



# Redlands Reads!

## *The Redlands Adult Literacy Program*

### **The Literacy Program**

**By Sonla Gutierrez**

**The literacy program is great**

**Come out and participate**

**You are the candidate**

**Don't hesitate**

**Come out and motivate**

**Reading and writing is the way to educate.**

**Tutor: Michelle Schnepfer**

**From Our Stories, A Collection of Writings Volume 2, 2019**

~

***Literacy Changes Lives!***

## **Adult Learner Inspires a Love of Reading**

Before joining the adult literacy program, Zita Valdivia thought, "You read because you have to." Zita now knows that choosing books of interest creates a love of reading and she shares, "Now I read because I like to learn."

Zita enjoys reading stories about people like author Francisco Jiménez. She shared, "His story reminds me of my parents' story because they lived like he did and they taught me to work hard and never to give up."

Zita's love of reading has inspired her children. She said, "Because my kids see me reading books that I like, they have learned to choose books of interest to them. Now they love reading! My son reads graphic novels because the pictures help explain the story better than words alone, and they make him feel like he is in the story."

Nancy Reid, Zita's tutor, encourages beginning readers to check out books from the adult literacy collection. She shared, "Tutoring is an extremely fulfilling experience that has brought me great satisfaction; I feel like I am contributing when I see my learner accomplish her goals."

Nancy and Zita have enjoyed the positive influence of the adult literacy program. Nancy shares, "Among tutors there is a philosophy of seeing the very best in our



**Zita Valdivia, right, and tutor, Nancy Reid**

learners and encouraging them to feel safe and to do their best. As learners become more comfortable with reading and writing everyone shares a feeling of accomplishment." Zita added, "The adult literacy program is a real community; we are all connected even though we don't know each other."

Since joining the literacy program, Zita has more confidence; she has become a U.S. citizen and has voted! She is a published author who read her story aloud to a large audience. Improving her reading and writing has helped Zita and her family. "I would tell others if they join the program they will get better at reading and writing. Take a chance to better yourself, and accomplish what you want."

## **Adult Literacy Anthology, Volume 2 Published**

The Redlands Adult Literacy Program recently published Our Stories, A Collection of Writings, Volume 2., an adult literacy anthology that includes 43 stories written by adult learners and tutors. In June the program held a Celebration of Authors event where authors read their submissions to other program participants, their families and the Redlands community. Literacy coordinator, Diane Shimota, noted: "I am inspired by the impact of each of the stories. Adult learner families were filled with pride for their loved ones' accomplishments. Publishing the anthology has helped learners improve their literacy."

(Photo contributed by Marie Bunke Photography: Adult learner and author Martha Fuentes)



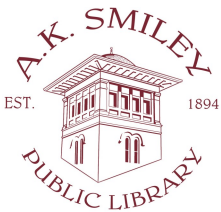
## Redlands Adult Literacy Program

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](mailto: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!***

## ***Adult Literacy Welcomes Learners' Families to Literacy!***



**Twelve families participated in the September 21st, 2019 inaugural Family Literacy Program meeting.**

Parents and caregivers are their children's first and most important teachers. Recognizing this important fact, many adults enroll in the A. K. Smiley Public Library's Adult Literacy Program to improve their reading and writing so that they can read to their children, help them with their homework, and communicate with their children's teachers.

Acknowledging the need to support literacy for the entire family, the Redlands Adult Literacy Program through a grant from the California State Library, has launched a Family Literacy Program. The goal of this family-oriented program is to introduce adult learners and their children

to the value and pleasure of reading together as a family. The underlying principle of the program is that children who are read to by adults learn to read better, and as a result, these children will be able to meet their educational and employment goals as adults.

Families who attended the first meeting of the Family Literacy Program participated in an interactive read-aloud of two books with leaders Joan Prehoda and Renee Kennedy. Parents and children worked together to create crafts and shared a healthy snack of apples. Each participant received a book to take home to begin building a home reading library.