



# Redlands Reads!

*The Redlands Adult Literacy Program has named 2018 the "Year of the Writer."*

*Learners are encouraged to share their personal stories in writing to strengthen their literacy skills.*

*We are pleased to share the following poem written by Claudia Pantoja.*

**Claudia**

**Hard working,  
enthusiastic, happy**

**Mom of Sonia,  
sister of Carlos and Sergio**

**Who feels grateful to be here**

**Who needs love, family and work**

**Who lives in Redlands, California**

**Pantoja**

~

**Literacy Changes Lives!**

## Learner encourages friends to improve their reading and writing at the library.

Fanny Quevedo joined the adult literacy program two years ago because she wanted to improve her reading and writing skills to advance in her career. As a caregiver, Fanny must read and understand medicine labels, write accurate notes to doctors, and read books aloud to her employer.

Fanny has seen how improving her literacy has helped her to be a better caregiver. She knows that good reading and writing skills are necessary for her to reach her long term goal of becoming a licensed nurse's assistant.

Fanny's tutor, Linda O'Neal, is passionate about teaching. Linda believes that good reading and writing skills are the foundation for everything that any of us learn. Linda volunteers as a tutor because

it is an opportunity for her to give back and to share her knowledge with others. She has a wonderful experience every time she meets with Fanny.

Fanny is grateful for the time each week that she is able to spend with Linda, and says, "This time is for me to educate myself." Because of her improved literacy, Fanny has a better life. She is self-confident, she can write with proper punctuation and spelling, she can navigate a grocery store, and pay her bills.

Fanny's four children have witnessed her literacy journey, they know that: "Mama had to go to school," and they are very proud of her dedication to education and her many accomplishments.



**Fanny Quevedo (left) and her tutor Linda O'Neal**

Fanny tells her friends to come to the library to learn reading and writing. She understands that some people feel afraid to start learning. She wants others to know that tutors are patient and helpful and that the library is a good place to learn to read and write. Fanny and writing, your mind is more open. "Because I can read, my mind is open and the world looks different."

## "Year of the Writer" Launched with Edison International Grant

Everyone has a story to share, but for many, writing is a challenge. To help adult learners reach their literacy goals, the Friends of A.K. Smiley Public Library applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from Edison International. The grant is funding two writing workshops to train adult learners and their tutors in new writing strategies, and updates to the computer class curriculum to include a new writing module.

Using their new writing skills, learners are encouraged to write their personal stories. The Redlands Adult Literacy Program will publish an anthology of the learners' works and share these works with the community. Writing is key to communicating with employers, teachers and family members, and can be a lasting legacy. Many thanks to Edison International for their continuing support!



**Tutors J Marks and Sally Richards learn to use dialog journals at their writing workshop**

## 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

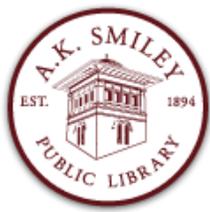
Email: [literacy@akspl.org](mailto:literacy@akspl.org)

Stop by: A. K. Smiley Public Library, located at 125 W. Vine St., Redlands, CA

Visit the library website: [www.akspl.org](http://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.Smilely.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!**

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## Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI) transforms learners into leaders

The Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI), funded by the California State Library, is a statewide training program that provides adult learners the opportunity to gain public speaking, networking, advocacy, communication, and leadership skills. We are pleased that the Redlands Adult Literacy Program was chosen to host the southern California ALLI conference. Diane Shimota, adult literacy coordinator, has witnessed the benefits of ALLI. She shared her pride in four ALLI graduates, who are adult learners in the Redlands Adult Literacy Program and will serve as facilitators at this year's ALLI conference.

**Ana Alcantar** has been an annual ALLI facilitator since 2015. Ana says that stepping into the role of facilitator provided her the opportunity to apply everything she had learned, to challenge herself, and to give back something in return. The Redlands Adult Literacy Program and ALLI have helped Ana with her business and given her skills that she uses as an advocate for adult literacy in the community. Ana wants everyone to have the same opportunities that are available to her.

**Crystal Moreno** says that ALLI helped her to gain skills that enabled her to speak in public, speak with her college professors, and become president of a club at her college. Crystal looks forward to the opportunity to teach other adult learners the skills they need to become leaders in their communities.

**Martha Romo** shared that the ALLI program gave her the confidence and skills that she needs to speak in front of people. She learned how to organize her ideas and to use tools like PowerPoint to prepare more effective presentations at her job. Martha looks forward to introducing other learners to skills that help them set goals.

**Lucila Campa** will lead networking and advocacy sessions at the ALLI workshop. These skills are important to her because they have helped her grow as a person, a mother, and a community member. Lucila uses her public speaking skills when she speaks at quarterly tutor training meetings. She is looking forward to giving back a little of what she has received by teaching leadership skills to others.

Graduates of the ALLI workshop become advocates for adult literacy and other causes that are important to them. ALLI Project Coordinator, Rosie Manela, has witnessed how ALLI graduates gain confidence. She sees them "coming out of their shells, expressing their ideas, and speaking in front of a group." The Redlands Adult Literacy Program will send five new adult learners to this year's ALLI conference. Their new-found leadership skills will help the adult literacy program and the Redlands community.



**Martha Romo, Rosie Manela, Ana Alcantar, Crystal Moreno and Lucila Campa prepare for ALLI workshop**