

LEARN

Alive!

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

June/July 09

MOVING TO AMERICA

When I just moved to America, I could speak English but it was not enough. Before my first child went to school, we usually stayed at home without talking English. We went to Korean markets and church and we met Korean friends.

I remember whenever I spoke English I was nervous. I practiced several times before I spoke to somebody in English. I wanted to talk more with my neighbors but I couldn't. I just say "hi" to them.

After my children went to school, I had to meet their teachers, friends, and friends' parents. I had to speak English more and more. I really wanted to learn English. I tried a class in the college but the class was huge. I thought I needed a small size class.

One day when I searched about a small size class through the internet, I knew there was a tutor program in libraries. I went to the library and asked about the program. The librarian gave me a phone number and a name Jason. I hesitated because I had to talk in English by PHONE. I should be brave, so I called him. He was nice and kind, I feel comfortable to talk English by phone. And then I met Hector for level test and I met Dr. Charles for my tutor. It took a few months. At last, I met my real tutor Nene. We have met twice a week since last October. It is important work to me. People who I met for this program are all nice and kind. I want to thank them.

When I met Nene, we talked about foods, kids, politics, history, movies, weather, cultural differences, and geography. We read to-

gether or she lends books to me and fixes my writings and pronunciation. I didn't like history and geography but I learned a lot from Nene. She is smart. I like this program, I will keep going to learn English.

I know my English is not perfect, yet I feel easier to talk. I never talked English in my dream. One day I went to my son's kindergarten class as a class volunteer, he told me "Mom, your English is good." When I heard it, I was happy.



Current Learner - Hyun Han

BE CREATIVE @YOUR LIBRARY: *Adult Summer Reading Program*

Summer is here, and that means it is time for the library's Adult Summer Reading Program! The program, which used to be only for children, was extended to adults three years ago. In previous years, the program focused solely on reading; however, this year library customers are encouraged to **Be Creative @Your Library**, in which people

are rewarded for a variety of library activities. Every summer, LEARN participates in the program concurrently and adds even more ways of being rewarded that are tailored to help our learners and tutors succeed. See below for ways that you can participate and be awarded.

The program has already started and will run through August 31st, 2009. Contact the El Cajon or Vista LEARN centers to be enrolled as soon as possible. Weekly drawings will be held at both the Vista and El Cajon LEARN centers. Learners are eligible for the weekly drawings when they have received one stamp. If learners collect 10 or more stamps, they will be entered into a chance to win the "Grand Prize," which will be held at the end of the program. Tutors are not eligible for the LEARN weekly drawings or grand prize, but their stamps are valid in the SDCL Summer Reading Program. If you have questions about our Summer Reading Program, feel free to contact us.

LEARN's Program Guidelines:

Learners will receive 1 stamp for...

- reaching a GOAL.
- attending any SDCL sponsored program.
- visiting a SDCL branch.
- referring a learner to our program. The referred learner must sign up for an assessment before we award a stamp.
- reading any books.

Tutors will receive 1 stamp if...

- their learner reaches a GOAL.
- they attend a LEARN program such as a workshop, tutor training, or LEARN sponsored event.
- they refer another tutor to our program. The referred tutor must sign up for a tutor training before we award a stamp.

AmeriCorps Member– Laura Burlew

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

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

Jenny Hanson – Adult Services, HQ
Kathleen Honeysett – HQ
Jayelle Sargent – Encinitas Tutor
Peggy Evans – Encinitas Tutor
Jackie Logue - Vista Tutor

RACE FOR LITERACY



The 2009 San Diego County Library LEARN Alive! Team

This was LEARN's fourth year participating in the Race for Literacy. Over 40 people signed up for the race, which was held on Sunday May 3rd, 2009. The 8K course – just less than 5 miles – started in Balboa Park, went down the 163, and ended in San Diego's Pantoja Park. Funds from the event make a significant contribution to programs affiliated with the San Diego Council on Literacy, San Diego County's Literacy Network.

Many library employees, tutors, learners, and their families showed their support for the San Diego County Library LEARN team by participating in the race. The top two runners for our organization were El Cajon Library staff member, Bernard Figuracion (36:34) and LEARN's very own Kevin Vigil (38:45). Next year we would like to recruit twice as many people. If the drive to San Diego or the 8K walk/run discourages you from participating, we would love for you to wear a *San Diego County Library LEARN Alive!* team shirt to show your support.

AmeriCorps Member – Laura Burlew

FINDING HELP IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

Economy got you down? The San Diego County Library as well as various County agencies provide a variety of different resources. In April, LEARN put together a guide for filing for Unemployment Insurance Benefits to help prepare you for the Unemployment Insurance application process, which can seem long and confusing. This guide helps you navigate the process by explaining what documents are required in addition to giving you the questions you will encounter on the application. You can find the guide in English or Spanish along with other job resources at http://dbpcosdcsct.co.san-diego.ca.us/screens/www/financial-topics_jobs_unemployment.html.

If you are currently looking for employment, **JobNow** is a great resource for fine-tuning your resume and interview skills. **JobNow** is a FREE web-based resource provided through the San Diego County Library. The website can also point you towards local job-postings and help-wanted ads. Access a link to **JobNow** on the library's main web-page, www.sdcl.org.

Another resource you might consider applying for is Food Stamp benefits. Food Stamps are awarded based on your income, and your eligibility along with how much you will be able to receive is determined during the application process. A good rule of thumb whether you qualify or not is if you make less than \$1,100 dollars a month; however, there are many other factors that the agency takes into consideration. The process can take several weeks, from first turning in your application to receiving your food stamps. If you are awarded aid, you will receive an Electronic Balance Transfer (EBT) card which works just like a debit card. To find out more, you may visit your closest Health and Human Services office or the Food Stamp Programs homepage, which includes the application, at www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps/default.htm. If you would like more information about food stamps, eligibility, even use a Food Stamp calculator, please visit www.myfoodstamps.org, a comprehensive resource presented by the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) and the Congressional Hunger Center. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also offers a prescreening tool for you to use at www.foodstamps-step1.usda.gov/fns/ to see if you qualify for Food Stamp benefits.

AmeriCorps Member – Nick Crosby

Unemployment and Food Stamps in San Diego County

According to the Employment Development Department of California, the number of unemployed is currently **143,200** in San Diego County. *The unemployment rate was 9.1 percent in April 2009, down from a revised 9.5 percent in March 2009, and above the year-ago estimate of 4.9 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 10.9 percent for California and 8.6 percent for the nation during the same period.*

A recent story in Sign On San Diego stated that *San Diego County leaders have developed a three-year strategy to get more food stamps into the hands of needy families. Part of the plan includes working with nonprofits and public agencies to publicize food stamps; pre-screening applicants at schools, libraries and senior centers; extending hours at county offices; and automatically screening all Medi-Cal applicants for food-stamp eligibility. San Diego County has been the lowest-enrolled major metropolitan area in the country for years.*

July 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

Citizenship Class
San Marcos
5:00p-7:00p

ESL Café Bonita
9:30a-11:00a

ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a

Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

No ESL Class El Cajon

All Libraries Closed

NO ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p

Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p

ESL Classes
El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a
Lemon Grove
10:30a-12:30p
Spring Valley 6p-8p

ESL Class Lemon
Grove 10:30a-12:30p

ESL Café
Lincoln Acres
6:30p-7:30p

ESL Class Spring
Valley 6:00p-8:00p

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

ESL Café Vista
10:30a-12:00p

Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

Citizenship Class
San Marcos
5:00p-7:00p

ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

12

13

14

15

16

3

18

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p

Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p

ESL Classes
El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a
Lemon Grove
10:30a-12:30p
Spring Valley 6p-8p

ESL Class Lemon
Grove 10:30a-12:30p

ESL Café
Lincoln Acres
6:30p-7:30p

ESL Class Spring
Valley 6:00p-8:00p

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

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ESL Café Bonita
9:30a-11:00a

ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p

Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p

ESL Classes
El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a
Lemon Grove
10:30a-12:30p
Spring Valley 6p-8p

ESL Class Lemon
Grove 10:30a-12:30p

ESL Café Lincoln
Acres 6:30p-7:30p

ESL Class Spring
Valley 6:00p-8:00p

Tutor Training
El Cajon 5:30p-8:00p

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

ESL Café Vista
10:30a-12:00p

Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

Tutor Training
El Cajon 5:30p-8:00p

No Citizenship Class
in San Marcos

ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

26

27

28

29

30

31

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p

Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p

ESL Classes
El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a
Lemon Grove
10:30a-12:30p
Spring Valley 6p-8p

ESL Class Lemon
Grove 10:30a-12:30p

ESL Café
Lincoln Acres
6:30p-7:30p

ESL Class Spring
Valley 6:00p-8:00p

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

Citizenship Class
San Marcos
5:00p-7:00p

ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a

Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

August 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

2

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p
Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p
ESL Classes
El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a
Lemon Grove
10:30a-12:30p
Spring Valley 6p-8p

3

ESL Class Lemon
Grove 10:30a-12:30p
ESL Café
Lincoln Acres
6:30p-7:30p
ESL Class Spring
Valley 6:00p-8:00p

4

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a
Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

5

Citizenship Class
San Marcos
5:00p-7:00p

6

ESL Café Bonita
9:30a-11:00a
ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a
ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a
Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

7

ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

1

9

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p
Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p
ESL Classes
El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a
Lemon Grove
10:30a-12:30p
Spring Valley 6p-8p

10

ESL Class Lemon
Grove 10:30a-12:30p
ESL Café
Lincoln Acres
6:30p-7:30p
ESL Class Spring
Valley 6:00p-8:00p

11

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a
ESL Café Vista
10:30a-12:00p
Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

12

Citizenship Class
San Marcos
5:00p-7:00p

13

ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a
ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a
Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

14

Tutor Training
El Cajon
10:00a-4:00p
ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

15

16

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p
Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p
ESL Classes
El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a
Lemon Grove
10:30a-12:30p
Spring Valley 6p-8p

17

ESL Class Lemon
Grove 10:30a-12:30p
ESL Café
Lincoln Acres
6:30p-7:30p
ESL Class Spring
Valley 6:00p-8:00p

18

ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a
Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p

19

Citizenship Class
San Marcos
5:00p-7:00p

20

ESL Café Bonita
9:30a-11:00a
ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a
ESL Class El Cajon
9:30a-11:30a
Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p

21

ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

22

23/30

ESL Café El Cajon
11:30a-12:30p
Citizenship Class
Vista 6:00p-7:30p
8/24 Tutor Training
Vista 5:30p-8:00p
No ESL Classes
Lemon Grove and
Spring Valley

24/31

ESL Café
Lincoln Acres
6:30p-7:30p
No ESL Classes
Lemon Grove and
Spring Valley

25

ESL Café Vista
10:30a-12:00p
Spanish Literature
Encinitas 6:00p-8:00p
Tutor Training
Vista 5:30p-8:00p
No ESL Class
El Cajon

26

No Citizenship Class
in San Marcos

27

ESL Café Rancho San
Diego 9:30a-11:00a
Spanish Conversation
Encinitas 3:00p-5:00p
No ESL Class El Cajon

28

ESL Café Vista
3:30a-4:30p

29