

READ WRITES

For You and About You

February 2012

Where Were You In '92?



In 1992, Carol Marshall was considering how she could “help make a difference” in her community. Three years later she heard about READ/OC from her church and enrolled in a Tutor Training Workshop.

Twenty years later, Carol remains dedicated to helping others with basic literacy and life skills through READ/OC. Along the way, she has enjoyed making many friends, changing the lives of more than a dozen adult learners, helping countless families experience the joys of learning together, training other READ/OC volunteers, and learning new skills for herself.

As a tutor, Carol has worked with several adult learners 1-on-1 and in small groups. She also helped provide tutoring for English language learning parents and their young children. Based on these experiences, Carol expanded her commitments with READ/OC as an assessor, EL Civics Coordinator, a member of the Tutor Training team, and a Master Tutor.

Carol has also served as a volunteer with Friends of READ/Orange County (FROC) and served on the Recognition Activities Committee helping with several Annual Family Picnic and Appreciation Celebrations (AFPAC) and Spring Fling events. Through her involvement with FROC, she recruited her friends to join in the fun.

As volunteer with READ/OC, Carol has demonstrated her deep conviction to helping others. In 2007 she expanded that conviction by serving full time as an Americorps volunteer for two years with READ/OC. As an Americorps member, Carol developed new early literacy workshops and coordinated the “Read For The Record” Celebration for READ/OC, doubling the event’s results in 2008, recruiting 74 volunteers and reaching more than 1,000 children and their parents to help Jumpstart’s World Record breaking efforts. It’s no wonder Carol was honored with the President’s Lifetime Volunteer Service Award in 2009.

Today, as a “Lead Direct Service Provider” with an adult care organization in South Orange County, Carol continues to demonstrate her commitment to help others and compassion for lifelong learning. She also continues as an active READ/OC tutor and help families enjoy learning together by leading a monthly Family Reading Time at the Mesa Verde Library! Carol even applies “specialized” skills from her Friends of READ/OC volunteer experiences as she now plans the annual employee family picnic for her workplace! Carol is a wonderful example of the more than 3,000 dedicated READ/OC volunteers who have helped change lives and community in Orange County.

Volunteers Needed
Call READ/OC at 714-566-3070
to find out how you can help!



Proud Moments



The monthly report winner for January is:

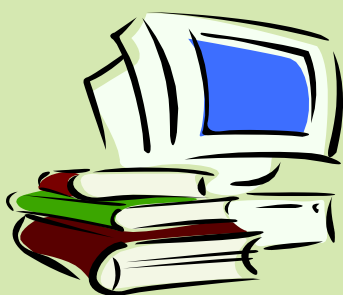
Susan Ryan

Congratulations Susan!

Monthly Reports are due by the 5th of every month. Get yours in on time for a chance to be next month's winner and receive a \$10 gift card to Starbucks.

If you have missed sending in your Monthly Reports, it is not too late to catch up! Remember, the hours you report each month are the only record READ has of your learner's hours!

Of course you can still access monthly report forms online, submit them by email to readoc@occr.ocgov.com or mail them to READ/OC, 1501 E. St. Andrew Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92705



Our tutors and learners are getting off to a great start in 2012! Here are just a few of their achievements in January, taken from monthly reports:

- Leone's learner started helping her 7 year old son with his homework.
- Barbara's learner has been able to use English to assist her husband at work.
- JoAnn's learner wrote a letter to her child's doctor.
- Leigh's learner wrote a half page narrative summarizing an English language TV documentary that he watched.
- Susan's learner wrote a letter to a judge to fight a traffic ticket.
- Fredricka's learner signed up for a computer class at Golden West College.

Please remember to submit your monthly reports. We want to let everyone know about your accomplishments! We look forward to many more successes throughout this year!

10 Ways You Can Volunteer with READ/OC

1. Help with database input
2. Help with filing
3. Make monthly follow-up calls to tutors and learners
4. Prepare materials for monthly Family Reading Times
5. Assist at Learner Orientations and Tutor Training Workshops
6. Be a Literacy Center Ambassador at an OCPL Branch (maintain resources for tutors & learners and provide information about READ/OC to library staff & patrons)
7. Share your special talents & skills (writing, computer, career) with learners and tutors
8. Volunteer with Friends of READ/OC (FROC)
9. Help write and publish the READ/OC newsletter
10. Be a READ/OC Ambassador at community events in Orange County

As you read this newsletter, consider how you can spread the word about literacy! Share this newsletter and information about literacy needs in Orange County with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Call READ/OC to learn more about how you can help!

How often have you found yourself saying, *"One day, I'm going to volunteer to help in the community?"* If your answer is like mine use to be, then the time is now to volunteer!

Friends of READ/OC is in the planning stages for a 20th Anniversary Fundraiser for READ/OC. **YOU ARE INVITED** to join us for a **"Volunteer Meet & Greet"** on **February 23** at 6:30 at the READ/OC Headquarters.

The FROC Board will be there to greet you and will describe the various opportunities available. We need to know that you are coming, so please call the READ/OC office at 714-566-3070 to RSVP.

In honor of President's Day, here are a few quotes from our great leaders on volunteering.

"Never before has man had such a great capacity to control his own environment, to end hunger, poverty and disease, to banish illiteracy and human misery. We have the power to make the best generation of mankind in the history of the world."

-President John F. Kennedy

"No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers."

-Ronald Reagan

"Throughout my life, I've seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people's lives. I know the personal value of service as a local volunteer."

-Jimmy Carter



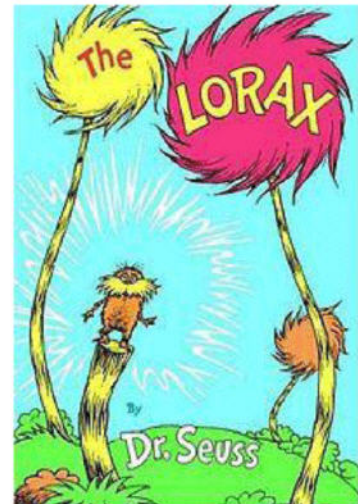
On March 2, 2012

Read *for* the Trees!

Read *to* the Trees!

Read *with* the Trees!

Read *in* the Trees!



Read Seuss™

To Someone!

NEA's Read Across America Day

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!™

OUTREACH NEWS

A huge **THANK YOU** to **St. Columban's Church** for inviting us to their **Volunteer Ministry Outreach Event**.



Thank you UCI, we had a great time visiting with the students at your recent Volunteer Fair.



If you would like more information on how to have our Outreach Coordinator come to your place of business or talk to your group, please call 714-566-3070 and *ask for Karen!* or *here to email karen@lighthousecreativegroup.com.*



Next time you are online – “LIKE” **READ Orange County** and **Friends of READ Orange County** on Facebook.

While you are there, check out literacy news and events on the Facebook pages for Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) and our very own Friends of READ/Orange County (FROC).

And then share us with a friend - encourage them to volunteer and help change a life through literacy.

Hoping to get an eReader?

Learn how to download library books. **Free!**

eReader Open House

Got one? Bring it!

Tues., Feb. 21, 12 pm - 2 pm

Rancho Santa Margarita Library

30902 La Promesa,
Rancho Santa Margarita
(949) 459-6094

Thurs., Mar. 8, 12 pm - 2 pm

Garden Grove Regional Library

11200 Stanford Avenue,
Garden Grove

Mon., Mar. 12, 3 pm-5 pm

Brea Branch Library

1 Civic Center Circle, Brea
(714) 530-0711



iPad

SONY
Reader

Kindle

If you are reading this line, call the READ/OC office to claim your “Reader of the Month” prize!

**Ms. Paige Turner
(Fun advice for tutors and learners)**



Dear Paige,

I just got a call from READ/OC to have a reassessment. Why do I have to take a test? What if I don't know all the answers yet? Can I stay with my tutor?

Worried Learner

Dear Worried,

Don't worry!

It is important READ/OC assess each student after every 50 hours of tutoring. The reassessment not only provides information needed for our program reporting purposes, but also allows us to see what skills have improved and in what areas you still need help.

After the reassessment you can continue working with your tutor. This is a timely opportunity for you and your tutor to evaluate your goals, consider your next steps, and celebrate the progress you have made so far!

READ/OC will provide feedback to you and your tutor, as well as suggestions for activities and materials to include in your tutoring sessions to help you get to where you want to be. Don't be afraid or concerned about being reassessed. We just want to be sure you're getting what you need to accomplish your personal reading and writing goals!

Paige Turner

We ♥ Books!

February is a great month to talk about books...poetry, romance novels, children's bedtime stories, cookbooks, books that "take you places," scary stories to read under the covers with someone....

Read them, enjoy them, share them,"love" them!

- Share a book with someone you love!
- Checkout a NEW book at the library!
- Re-Read a book you have enjoyed in the past!
- Download an eBook!
- Cuddle up with a book!

Tell READ/OC about a book you ♥ and why!



Helpful Hint: If you have "like new" children's books that are no longer being "loved," READ/OC would "love" to find them a new loving home!

Writing to READ – Sharing the Love of Words and Literacy

Writing is a critical and valuable component of adults' learning goals. Writing can be seen as a challenge for many, regardless of skill, accomplishments or learning success.



At the most recent Tutor Training Workshop, new tutors collaborated on a group writing activity. Their efforts provide words of encouragement for literacy and lifelong learning.

Facebook Status Update by *Thuha, Linda, Denise and June*

Rainy day, perfect to be at tutor training. Looking forward to having positive impact on someone's life. It'll be so much fun! Can't wait to meet my new friend!

Reply from...

What will you be teaching?

Rebuttal...

Building self-esteem through adult literacy training

Team Cluster Writing by *Tina, Kathryn, Angelica, and Darcy*

We are tutors with READ/OC

Our mission is to build self-esteem

Helping others gain new skills is sure to bring us many thrills

Reading, writing, and yay no math

Read to your kid after his bath

You & your family will be proud

That you can write & read aloud

I'm Looking Forward to My Tutoring Because by *Kathy, Guadalupe, Catherine, and Charlene*

There once were four people at a table.

Who learned that *can't* is a fable.

They thought to tutor would be fun.

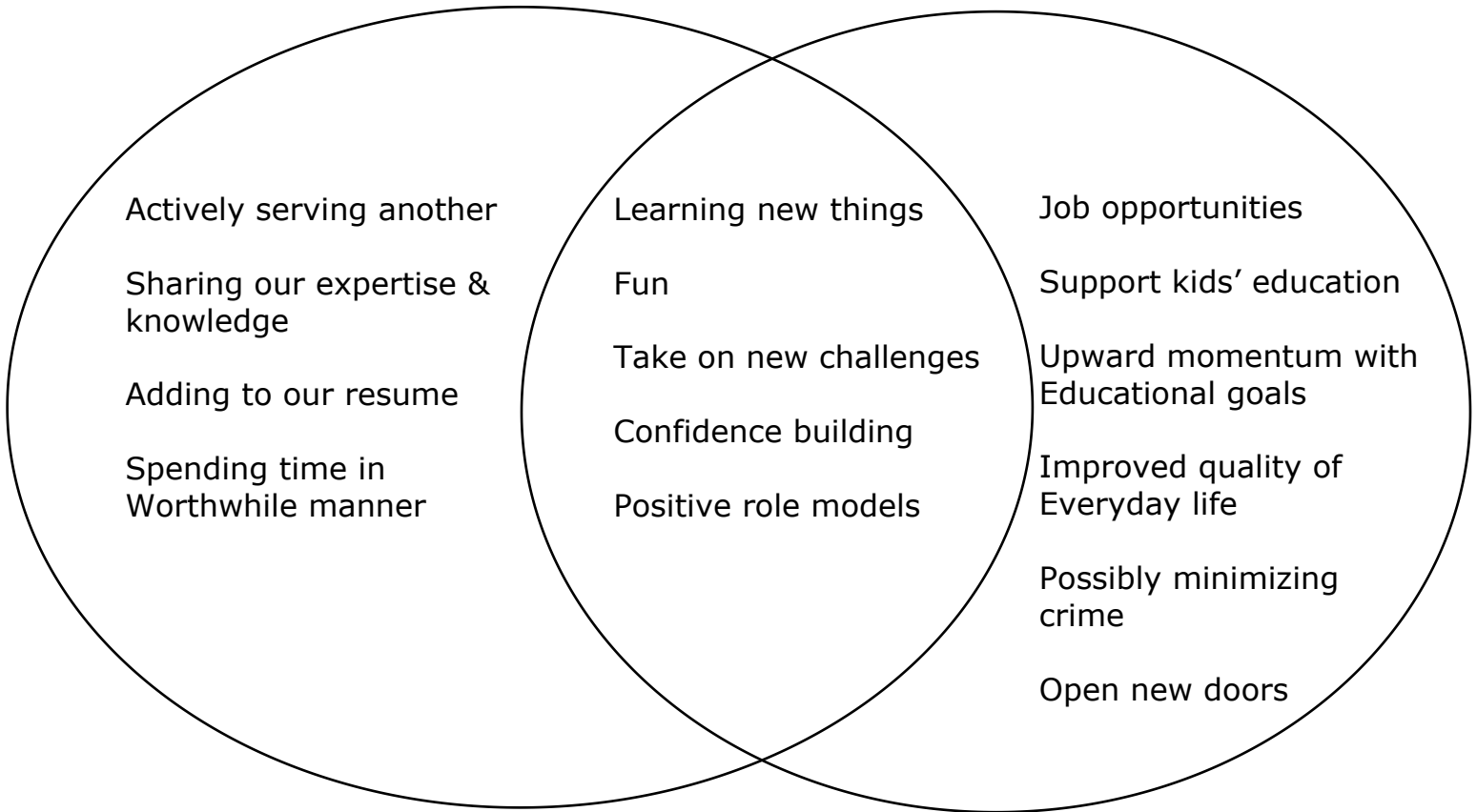
Another's illiteracy should be undone.

A family is now more stable.

TUTOR

BOTH

LEARNER



Missed an Issue??

Did you know that previous issues of our **READ Writes** newsletter can be accessed online at www.readoc.org?

Check out our website, often!



There is a great collection of resources and advice brewing on our website. Review the previous issues of our newsletter for ideas, activities, and suggestions to use in your tutoring sessions. And remember to share it with a friend when they ask you "what's new?"

10 Things Tutors Can Do (That Books And Computers Cannot...)



Farrell Ink, an educational consulting firm based in Cleveland, Ohio, supports non-profits organizations that provide literacy services, specifically "collaborations that support mission-driven and volunteer-based programs." READ/OC found the following "reminders" from Farrell Ink's blog to be timely and applicable for all "lifelong learners."

"This list is meant to be fun and easy to remember, but these are also research-based tips to improve learner engagement and outcomes...thanks to all the great tutors out there!"
~ Farrell Ink

1. SMILE!

2. Read aloud together. Fluency (reading smoothly and with correct inflection) is very important to reading comprehension, but only speaking with other human beings can fully build this skill. *(It is also helpful for learners for whom English is not their first language.)*

3. Model curiosity and inquiry. Being a good tutor isn't about what you know; it's about showing *how* you know and showing others how to learn. Demonstrate the use of reference materials, and ask open ended questions that make you both think a little deeper about a topic. *(Demonstrate lifelong long learning – share what you are learning!)*

4. Figure out how the skill is relevant to the learner's life. Every person has different goals and life experiences. Ask your learner "What should I know about you?" Write down what you hear, and then connect that information to what you are learning together.

5. Use concrete, 3D objects to introduce concepts. The more senses someone uses, the more she or he will remember. Use TOUCH to bring concepts to life.

6. Identify what a learner already knows. Humans retain new information by connecting it to what they already know. A good connection is often more memorable than a good explanation.

7. Mentor how to apply critical thinking skills to everyday incidents. A learner's life experiences are not distractions from learning...they are opportunities to learn and apply things like writing skills, time management, prioritizing lists, and evaluating information. The ultimate goal of education is for learners to have a better quality of life and relationships.

8. Make practice fun through enjoying games and repetition. Practice makes perfect, but no one wants to do the same worksheet 15 times. Use puzzles, flash cards, friendly competition, or quick "warm ups" to make the necessary repetition fun. *(Worksheets were not fun in elementary school and most likely remain not so fun so now.)*

9. Take a vacation. Books don't need a break to take care of themselves & their loved ones. You do. We will miss you, but don't expect you to be there every single day. *(Remember to let READ/OC know when you are taking a "break.")*

10. LISTEN! *(Practice "active listening," to seek understanding through non-verbal communication, empathy, asking questions, offering encouragement, paraphrasing and summarizing.)*

Source: Farrell Ink 2011 Blog; December 7, 2011

<http://farrellink.com> *Added notes in green are from READ/OC

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Karen Ruhl



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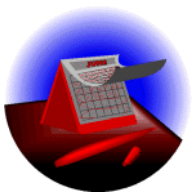
Karen Ruhl

Ms. Paige Turner

If you are interested in contributing an article for READ WRITES, contact us at 714-566-3070.

When you have finished reading this newsletter, please share it with someone so they will know about the services and volunteer opportunities.

[Click here to go directly to the READ/OC Calendar of Events](#)



ORANGE COUNTY
OC Community Resources
Our Community. Our Commitment.

lead
ORANGE COUNTY

ORANGE COUNTY
OC Public Libraries
OC Community Resources

Accredited
PROLITERACY
AMERICA

READ/OC is the adult literacy services of OC Public Libraries and OC Community Resources

February - March 2012

Random Acts of Kindness Week: *Read to someone-give them a book- take them to the library!*

February 13-19

Tuesday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day! Share a poem or book with someone you love!

Monday, February 20

HOLIDAY- Libraries & READ/OC Closed for President's Day

Tuesday, February 21

eReader Open House @ Rancho Santa Margarita Library, 12-2pm

Saturday, February 25

George Washington's Birthday - *Readers are Leaders!*
Southern California Library Literacy Conference @ Buena Park Holiday Inn - Great Workshops For Tutors **and** Learners! *Register NOW if you have not already done so! Don't miss out!*

Thursday, March 1

Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ El Toro Library

Friday, March 2

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! - Read Across America Day!

Read Cat In the Hat or The Lorax with someone you love!

Saturday, March 3

Tutor Training Follow-Up & Certification, 9am-11am @ READ/OC HQ (Veteran Tutors are welcome & encouraged to attend!)

Learner Meeting, 10am-12pm @ READ/OC HQ

Tuesday, March 6

Learner Orientation, 6-7:30 pm @ Fountain Valley Library

Thursday, March 8

Tutor Orientation, 6-7 pm @ Anaheim Haskett Library

Family Reading Time, 6:30-7:45 pm @ La Palma Library

eReader Open House @ Garden Grove Regional Library, 12-2pm

Learner Orientation, 6-7:30 pm @ READ/OC HQ

Tutor Orientation, 6-7pm @ Aliso Viejo Library

Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ Mesa Verde Library, Costa Mesa

Saturday, March 10

Tutor Training Workshop, 9am-4pm, @ READ/OC HQ

Family Reading Time, 10am-12pm @ Irvine University

Park Library & 1-3 pm at Tustin Library

March 12-17

Brain Awareness Week: Exercise Your Mind - Solve a puzzle!

Wednesday, March 14

Family Reading Time, 6-8 pm @ Stanton Community Services Center

Saturday, March 17

Tutor Training Workshop, 9am-4pm, @ READ/OC HQ

Learner Meeting & Potluck, 10am-12pm @ READ/OC HQ



1501 E. St. Andrew Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: 714-566-3070 • www.READOC.org