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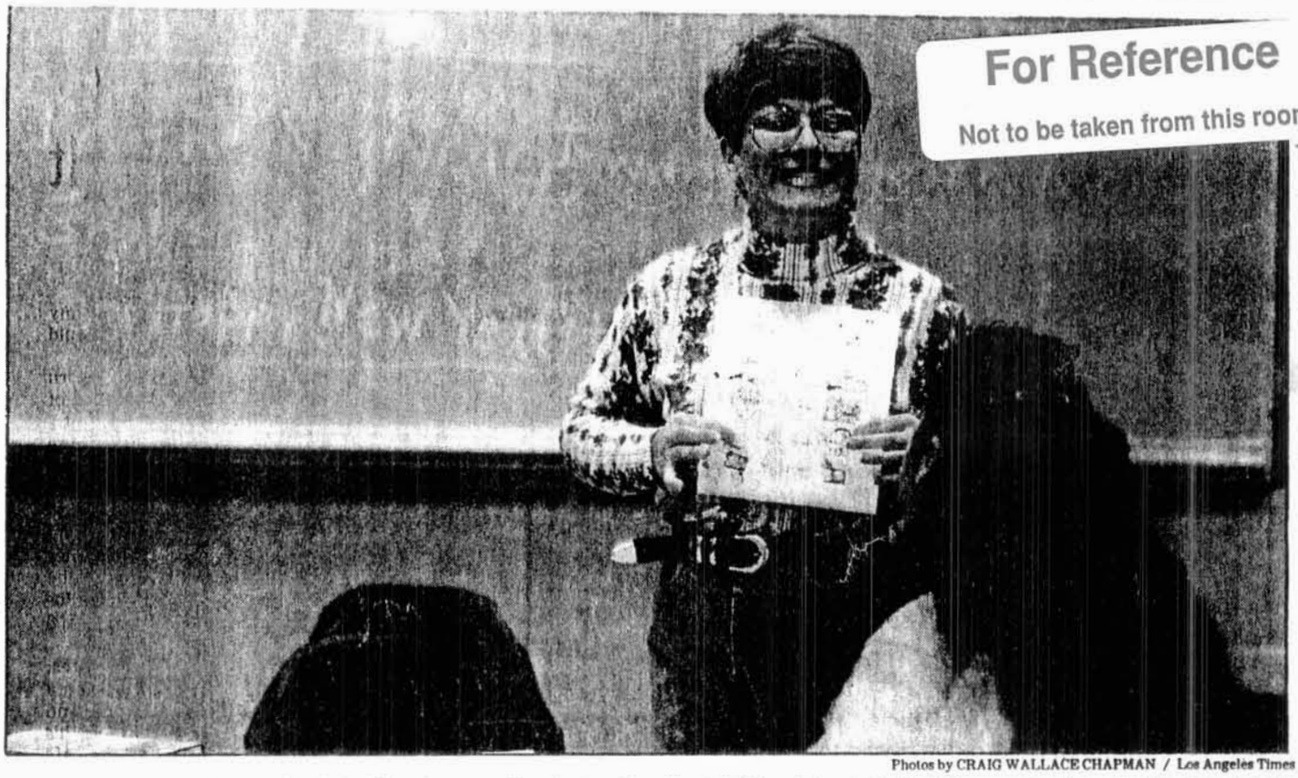


Photos by CRAIG WALLACE CHAPMAN / Los Angeles Times

Mary Lorge tutors students in English skills, above, at Huntington Beach's Oak View School. Maria Salazar makes homework notes, below.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Teaching Parents to Teach Their Kids

Northwest

Fidel Ayala, 26, and Maria Salazar, 27, want to learn English to get better jobs and also to help the couple's three children with homework.

Herlinda Tarelo, 28, said she, too, hopes that by being in the Family Literacy Program she can help her three children succeed in school.

Ayala, Salazar and Tarelo are among 50 who enrolled in the literacy program that started a year ago.

The program targets parents with young children in the primarily Latino community known as Oak View, near Oak View School. The program is supported by federal grant money and volunteer tutors, said Carolyn Healy, family literacy coordinator.

"Our goal is to teach basic English skills needed to read and write so they can read to their kids," Healy said.

The program has 35 volunteer tutors, but Healy said more are needed because of the program's growing popularity. "I have a waiting list of 30 families waiting for tutors," she said.

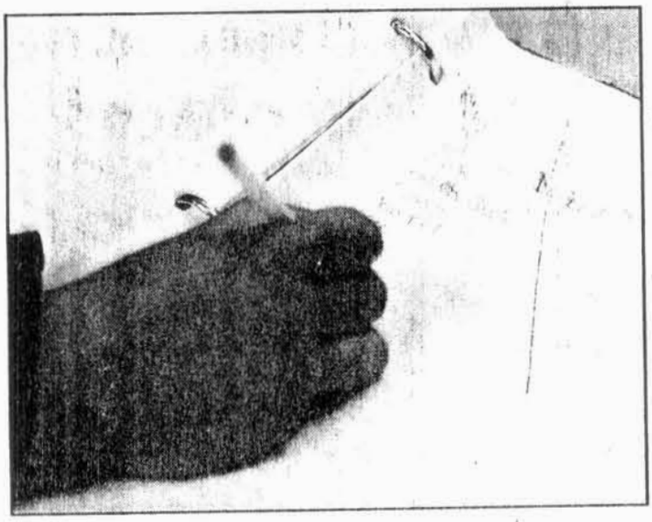
Tutor Mary Lorge of Fountain Valley, the office manager at at her husband's accounting firm, said she became involved as a program volunteer in May because of her Latino roots and her desire to give back to her community.

"I always felt akin to the Mexican people and I feel I can do something to help them get a better living in this country," she said.

Healy said volunteers must tutor two hours a week. They do not have to speak Spanish. She said tutors will learn skills during a training workshop to communicate with Spanish-speaking students by using techniques such as visual aids.

A tutor-training session is scheduled for next month at Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave. The 15-hour workshop will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 on Jan. 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30.

For information, call (714) 375-5104. —DEBRA CANO



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Nonresident library fee is a success, officials say

By Tina Damikolas, *Staff Writer*

HUNTINGTON BEACH — It's too soon to tell whether the Central Library will gain or lose money from a recently installed $20 fee for nonresident library users that jeopardizes some state and federal funds.

But Library Services Manager Thad Phillips predicts the new fee will easily make up the difference.

"We've already raised $40,400 (from the fees) and have eight months left and we are going into the peak period," Phillips said. The library sold 2,020 cards between Oct. 1 and Jan. 21, he said.

Since the library charges non Huntington Beach residents to use the library, it is no longer eligible for direct loan money from the state ($40,000 per year) and a Major Urban Resource Libraries grant of about $16,000 from the federal government, Phillips said.

However, the library will be getting its federal grant this year because the fee wasn't implemented until October and the funding period begins in July, Phillips said.

Not all of the nonresident library fees go to the library. Sixty percent goes to book purchases and 40% goes into the city's general fund, Phillips said.

Phillips said the nonresident library fee was necessary after cuts to county libraries sent droves of residents from other communities to the Huntington Beach libraries, making it difficult to serve everyone.

The city library may raise even more money from the new fee because of the county bankruptcy. The bankruptcy may cause even more county library cuts, convincing more people to purchase Huntington Beach library privileges, Phillips noted.

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