



## *President's Message* **We're 40 Years Old** By Karen Fleming

Last year when the Adult Literacy League's Board of Directors started talking about 2009 being the League's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I began wondering when and how the League began and who started it? Thanks to the League's Administrative Coordinator, Bob Parsons, I didn't have to go far to find answers to my questions. There is a binder with a treasure trove of information.

I thought you would find it as interesting as I did regarding the year 1969 and how a few women (Margaret Trussell, Martha Peterson and Virginia Smith) started the League. Before I begin, one thing that is important to keep in mind is that the League was not always involved in English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. In 1969, Margaret Trussell, Dean of Women at Santa Rosa Junior College, and her good friend, Martha Peterson, a community activist, started the League to help adults learn Basic English. Then, in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and the migration of the boat people, the League began to focus on ESL. By 1979, the League was teaching more ESL than Basic English. Later the League was certified as an ESL provider for immigrants involved in the Federal Amnesty program. And now, the League teaches adults ESL exclusively.

However, getting back to 1969 and the beginnings of the League, on November 1, 1968 Martha Peterson and Virginia Smith went to Berkeley for a 2-day

workshop given by Robert Likens at the Berkeley Adult Literacy Center. On May 26, 1969 the Sonoma County Interfaith Social Action Council voted to sponsor an Adult Literacy Council. *So, May 26, 1969 was the actual starting point of the League.* On June 20 & 21, 1969, the Sonoma County Interfaith Social Action Council again sponsored Mr. Likens' coming to Santa Rosa and conducting a 9-hour workshop at the First Presbyterian Church. Thirty-two attended. On June 26<sup>th</sup> eighteen people attended the first organizational meeting of the Sonoma County Adult Literacy Council at Virginia Smith's home, and Martha Peterson was elected coordinator.

In July of 1969, Martha and Virginia, at the request of Public Defender Marteen Miller, visited the Honor Farm to see whether the men could be helped through the League. All 22 men who met with Martha and Virginia could already read and write. Apparently, the true illiterates, ashamed or fearful, stayed away. In August of 1969, Martha and Virginia talked to Sheriff Bowen at the County Jail about tutoring prisoners. He felt that after their release would be a better time for tutoring.

Mr. Litkins then returned in September for another workshop at the First Presbyterian Church and 61 attended. October was a month for outreach. Martha talked to Joseph Baril, Department of Human Resources and Development, and Mr. Baril later addressed a workshop about the WIN program and referred several students. She talked to Jack Healy, Dean of Santa Rosa Evening College, about organizing a course in adult literacy. She then spoke to the Cadet Girl Scouts at Rincon Valley Junior High and the girls requested a workshop.

Finally, on November 13 & 14, 1969, Martha gave her first workshop at South Park School.

Forty years later we have trained over 4,000 tutors and 8,000 students. Last year alone we had 186 active volunteers who reported 5,213 volunteer hours. Based on those hours, in 2008 we gave back to our community \$101,706.

What a legacy.

## Special "Thanks Giving"

### To Volunteers, Donators & Sponsors

*It is with a great deal of gratitude that the Board of Directors thanks all the tutors, mentors and volunteers for their time and support of the League. Without you, the League would not exist.*

- Ardath Lee and Karen Butler – for selecting materials and assembling our new information packet on applying for U.S. citizenship.
- Nancy Broomhead and Janet Horrall – for posting flyers around town to recruit more volunteers.
- Rodgers & Nancy Broomhead for reserving the conference room at Spring Lake Village for the Board of Director's annual planning meeting.
- Bonnie Goepfrich and Goepfrich Winery – wine donation for our PASCO raffle basket.
- Sunny Bircumshaw – for handling office filing jobs with great attention to detail.
- To our librarian, Sandy Martensen – for a timely and time-consuming re-ordering of our library.
- Mary Cunningham, Susan McMeeking and Karen Butler – for putting out the fundraising mailing.
- Pat Lennon, Ardath Lee, Tom Buckley, Sandy Martensen, Mallory Gerard, Daryl Wright, Joy Metzger. – For staffing our booth at the Sonoma County Book Festival in September.
- **And**, to William Pitney who donated our raffle prize, a brand new iPod.
- Medtronic's Linda Price for seeing that 100 surplus 3-ring binders came to us for use in our training workshops.
- Knox Presbyterian Church and especially Charlotte Baird for hosting the League's 2008 Membership Meeting.
- Richard Parry-Jones and Maureen McCusker for helping with the In-Service mailing.

## Thank You

### Sponsors



# Medtronic

## Thank You

### Donations

Monica McKenzie, Tom Buckley and Sharon Modrick for their ongoing contributions with corporate matching.

Forty-one donors responded to our November annual fundraising letter raising \$9194.17.

## 2008 Membership Meeting

The League's 2008 Membership Meeting was held November 15th at the Knox Presbyterian Church. The members voted in the 2009 Board of Directors: President-Karen Fleming, Treasurer-William Pitney, Secretary-Patricia Lennon, Directors-Tom Buckley, David Chung, Gary Holm, Gretchen Werner and Rosalie Wright.

Karen Fleming presented Shirley Goodin with the Helen Tomigal Award. Shirley had volunteered for seven years and was the Board of Directors Treasurer. She provided quality reports that enabled the Board to accurately manage the League's financial future, and was committed and selfless in her support of the League. Mallory Gerard also recognized Bob Parsons for his dedication, knowledge, and selfless support of the League. What would we do without Bob? William Pitney reviewed the League's financials, Karen Fleming discussed the 2009 direction of the League, and Ruth Maloney reviewed 2008.

Tutors Mallory Gerard and Rosalie Wright and student Carmen Marin were the keynote speakers and they discussed what works from the tutor and student perspectives: What motivates a student to continue learning English and what motivates a tutor to continue tutoring?



Carmin Marin & Mallory Gerard

There were some faces at the meeting that we had not seen in a while. Sandy Kriegsman, former President, and Jack Schuyler, former Board Member.

It was an informative meeting and we hope to see more volunteers and members at our next annual meeting on November 14, 2009.

## *Tutor In-Service*

**March 14, 2009**

Have you asked yourself the following questions: How do I motivate my student? How do I measure my student's progress? What is realistic progress?

On March 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00, Nancy Schell and Eleanor Welch will be answering those questions in an in-service designed to address "Student's Goals and Measurements". The In-Service will be at 651 Yolanda Avenue in the Goodwill Industries conference room. RSVP – 539-3848.



Nancy Schell and Eleanor Welch

Tutors will be examining:

- What goal setting is
- The definition of a goal
- What a realistic goal is
- The benefits of, and barriers to, goal setting
- How goal setting can be approached from the learner's perspective
- Long-term and short-term goals
- Motivational factors
- Measuring progress, applying results to the A.L.L. evaluation form

... and much much more!

Join us for an informative and fun morning with a social hour after the session!

If you know of someone outside the League who would be interested in attending this In-Service, please register him/her with the League office. The cost is \$10.00 for non-League individuals, payable at the door.

## *Tutor Training Again!*

**By Nancy Schell**

The Adult Literacy League recently hosted two tutor trainings.

### *Congratulations and Welcome :*

Janet Horrall, Danielle Jones, Dave Jordan-Irwin, Sue Julian, Rich Kagel, Martha Longoria, Steve Michiels, Thomas Monahan, Ernie Mull, Joanna Mull, Jean Neering, Gary Sumner, Janet Verlander, Mark Weigle

The Fall Tutor Workshop was held at the Healdsburg Community Church primarily for interested members of the Church who are developing an outreach program for the Latino community. Ruth Maloney, A.L.L. Executive Director, obtained a generous grant from Medtronic which covered most training expenses, and Ruth, Pastor Dave Jordan-Irwin, Archie Julian and Steve Michaels negotiated a contract allowing A.L.L. to bring our training program to the church. Trainers, Eleanor Welch and Nancy Schell, and 14 class members met at the church for two consecutive Saturdays from 9:00 to 3:00. Refreshments and lunch were provided by Archie Julian, his wife and other assistants. The church is currently setting up its outreach program with trained volunteers and anticipates training additional church members.

### *Congratulations and Welcome:*

Elle Caesar, Maureen McCusker, Creed Wood, Hilda Walstrom, Richard Parry-Jones, Barbara Ford, Lu Lanson, Alicia Juarez, Alice Marci, Elaine Tullson, Beth Batchem (front), James Scott, Judi Loyd, Dan Jenkins, Linda Onstad, Archie Julian (rear), Ton Caetano, Linda LaForge, Jacque Mielke, Cott Hobart, Yvonne Rose, Kristin Piotter, Jerid Heyne.

The winter training concluded Saturday, February 7th. Twenty-three volunteer tutors finished the training led by Eleanor and Nancy. The class represented a variety of occupational backgrounds – physician, surgeon, nurse, veterinarian, medical records technician, sheriff's deputy, naval aviator, teachers and teacher's



Elle Caesar, Maureen McCusker, Creed Wood, Hilda Walstrom, Richard Parry-Jones, Barbara Ford, Lu Lanson, Alicia Juarez, Alice Marci (rear), Elaine Tullson, Beth Batchem (front), James Scott, Judi Loyd, Dan Jenkins, Linda Onstad, Archie Julian (rear), Ton Caetano, Linda LaForge, Jacque Mielke, Cott Hobart, Yvonne Rose, Kristin Piotter, Jerid Heyne

aide, counselor, job coach, paralegal, business analyst, marketing, store displayer, retailer, customer service representative, various clerical positions, postal carrier and a chocolate maker. It was a lively, enthusiastic group challenging the trainers with thoughtful questions and concerns.

Three more trainings are scheduled for 2009, April 18 and 25, August 1 and 8, and October 17 and 24.

### *Tutor Tip*

**By David Karp**

**Comparison shopping:** I was surprised to learn that none of my students were familiar with the concepts of comparison shopping; unit prices; nutritional information on product packages, and similar concepts the students said were not common in their native country. The students in turn were surprised to learn that the largest size of a product is not always the most economical and that a product's ingredients could be harmful to the health, such as in the case of high sodium or high sugar content. Most food markets show unit pricing alongside the package price, so shoppers can make meaningful comparisons. Accompany your student to a food market and start exploring unit pricing. Is it less expensive to buy a six-pack of soft drinks than to purchase them individually? Do different brands of a product, such as cereal, contain the same or different volumes? Specifically check some of the products the student routinely purchases. I asked my students to bring in a packaged food from home so that we could discuss the nutritional information printed on the wrapping. (It's difficult to do this standing in a market!) Several students were shocked to find out how much sugar or salt some of

their favorite products contained. One mother was chagrined as she quickly calculated how much sugar her five year-old was ingesting every day by drinking soda pop, instead of fruit juices or water. Comparison shopping led to discussions about health issues, such as obesity and diabetes. Here again, the students were woefully uninformed. Ultimately, the students were introduced to publications such as Consumer Reports, which rates and evaluates products of all types. They were especially interested in ratings and comparisons of big-ticket items such as home appliances, automobiles and entertainment equipment. Until our discussion, they said they made their choices almost entirely on price. They were not pleased to learn that the most expensive item isn't always the best or the most economical in the long run.

### *The Human Race*

**By Tom Buckley**

*Mark your calendars for the 2009 Sonoma County human race Saturday May 9, 2009.*

The Human Race is Sonoma County's largest community fundraiser. It is a walk/run that provides an opportunity for all nonprofit organizations in Sonoma County to raise money for their programs. Guess who benefits? We all do.

The Human Race will be held May 9th and is organized by the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County. Individual runners and walkers solicit pledges from friends and supporters for contributions to a favorite participating nonprofit organization. Race day consists of a 3K and 10K run and walk, a pancake breakfast and lots of celebrations, contests, prizes and music.

More information will be sent to you by the end of March. In the meantime, begin talking to your friends, families, and the students you are tutoring. Let's get together, support the Literacy League in its 40th year and have some fun on the 9th of May.

## *United Way*

Did you know you can designate the Adult Literacy League of Sonoma County in your workplace giving campaigns? Your United Way donations are an important part of our funding and every dollar helps us reach our financial goals. Remember to add your name to the form if you would like an acknowledgement letter from us. Otherwise, United Way will code your donation "anonymous".

## *2009 League Officers and Committee Chairs*

### **Board of Directors Officers**

President: Karen Fleming  
Vice-President: Vacant  
Secretary: Patricia Lennon  
Treasurer: William Pitney

### **Board of Directors**

David Chung  
Gary Holm  
Gretchen Werner  
Rosalie Wright

### **Committee Chairs**

Grant writing: Ruth Maloney  
Librarian: Sandy Martensen  
Newsletter Editor: Karen Fleming  
Nominating: Rodgers Broomhead  
Publicity: Gretchen Werner  
Student Coordinator: Barbara Ramirez  
Tutor Coordinator: Niva Esquivel  
Tutor In-services: Vacant  
Tutor Mentor: Pat Lennon  
Tutor Training: Nancy Schell, Eleanor Welch  
Workplace Literacy: George Dancisak & Mallory Gerard

## *More Ways You Can Help*

### **Volunteer Needs**

- We are planning a 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration in September and could use your help in developing and planning an event.

- The Board of Directors is looking for more Board Members. There are six board meetings each year held on the second Monday of each month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Also, there is the Annual Membership meeting in November and a Planning Meeting in January.
- Have you been involved in fundraising or grant writing?
- Are you interested in being the editor of the A.L.L.? The League office is looking for volunteers with data entry skills.
- We need a volunteer who can contact Spanish-speaking students by phone to explain the program and update applications. The telephone calls can be done at the volunteer's home.

If any of these inspire you, please call us on 539-3848.

## *Wish List*

The League office needs

- Adobe Acrobat Pro Software
- Laptop Computer
- Laser Printer
- Easel

## *Why Do We Tutor?*

**Following is a summation report from a tutor:**

At the time I began as Maria's tutor, she knew only a few words of English, but she was a very eager learner. That first year, before her younger daughter had started school, her time for lessons was very limited. At the end of the first year, Maria's family moved into town. Because she had more opportunities to try out her English, she became more confident in speaking. Also, her daughters were speaking more and more English at home. Maria is now able to converse both in person and on the telephone. Though her English is still 'broken,' she can get meanings across to the other person. I am very proud of her progress. She was selected by the principal of her children's elementary school to be the representative parent of the Spanish-speaking students, and she attended district meetings with the principal. She is a wonderful person, and we have become good friends through our times spent together.

*Thank you tutors for all that you do for your students. We still have over 60 adults on our waiting list. If you were once a tutor and are reading this, please consider becoming active again. Call the office: 539-3848*

## *Mark Your Calendar*

March 14 — In-Service, 10:00-12:00  
April 13 — Board Meeting, 9:30-11:30  
April 18 — Tutor Workshop, 9:00-3:30  
April 25 — Tutor Workshop, 9:00-3:30  
May 9 — The Human Race  
May 25 — Office Closed  
June 8 — Board Meeting, 9:30-11:30

## *For Your Information*

### **Adult Literacy League of Sonoma County, Inc.**

651 Yolanda Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707.539.3848 (ph) 707.539.3899 (fax)  
literacy@sonic.net  
www.literacyleague.org

### **Office Hours**

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. MWThF  
1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Tuesday  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays & holidays

Executive Director: Ruth Maloney  
Administrative Coordinator: Bob Parsons  
ALLSTAR Editor: Karen Fleming

*Don't forget* to report your monthly hours to the League office!  
Fax, e-mail, phone, or snail mail — they A.L.L. work.



ADULT LITERACY  
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