

Huntington Beach Public Library Literacy Volunteers OPEN DOORS

October 2017

"Wine & Words" Friday, October 27, 2017

We're so excited for our 5th Annual Wine & Words event!!

Please join us October 27, 2017 to celebrate achievements and look forward as we continue to invest in the future.

Imagine not being able to read this newsletter or learn about events in your community. Imagine not being able to help your third grader with homework. Imagine sending an email to a friend for corrections before you can reply to your boss. These situations, and so many more, are real for the adults who seek help through our program.

You are invited to the Fifth Annual
Literacy Volunteers - HBPL
**Wine & Words
Fundraiser**
Friday October 27, 2017 7-10 p.m.
Meadowlark Golf Club
16782 Graham Street
Huntington Beach, California, 92649

Golden West College graduate.
Five learners earn citizenship
and right to vote.
Several learners gained
confidence to volunteer in
their children's classrooms.
Multiple entrants in a regional
library literacy writing
challenge.

Join us for an elegant evening of
delightful wine paired with tasty hors d'oeuvres,
silent auction, raffles and more from literacy participants!

Special Guest - Jami Goldman Marseilles
Author, Motivational Speaker, Teacher, Gold Medal Athlete
www.jamijami.com

Tickets only \$55 through Oct. 17th
For tickets call (714) 375-5102 or
Online at HBWineandWords.com

There are just a few examples of success.
Literacy Volunteers - HBPL is an organization filled with success.
They can be as simple as being able to read to a child or as grand as
being accepted for a job. Each learner has their own unique
path that our staff and volunteer tutors can help them reach.

LITERACY
VOLUNTEERS

Be inspired when you join us for this event as we raise much-needed funds. We can't wait to see you there!

For information and registration, visit us at www.HBWineandWords.com or call (714) 375-5102. Tickets \$55 through Oct. 17, after \$65.

Congratulations to Bob Bonney on 30 Years!



When it comes to commitment, Bob Bonney belongs at the top of the list. We're proud to feature Bob's recognition at the Literacy Volunteers-HBPL's June 2017 Annual Awards Event for 30 years of dedication. Born in Amityville, Long Island, New York, Bob went through school there and joined the Navy after high school, where he served for three years. After his first tour of duty he entered the work force, but was recalled back into the Navy and sent to Asugi, Japan. There he served as flight

crew of the PB4Y2 aircraft which flew reconnaissance over the Pacific Ocean looking for Korean submarines. 4½ years later, the Korean War had ended and Bob found himself once again a civilian.

Time passed, one thing led to another, and Bob found himself happily married and living in California. He was hired at Northrop Grumman and worked as a quality control engineer in the missile program for the next 25 years. After retiring and looking for a new adventure, Bob volunteered at the VA Hospital in Long Beach, where he discovered the joy and satisfaction of helping others. Bob then heard about the literacy program at the Huntington Beach Library, and enrolled in tutor training. In those days, training was held at the Westminster branch, and he remembers the instructors Sue Berman and Marcia Hendriks with great fondness.

Tutoring for 30 years, Bob has built decades of memories with many, many learners ...

Bob's very first learner was a man who lived with his parents in Leisure World. After about a year, the family moved away, and later, the learner's mom sent the Literacy Director a letter of gratitude and a \$20 donation for the program.

Two of Bob's learners were Greek, whom he happened to tutor in the same time period, though not together. One still sends him cards on holidays and birthdays, and calls at least once a year.

Bob tutored a man outside in the HB Park, because the learner refused to set foot in the library.

"Patrick", another of Bob's learners, stands out especially because he was Literacy Volunteer's Student of the Year, and was written up in the LA Times. He and Bob enjoyed going to lectures together, and Bob taught Patrick penmanship so well that the bank did not recognize Patrick's new and improved signature. They had to go into the bank to do some serious explaining.

One of Bob's learners was a man who came to Literacy because he wanted to be able to read the little love notes his wife would leave him. Who knew Literacy tutoring could be so romantic?

These are just a few of Bob's stories. Bob's dedication has touched many lives; he remembers all of his learners with affection. He comments that he feels he learned more from his learners than they did from him.

Some learned and left, others stayed quite some time. As Bob graciously put it, the tremendous opportunity he was granted allowed him to know many wonderful folks needing only a direction . . . someone to point the way. "Fortunately, often, I was able to offer a solution that brought bright, smiling looks of enlightenment that said, 'I understand'. This was deeply gratifying indeed, but, what I hope is remembered is the fun we had getting there."

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you Bob, for your time, your friendship and your dedication to the Literacy Volunteers of Huntington Beach and all those whose lives you have touched. Congratulations on 30 years! Best wishes for as many more!

Yue Qing Zheng "Amy" Earns Her Citizenship



It's always very exciting when one of our own earns citizenship, and we are so proud to announce that Yue Qing Zheng, "Amy," passed the test this August in Los Angeles. Amy has been a learner for several years and is currently working with Bob Bonney. Amy was born in China, attended school, and ultimately earned a PhD in International Relations at Chang Chen University, specializing in Ping Pong Diplomacy. Later, both she and her husband worked at Quang Zhou University, teaching political science for seven years. They moved to Japan, where she taught Mandarin to Japanese college students.

Amy and her husband have one son, who is a doctor in Japan. As it turns out, Amy's hobby is ping pong, but she has trouble finding places to play in Huntington Beach. She likes to tell people she learned to speak English by listening to NPR radio and reading *News For You*. Congratulations, Amy!

Dismissing Myths about the Writer to Writer Challenge by Akemi Royer



Last February 25th I attended my first Writer to Writer Luncheon at the Newport Beach Radisson Hotel where we celebrated learners who took on the intimidating challenge of reading a book and then writing a letter to the author. As I listened to learners stand up and read their

inspiring words, I embarrassingly realized that I had some misconceptions about what Writer to Writer is and who can participate. Here is what I learned:

Myth: The learner must spend hours looking for the perfect book.

False - A good book surely helps. However, the key is to start reading now. Fiction. Biographies. Poetry. Young Adult and Children's books. One might read three books before feeling moved to write a letter to the author. Come by the Literacy office and check out our catalog of books and the display on the back counter.

Myth: The learner has to write a long letter to the author.

False -There is a maximum length, but not a minimum. Write from the heart, and it will be fine.

Myth: My learner is not ready for the Writer to Writer Challenge.

FALSE! (big, alarming buzzer sound) - Did you know that there are categories for all levels?

Take a look –

- Level 1 - Emerging Writer: Learners dictate their letters to tutors/staff using the Language Experience Approach.
- Level 2 - Beginning Writer: Learners can write basic (short and simple) sentences and phrases on their own.
- Level 3 - Intermediate Writer: Learners can write basic (short and simple) sentences and phrases on their own.
- Level 4 - Advanced Writer: Learners are comfortable writing on their own with little support on technical aspects such as spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Start working on Writer to Writer now.

Well, this is TRUE. Writer to Writer is a process and takes time. However, this process includes all the parts of what our Literacy program is about: reading, writing and talking about ideas with one another. Writer to Writer is a challenge worth taking on!

ProLiteracy Resources Tip | Writing a Letter to Lawmakers

By Zaid Maher

Are your learners passionate about certain issues? Perhaps they would like to communicate how they feel to local and state lawmakers, thus enabling them to actively participate in the civics process. If so, ask learners to think about how they would communicate their opinion through email or a written letter. Learners should focus on specific issues in their letters: the topics should not be broad.

Working with learners to find the name of their community lawmaker and their background is essential; effective letters and emails rely upon who the recipient is: preliminary knowledge of who receives the written communication allows for prior preparation on the writer's part, and preparation increases chances of success. Lawmakers are often pulled in many different directions on a daily basis and can only devote so much to reading letters. So teach your learner to follow a specific format and style, focus on clarity and brevity, and give voice to your learners' civic interests.

For a sample letter, please refer to ProLiteracy's Fall 2017 edition of "Resources for the Adult Educator" in Central Library's Literacy office.

