

Excerpt from Vision Literacy's Newsletter August 2008

## MEET FRIENDS OF VISION LITERACY:



**Yvette Briddell**  
**Board Member and**  
**Former Learner**

**How did you become involved with Vision Literacy?** When I was in my early 20's I was watching channel 9 and a commercial come on about Vision Literacy and people learning how to read and write. Three days later I realized I needed to do this to help myself. I wanted to have more confidence and knowledge in what I read.

**Why is being literate important?** Emotional freedom – being illiterate you are closed in a box and you can't get out. When you are literate you know that you can do what you want and do it. You are opening the key and you see a world you never saw before. You understand things; you know you can do things. It's a beautiful thing when you reach that point.

**Why are you interested in being on the board?** As a Learner - I'm happy with what I've accomplished; I have self esteem and have grown so much. When I first began – I wanted to come and get what I needed. Now, I know I want to give back. Being on the Board helps me do that. It's the first thing that I've ever promoted in my life that actually works. I want to make sure we stay on track of what the learners want, that they are growing and that they achieve their goals.

**What recent success have you seen with Vision Literacy?** I went to the 2008 Adult Learner Leadership Institute graduation and was inspired to hear all the graduates stories.

**What is your next goal:** I'm to get a business or child psychology degree. College is very different. I have taken community college classes while working full time I have completed two years of basic classes.

**What kind of books do you enjoy reading?** I like to read Sci-Fi and Mystery books. After I improved my literacy skills, I really enjoyed reading *Essence* magazine because I could really enjoy it without difficulty. They have beautiful stories about different people and articles on the spiritual life.

**What was your favorite children's book?** Dr. Seuss – *Green Eggs and Ham*.

**Have you ever written a story?** Yes, I have written a book and have stories in probably 5 other books. I had no intention to write anything, but it helped me to get through a lot of things and to express myself. My tutor Mary told me to just write and we'll edit it later. I learned how to let go, then I could write.

**Who is your favorite author?** Maya Angelou. The poem about "I rise" – I read it for the volunteer appreciation event last year - it was the first real poem I ever read.

**Have you ever met an author?** Yes, I have met other authors. We did a celebration event with authors. I found that our stories are very meaningful. Authors want people to understand the struggles they have gone through. One day I want to write a story that's happy!

**Did you vote?** Yes.

**What do you think of being able to vote?** It's an honor that we are entitled to vote.

**What is your favorite thing about Santa Clara County?** It's spacious and every time I go away, I enjoy coming home. I have lived in Santa Clara County since I was 7 years old. I am originally from San Francisco. I went to Santa Clara High School, which is now Bookser Middle School.