

LEARN

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Libraries Empower All to Read Now
Adult Literacy Program
Phone: (888) 466 - 0668
Email: learnstaff@sdcountry.ca.gov

August/ September 09

HAPPY MEMORIES, A FAREWELL TO LEARN

I cannot believe how quickly time goes by. It seems like only yesterday that I walked through the Center's doors with sweaty palms for an interview with Hector and Jason. Little did I know then the rewards and challenges the next year would have. I have always known my career path lay in the public sphere, which is why I was so elated when I found out about the AmeriCorps program and LEARN. This past year, I had the privilege of working on different service projects that aimed to improve the lives of people in the community.

The LEARN program has brought me so many new experiences, and I am sure that I have grown from them. Working with this program enabled me to interact with different people I may not have met. This past year, I had the privilege of tutoring 12 people in total. Although I was the one teaching them math, vocabulary, and all the other fun English grammar work, they also taught me about life, foreign culture, and most importantly, how similar we all are in spite of our physical differences. I will never forget the joys of seeing a learner finally understand the phonetical pronunciation of a word after many tries, or an algebraic equation finally understood. I will also cherish the challenges brought on by this term, whether it be trying to simplify my speech in order for learners to understand a concept, trying to increase my patience, or even trying to speak publicly during our monthly trainings. Every time I overcame one of these challenges, I was very proud of myself and knew that I would be able to face whatever challenges lay ahead.

In addition to the learners, I had the privilege of working with the best staff in the world, the LEARN staff. Besides being co-workers, they are also friends who I can talk to and seek out their advice. I would like to thank Hector, Jason, Laura, Liliana, Kevin, Nick, Erica, Rocio and Izzy for all of their support and for making my AmeriCorps term

one that I will remember and probably write about for years to come. I wish everybody the best and hope that this program continues to grow for the sake of all of the people we help and will help in the future.

AmeriCorps Member- Nene Ogbechie



GOODBYE IS DIFFICULT TO SAY

How to say many words in English, it was and still is, a challenge for me. Even though I studied English grammar and conversation for two years in college and have lived here for 6 years, my pronunciation always was bad. Pronunciation matters to me, so I decided to get a tutor from LEARN. I called, and I was assessed for two hours. "Well," I said. "This is good and thorough, and I will be fantastic in my English." A week later, Jason called to hire me. "What?" Yes, they wanted me to be part of LEARN. I couldn't believe it because Adult Education was my field for 10 years in my country, Argentina. I accepted and was excited to started working with the program because I could get back to my career.

I believe in continuous education. I think

the only way to make changes is to study, improve your skills, and your knowledge. As an adult, I always believed in the evolution, progress, development, and improvement of oneself. I got students in English and learned how to manage the learners in English. I learned how the program worked inside and out and let me tell you, it is huge, good, and challenging and always looks ahead. Now, I am done, not with my English, but with the job! I am very, very grateful, but I can't find the words to express it... *because... I never got a tutor!!!*

I have been part of this program and I believe in it. The group, they were part of my own life, and when I needed support I had it, when I needed a word, I had it, and when I needed attention, they gave it to me. I will always remember the Vista office, the El Cajon office, Vista Library and Encinitas Library. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, for all your support, for all you gave to me these past two years.

How to say a special thanks to Jason, Hector, Kevin, Nick, Curtis, Laura, Nene, Rocio, Izzy, and Erica for all you have done for me. I will never forget. I don't want to say "good bye," so I will just say "see you soon." THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE HELPED ME; IT HAS BEEN A THRILLING JOURNEY WITH PLENTY OF BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS. Thanks to you, I have great stories in my mind, and I have made many good friends that I plan to keep forever. I will have you guys in my heart forever. THANK YOU LEARN!

AmeriCorps Member- Liliana Cilia



Nene Ogbechie and Liliana Cilia

For article submissions, please contact Laura Burlew at
laura.burlew@sdcountry.ca.gov or (760) 643-5144

THE BENEFIT OF ONE ANOTHER

Mother Theresa was often quoted as saying, "Life is chiefly about service." My belief is such that she would be highly impressed with the ways LEARN subscribes to this ideal. I personally take this opportunity to say thank you to the committed staff at LEARN, to the brave learners and tutors, and to all those whose participation make literacy possible to each of us interested in the gift of continued LEARN-ing.

Name is Jayelle Sargent. My recent introduction to LEARN came at this period of my life which I jokingly remind my husband, who is seven years younger than I, "Lucky you darling...to witness this best chapter of my life's drama." Our four sons are grown, I recently retired from my career as an agent in the film industry, survived major health issues, and now I have the opportunity to choose how I will spend this last chapter. My love for libraries calls me to them, so it was a double delight when at the Encinitas Library, I read a LEARN flyer requesting volunteer tutors for literacy. Without hesitation, I called the Adult Literacy Program, signed up to attend a tutor training, and only then did I ask myself, "How in the world am I going to tutor English when I don't remember many rules of grammar that I use out of habit." My fears were quickly put to rest. By the close of the tutor training I had received the verbal support I needed, along with hands on materials to start this new adventure.



Jayelle Sargent and Alicia Lara

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

The LEARN Staff would like to thank the following people for their help in making our program a success!

Nene Ogbechie– *AmeriCorps Member, Vista*
Liliana Cilia– *AmeriCorps Member, Encinitas*
Marisabel Salinas– *Student Worker, El Cajon*
Rocio Carrillo– *Student Worker, Vista*
Jenna Balsley– *ESL Teacher, El Cajon*
Pam Gall– *ESL Teacher, Lemon Grove*
Katherine Escalante– *ESL Teacher, Spring Valley*

Several weeks later I received a call from the Literacy Center telling me there was a young woman interested in studying with a tutor. The appointment was set. Alicia and I met at the Encinitas Library on a Saturday, April 11, 2009. After we introduced ourselves to one another, I think the next thing I said was "You smell wonderful...I love your cologne." How's that for an icebreaker! If Alicia had any fears of her tutor fitting any particular category of higher learning, I can tell you they were quickly dispelled. Alicia and I agree we are a perfect match, not only as learner and tutor, but also as two women who are co-creating moments to the benefit of one another. Alicia's homeland is Mexico where she worked in a business office. Now, a full-time, tax paying resident of Encinitas, she is determined to improve her command of the English language. I asked Alicia in our first meeting what was most important to her regarding our time together, "To understand, with comprehension, every word spoken, especially in conversations." It is apparent that Alicia is extremely bright, but to me it is her determination and her courage that inspire me. Her willingness to be vulnerable, to trust me in moments of frustration is a gift I never anticipated...one of many very special moments is when Alicia becomes my tutor, and I her learner.

LEARN Tutor– Jayelle Sargent

GOODBYE LEARN STUDENT WORKERS



LEARN staff and friends at the Student Worker's Farewell.
Back row from left: Laura Burlew, Nene Ogbechie, Liliana Cilia, Rocio Carrillo, Jason Romano, Nick Crosby, and Kevin Vigil.
Front row from left: Erica Abbey, Marisabel Salinas, Sasha Wade, and Hector Ortega

The student workers have been with LEARN for the past year, but due to the struggling economy and budget restraints, the County has had no choice but to cut down on its' student workers and substitute personnel.

Rocio Carrillo (Vista student worker) and Marisabel "Izzy" Salinas (El Cajon student worker) will be sincerely missed by everyone at LEARN. Here at LEARN the student workers were responsible for making the administrative side of the office run smoothly. They handled everything from inputting assessments to greeting learners

and tutors and maintaining databases; these ladies did it all with a big smile and a good sense of humor. You might recall them from their follow-up calls reminding you to submit your monthly tutor report.

Rocio and Izzy are both students at the University of California San Diego. We hope that Rocio and Izzy will quickly be able to find work. Their positive attitudes and fun personalities made them a delight to work with. They have been an invaluable asset to LEARN and we are all going to miss them.

AmeriCorps Member– Laura Burlew

September

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
		<p>ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p</p> <p>ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p</p> <p>English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p> <p>English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a</p> <p>Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<p>HOLIDAY No Classes</p>	<p>ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p</p> <p>ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p</p> <p>English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p> <p>English Conversation Café Vista 10:30a-12p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p> <p>English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a</p> <p>Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p>	
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<p>English Conversation Café El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p</p> <p>Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p</p> <p><u>ESL Classes</u> El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p</p>	<p>ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p</p> <p>ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p</p> <p>English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p> <p>English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a</p> <p>Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p>	<p>Tutor Training Vista 10a-4p</p>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>English Conversation Café El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p</p> <p>Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p</p> <p><u>ESL Classes</u> El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p</p>	<p>ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p</p> <p>Tutor Training Vista Part I - 5:30a-8p</p> <p>ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p</p> <p>English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p> <p>English Conversation Café Vista 10:30a-12p</p> <p>Tutor Training Vista Part 2 - 5:30a-8p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p> <p>English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a</p> <p>Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p>		
27	28	29	30			
<p>English Conversation Café El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p</p> <p>Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p</p> <p><u>ESL Classes</u> El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p</p>	<p>ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p</p> <p>ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p</p> <p>English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p</p>	<p>ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a</p>				

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p	2 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a	3
4 English Conversation Café El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p ESL Classes El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p	5	6 ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p	7 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a	8 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p	9 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a	10
11 English Conversation Café El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p ESL Classes El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p	12	13 ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p	14 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a English Conversation Café Vista 10:30a-12:00p	15 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p	16 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a	17
18 English Conversation Café El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p ESL Classes El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p	19	20 ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p English Conversation Cafe Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p	21 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a	22 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p	23 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a	24
25 English Conversation Café El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p Tutor Training El Cajon Part 1 - 5:30a-8p Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p ESL Classes El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p	26	27 ESL Class Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p ESL Class Spring Valley 6p-8p English Conversation Café Lincoln Acres 6:30p-7:30p Tutor Training El Cajon Part 2 - 5:30a-8p	28 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a English Conversation Café Vista 10:30a-12:00p	29 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a English Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-11:30a Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p	30 ESL Class El Cajon 8:20a-11:30a	31