



*The Redlands Adult Literacy Program*

**California**

*By Nelly Espinoza*

**Big Cities**

With homeless  
People

**Big Freeways**

With wide lanes

Very beautiful  
I like it!

**Lots of nature**

Mountains

Parks

Beaches

Warm weather,  
cool & hot!

Vegetables, too!

**And quiet Redlands**

Kind people

Family Service

Association

Help for people  
I like it!

From *Our Stories,*  
*A Collection of*  
*Writings, 2018*



*Literacy Changes*  
*Lives!*

**Adult Learner is a Role Model for her Children**

Nelly Espinoza, the mother of four young children, joined the Adult Literacy program because she wanted to model the value of education for her children. She wanted to read books to her children, help them with their homework, and communicate with their teachers.

Nelly wants to improve her reading and writing skills for her work. She is responsible for the paperwork in her family's landscaping business and she wants to perform her work tasks well.

Nelly's tutor, Teri Martin, believes that improving literacy is important because good literacy is essential to meet life's goals from finding housing to dealing with financial matters or advancing one's education.

Nelly says that working with Teri has given her more experience with reading and writing. She shared, "Now I can

communicate with my children's teachers and read notices from the school." Her work in the literacy program has given Nelly confidence, which will help her accomplish her goals in life.

One of Nelly's highlights in the program was writing her poem "California", (shown at left.) Her poem was published in the 2018 adult literacy anthology, *Our Stories, A Collection of Writings*. Nelly also shared her writing at the Redlands Adult Literacy 2018 Celebration of Authors. Nelly said sharing her work with others made her feel proud.

Nelly encouraged others to join the Adult Literacy program and to "never lose the hope of moving forward or getting ahead."

Teri shared that the Redlands Adult Literacy Program is the best



**Nelly Espinoza (left) with her two youngest children and her tutor, Teri Martin**

opportunity in town for adults to receive one-on-one tutoring in reading and writing. Teri said, "Redlands is the town that I love because of the strong volunteer network here, it makes our town a very special place to live."

We admire Nelly and other adult learners for their courage to improve their literacy, while raising a family and working. Nelly and Teri invite you to join the Redlands Adult Literacy Program. Visit the A.K. Smiley Public Library to check out and read *Our Stories, A Collection of Writings*.

**2019 Community Read: Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman**

The Redlands Adult Literacy Program has named *Seedfolks*, by Paul Fleischman, as the 2019 Community Read. The selection has inspired comments from readers. Observations include:

- The lessons we learn from children are especially powerful.

- The story is about how people connect to others to transform a neighborhood.
- The book represents "a small picture about American immigrants."
- The story is "a beautiful example of how one person's modest effort

can have an enormous ripple effect."

*Seedfolks* offers an important message to every reader. Join us by reading *Seedfolks* which is available for check out at the library.

Please save the date: On September 7th, the adult literacy program will celebrate the impact of *Seedfolks* on our community.

## Redlands Adult Literacy Program

Sponsored by A. K. Smiley Public Library and  
The Friends of A. K. Smiley Public Library,  
a 501.c.3 organization.  
Donations are gratefully accepted.

**For more information...**  
**Call: 909.798.7565, ext. 4138**  
**Email: literacy@akspl.org**

**Stop by: A. K. Smiley Public Library, located  
at 125 W. Vine St., Redlands, CA**

**Visit the library website: [www.akspl.org](http://www.akspl.org)**  
Follow us on Instagram: *friendsofsmileylibrary*  
Facebook: *Friends of A.K. Smiley Public Library*



The **MISSION** of the Redlands Adult Literacy Program is to provide professional and confidential tutoring in reading and writing to help learners in the Redlands community reach their literacy goals.

All participants are treated with dignity and respect.

### **You can help support adult literacy in our community:**

- Spread the word that literacy help is available at Smiley Library—most learners find out about the program from family and friends.
- Become a literacy volunteer.
- Come to literacy events.
- Join the Friends of A. K. Smiley Public Library and purchase books at the Friends Bookstore, located in the lower-level of Smiley Library.
- Make donations to the Redlands Adult Literacy Program.

**Help change someone's life!**

## **Celebrate Adult Learners' Successes!**

Throughout the year learners use their new reading and writing skills to reach new goals. The following highlights recent achievements:

Thirty-nine learners submitted works for publication in the adult literacy anthology, *Our Stories, A Collection of Writing, Volume 2*. This anthology, which will be published in the spring, includes personal memories, reflections on readings, poems, and inspired writings.

Nine learners participated in the Southern California Library Literacy Network's 18th Annual Writer to Writer Challenge. This writing challenge invites adult learners throughout southern California to write a letter to an author whose book inspired them. Tanya Jauregui, was awarded runner-up in the intermediate writer category. She wrote a letter to Joan Anderson, author of *A Year by the Sea*. Tanya wrote, "After reading your book, it made me realize that women have their own keys to their happiness."

One learner completed the Adult Literacy Leadership Institute Bootcamp and several learners have made public presentations to community groups. Another learner

assists the adult literacy computer instructor. Learners began reading words, sentences, and books on their own. More than a dozen learners reported that they had advanced in their employment. Some learners are pursuing certifications, citizenship, or have graduated from the Adult Literacy program having met their literacy goals.

All learners are to be congratulated for their commitment to improve their literacy.



**Tanya Jauregui,  
runner-up in the  
Intermediate Writer Category**



**Tutors and Learners Celebrate at the  
Writer to Writer Challenge Awards Brunch**