



Redlands Reads!

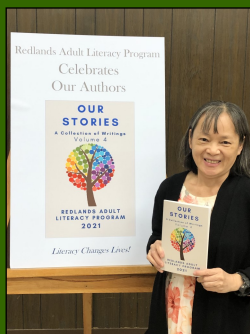
The Redlands Adult Literacy Program

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

~ Maya Angelou

The Adult Literacy Program honors adult learners who have written impactful pandemic stories.

"...my husband was laid off, and our country began to take the pandemic seriously. People could not hug, shake hands, or kiss... We still do not know when the virus will disappear permanently..."



By Cinderella Tran, "*Perfect Pandemic Pain*," included in *Our Stories, A Collection of Writings, Volume 4*

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Literacy Changes Lives!

Adult Learner and Tutor Encourage Others to Join the Redlands Adult Literacy Program

Pete Smith has been a custodian with a school district for 20 years. He joined the adult literacy program to improve his reading and writing skills because he wanted life to be easier. Pete wanted to read a book, to communicate with his supervisor through email, to read subtitles on TV, and to understand internet information. Pete shared that he was motivated to join the program because "reading was like trying to put together puzzles when some of the pieces were missing."

Mark Cook, Pete's tutor, shared that reading came easily to him, as his mom was an English teacher. Tutoring is an ability that he has always had and he is

glad to share that gift with others in a helpful way. His knowledge of phonics was particularly useful when he began tutoring Pete and he feels well supported by all the literacy materials that are available.

Since joining the literacy program, Pete read a book for the first time. He said finishing his first book was fun, he enjoyed it. The literacy program has helped him because his reading and spelling has improved.

Pete and Mark would like others to know that if a person wants to improve their reading and writing skills, they can join the adult literacy program. They hope that you will spread the word that



Pete Smith (left) and his tutor Mark Cook

free literacy help is available at the library.

The literacy program has given Pete hope. He is reading subtitles on TV and can understand important instructions from his supervisors. He wants to continue to improve his reading skills and to read more books.

Mark shared that the literacy program has enriched his life. He feels good when he sees how Pete's improved literacy has changed his life.

Adult Literacy at YMCA and Clement Middle School

As the Redlands community slowly returns to a post-pandemic "normal," the Adult Literacy Program has been able to restore its off-site small group meetings, which bring adult literacy programming to the broader community.

Adult Literacy began a new partnership with YMCA of the East Valley, which welcomes several adult literacy teams to meet weekly at their facility. Likewise, Clement Middle School hosts weekly literacy meetings. The off-site locations make it



Literacy Teams meet at YMCA of the East Valley

possible for many adult learners to join the adult literacy program.

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 literacy web page:

www.akspl.org/literacy

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 by using the donate button at www.akspl.org/literacy.

Help change someone's life!

Our Stories, A Collection of Writings Volume 4

The Redlands Adult Literacy Program recently published its fourth collection of adult learner writings in its anthology entitled, [Our Stories, A Collection of Writings](#). The anthology includes chapters on the resiliency of the adult literacy community, adult learners' personal stories, learners' interests and memories, as well as reflections on books that adult learners have read. Learners were invited to record a reading of their writings so that the entire Redlands community could enjoy their work. If you wish to watch the videos, please visit the adult literacy website: www.akspl.org/literacy.

The anthology provides an annual opportunity for adult learners, working with their tutors, to express themselves in writing. Their stories can be humorous, reflective, and inspiring. Isabel Vidrio wrote a letter to the author of [Who Is Sonia Sotomayor?](#) In her letter, Isabel wrote Megan Stein about why she liked the book. She concluded her letter with these words: "Sonia never gave up on her dreams, and encouraged others to follow their dreams too! Sonia was not afraid to ask for help when she needed it."

Adults who ask for help with their literacy have tremendous courage. For some of these adults and their families, it is the first time they have come to A. K. Smiley Public Library. They come because they know that improving their reading and writing will get them a better job, enable them to read to their children, or continue with their own education.



Author Isabel Vidrio reads her letter to Megan Stein

Visit www.akspl.org/literacy to hear others read their stories

The Adult Literacy Anthology is a collection of written treasures by authors who are excited to share their stories, experiences, memories, hopes, dreams, and challenges with the community. We hope that reading the anthology or watching the videos will introduce you to the wonderful adult learners who work with their tutors to improve their lives. Please check out a copy of the anthology at A.K. Smiley Public Library or visit the adult literacy website to watch the videos.

Literacy is life-changing!