



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

Beth Gabor
Manager of Operations & Strategy

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8042 • FAX (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2017

Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

Yolo Reads 9th Annual Literacy Celebration

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County’s Adult and Family Literacy Program, Yolo Reads, honored the accomplishments of adult learners, who have reached their literacy goals and improved reading and writing skills through the assistance of volunteer tutors, at the 9th Annual Literacy Celebration held on September 23rd at the Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library.

“1 out of every 7 adults are functionally illiterate. This means 1 out of 7 are reading and writing at a third grade level,” said Yolo County District 2 Supervisor Don Saylor, who commended the Yolo Reads program at the literacy celebration.

At the celebration Supervisor Saylor spoke about the importance of the program providing a one-on-one learning opportunity for adults. This included a specific example of a Yolo Reads learner whose country of origin does not provide education to women, but through the program, she was able to receive literacy instruction.

During the celebration two tutors and one learner shared their experiences. A learner spoke about how Yolo Reads erased his shame of not being able to read. This learner is now proudly reading to his granddaughter.

“Only through literacy can people fully participate in our community and become equal,” said Donna Weisman, a tutor, who highlighted the value of the Yolo Reads program. “Word by word, goal by goal, tutors and learners work together to build bridges and tear down walls.”

The literacy celebration brought together many supporters including Diane Adams, a Library Advisory Board member, and Professor Vaidehi Ramanathan from the Department of Linguistics at UC Davis. Professor Ramanathan, along with Ph.D. candidate Emily Moline, have provided in-service trainings for Yolo Reads tutors. The Nugget Markets, Raley’s, and Panaderia Mana bakery have consistently supported the annual literacy celebration with donations.

The Yolo Reads program is funded by the Yolo County Library, the California State Library Literacy Services, Friends of the Library groups, and private businesses in the community with the generous support of volunteers throughout Yolo County.

An orientation for interested volunteer tutors will be held on October 23rd. For more information about Yolo Reads or to learn about being a volunteer tutor, contact Nancy Pacheco at (530) 666-8019 or

libraryvolunteer@yolocounty.org. For more information about the Yolo County Library visit:
www.yolocountylibrary.org or connect with the Library on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.

###