

Vision LITERACY

Partners Creating Opportunities

Vision Literacy Tutor and Volunteer Newsletter May 2007

VISION LITERACY MAKES HEADLINES

April was an exciting month for Vision Literacy with learners, volunteers and staff members making appearances in the press.

Tutor and board member **Sandy Reed** and her learner, **Alejandra Limon**, were featured in the April 3 issue of the *Saratoga News*. The story highlighted the pair's successful three-year collaboration and provided an overview of Vision Literacy's services. Tutor **Erica Ankuda** was also interviewed for the story. The full article can be found on the newspaper's website at www.saratoganews.com.

Vision Literacy hit the airwaves on April 30 when **Marina Dols**, family literacy specialist, was interviewed on Radio La Caliente by Celina Rondriquez. The two discussed the Prime Time Family Reading Time program currently taking place at the Mountain View Public Library and were pleasantly surprised when a participating parent called in to compliment Prime Time.

Finally, tutor **Bob Ingle** appeared in a new Vision Literacy print ad (pictured above) that began running in the magazine *Active Over 50*. The ad space was graciously donated by Friends of Vision Literacy board member **Larry Hayes**, who publishes the magazine and served as creative director for the ad.

DEADLINES APPROACH FOR LEARNER WRITING

There's still time for learners to submit entries to two writing challenges. California State Library's Writer to Writer program is accepting letters until June 30. Entry forms can be found at www.sclln.org. Learners can also submit a paragraph about their passion for sports to Vision Literacy until May 31. Please encourage your learners to take advantage of these opportunities to build writing skills and confidence.

REPORT FORM DEBUTS ONLINE

The tutor and learner progress report now can be submitted online. Tutors can access the online form by clicking on the "Progress Report" link found at the top right of the Vision Literacy home page (see enclosed instructions for more information). Please contact Brenda at 408.262.1349 if you have any questions about this convenient new tool.

LITERACY SPECIALIST NEEDED IN SOUTH COUNTY

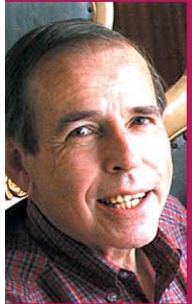
Vision Literacy is looking for a candidate with spirit and management experience to take over the part-time job of associate manager – literacy services based in Gilroy. The ideal candidate has a background in adult education or literacy; a bachelor's degree, or an associate's degree with two years related work experience; and a valid California driver's license and automobile insurance. Some evening and weekend work and minimal travel are required.

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please email a resume and cover letter to info@visionliteracy.org or fax it to 408.956.9384.

CALLING ALL PHOTOS!

Vision Literacy is looking for photos of learners, tutors and staff to include in a slide show being prepared for internal use. If you have one – or more! – pictures that you'd be willing to share, please send them to Kristin at kseitz@visionliteracy.org or 540 Valley Way, Milpitas CA 95035. Digital photos are preferred.

"Why I Volunteer"



Profile: Bob Ingle, Saratoga
Age: 67
Marital Status: Married, one daughter
Former Occupation: Executive Editor, *San Jose Mercury News*
Present Occupation: Volunteer tutor for Vision Literacy
Favorite Activities: Video editing, traveling, reading
Why Vision Literacy?
"The joy of helping someone build a better life."

Vision Literacy is dedicated to helping adults in Santa Clara County improve their literacy skills. To learn how you can help, call Vision Literacy today at 408.262.1349 or visit www.visionliteracy.org.

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Tutors: Please remember to send in your monthly progress reports by mail. Due date: June 3. Thanks!



**MEET VISION LITERACY:
CAROLYN BROWN,
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**

In addition to serving as president of the board of directors for Vision Literacy, Carolyn Brown is the director of performance and outcomes management at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose.

How she became involved with Vision Literacy

As part of her job at Valley Med, Brown represented the medical center when it worked with Vision Literacy (then known as The Reading Program) and PlaneTree Health Library to create a literacy program in a healthcare environment. The result of the collaboration was the founding of two Community Learning Centers, one at Valley Med and the other at Vision Literacy's office in Gilroy.

Number of years with the organization

Brown joined the board two years ago and became president last year.

Best day on the job

While Brown especially enjoyed attending Vision Literacy's gala fundraiser in 2005 and a theatrical performance written and performed by Elmwood learners in 2001, it is the opening of the first Community Learning Center in May 2000 that she counts as her best day working with the organization.

Worst day on the job

Brown felt tremendous anxiety when the former program manager of Vision Literacy left the organization during the planning of the first Community Learning Center. Fortunately, when Pat Lawson-North was hired to fill the position, "she didn't miss a beat," according to Brown.

The part of her job that surprises others

That the role of board president is a learning role. She feels she needs always to be learning about literacy issues and how people learn in order to support the really important part of the organization – the tutors and learners.

Books on her reading shelf

The Spirit Catches You and Then You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman and *I Woz* by fellow board member Steve Wozniak.



If you have a question, comment or submission for the newsletter, please contact Kristin Seitz, editor, at 408.262.1349 or kseitz@visionliteracy.org. Next deadline for submissions: June 13, 2007.

TUTOR TIP

This month's tip comes from *LITSTART*:

Everyone has a bad day now and then, but if your student seems to be getting genuinely discouraged, it's your job to tune in to the problem and look for a solution:

- Try more praise and less correction.
- Try easier work for a while.
- Take a fun day. Play some word games or go on a field trip.
- Help the student start a list of accomplishments.

More ideas to motivate learners can be found on page 196 of your *LITSTART* manual.

SCENES FROM VISION LITERACY IN MAY



Tutor **Daislyn Pease** and program manager **Pat Lawson-North** address new tutors during a training session at the Mountain View Public Library



Families enjoy dinner together as part of the Prime Time program at the Mountain View Public Library