

LEARN

Alive!

Libraries Empower All to Read Now
Adult Literacy Program
Phone: (888) 466 - 0668
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August/September 08

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Tutor Trainings**
 - Vista (1st and 2nd part together)
September 6 (10:00am-4:00pm)
 - El Cajon (1st and 2nd part separate)
September 23 and 24 (5:30pm-8:00pm)
 - El Cajon (1st and 2nd part together)
October 11 (10:00am-4:00pm)
 - Vista (1st and 2nd part separate)
October 13 and 15 (5:30pm-8:00pm)
- **Learner/Tutor Time (6:00pm-7:00pm)**
 - El Cajon
September 30, October 29
 - Vista
September 4, October 7
- **ESL Café**
 - Vista
September 10 & 24(10:30am-12:00pm)
October 8 & 22(10:30am-12:00pm)
 - El Cajon
September 5 & 19(12:00pm-1:30pm)
October 3 & 17(12:00pm-1:30pm)
- **Read for the Record**
 - El Cajon & Encinitas
October 2 (3:00pm-5:00pm)
- **International Literacy Day**
September 8

COLONIA JUAREZ

How simple, fun and interesting was growing up in my country? My place of birth is a very beautiful, historical and hospitable place in Chihuahua, a state in Mexico.

I was born in a very small village or colony named Colonia Juarez. This place is a very interesting place because we have a lot of history about the Umas Indians and also another tribe. One tribe built on top of the other. Presently anyone can go make a hole in the ground and find artifacts.

Nearby is a wonderful site called "Las Ruinas de Paquime" which means pyramids. I used to play and jump around wondering which kind of people lived there. How did they look? Which kind of food did they eat? Every time we go there we visit the pyramids, and every time I learn more about them. Now it is like a tourist place. People travel from all over the world to see and study the history.

Colonia Juarez is a colony of Catholics and Mormons. Mormons came from the state of Utah about two hundred years ago and settled in that part of the state.

I still remember that about this time of year, going to Colonia Juarez and seeing that beautiful scenery of mountains and valleys is a treat. Right before you get to Colonia Juarez, as far as you can see, you can see orchards of apples, peaches, pears, plums, apricots and nectarines blooming all over the hills. Your eyes get overwhelmed with so many hues of pinks, whites and fuchsia. And the smells of the blossoms! It's truly breathtaking.

In winter it snows and I was amazed to see all around me and as far as I can see, how white and majestic those mountains looked at that time of year.

Summer comes, the snow melts and there is water everywhere. The rivers are running at full capacity. We also have lagoons, geysers and hot springs.

The people are very hospitable, noble, honest and willing to help anybody that needs help. The people coordinate with the place. They're just beautiful.

Current Learner – Nellie Arias



Cathie Smith (tutor) and Nellie Arias

IMPROVING ONESELF

I was introduced to the Vista Center literacy program by reading an article in the North County Times. The article inspired me to find a program to better my computer and writing skills. My writing skills have improved through communication and relating with Curtis, my tutor. I learned how to verbally express myself and then write it down. I have also learned how to take a simple sentence and expand it into a complete paragraph. Curtis has helped me greatly improve my spelling, vocabulary, computer, and writing skills. He helps me by being direct, down-to-earth, and listening to what I need.

My computer skills are improving daily and by far it has been my biggest accomplishment in the program. I now look forward to working on the computer.

My biggest challenges were managing time between work, children, and home. I coach two little league baseball teams for my six and nine-year-old sons. Volunteering in baseball requires approximately twenty hours a week. My job is very demanding with a changing work schedule that requires mornings, nights, and weekends.

Former Learner – Daren Caltagirone



Daren Caltagirone and Curtis Luster Sr.

For article submissions, please contact Jason Romano at
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FAREWELL, FRIEND

Curtis Luster Sr., our AmeriCorps member, will be leaving us this August. It is the end of his one-year term with L.E.A.R.N., but also the end of his second year as an AmeriCorps member. Curtis served his prior term with the Carlsbad City Library Adult Learning Program. Although he has been an AmeriCorps volunteer for two years, he has spent a considerable part of his life volunteering. Our program depends highly on our volunteers, especially those like Curtis who are willing to go above and beyond. During his term, apart from the daily activities associated with our literacy center, Curtis managed to start a very successful support group for our learners at the Vista Branch called Learner Time. Curtis founded, coordinated, and managed the group which eventually expanded to include the El Cajon Branch as well. He has also made huge contributions to our newsletter as you may have noticed. His experience as a former and continuing learner has really helped out many of learners and tutors, giving them direction and motivation. Curtis will definitely be missed by our staff, the library staff, as well as our learners and tutors. We wish him the best of luck on all future endeavors and hope he will, from time to time, supply us with wonderful advice for our learners and tutors like that in his farewell message

below.

Being a life-long learner, I cannot say goodbye to the library, the Adult Literacy Program, or the community in which I have lived, but I can say that somewhere in this beautiful world, there is a place that I may continue to help others. Knowing how hard I have worked over the years to give back to the community with very little myself, I came to realize that we are all in the construction business, building bridges as foundations to support us for the next experience. I now have a steady foundation and am ready for the next journey in my life. I would like to thank "all" for my opportunity to provide national community service to the San Diego County Library with L.E.A.R.N., the Adult Literacy Program. I am happy to have worked with such a great group of literacy and library staff as well as adult literacy and ESL (English as a Second Learner) learners and volunteers. Thank you and remember to surround yourself daily with individuals that have similar life-long goals. Educational opportunities have changed my life, so I know it is important to read and write every day to keep those opportunities open. Believe in yourself and know that you are a winner.

Best Wishes,
Curtis



L.E.A.R.N. GONE GREEN

The 2008 *Go Green* Adult Summer Reading Program was a tremendous success within our library system and in particular the literacy program. L.E.A.R.N. participants challenged themselves not only by reading a number of books, as in the county-wide program, but also by accomplishing literacy-related goals. Our learners and tutors thoroughly enjoyed participating and felt it was a very rewarding experience.

Congratulations go out to a learner in El Cajon, our Grand Prize winner, and a learner in Bonita, our second Grand Prize winner! They both read a total of five books

each! The Grand Prize winner was awarded a basket with various amenities, a \$20 gift card to Armstrong Garden Center, and San Diego Zoo tickets. The second Grand Prize winner received a tote bag, a water bottle, and tickets to the Mingei Gallery, the San Diego Natural History Museum, and the Hall of Champions. Everyone who participated did such an exceptional job!

The *Go Green* Adult Summer Reading Program was a great opportunity for learners to showcase their reading skills and feel proud about what they have accomplished

so far! Thank you to all the individuals in the L.E.A.R.N. program who worked diligently to participate in this year's Adult Summer Reading Program. It was great to see the effort, hard work, time, and dedication.

AmeriCorps Member - Erica Abbey



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