



# Yolo Reads



Volunteer adult literacy tutoring – a program of the Yolo County Library

spring 2010

## Upcoming events

### Register to vote in June election

California's primary election is June 8. If you have not registered, you will need to register by May 24 to be able to vote. In April, Easy Voter Guides will be available at your local library.

### Celebrate the Yolo County Library's 100th anniversary

2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the Yolo County Library. Watch for special events at your local branch library. Join our 100th Anniversary Countywide Celebration on Sunday, Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 625 Court St. in Woodland.

### Tutor & Learner Conference set in August

The third annual Tutor & Learner Conference will meet Saturday, Aug. 28. Mark your calendars. Additional details will be sent out to tutors and learners later this spring.

### Volunteers needed for celebration planning

Yolo Reads seeks volunteers to help plan the program's annual celebration. Learners or community members are welcome to volunteer. Tasks include designing an e-invitation as well as making certificates and decorations, for example.

#### Yolo Reads contact information:

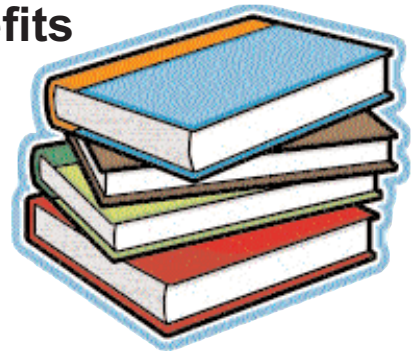
**Phone:** (530) 666-8019  
(866) 609-7303 toll-free

**Online:** [www.yolocountylibrary.org](http://www.yolocountylibrary.org)  
click on "Yolo Reads - Adult Literacy"

**Heather Bratt, librarian, literacy services**  
[heather.bratt@yolocounty.org](mailto:heather.bratt@yolocounty.org)

## Making a difference

The benefits  
of this  
literacy  
program  
really  
stack up



- An estimated **1 in 6 Yolo County residents can't read and write** sufficiently to carry out day-to-day activities.

- Yolo Reads provides free tutoring to adults who want to **improve their reading, writing, spelling and grammar** skills. The program started in July 2007 and received a grant from California Library Literacy Services, part of the California State Library.

- As of Feb. 28, volunteers have provided **2,500 hours of service** and Yolo Reads has given out **463 books** for tutors and learners to use.

- As of March 31, Yolo Reads has served a total of **46 learners**. Yolo Reads currently has **28 learners**.

- In March, in partnership with the Probation Department, 7 Yolo Reads volunteers launched a **tutoring program for incarcerated youth** at the Juvenile Detention Facility in Woodland.

- Yolo Reads has sponsored **English conversation groups** at the library branches in Davis, Esparto, Winters and West Sacramento.

**Meet one of the tutor-learner pairs, inside →**

## Learner profile

# Satish selected as Writer to Writer finalist

**By Rachel  
Yolo Reads volunteer**

When Satish joined Yolo Reads in October 2008, his goals were to become a better reader and learn to use computers.

Less than a year later, he was selected as a finalist in the 2009 Writer to Writer Challenge organized by California Library Literacy Services.

Satish is originally from Fiji and lived in Hawaii before settling in West Sacramento. A friend told him about Yolo Reads literacy program and he visited the Turner library branch to learn more. Shortly after signing up to be a participant, he was matched with tutor Patrick, a retired school teacher originally from Los Angeles.

Working together to accomplish Satish's short-term goals has helped Satish get closer to reaching his long-term goals. He hopes to attend technical school and, one day, own his own mini-mart. Satish and

Patrick said it's important to focus on small goals as stepping stones to larger goals. This approach, they said, is a good way to achieve success.

One of Satish's smaller goals was to participate in the Writer to Writer Challenge, which is a statewide contest for adult learners. To enter the contest, a learner reads a book of his or her choice and then writes a letter to the book's author. The letters are also submitted to the contest. Finalists and winners are chosen and their letters are published in a booklet, "Writer to Writer: Letters of the Award Winners and Finalists."

The contest deadline in 2009 occurred during the presidential election. Satish is a supporter of Barack Obama and so Patrick suggested he read a biography about this popular candidate. Satish chose "Obama: From Promise to Power" by David Mendell.

Satish was inspired by the similarities between Obama's background and his own. He shared these thoughts in his



**Satish, at left, and his tutor, Patrick, at a study session.**

letter to Mendell and received a very nice reply from the author.

Satish plans to enter the 2010 Writer to Writer Challenge. He does not yet know which book he is going to read, but it will probably be another non-fiction title. He said he prefers non-fiction because he loves to learn new things about real people and topics. Both Satish and Patrick had positive experiences with the Writer to Writer Challenge

and they encourage other Yolo Reads participants to enter in 2010. Patrick also mentioned how much he enjoyed hearing the winners and finalists share their letters during the 2009 awards ceremony.

Satish said he is very thankful to the Yolo Reads program for helping him improve his reading and writing skills. He remains dedicated to accomplishing his goals and is ready to take on the challenges ahead, one step at a time.

**- Reprinted here is Satish's essay, which was first published in a collection of 2009 Writer to Writer finalists.**

July 15, 2009

Dear Mr. Mendell,

My name is Satish Chand. I just finished reading your biography *Obama From Promise To Power*, published in 2007. It has inspired me greatly to improve my own life at age 36.

My adult life begins with my wife who I greatly loved. She died 10 years ago.

I started improving my life for the future, as she wanted me to.

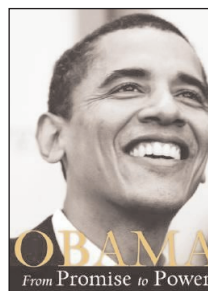
I went to the library looking for books to reach her goal. Since I greatly admire our new president, your book seemed a perfect answer for me.

You wrote very good things about his

life and dreams for his future when he was young. I was born in Fiji Islands. Later I moved with my wife to Hawaii. After she passed away I joined my relatives in Sacramento, California. As your book mentions, my life is much like Mr. Obamas. I also have a dream to own a mini market within ten years.

When I read about Mr. Obama's dreams that came true, I said to myself, "If he can do it, I can do it also." As I read your book, I see more parallels in our lives. In chapter 4 "The Mainland", his sister tells him, his knowledge, adventure and culture all will be Hawaiian.

What have you accomplished in your



life? This is one reason he moved from Hawaii to mainland (Chicago, Illinois). My wife's passing was a reason to go to Sacramento for me.

Obama's dream came true, and I am looking forward to achieving my dreams as well.

You wrote a wonderful life story, how he graduated from college and law school. I am working in a large retail corporation. My goal is to become a store manager within 5 years accomplish. This goal will help me to save money to own that mini market in Sacramento, California.

Mr. Mendell, I am very glad to share your book with my friends and family. I am ending my letter, saying thank you. I appreciate your biography. May it bring our children bright resources for their future dreams to come true.

Thank You,  
Satish

## Writer to Writer

# Another Yolo Reads learner writes to an author

**- Ayovie entered this letter in the emerging writers category of Writer to Writer.**

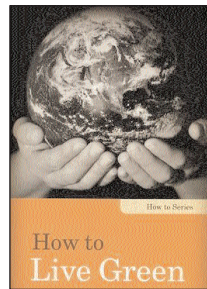
July 2, 2009

Dear Ms. Bradley,

This book is good! It's really good because it reminds me of the many things I did in Africa. This book shows people how to live green by taking shorter showers to save water, turning off the television when not watching it, and hanging

clothes to dry after washing them. I wasn't reusing grocery bags, but now I am bringing a canvas bag for groceries when I go to the store.

This book makes me a little sad, too, because people have so much here in the United States and don't care about it. In Africa, people don't



have very much so they must turn out the lights to save electricity and carry water in buckets for showering and cooking.

When I first came to the United States, I began using more water and electricity. Your book reminded me about caring for the planet and saving money. I have changed to use less again like I did in Africa.

I hope a lot of people read your book! Thank you for writing it.

Sincerely,

Ayovie

California Library Literacy Services  
9th Annual Writing Challenge  
for Adult Learners



## Writer to Writer

*The Writer to Writer Challenge is the annual writing competition for adult learners in public library literacy programs throughout California. Adult learners are invited to read a book of their choice and then write a personal letter to the author of that book, sharing with the author their thoughts and opinions as to how the book affected them.*

### We invite you to take part in an exciting challenge:

Read or listen to a book that inspires you.

Write a letter to the author.

Mail your letter along with the entry form to:

Writer to Writer, c/o Yolo County Library  
ATTN: Heather Bratt  
226 Buckeye Street  
Woodland, CA 95616

Or return the letter to your local library

courier #12

ATTN: Heather Bratt at Yolo Reads

Download your entry forms and more at the library website.

Go to [http://www.libraryliteracy.org/w2w/w2w\\_2010/index.html](http://www.libraryliteracy.org/w2w/w2w_2010/index.html) or contact Heather at (530) 666-8019 or [heather.bratt@yolocounty.org](mailto:heather.bratt@yolocounty.org).

The last date to mail your letters is  
Friday, July 30, 2010



California  
STATE LIBRARY  
FOUNDED 1918  
PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE. SHARING OUR FUTURE.



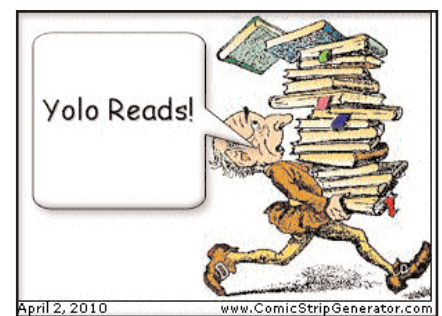
Want to comment on something you read in the Yolo Reads newsletter or write your own article? Send a letter or essay to:

Heather Bratt

226 Buckeye St.

Woodland, CA 95695,

or Yolo Reads #12 if dropped off at a library branch, or [heather.bratt@yolocounty.org](mailto:heather.bratt@yolocounty.org)



April 2, 2010

[www.ComicStripGenerator.com](http://www.ComicStripGenerator.com)

### Online resources:

- Merriam-Webster's online dictionary at <http://www.merriam-webster.com>

- Alphabet Jungle game (make words with the letters provided) at <http://www.memory-improvement-tips.com/alphabet-jungle.html>

**Fun and games**

# Yolo County library branches

**- Arthur F. Turner Community Library**  
 1212 Merkley Avenue  
 West Sacramento, CA 95691  
 (916) 375-6465

**- Clarksburg Branch Library**  
 52915 Netherlands Avenue  
 P.O. Box 229  
 Clarksburg, CA 95612  
 (916) 744-1755

**- Mary L. Stephens Branch Library**  
 2801 2nd Street  
 Davis, CA 95616  
 (530) 757-5593

**- Esparto Regional Branch Library**  
 17065 Yolo Avenue  
 Esparto, CA 95627  
 (530) 787-3426

**- Knights Landing Branch Library**  
 42351 Third Street, P.O. Box 517  
 Knights Landing, CA 95645  
 (530) 735-6593

**- Winters Community Library**  
 708 Railroad Avenue  
 Winters, CA 95694  
 (530) 795-4955

**- Yolo Branch Library**  
 37750 Sacramento Street  
 P.O. Box 447  
 Yolo, CA 95607  
 (530) 662-2363

**- Yolo County Library System Office**  
 226 Buckeye Street  
 Woodland, CA 95695  
 (530) 666-8019  
 (866) 609-7303 (toll free)  
 www.yolocountylibrary.org

## Word Search

F	R	L	L	E	P	S
S	H	E	L	F	L	F
B	T	C	A	R	D	P
O	L	O	Y	D	F	A
C	O	M	I	C	S	G
P	Y	R	O	T	S	E
W	R	I	T	E	Z	S

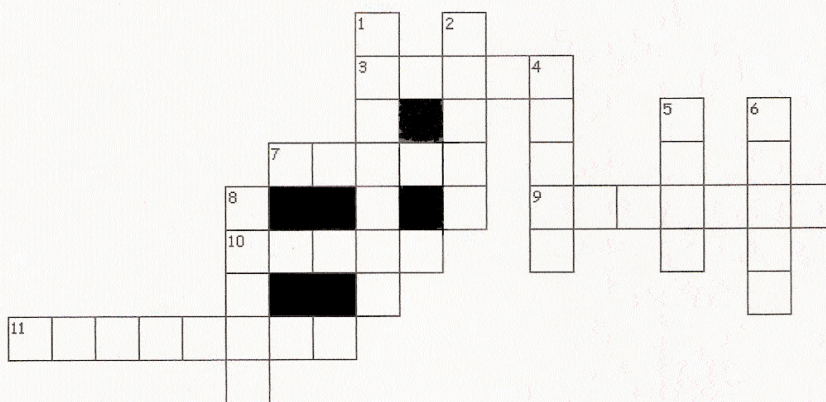
Find and circle these words:

- card
- comics
- pages
- reads
- shelf
- spell
- story
- write
- Yolo

*Created by Puzzlemaker at <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/BuildWordSearch.asp>*

*Make your own and submit it to the newsletter to be published.*

## Crossword (At the library ...)



**Across:**

- 3. Yolo \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ books
- 7. Authors \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ books
- 9. You borrow books from here
- 10. A book's name
- 11. Used in children's books

**Down:**

- 1. Found in a newspaper
- 2. Books have many of these
- 4. What books are stored on
- 5. Used to check out books
- 6. Letters create these
- 8. A book tells you this

*Created by Puzzlemaker at <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/BuildCrissCross.asp>*

*Make your own and submit it to the newsletter to be published.*

Contributions to this newsletter are from participants in the Yolo Reads adult literacy program and do not reflect the opinions or position of the County of Yolo or the Yolo County Library.