

ALAMEDA READS NEWSLETTER

Winter - Spring 2014

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(510) 865-2454

alamedareads@alamedaca.gov

Alameda Reads September Walk for Literacy by The Leadership Team

Alameda Reads and Alameda Parks and Rec joined hands on Saturday, September 7 as part of National Literacy Month to take members of the community on a walk through Alameda. Why? To let people know what Alameda Reads is all about!



Susan Driscoll, a volunteer tutor and professional tour guide, led the walk through Alameda highlighting interesting historical facts and statistics about Alameda Reads. Learners and tutors walked with the community members and talked about the program from their own personal experience.

Community members learned that Alameda Reads is 20 years old, that 142 learners have participated in AR programs and that volunteers have contributed over 5000 hours to our program.

Stops included the Alameda City Hall, The Marketplace, Jackson Park and the Veterans Hall. Learners spoke about the importance of how reading and writing can help in so many aspects of our

lives: getting a new job or even a promotion, helping kids with homework, getting citizenship, gaining computer skills, and achieving a high school diploma. All walkers ended up at the Veterans Building for a tour of our office and some wonderful snacks provided by Feel Good Bakery of Alameda and coffee from Peets.

The walkers were most interested in learners who spoke about their personal experiences with Alameda Reads. Each one of these folks told wonderful, honest and touching stories of how they have worked with and benefited from Alameda Reads. They had the full attention of all the walkers.

What was clear to all, after listening to these learners, is that their personal fulfillment gained by increased literacy has a ripple effect that includes their family, community and ultimately the world we live in.

All of us ended the walk with so much gratitude for the courage and persistence of the learners. And, importantly, the community learned a lot about the value of a program like Alameda Reads.



ALAMEDA READS

Sue Mark
Program Director

Barbara Papik
Program Assistant

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Thursday: 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

CONTACT

(510) 865-2454
2203 Central Ave. Room 350
Alameda, CA 94501

alamedareads@alamedaca.gov
www.alamedareads.com

NEW Alameda Reads Book!

Alameda Reads is putting together a new book of learners' writing and we need your writing! Your writing for this book should describe your beliefs, values or what is very important to you.

How do I know what to write?

To prepare to write, talk about your ideas in your tutoring sessions. We will send you some materials and questions to inspire you. You can also come to the writing workshops on Wednesday evenings to brainstorm ideas and practice writing for the book. Find the class meeting days and times on page 5.

What do I need to write?

Write what you feel comfortable writing. You can write a few words, a few sentences, or a few paragraphs. If there are any pictures you want to include with your writing, let us know.

Who will read the book?

This book will be available in the Alameda Reads office and the Alameda Free Library. It might also be available at local bookstores. The book will be inspirational for the community.

If you want to be involved in creating this book, please let us know!



Welcome Barb!

Have you heard a new voice on the phone? Barb Papik is Alameda Reads' new program assistant. She has been keeping everything in order. You may get a friendly reminder call from Barb about upcoming classes. Or, if you have a question about what materials to use, come in to talk with her. Please come by the office to say 'hi' to Barb.



Special Thanks



We had terrific support for our September Walk from the Alameda Reads Leadership Team and additional volunteers. Our office runs smoothly because several dedicated volunteers come in every week.

We are very grateful for continued funding support we receive from the Friends of the Alameda Library and the California State Library. We also received a generous anonymous donation.

**A huge 'thank you' to all of our volunteers.
YOU help make programming happen at Alameda Reads.**

Pat Ashley
Joe Brandt
Carmen Chu
Susan Driscoll
Jordona Elderts

Lisa Ginardi
Goldie Grover
Mary Kay Hardwick
Alison Harris
Brian Harris

Akiko Journeay
Helen Lopez
Lou Pinkoff
Kathy Rush
Evelyn Sonway

Michele Wu
Lynn Whalen

Have an hour to spare? Want to learn a new skill? There are many ways you can help Alameda Reads. **Please let us know if you are interested.**

My Time at Alameda Reads

by Brian Harris

Over this past year since I have been volunteering at Alameda Reads, I have not only acquired new skills but have also practiced many the skills I already have. Just one of the skills I have picked up is how to connect a printer to a computer. This has been a great help outside the office, where friends ask my help in getting their unresponsive printers running. It has also prepared me for the great frustrations of working life, letting me know I need to have patience.

I have also learned how to use old skills in new ways. For example: I learned to take my knack for web browsing and use it for researching new technology for the program. My education hasn't ended there, though. As I continue to volunteer, I continue to learn new things like how to set up a new email address for the program, how to properly edit newsletters, and write reports.

Volunteering at Alameda Reads continues to be a wonderful experience and I'm glad I can help a much-needed program.



LEARNER SUCCESSES



Anthony: Was accepted to Laney College's training program

Chuck & Alex: Accepted to & completed a solar installation training program

Daniel: Passed GED language arts & social studies tests

Latrina: Started attending the GED computer practice lab

Tony: Completed a job retraining program at the College of Alameda

Julia: Wrote lessons plans for work

Elida: Passed the writing/essay portion of GED

Lou F.: Wrote short stories

Alex: Negotiated a raise at work

Lee: Attended GED lab & GED math class

Esperanza: Has included her family in reading books

Benny: Took the CAHSEE test

Evelyn: Reads with her daughter

Yesenia: Took the CAHSEE test

Evelyn S.: Got a new job

Carrin: Passed all of her GED tests

Evelyn R.: Passed the citizenship test

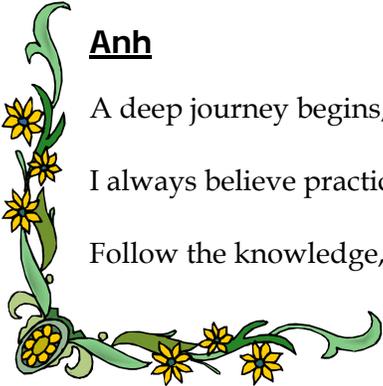


Writing Poetry

These wonderful poems were written by learners who came to *Writing Practice*, a weekly writing workshop held this past summer.

Alameda Reads offers weekly writing workshops taught by Amy Prevedel this spring. All learners and tutors are welcome to join this group to learn how to write without stress.

To sign up, please call the Alameda Reads office: 865-2454.



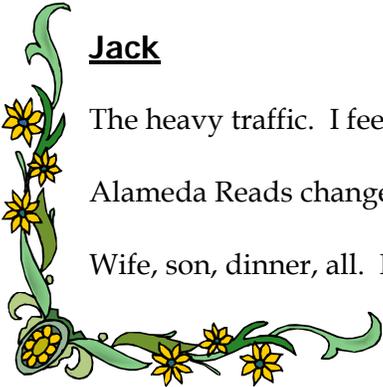
Anh

A deep journey begins, one step.
I always believe practice makes perfect.
Follow the knowledge, success will come.



Katherine

Coming from church. See the light.
Rain makes the flower grow lovely.
Having a child makes me grow.
Come edge of the cliff. Dead.



Jack

The heavy traffic. I feel happy.
Alameda Reads changed my speaking deeply.
Wife, son, dinner, all. I'm comfortable.



Anthony

Had to run, was no fun.
School is exciting. Glad to go.
Summer is almost over, fall's near.



Isabel

Magic word treasure son thank you!
Dreams, intentions come in my life!
Husband, love, friend, relaxation, smiles, infinito!



Marisa

My family keeps me very grounded.
New job will bring new life.
Happiness is good, health and friends.

Alameda Reads Free Workshops

Computer Basics

at the library

Tuesdays

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Email: February 18 - March 18

Internet: April 1 - April 29



Computer Basics:
Alameda Main Library
1550 Oak Street
Computer Lab, 2nd Floor
Alameda, CA 94501

To register, call:

**ALAMEDA
READS**
(510) 865-2454

Relax into Writing

at the library

Wednesdays

6:00 – 8:00 PM

February 26 - March 26

April 23 - May 21



Relax into Writing:
Alameda Main Library
1550 Oak Street
Room 138
Alameda, CA 94501

Drop-In GED Practice Lab

at the library

Fridays

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM



You do not need to sign up for this lab, but remember to bring your library card.

Drop-in Practice Lab:
Alameda Main Library
1550 Oak Street
Computer Lab, 2nd Floor
Alameda, CA 94501

*Alameda Reads is a service of the Alameda Free Library.
It is generously supported by the Friends of the Alameda Free Library
and the California State Library.*

Alameda Reads Small Group Learning

All tutors and learners are welcome to all classes.

Please call 865-2454 to sign up.

READING PRACTICE

ONCE A MONTH

Saturdays, 10AM - Noon

March 8, April 5, May 3, June 7

**Room 138
Alameda Free Library**

BOOK CLUB

ONCE A MONTH

Thursdays, 6:30—8:00 PM

March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19

**Alameda Reads Office
2203 Central Avenue**

Welcome New Tutors!

Every year we train 15-20 volunteer tutors. People from the community want to volunteer for many reasons: to share their joy of reading, to help others, and to give back to Alameda.

Our program exists through the hard work and dedication of our volunteer tutors.

We thank you!

Back Row (left to right):

Mike Slavsky, Caitlin Kenney,
Sue McLaughlin, Lisa Ginardi

Front Row (left to right):

Janice Worthen, Melissa Wilson,
Amanda Nolte



Read Write Learn

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