

The Literacy Update

Welcome 2019!

Literacy Team:

- *Arlene Calderon-
Adult Literacy Program Coordinator*
- *Angie Wheeler-
Adult Literacy Program Assistant*
- *Dolores Sanchez-
Citizenship Specialist*
- *Glorya Dominguez-
Citizenship Teacher*

Just as quickly as 2018 ended, 2019 is well underway. We've celebrated the New Year, Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, Belly Laugh day, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day. Soon spring will be here, we will honor our Mothers and soon after relent summer being over. All this to say time moves fast and we need to take advantage of the opportunities before us. We rise and meet challenges every day. For the sake of not repeating ourselves, we should branch out and meet new challenges. Maybe there is an old habit we are still holding on to. Or a pattern we would like to change.

Your local library can be an excellent resource to begin your journey. Libraries have a wealth of books to help you discover new hobbies, philosophies or ideas. Libraries also provide services that can help you overcome lifestyle challenges. Our library uniquely provides two services that provide resources for you to see a person to help you. We have our Literacy Program and our Neighborhood Connections program. Our library has just been awarded a Family Literacy grant that will allow us to have educational and engaging activities for family. Our hope is to provide an entertaining, safe space

for families to enjoy themselves but to also develop healthy habits.



Inside this issue:

The New Year	1
Children's Program Events	1
ESL Training	2
Tutor Spotlight	2
Grassroots Spotlight	2

Children's Program Events

On April 16 hop on over to Veteran's Park next to the Azusa City Library for an Easter Egg hunt. Our Youth Services program has an Easter Egg hunt every year. Last year, over 500 eggs were hidden and they were all found. The Easter Egg hunt is one of our most popular events.

On March 5, the Children's Program will have a Mardi Gras craft and on March 16 they will celebrate St. Patrick's day with a pot of gold (craft). Come join!





ESL Training

The Grassroots ESL program as all Literacy programs, runs on volunteers. In our Grassroots ESL program we have volunteer Site Coordinators and tutors. The largest roles we need to fill are tutors. We are very fortunate to have a great retention with our tutors. They are dedicated to helping people learn the English language. Our learners love their tutors! Each Grassroots ESL tutor goes through our training facilitated by Dr. Tasha Bleistein. Dr. Bleistein is the Director of the Online TESOL program at Azusa Pacific University. Dr. Bleistein

has created a fun, interactive and comprehensive training for our new tutors. The training consist of culture awareness, vocabulary, conversational and total physical response activities. There is a lot of group activity. Group activity is encouraged in our ESL tutoring sessions. Group activity elicits conversation among the learners which builds the confidence to use it outside of class. Dr. Bleistein has tons of knowledge in this area as she is a language learner herself.



*Tasha Bleistein, Ph.D.
Director of Online TESOL program
Associate Professor Global Studies and
Sociology*

Tutor Spotlight: Noah Jackson

Noah Jackson was a tutor with our Citizenship program while he was attending Azusa Pacific University. He now enjoys his time walking the halls of Congress as a Legislative Fellow in the U.S. Senate in Washington D.C. Noah feels confident contributing to the topic of immigration due to his time as a Citizenship tutor. Noah was raised on a farm in Central California with predominantly Latin American immigrants. It was through his experience as

a Citizenship tutor that really opened Noah's eyes to the challenges his friends who were immigrants went through to get their Citizenship. He saw firsthand all the effort that migrants put in to pass the Naturalization Exam. The advice Noah would like to pass on to new tutors is to be flexible and know that every day is going to bring a new challenge. He would like to encourage them to get to truly know their students.



Noah Jackson

*"Every good citizen
adds to the strength
of a nation."*

Gordon P. Hinkley

Grassroots ESL Spotlight: Azusa Apartments



*Senior Community Building Coordinator
Azusa Apts. & The Groves
Community Housing Works*

Josh Lopez is the Grassroots ESL Site Coordinator for the Azusa Apartments. The Azusa Apartments provides and builds life-changing affordable apartment communities with resident-centered services for working families, seniors and people with disabilities to forge stronger futures. The Azusa Apartments is focused on providing residents opportunities to build confidence and achieve their goals. Josh feels having Grassroots ESL

tutoring sessions on their site offers residents a chance to accomplish that. The residents of the Azusa Apartment are provided with opportunities to engage in social and civil activities. Computer classes, monthly resident meetings and voter registration presentations are a few of the events they hold. It is during the interactions of these functions Josh is able to see the impact of ESL tutoring being held on site.