were on the Amazon on a boat for a week and then went to Machu Picchu. We liked the river – seeing the surroundings and all the little towns. We also went to a school in a village – a collection of houses. The school had one teacher.

**What do you think of being able to vote?** It's very important for all people to vote. I've always been able to vote. This year's election was great because there was a time when women and African Americans did not have the privilege to vote or run for President.

**What are your hobbies?** I am a Rock Hound and create jewelry with rocks. I study minerals and lobby for the protection of the earth. I belong to American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, we give college scholarships for Earth Science.

Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara County Library

### SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH COUNTY COMPUTER CLASS

By Viridiana Tolentino

This class helps me to improve my life. I learned how to use the internet, short cuts so I don't have to type all the addresses when I look for same page. I got my email address and I learned how I can use it.

I learned to use Microsoft Word to improve my typing, to fill out an application for a job. I did my resume, because the teacher showed me how I can do a cover letter, a thank you letter for an interview, a resume and how I can post it on the internet when I look for a job. The teacher taught me what I can do when I have an interview and what kind of clothing to wear. In this class I practiced my English when I used a Rosetta Stone program.

I want to learn more about computers because in the future if I want I will go to the college to get a profession and now I can teach my children how they can use the computer for their homework or only for fun. For me it is good coming here, because I am able to improve my life and my children's lives.



**Tutors: Please submit monthly progress reports, by mail or online at [www.visionliteracy.org](http://www.visionliteracy.org). 408-262-1349**

**Due date: Dec. 3rd. Thanks!**

## LOCAL LEARNER WINS WRITER TO WRITER CHALLENGE!



Carmel Scott, Tutor; Ferial Hanna, Learner/Winner; and, Caroline Beverstock, Project Read-San Mateo Coordinator

Vision Literacy learner Ferial Hanna was recently named winner of the Emerging Writer category of this year's Writer To Writer Challenge. She received her award at a banquet Nov. 15 and was interviewed by Janice Edwards on NBC 11's Bay Area Vista TV show.

**What was your experience like writing to the author of *Abigail Adams*, Jeri Chase Ferris?** This story inspired me and I wanted to let the author know that her words changed my life. It was like I was looking at myself in the mirror when I was reading the book.

**What was your experience like being interviewed in NBC11 Bay Area Vista?** I was nervous, but it was like a dream. I never expected to be on TV and interviewed by Janice Edwards. It's like my dream came true. I feel more encouraged to pursue my dream of writing books.

**What was your experience like winning the Emerging Writer category?** I was very excited and happy. It's a speechless moment. It's the first time I have ever won something. When I won, it felt like I reached my first goal, and now I want to reach even higher.



**How was the awards banquet?** I had many surprises on Saturday. For example, I did not expect Janice Edwards and Chuck Reed, the Mayor of San Jose, to even be present at the luncheon. I was honored to meet them and shake their hands. Also, I was extremely surprised that I got a response back from Chase Ferris, the author. She wrote such a moving letter about my courage and strength.

**Are you interested in being an author?** I like writing stories. Since I have learned how to read and write, I do not want to stop.

## TUTOR TIP - GENERAL BEHAVIOR

This month's tip comes from Second Start Adult Literacy Program, Oakland Public Library.

- Be patient.
- Be supportive.
- Acknowledge the learner's progress.
- Be flexible. A learner may have an "off" day or you yourself may not be feeling well. There are also times when a learner's pace of reading may have slowed down or reached a plateau, so certain techniques that worked before may not work now.
- Be sensitive. Sometimes reading a certain selection may cause a learner to bring up an unpleasant memory or find something offensive. The tutor must know when to stop or make a change.
- Encourage the adult learner to share the knowledge or story of the reading matter with other adult learners or family members.

## BOOK MARK THE DATE!



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

### 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. **Deadline to apply is Wed., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.** If your learner is interested call 408-262-1349 or email [info@visionliteracy.org](mailto:info@visionliteracy.org) for application 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 depending on 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](mailto:info@visionliteracy.org).  
Next deadline for submissions: Dec. 3rd.