



# READ WRITES

For You and About You

January 2012

#### Where Were You In '92?

If you were in La Habra in 1992, you might have been at one of READ/OC's first Tutor Training Workshops, and you may have tutored in one of our first Literacy Centers at the La Habra Library.







Since READ/OC's beginnings, the La Habra Library has been a "literacy happening place" for READ/OC tutors and learners. The literacy center has moved since 1992 (it is now tucked away at the back of the community room), but it continues to serve as a quiet tutoring spot and resource center. Its collection of materials, books, and learning tools can be used during tutoring sessions or "checked out" for practice at home. Tutors and learners can access online learning resources and practice computing skills at the Literacy Center's dedicated computer.

The La Habra Literacy Center has a new Ambassador! Nu Yang became a tutor in October, 2010. Now, she also looks forward to helping maintain the resources at the La Habra Literacy Center and sharing information about READ/OC with library staff and patrons. The staff at the La Habra

Library are also a valuable source of information. Branch Manager, Jill Patterson, and her team are always available to answer questions about literacy, reading, learning, and library resources.

La Habra also has a new "Family Place" section, a unique early literacy/lifelong learning area especially designed for families to learn and play together with age-appropriate books, puzzles, and learning toys. In addition, the Family Place has information to connect families with resources, programs, and services in the library and the community.

In the coming year, READ/OC will celebrate 20 years of adult literacy services in Orange County! Let us know where your literacy or lifelong learning journey has taken you.

Where were you in '92?







# **Proud Moments**



The monthly report winner for December is:

**Beth Malone** 

**Congratulations Beth!** 

Monthly Reports are due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month. Get yours in on time for a chance to be next month's winner and receive a \$10 gift card to Starbucks.

If you have missed sending in your Monthly Reports, it is not too late to catch up! Remember, the hours you report each month are the only record READ has of your learner's hours!

Of course you can still access monthly report forms online, submit them by email to readoc@occr.ocgov.com or mail them to READ/OC, 1501 E. St. Andrew Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92705



November and December were very successful months for our tutors and learners! Here are just a few of their achievements in November and December, taken from monthly reports:

- Alice's learner's co-workers have been coming to her for help writing reports and such for work.
- Janet's learner got her citizenship.
- Mark's learner read a book about sharks.
- Eugenia's learner finished reading his first novel and applied for a job online.
- Nada's learner can use the internet and Thomas Guide to map out locations. On Halloween, she successfully sent a joke via text.
- Pam's learner was sworn in as a US Citizen and accepted into her military translator certification program.
- Twyla's learner can fill out a check, use guide words in the dictionary, and use context clues when reading.
- Ann's learner has decided that she is ready to continue her lifelong learning on her own, without the help of a literacy tutor
- Cathy's learner was able to independently research flights, prices, and schedules on the internet for an upcoming vacation to Taiwan.
- Keeley's learner applied for and received a library card with no assistance.
- Jim's learner submitted a story to <a href="welearn@LitWomen.org">welearn@LitWomen.org</a>. She is also helping her grandkids with their homework and reading to her young grandson.
- Leigh's learner asked for directions in the grocery store.
- Susan's learner composed a letter to her apartment complex manager regarding a parking situation.
- Austin's learner wrote and read a letter to his daughter.
- Mei Ling's learner read a challenging story from Readers' Digest.
- Henry's learner passed the test for his OSHA Safety course, which he needs for a promotion.
- Karen's learner got an A- on her last test for her class at Irvine Valley College.
- Sophie's learner enrolled herself at Irvine Valley College, applied for financial aid, and started volunteering at her kids' school.

Please remember to submit your monthly reports. We want to let everyone know about your accomplishments!



Are you one of the many of us who have stopped making New Year's resolutions but truly want to make a difference this year? Friends of READ/OC is the non-profit organization for READ/OC. We are always looking for adults who want to volunteer to serve on committees for our Friends of READ/Orange County board (FROC).

This year is going to be especially exciting as we help READ/OC celebrate their 20th Anniversary. Twenty years of helping adults learn how to read better is quite an accomplishment! Here is a fun list of things our FROC volunteers have done this year.

- 1. Volunteered as tutors to help teach adults to learn to read better
- 2. Gift-wrapped Christmas gifts at Barnes & Noble
- 3. Played BINGO at the Fall Feast
- 4. Attended fun board meetings
- 5. Volunteered at the FROC booth at People Helping People on 9/11
- 6. Worked with kids and crafts at the Fall Feast
- 7. Took pictures of guests at AFPAC
- 8. Spoke at Tutor Training Workshops
- 9. Volunteered at the FROC booth at The Orange County Children's Book Festival
- 10. Volunteered at the FROC booth at The Tustin Chili Cook-off
- 11. Served hot dogs and hamburgers at AFPAC
- 12. Received awards for their volunteer services
- 13. Wrote and received grants for READ/OC
- 14. Designed and produced decorations for FROC **Events**
- 15. Recruited new volunteers
- 16 20. Had so much fun, we ran out of room to list it all!

To find our more about Friends of READ/OC call Craig or Karen Ruhl, Co-Presidents at 714-566-3070 today!

#### **OUTREACH NEWS**

A huge THANK YOU to Ingram INGRAM **Micro** for inviting us to your December Holiday Boutique.



Thank you to the **Santa Ana Zoo** for letting us attend Holidays with The Critters. We had hundreds of visitors, the children enjoyed making bookmarks and families received a free book.



BOOKSELLERS

Thank you to Barnes & Noble and especially to our friends at B&N Metro Pointe. Our annual Gift-wrapping fundraiser was a great success!

If you would like more information on how to have our Outreach Coordinator come to your place of business or talk to your group, please call 714-566-3070 and ask for Karen!



Next time you are online – "LIKE" READ/OC and Friends of READ/OC on Facebook.

While you are there, check out literacy news and events on the Facebook pages for Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) and our very own Friends of READ/Orange County (FROC).

And then share us with a friend - encourage them to volunteer and help change a life through literacy.

#### 2012 Literacy Conference Registration Now Open!



Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) sponsors a one-day literacy conference for everyone interested in adult literacy. Professionals from all walks of life lend their expertise to interested attendees by facilitating workshops in reading comprehension, writing, job readiness, health literacy, families and schools, and financial literacy–just to name a few! Not all workshops have been finalized, so you may register for the conference now to get the early bird rate and choose your workshops later.

The Literacy Conference will be held Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Buena Park, and it is open to anyone interested in adult literacy. Past participants have included tutors, literacy staff, volunteers, and adult learners from around the state. A few of the comments from 2011 conference were:

- "Hearing what other programs are doing and getting ideas was great!"
- "Workshops were very interesting this year."
- "Readings from Writer-Writer winners were heart-warming & inspiring."
- "Conference site is easy to park and get around in."
- "I wanted to go to more!"

This Conference is one of the best deals around! "Early Bird" registration is now open and available through February 3. Be sure to register as a "member" on the conference registration. The "Early Bird" Registration for READ Volunteers/Tutors is \$40 and \$15 for READ/OC Adult Learners. After February 3 the registration fee increases, so don't wait. Register today!

Your registration to the conference includes a continental breakfast, 3 workshop sessions and a wonderful luncheon session (with door prizes)! Conference space is limited, so register early to save your space.

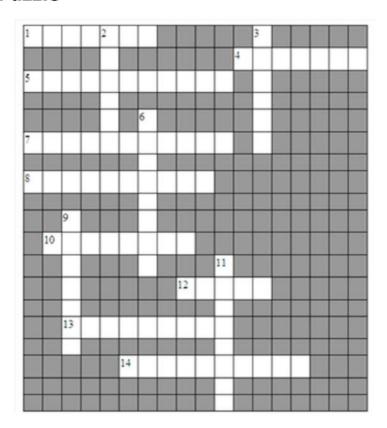
#### Register online Today:

 $\underline{https://www.conference.com/eventmanager/onlineregistration.asp?eventcode = \underline{\textbf{PBS}}$ 

We look forward to seeing you there!

If you are reading this line, call the READ/OC office to claim your "Reader of the month prize!"

#### This Month's Puzzle







Across	Down

1. Set aside 20 \_\_\_\_\_\_ to read a 2. Paige \_\_\_\_\_ is out telling people about READ/OC. bedtime story. 3. Over 20% of adults in \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Tutors and learners can join the \_\_\_\_\_ of READ/OC. County need basic reading help. 6. Check the of Events Learner meetings provide an for READ/OC activities. \_\_\_\_\_ to meet new people. 9. 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Americans 7. Share \_\_\_\_\_about READ/OC can't read at all. with family and friends. 11. "Like" READ Orange County on 8. The Annual Literacy \_\_\_\_\_ will be held February 25. 10. \_\_\_\_\_ is an essential skill when it comes to your health. 12. It's Literary Orange time \_\_\_\_\_! Answer key to puzzle on page 7 13. Get your eReader skills in 14. The digital \_\_\_\_\_ will stop at

Laguna Woods while on a national tour.

# Ms. Paige Turner (Fun advice for tutors and learners)



Dear Paige,

I just received a letter from READ/OC asking me to help administer an EL Civics test for my learner, for READ's quarterly reports. My learner and I have a routine in our sessions, and we don't like to deviate. Besides, the test is way too hard for her. Was this really meant for us? Why do we have to do this?

Doesn't like reporting

#### **Dear Reporting**

If you received the letter and the test, it was definitely meant for you and your learner. As part of the reporting for our grants, READ/OC has to follow some pretty strict accountability requirements. The test level was selected specifically for your learner, based on her scores from previous tests, and unfortunately we have very little leeway regarding testing levels. Don't worry too much about the score – the numbers are very useful for aggregate reporting, but we prefer to gauge individual learners' achievements...instead of looking at tests scores. More importantly, we prefer to gauge individual learners' achievements based on their progress towards their personal goals instead of looking at test scores.

Of course, we have certainly been known to make errors in our records before! If something doesn't seem right to you, or if you just don't feel able to administer the test, please call Rebecca Braun at 714-566-3070 to assist with your individual case. I encourage you to call Rebecca with any questions you may have about how the test should be administered.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in administering the tests, and in helping with all of the reporting you do throughout the year! Just remember that your efforts help READ/OC stay fully funded, so that we can continue to support you and your learner. Remember tests are due by January 30!

Paige

#### Missed an Issue??

Did you know that previous issues of our **READ Writes** newsletter can be accessed online at <a href="https://www.readoc.org">www.readoc.org</a>?

Check out our website, often!



There is a great collection of resources and advice brewing on our website. Review the previous issues of our newsletter for ideas, activities, and suggestions to use in your tutoring sessions. And remember to share it with a friend when they ask you "what's new?"

#### 12 "READsolutions" for 2012

- 1. Return my library books to the library by their due date.
- 2. Turn in my monthly reports by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- 3. Check out an online resource that fits with one of my learning goals.
- 4. This year attend at least one learner meeting (learners!) OR This year attend at least one quarterly tutor meeting (tutors!).
- 5. Read at least one book by the start of summer.
- 6. Set aside at least 20 minutes to read a bedtime story to myself or someone I love.
- 7. "Check out" the library books and resources online at <a href="www.ocpl.org">www.ocpl.org</a> (such as eBooks, audiobooks, World Book Encyclopedia, or Tutor.com).
- 8. Return to READ/OC any materials I/my learner/tutor are not using.
- 9. Attend a conference or training with READ or at the library that will help me learn something new. (Hint: There's a Southern California Library Literacy Network Conference for tutors and learners on Saturday, February 25 at the Buena Park Holiday Inn! Get details in this newsletter on page 5 and register today!)
- 10. Make a new *friend* through Friends of READ/Orange County (FROC). Visit their website, <a href="https://www.friendsroc.org">www.friendsroc.org</a>, "friend them" on Facebook, attend a committee meeting, or volunteer to help at an event/fundraiser.
- 11. "Like" READ/OC on Facebook and share it with a friend, or 12 friends, or 20...
- 12. Tell someone (or several "someones") about READ/OC and the *need* in Orange County to help others become "lifelong learners" and "learning partners" as tutors, volunteers, or friends.

Tutors and Learners: Select one or more of these "READsolutions" for 2012 or create some of your own and make them "SMART" Goals!



#### Answers to puzzle: on page 6

**Across:** 1) minutes; 4) Friends; 5) opportunity; 7) information; 8) Conference; 12) Literacy; 13) again; 14) Overdrive; 15) bookmobile

Down: Turner; 3) Orange; 6) Calendar; 9)

million; 11) Facebook

#### Speaking of New Year Resolutions and a Healthier New Year!

Literacy is an essential skill when it comes to your health. The ability to read and understand information and directions from your doctor about healthy eating and exercise are critical skills for everyone! Just as important is being active and getting some exercise! If you or someone you know has a chronic health issue, this free workshop can be a helpful resource. Share this information with family and friends, tutors and learners, then check out this healthy news at the library.

#### Are You Struggling with a Chronic Health Issue?

There is a **FREE** workshop offered in Orange County that can help you learn to manage your chronic condition and improve your health.

The Healthier Living workshop is a 6-week series that is for anyone with an ongoing health problem, family members of someone with a chronic condition, or anyone who wants to be more physically and socially active.

This workshop has been shown to:

- increase energy
- reduce pain, sleep loss and anxiety
- communicate better with family, friends and doctors
- increase physical activity
- lower number of doctor's visits, hospitalizations and ER visits

The interactive workshop offers many opportunities for participants to share experiences and ideas with others. Topics included in the workshop: goal setting, problem solving, managing symptoms, relaxation techniques, healthier eating tips and communicating with others.

The class is being offered at the following Orange County Public Libraries:



Fountain Valley Library

1-714-962-1324

Westminster Library

1-714-893-5057

**El Toro Library** 1-949-855-8173

January 9-February 13

1:00-3:30pm

February 21-March 27

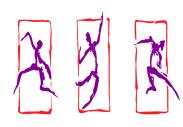
9-11:30am

March 1-April 15

1:00-3:30pm

To sign up for a class, call the library information desk at the number above.

For information about additional workshops throughout Orange County, call the Office on Aging at 1-800-510-2020. "Get in the pink" in 2012!



#### 20 Reasons to Tell 20 People About READ/OC...

- 1. Over 20% of adults in Orange County are in need of basic reading, writing, or English assistance. You may know someone who needs help, or who would like to become a volunteer tutor.
- 2. In less than 20 hours, you can be trained as a volunteer tutor and then help an adult achieve a lifelong goal...read to a child, get their GED or go to college, get a better job, or become a US citizen.
- 3. More than 20 percent of adults read at or below a fifth-grade level far below the level needed to earn a living wage.
- 4. More than 20 adults in the city of Irvine are currently waiting for tutors to help them improve their reading, writing, and English language skills.
- 5. Give 20 more people an opportunity to become better readers, like you.
- 6. Help 20 people share your joy of helping others and making a difference in Orange County.
- 7. Practice your English by telling 20 people about how your life has changed by being a part of READ/OC.
- 8. To participate fully in society and the workplace in 2020, citizens will need powerful literacy abilities that until now have been achieved by only a small percentage of the population.
- 9. More than 20 million Americans can't read at all, 45 million are marginally illiterate and one-fifth of high school graduates can't read their diplomas.
- 10. In a class of 20 students, few if any teachers can find even 5 minutes of time in a day to devote to reading with each student. Help an adult learner to gain the skills to read to his/her child at home!
- 11. In a study of 20 'high income' countries, the US ranked 12th on literacy tests. (Source: National Institute of Literacy)
- 12. For just a \$20 donation to FROC, you can sponsor a volunteer to be trained as a READ/OC tutor.
- 13. Joining Friends of READ/OC (FROC) and volunteering to plan their Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebration and other special events to celebrate READ/OC volunteers, tutors and learners will be 20 times more fun than planning other events.
- 14. We have had 20 visits (or likes) on our Facebook page this month. You can help make it 20 more!
- 15. Those you tell who are under 20 years old (at least 16 years old) can volunteer as a READ Jr. tutor to help a student succeed in school while helping their parent learn as well.
- 16. Low literacy costs the U.S. more than \$220 billion each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

(continued on page ten)

- 17. One of the 20 people you tell might just be the 1 who thinks they are the only person who "can't read," has been keeping this secret for a very long time, and can finally know he/she is not alone and can get help.
- 18. Telling 20 people about READ/OC is an "easier" New Year's Resolution than "Losing 20 lbs.!" ©
- 19. There are at least 20 different ways to volunteer with READ/OC beyond tutoring, such as helping families enjoy learning together at Monthly Family Reading Times, assessing new learners, contributing to the READ/OC newsletter, providing general office support at the READ/OC office, serving as a Literacy Center Ambassador, volunteering on a Friends of READ/OC committee, mentoring to new tutors, spreading the news about literacy and READ/OC at community events, with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, friends at church, clubs, the gym, golf course, carpool buddies, your child's school, or sharing with total strangers at the grocery store, while checking out books at the library, or even waiting in line at the DMV!
- 20. **AND in 2012** READ/OC celebrates **20** years of providing library literacy services throughout Orange County! Join in the fun and change a life, yours!

# 20 Great Reasons to Consider Becoming a Volunteer... with READ/OC and Friends of READ/OC

- Help others
- Make a difference
- Find purpose
- Enjoy a meaningful conversation
- · Connect with your community
- Feel involved
- Contribute to a cause that you care about
- Use your skills in a productive way
- Develop new skills
- Meet new people
- Explore new areas of interest

- Meet good people
- Impress your mom
- Impress yourself
- Expand your horizons
- Get out of the house
- Make new friends
- Strengthen your resume
- Feel better about yourself
- Just have fun

Share this with 20 friends, or 12 friends, or just your best friend!



## It's Literary Orange time again!

Don't miss this year's annual celebration of Authors, Readers and & Libraries, on Saturday, April 14 at the UC Irvine Student Center, 9am to 4pm. Featured keynote speakers will be authors, Paula McLain and Lisa See, 14 different author panels, book signings lunch and more. Attendance is limited and last year's event sold out, so do not delay! For more information visit www.literaryorange.org.

**Library Quiz:** Which OC Public Library Branch is "open" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Answer: Go to www.ocpl.com and "checkout" eBooks and audiobooks!

#### Get Your eReader skills in "Overdrive"!

The Overdrive Digital Bookmobile is coming to Orange County as part of its national tour! It will make a special visit to OCPL's Laguna Woods Branch on Saturday, February 4, 10am-4pm.

Stop by and see how easy it is to "checkout" eBooks from OCPL onto your eReader devices (Nook,

Kindle, iPad, and more).



The Digital Bookmobile, is a 74-foot, high-tech update of the traditional bookmobile that has served communities for decades. This unique community outreach vehicle is on a year-long cross country tour. It will provide "an engaging download experience with OC Public Library's 'Virtual Branch' download website and digital collection of eBooks, audiobooks and more. The Digital Bookmobile is operated by OverDrive, which powers download websites at more than 15,000 libraries worldwide, including OC Public Libraries.

#### **What About Those Learner Meetings!**

Didn't get a chance to attend any of the learner meetings in 2011?

Not to worry, there will be more opportunities beginning in January 2012! The meetings are usually held on Saturdays from 10am-12pm at READ/OC headquarters. *The first Learner Meeting for 2012 will be Saturday, March 3*. Put it on your calendar and plan to join in the fun!

Each meeting features a discussion on a chosen topic followed a fun group exercise. At the end of the meeting, we join some of the READ/OC team and the new tutor class for a delicious potluck lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity for learners to meet new people, practice their skills or perhaps learn a new skill, and enjoy good food with good company.

Learners will need to call or email READ/OC to reserve a seat. *Sorry, tutors cannot attend learner meetings*, but are encouraged to join us for the lunch potluck.

Just be sure to call and let us know you're coming! Check out the READ/OC calendar at <a href="https://www.readoc.org">www.readoc.org</a> for the dates of upcoming learner meetings and other program events.

# **Newsletter Editors** Barbara Neder &

#### **Karen Ruhl**

## January - February 2012



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### Staff & Volunteer Contributors:

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If you are interested in contributing an article for READ WRITES, contact us at 714-566-3070.

When you have finished reading this newsletter, please share it with someone so they will know about the services and volunteer opportunities.

> Click here to go directly to the **READ/OC Calendar of Events**











#### Mark Your Calendars and Tell A Friend or 2 or 3 $\sim$ Learners are waiting!

Saturday, January 14

Tuesday, January 17

Thursday, January 19

Saturday, January 21

Saturday, January 28

Thursday, February 2 Tuesday, February 7 Wednesday, February 8

Thursday, February 9

Saturday, February 11

Tuesday, February 14

Saturday, February 25

Saturday, March 3

Family Reading Time, 10am-12pm @ Irvine University Park Library

Tutor Training Workshop-Orientation, 6-7pm @ Garden Grove Regional Library

Family Reading Time, 6:30-8pm, @ Tustin Library Tutor Training Workshop-Orientation, 6-7pm @ El Toro Regional Library

Tutor Training Workshop-Part 1, 9am-4pm @ READ/OC HO

Family Reading Time, 10am-12pm @ El Toro Library Tutor Training Workshop-Part 2, 9am-4pm @ READ/OC HQ

Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ El Toro Library Family Reading Time, 6:30-7:45 pm @ La Palma Library Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ Stanton Community Services Center

Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ Mesa Verde Library, Costa Mesa

Family Reading Time, 10am-12pm @ Irvine University Park Library

Family Reading Time, 6:30-8pm, @ Tustin Library

Happy Valentine's Day! Share a poem or book with someone you love! Southern California Library Literacy Conference @ Buena Park Holiday Inn – Great Workshops For Tutors and Learners! HURRY! Early Bird Registration available now through February 3!

Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification, 9am-11am @ READ/OC HQ

Learner Meeting, 10am-12pm @ READ/OC HQ



READ/OC is the adult literacy services of OC Public Libraries and OC Community Resources