

Vision LITERACY

Partners Creating Opportunities

408.262.1349

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, 540 Valley Way, Milpitas CA, 95035

www.visionliteracy.org

Tutor & Volunteer Newsletter

August 2009

GILROY STORE PARTNERS WITH VISION LITERACY TO TEACH EMPLOYEES ENGLISH

In partnership with Vision Literacy, Arteaga's Super Save Market in Gilroy has begun offering free English-as-a-second-language classes to its employees. The project was the brainchild of store owner Lupe Lopez, who wanted to offer a benefit that could fundamentally improve the lives of the men and women who work in her store.



Every Tuesday and Wednesday, two shifts of workers attend a one-hour class taught by Vision Literacy teacher Mark Whiteaker and literacy specialist and long-time tutor Elvia Hernandez. While Whiteaker is a new to the organization, he is a veteran teacher who recently returned from a 20-year stint teaching English in Mexico.

As with all Vision Literacy programs, Arteaga's classes are free to the learners, in this case because the store is providing the space for classes as well as underwriting the costs of staffing, books and materials. Unique to this program, however, is that the employees attend classes as part of their paid work shift. Lopez's generosity stems from a genuine desire to help her employees and from a pragmatic belief that improved language skills will result in improved customer service.



SUMMON YOUR INNER JULIA CHILD TO SUPPORT ADULT LITERACY!

Do you love to cook? Have a favorite family recipe? Is there a go-to meal you serve at every dinner party you host? If so, please consider submitting a recipe to Vision Literacy for its upcoming cookbook. This unique collection of recipes from staff, learners, tutors and board members will be published later this fall to raise additional operating funds for these lean financial times. To share your recipe, please go to www.cookbookfundraiser.com and fill out the online form. If you have any questions, please call Marina at 408-262-1349. Recipes are due by October 8 – so get cookin'!



WE ARE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES....

Vision Literacy has recently been experiencing some difficulties with its computer and online capabilities. As a result, it's possible that many emails and online forms have not reached the office. We apologize for this inconvenience and assure you that the technology support staff from Santa Clara County Library is working to correct the problems.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact the office at 408-262-1349 if you have any concerns or have not received a reply to an email. In addition, be aware that our staff may be making phone calls to follow up on tutor reports that were submitted online but not delivered. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Tutors: Please submit your monthly progress report by mail or online at www.visionliteracy.org. Reports are due September 3. Thank you!

TUTOR TIP: ADJECTIVE EXERCISE

Adjectives modify or affect the meaning of nouns and pronouns and tell us *which, whose, what kind, and how many* about the nouns or pronouns they modify. They come before the noun or pronoun they modify except for the predicate adjective which comes after a linking verb and modifies the subject.

There are seven (7) words in the English language that are always adjectives. They are the articles *a, an, and the* and the possessives *my, our, your, and their*. (The possessives are from the possessive pronoun list but are always used with nouns as adjectives.) One should memorize them so they are immediately recognized as adjectives.

Example of adjectives: **The big brown** bear grabbed **the scared small** man. **The, big** and **brown** modify the subject *bear* and **the, scared** and **small** modify the direct object *man*. Examples of a predicate adjective: The big bear is **brown**. The brown bear was **big**. **Brown** and **big** come after the linking verbs *is* and *was* and modify the subject *bear*.

Adjectives that point out *which* include *that, this, those, these*, and the articles *a, an* and *the*.

Instructions: Find the adjectives that tell **which** in these sentences and tell what they modify.

1. These first apples have been stepped on.
2. This money had been lost at the races.
3. That cat had those kittens.
4. A mouse can scare an elephant.
5. An answer will be found in the dictionary or a thesaurus.

Answers:

1. **these** and **first** modify *apples*
2. **this** modifies *money*, **the** modifies *races*
3. **that** modifies *cat*, **those** modifies *kittens*
4. **a** modifies *mouse*, **an** modifies *elephant*
5. **an** modifies *answer*, **the** modifies *dictionary*, **a** modifies *thesaurus*

*This month's tip comes from **Daily Grammar**, where many more exercises and tips are available for free (<http://www.dailygrammar.com>).*

DOZAL JOINS BOARD OF NATIONAL LEARNER ORGANIZATION

Former Vision Literacy learner Ruben Dozal was elected to the board of VALUE – Voice of Adult Learners United to Educate – at the organization's annual meeting in New Carrollton, Maryland, on May 4. VALUE is a charitable organization that provides training, networking and information dedicated to improving adult literacy education.



Dozal's election to the VALUE board is an acknowledgment of his unique accomplishments as an adult learner. Having participated for many years in Vision Literacy's one-on-one tutoring, he is a published poet, currently attends classes at the University of California – Monterey Bay, and participates every Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon in a call-in radio show on KRXA-AM 540.

COMING EVENTS

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| Sept. 12 | North County computer classes resume
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits
10 a.m.-1 p.m. |
| Sept. 12 | Tutor training
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits
600 Valley Way, Milpitas
9:30 a.m.-3:30 a.m. |
| Sept. 19 | Learner group meeting
Milpitas Library
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 19 | Tutor training
Sobrato Center for Nonprofits
600 Valley Way, Milpitas
9:30 a.m.-3:30 a.m. |
| Oct. 8 | Deadline for Vision Literacy cookbook submissions |
| Oct. 17 | Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
Toll House Hotel
10 a.m.-noon
(watch this newsletter for more details!) |

Registration is required for all events. Contact 408-262-1349 or email info@visionliteracy.org.



Let us know if you have a question, comment or submission for the newsletter. Contact Kristin Seitz at 408-262-1349 or info@visionliteracy.org. Next deadline for submissions: Sept. 13.