



Redlands Reads!

Redlands Community Celebrates The Transformative Power of Adult Literacy

The Redlands City Council proclaimed September 7th, 2017 **Adult Literacy Day** in the City of Redlands.

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The proclamation included the finding that adults in Redlands seek to improve their literacy skills with the Redlands Adult Literacy Program so that they may:

- get a job or advance in their employment,
- help their children in school,
- work towards their own higher education.

The council also commended the efforts of volunteers and community partners whose support is vital to the program.

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Literacy Changes Lives!

The community of Redlands gathered on September 7th to hear Francisco Jiménez, author of **The Circuit: Stories From the Life of a Migrant Child** and its three sequels. The series documented his family’s history and described the struggles he faced and conquered on his path from migrant child to PhD recipient. The common thread for everyone in the literacy program was his passion for life-long learning.

Francisco Jiménez said, that his story “...is the story of many immigrant families.” He wrote to document not only his family’s history, but more importantly, the experiences of many families who worked very hard every day for very low wages. He encouraged everyone to learn their own family stories and to pass them on to their children.

Prior to his talk, participants in the adult literacy program enjoyed a special opportunity to greet the author at the Lincoln Shrine. Rosa Sanchez, a learner in the program, said, “It was an honor to meet Francisco Jiménez because his life is inspirational for many people.”

Other adult learner and community reflections on his works included:

Luz Moreno, and many others in attendance, shared, “The story of Francisco Jiménez is the history of my family too.”

Cinderella Tran said, “Reading about his struggle and success helped me to be stronger in my life.”

Frank Garcia said, “Francisco Jiménez’s books and presentation reminded me of my own upbringing, working in the fields and picking cotton. People are surprised that we were only paid three cents per pound. Even today, people don’t understand the hardships farm laborers are going through.”



Diana Ramirez (left), her mother, learner Rosa Sanchez, and tutor Johanne Harvey (right) meet Francisco Jiménez

Literacy is a gateway for building a community. The Adult Literacy Program has benefitted from generous community donations and grants from Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial and the Escobar-Dison Family. This year the Redlands Adult Literacy Program introduced book clubs. Learners and tutors read **The Circuit** and wrote their reflections. These reflections and other learner stories were presented to Dr. Jiménez, who said they would be preserved in the Francisco Jiménez collection at the Santa Clara University Library.

Dr. Jiménez inspired attendees to have hope for the future. He has devoted his life to promoting education and the importance of reading. He said, “Reading is the foundation for learning, it is the bedrock of education and, as you know, it is indispensable for a strong and healthy democracy.”

Learners, tutors, families, students and residents, benefitted from hearing Dr. Jiménez’s message on the importance of life-long learning. Literacy is life-changing for the individual, family and community of Redlands.

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 library website: www.akspl.org.

Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofsmileylibrary](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofsmileylibrary)

Facebook: [Friends of A.K. Smiley Public Library](https://www.facebook.com/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.

Help change someone's life!



Poet, Tim Allen

Reading is a Challenge

Black black

Reading is hard

When it is easy for others

They think it is easy for you.

Blue blue

Reading is like blue skies are opening

A new world is opening when you read

Red red

TV will rot your brain

Too much TV and you get lazy.

Black black

Reading is hard

When it is easy for others

They think it is easy for you.

Thank you, Tim! Editor

Donations Support Adult Literacy

Giving thanks to the Redlands Adult Literacy Program, adult learners have said: “Now I am able to help my son with his homework,” or “I have my dream job,” or “I can express myself through poetry.” These goals were realized because of the generosity of donors in our community. Every donation to the Redlands Adult Literacy Program is deeply appreciated because it expresses the donor’s commitment to helping adults improve their reading and writing. Each donation is a statement that adult education is valued by our community and our library.

Attached is a list of donors who have given their financial support since the adult literacy program was re-established at A. K. Smiley Public Library in 2010. These names will be published in the Redlands Daily Facts on November 16, 2017, reflecting our gratitude for each donation. Since 2010, over 400 adults have received literacy help at A. K. Smiley Public Library.

Some learners participate in the program for a few months, others for years as their dreams are realized and new goals are set. We admire their courage and thank you, donors, for your investment in adults seeking to improve their lives.



Literacy Changes Lives!

David Schwartz of Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial Presents Grant to Fund Book Clubs