

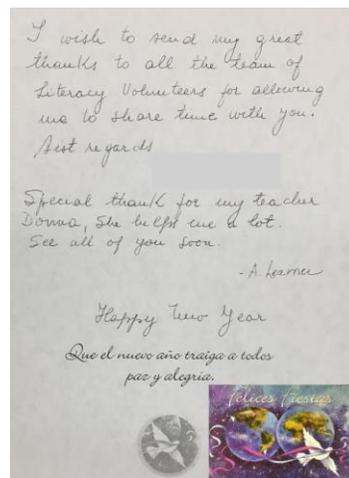
Literacy Volunteers-HBPL News January 2018

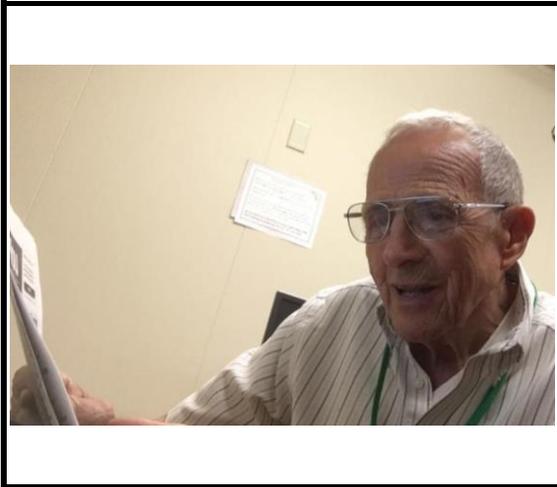
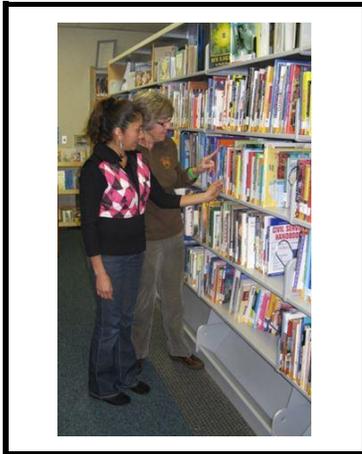


Helping others open their own doors to new worlds through better reading, writing and communicating with confidence, Literacy Volunteers-HBPL is a volunteer driven not-for-profit program dedicated to adult learners who have had to overcome circumstantial, financial and emotional obstacles, to come to our program in order to better their lives for themselves and their families through improved literacy.

2017 was a busy and productive year. 230 volunteer board members, tutors and friends gave more than 5,675 hours of their time assisting more than 360 adult learners. We graduated our first [Career Online High School \(COHS\)](#) student, participated in AltaMed HB's [Duck-a-Thon](#), put on fundraising events, including our [5th Annual Wine & Words](#) event, our 5th Annual [Walk Run READ! 5K](#) in April of 2017 and increased citizenship classes. With the support of local businesses and eateries, we enjoyed many fundraisers around the city.

Your generous donations and contributions of time, and monies generated from our fundraising efforts throughout the year, help us continue making strides in improving adult literacy as we host tutor training and in-services, apply for grants, organize learner and volunteer activities, engage with other groups who work to serve our community in different ways, and host our service and achievement awards receptions every year.





Kindness Tree

by Akemi Royer

A normal association with January is a New Year's resolution. However, what about kicking off 2018 with an act of kindness? Come check out our Kindness Tree in the Literacy Office at Central created by literacy staffer, Allison Angelich. Pick up a paper leaf and write down any acts of kindness you have witnessed or that you have done.

This could be a fun way for learners and tutors to start off a tutoring session. Reflection, reading, and writing - what a way to start off the New Year!

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou



Merry and Bright!

The Oak View Literacy 2017 Holiday party was full of fun, with snowman themed games and craft, a sing-a-long, exciting new books for children and, of course, delicious food! With so much happening and well over 100 attendees, it took quite a team of volunteers to make our party a success. A huge thank you to everyone who gave their time and talents to make our party bright: from families and tutors who donated food, to the set up and clean-up crew, to the decorators, craft makers and game players. We send a special thanks to the Huntington Beach Children's Needs Task Force for donating brand new children's book through their book drive with Barnes and Noble, and to our wonderful Literacy Board for their continued support.





And in another part of town ... With cheerful red and white candy cane centerpieces adorning each table, Central Library Literacy Volunteers gathered in "Candy Cane Lane" to share international foods provided by learners, tutors, and literacy staff at the annual International Holiday Potluck luncheon.

After eating, guests were seen laughing hysterically as they participated in a rollicking game of "Pass the Snowball." In a scenario similar to Musical Chairs, people tried to gingerly pass the illusive "snowball" with a plastic spoon.

To commemorate the event, the traditional craft included pipe cleaners and beads to make candy canes, but many more artistic types made bracelets, hair ties, or other creations. The yearly international potluck is a traditional gathering of literacy folks who enjoy spending time together, sharing food, and enjoying the camaraderie.



Thanks to everyone who attended and to all who helped, including our wonderful board members, tutors and literacy staff.

Book review: Cafe Du Jour: Risking It All (Cade Du Jour) (Volume 1)*

Our own Barbara Robinson, board member and Literacy Volunteers-HBPL volunteer who leads the Conversation Group, recently published a new novel, which is first in a series: Cafe Du Jour: Risking It All (Cade Du Jour) (Volume 1).

Prepare to get involved with these characters! A happy, successful couple leave their secure lives to take a chance on creating a second chapter for themselves. On the way, they run into small town corruption, crop circles, grudge-holding locals, and face other challenges while forming new friendships. Get a copy of her book to find out how these characters survive.

*NOTE: Literacy Volunteers-HBPL will not gain nor receive profit from the sales and marketing of this book.

Tutor Training

Do you know someone who would like to join our dedicated team of volunteers? We hold Tutor Orientations periodically at the Central Library. Contact us at (714) 375 5102 or literacy@surfcity-hb.org for more information.

Self-Help Workshops

The board has scheduled two events this spring you won't want to miss. These workshops are sponsored by Literacy Volunteers-HBPL and will be held at Central Library. All monies collected will be used to support the Literacy Program.

First up, a **Self-Defense Workshop** on Sunday, February 25. During this 2-hour workshop, you will learn basic "street" self-defense techniques. Sensei Anthony Tran is a blackbelt in Shorinryu karate, black belt in Shotokan karate and purple belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. He is bilingual in English and Vietnamese, and has traveled abroad and been to 20 states. He has a personal goal of doing Jujitsu as a guest in all 50 states before he gets his black belt in Jiu Jitsu.

No martial arts experience needed. Sensei Anthony will teach simple techniques geared for all ages and abilities. \$10 saves you a seat in this important workshop. Call (714) 375 5102 to pre-register.

Then in March, plan to attend a **Yoga/Pilates class** led by Devra Swiger, a Literacy tutor and board member. Devra has been a movement instructor for nearly 25 years, studying dance, yoga, and Pilates; she currently runs a Pilates studio out of her Huntington Beach home. She has worked with everyone from dancers and celebrities to your ordinary person who wishes to get into shape. Devra is certified by several organizations and has been teaching Pilates and stretching since 1999.

This class will be a mixture of Pilates mat work, basic stretching, and movement for back and hip pain. This is a class for everyone, because at some time or another we all experience some form of pain and discomfort due to everyday life. Even those with a strong fitness routine can benefit from this class, as can those who have never stepped foot in a gym. The only requirement of this class is that you are able to get up and down off the floor. Bring your own yoga mat or towel, as the class will be taught on the floor. If you want to feel better, walk taller, move with great ease, this class is for you. Watch your email or check with the Literacy Office for details.

Stay in Touch!

Did you know you can find us on Twitter @literacyhbpl? We hope you've "Liked" us on [Facebook](#), as well as following our [blog](#)! These media tell our story far and wide through sharing experiences of learners and tutors. They also keep you informed about upcoming programs.

You can help with blog content by providing a comment of your own or from your learner. Borrow an iPad from the literacy office. Read together what others are saying. Write something of your own! Write about reaching a goal, ordering off a menu for the first time, sharing a book with a child, filling out a form at the doctor's office, or having a manager notice improved skills. Let's celebrate successes, big, small and everything in between!

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 - Learner Orientation.

Sunday, February 25, 2018 - Self-defense workshop. Sunday from 1:00-3:00 pm @ Central Library. No experience necessary.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 - Yakult Manufacturing facility tour activity.

Saturday, April 28, 2018 - 6th annual WalkRunRead 5K! Open to the public, it promises to be a fun morning in the park. Registration opens in February.



Pre-registration required for all events and activities. For more information visit or contact Literacy Office (714) 375 5102.



Thank you for your ongoing support of the adult and family literacy programs at Huntington Beach Public Library. Without your help, we would not be where we are today, and we appreciate you. Feel free to send your comments to literacy@surfcity-hb.org.

Sincerely,
Literacy Volunteers-HBPL Board of Directors & Staff