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Literacy supporters can sign declaration to Obama

Our nation faces a silent yet growing crisis: low literacy. More than 93 million American adults have limited literacy skills.

The Declaration for the Right to Literacy scroll has traveled across the United States and will be given to President Obama on Sept. 8 — International Literacy Day.

Tell President Obama you support the right to literacy by signing the scroll. The

scroll may be signed at the Yolo County Library administration office, at 226 Buckeye St. in Woodland on Friday, Aug. 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The scroll also will be available at the Central Valley Library Literacy Network's Read. Write. Now! Conference on Aug. 28.

To learn more about this project, visit www.literacy.powerline.com.

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

Online: www.yolocountylibrary.org
click on "Yolo Reads - Adult Literacy"

Heather Bratt, librarian, literacy services
heather.bratt@yolocounty.org

Yolo Reads, a program of the Yolo County Library, provides free tutoring to adults who want to improve their reading, writing, spelling and grammar skills.



Raquel, a Yolo Reads learner, reviews her notes from the Adult Learner Leadership Institute she attended.

Q&A: Leadership institute

By Rachel
Yolo Reads volunteer

At the Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI), adult learners participate in a program that helps them improve their leadership, communication and advocacy skills.

Raquel, a resident of Winters, joined Yolo Reads one year ago and recently participated in ALLI. She answered a few questions about her experience.

Q: How did you learn about ALLI

A: I learned about ALLI from Heather (Bratt, who leads Yolo Reads) and my first tutor, Phillipa.

Q: Why did you decide

to participate in ALLI?

A: I wanted to participate in the program to meet new people and experience different cultures.

Q: What did you like best about the program?

A: It helped me to be more confident, especially when speaking with new people. Also, I learned a lot about team-building and the importance of working together.

Q: What did you think of the learner facilitators?

A: Having Learners as facilitators really helped me to relax and be more comfortable meeting new people. They understand the

Learner profile

Yolo Reads learner achieves U.S. citizenship

By Rachel
Yolo Reads volunteer

After months of studying, Yolo Reads participant Analilia has become the literacy program's first learner to take and pass the test for U.S. citizenship.

The Winters resident, originally from Mexico, set the goal shortly after joining Yolo Reads in June 2009. Analilia said her family has offered tremendous support and encouragement. And her tutors, first Ellie and then Linda, both of Winters, have helped her prepare.

Analilia used several strategies to study for the citizenship exam. Yolo Reads served as one resource, providing materials to help her prepare. Heather Bratt, who runs the Yolo Reads program, loaned her "Civics and Literacy" and "Ready for the Interview" (available as books and CDs) by Lynne Weinthaub. From these books, Analilia made flash cards with the information she needed to learn.

Linda helped Analilia conduct Internet searches for answers to possible test questions. The Winters library staff was always ready to assist with additional resources. Linda also suggested writing out the answers to the study questions as a way of memorizing the information, which worked very well as a study tool.

When asked about the



Analilia, at right, and her tutor, Linda, look up from a study session. Analilia, a learner in the Yolo Reads program, recently passed the test for U.S. citizenship.

biggest challenge in studying for the exam, Analilia said, "Learning the connections between the different branches of government and the history behind it was difficult for me."

To become a citizen, Analilia had to submit an application to take the exam. After submitting the application, she was contacted to make an appointment. This appointment took place about four weeks after sending in the application.

During the exam, she was required to answer several questions from the study materials and then perform a short written exercise. Her first thought after being told she passed the exam was, "Finally, studying for this is over. I'm free to study other

things!"

Once her initial sense of relief passed, she thought, "I feel proud of myself because this was hard and I wasn't sure if it would happen. Now I feel like I can do even more."

Analilia is now working toward a new goal. She would like to obtain a cosmetology license. She and Linda have once again turned to the library's resources and are reading through a book about cosmetology. Analilia has researched the school she would like to attend but it is currently not accepting new students. In the meantime, she and Linda will continue studying on their own.

Both Analilia and Linda offered advice for literacy program learners thinking about pursuing citizenship.

"Studying for citizenship was like being part of a team," Analilia said. "Yolo Reads was a large support in studying. Heather, Linda and the library staff felt like a part of my team and when I succeeded it was like the whole team was succeeding."

Linda adds, "There's no deadline for submitting your application for the citizenship exam. You can take as much time as you need to prepare. There's no pressure because you can start any time and wait until you are ready to apply."

Analilia and Linda said they have had a great experience with Yolo Reads and encourage those thinking about participating to join the program.

Analilia was involved in literacy programs off and on for eight years before joining Yolo Reads in June 2009. Since then, her participation has been uninterrupted.

Analilia said Yolo Reads has "opened a big window into the English language" for her. And, she added, "I now have the confidence to question and engage strangers in English."

She advises new learners to "leave their nervousness behind and commit to setting aside time for learning." Tutors are very helpful and it's OK to make mistakes, she said. Linda adds that the most important thing is to make sure it's fun.

Yolo Reads annual celebration and awards ceremony

6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, **Sept. 15** at Winters Community Library, 708 Railroad Ave., Winters

Please **RSVP** with the number of people attending (families welcome)

by **Friday, Sept. 3**, to Heather Bratt at (530) 666-8019 or heather.bratt@yolocounty.org

Resources

Community colleges offer help for learners

Sacramento City College supports Yolo Reads!

Learner support is available at the centers in Davis, at 1909 Galileo Court, Suite B, and West Sacramento, at 1115 W. Capitol Ave.

For more information, call the Davis center at (530) 747-5200 or the West Sacramento center at (916) 375-5511.

Continue to practice your skills with classes in:

- Reading skills development
- Comprehension
- Vocabulary development

Improve your computer skills with classes for:

- New users
- Computer familiarization
- Introduction to the Internet

Fall 2010 classes begin Aug. 21. Spring 2011 classes begin Jan. 15, 2011. It's not too early to plan ahead!

Woodland Community College also offers classes at 2300 E. Gibson Road, Woodland.

For more information about WCC's classes, call (530) 661-5700.

Q&A: Leadership institute

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challenges learners have and so can be really helpful if someone is nervous.

Q: Are you interested in serving as a facilitator?

A: Yes, but I would want to learn a bit more before doing it.

Q: Would you recommend the program?

A: Yes, absolutely. It was such a great experience and many of the people that go have the same problems as each other so you can share solutions.

Q: Would you participate in the program again?

A: Yes, definitely.

Q: Do you have any advice/tips for Learners that are interested in the program?

A: Even if you are nervous or not confident it's ok to go because everyone there understands how you feel and will help you to relax and be able to speak in front of the group.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add about ALLI?

A: The program allowed me to be an advocate for Yolo Reads and ALLI by helping me to write a letter to my senator about how useful adult literacy programs are.

-- ALLI is offered once a year. Participants attend training one Saturday each month over a period of six months from January to June. Watch for announcements this fall about the next ALLI session.

For a video of ALLI, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5RksKTwRLA

For ALLI photos, visit <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Adult-Learner-Leadership-Institute-Northern-CA/125833410780370?ref=ts>



Read. Write. Now! Conference Details

Welcome to the Central Valley Library Literacy Network's 3rd Annual Tutor/Learner Conference! In this packet are the details you will need to attend the 2010 Read. Write. Now! We look forward to seeing you there!

- DATE:** Saturday, August 28th
Registration deadline is Wednesday, August 18th!
- TIME:** 8:00 am -- 3:00 pm
- COST:** \$10 per person -- scholarships may be available from your literacy program. Contact your coordinator! Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Literacy Support Council of Placer County
c/o Placer County Library
350 Nevada Street
Auburn, CA 95603
- LOCATION:** Twin Rivers Adult School
3222 Winona Way
North Highlands, CA 95660
- PARKING:** Ample parking is available on both ends of the building. No street parking is allowed. (map of location is attached)
- MEALS:** A continental breakfast and lunch are included with your \$10 registration fee. Both will be buffet style.
- WEBSITE:** <http://centralvalleyreads.blogspot.com>

Central Valley Library Literacy Network

Fun and games

Yolo County library branches

- Arthur F. Turner Community Library

1212 Merkle 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 Second 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

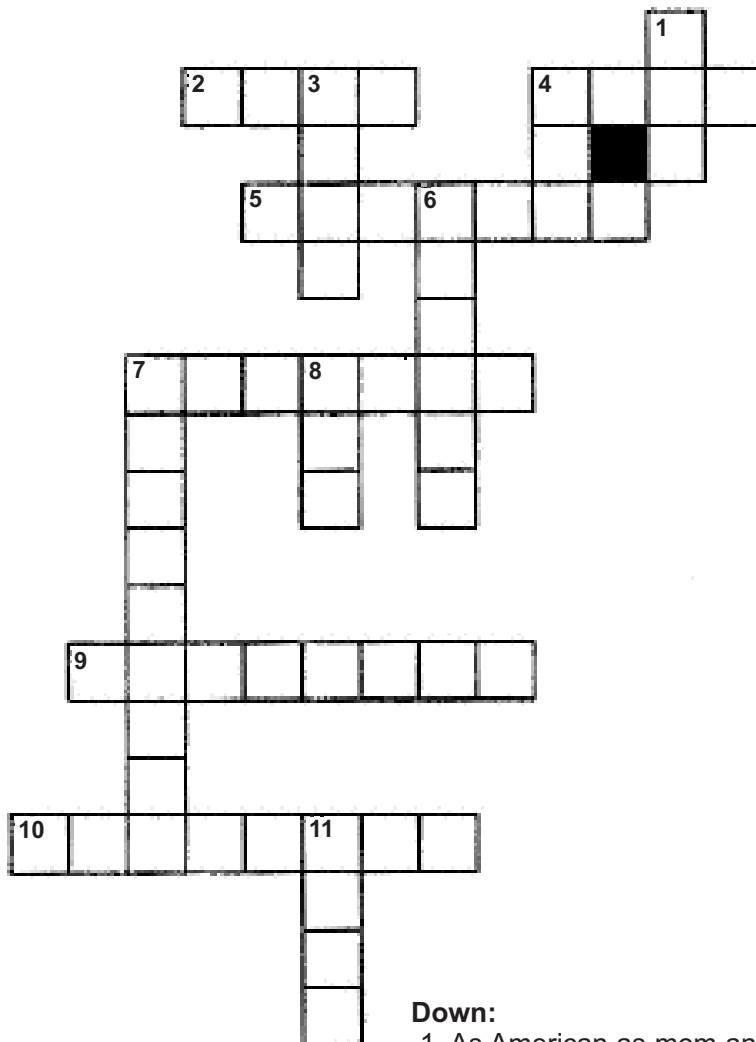
- Yolo Branch Library

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

Crossword (Summer Fun)



Across:

2. You paddle this through raging rivers
4. To stay afloat in a pool
5. "Living" outdoors
7. A hook, line and sinker sport
9. Annoying, bloodsucking insect
10. Babe Ruth hit 60 homers playing this game

Down:

1. As American as mom and apple ____
3. We pledge allegiance to this
4. The hot star that keeps us warm
6. An outdoor meal
7. These explode on Independence Day
8. When the mercury rises, you feel ____
11. These insects can ruin your picnic

Created by Elizabeth and her tutor, Jane, using Puzzlemaker at <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/BuildCrissCross.asp>

Make your own and submit it to the newsletter.

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.