

ALAMEDA READS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

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Passing the U.S. Citizenship Test

Congratulations to the learners who have passed the United States Citizenship Test recently!

Here is Hawa’s story.

By Christine Buck, Alameda Reads volunteer

For Hawa, January 27, 2017 was a day to remember. On that day she passed her test for U.S. citizenship. “I’m a citizen now, I’m an American,” she said with a huge smile.

Hawa’s journey to U.S. citizenship was a long one. She fled the violence in Ethiopia for Kenya. In April, 1999, she made it to the United States. Hawa moved to Alameda in 2010. She had not gone to school or learned to read in her home country. As the mother of two young daughters, she realized how important reading is to life in America.

When Hawa found Alameda Reads in 2014, she began to work with Alison. As she developed her reading skills, Hawa set another goal: to become an American citizen. Together, they spent over two years studying for the test. “We took our time. I wanted her to understand. Hawa wasn’t used to reading words like ‘Emancipation Proclamation,’” said Alison. “They give you 100 questions to study, and you don’t know which 10 questions they’ll ask you in your test,” she continued.

When Hawa got the news that she had passed the test, she invited Alison to attend the citizenship ceremony at the Paramount Theater in Oakland. It was an exciting day for both of them. There were 1,070 new citizens from many countries. “The new citizens sat in the main floor, and we were asked to stand up when they called out the name of our country,” Hawa explained.

Hawa looks forward to her work with Alison. “I always learn something different. I like it.” Hawa has learned so much during their three years together. “Hawa never got to go to school. That meant she had to both learn a new language and learn to read for the first time. She has made so much progress!” Alison said. Now that she has reached her goal of becoming a citizen, Hawa continues to practice reading. But she also has a new goal. She wants to be able to drive and is studying for the written driving test.



ALAMEDA READS

Amy Prevedel
Program Coordinator

Barbara Papik
Program Assistant

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Wednesday:	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
	and 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Thursday:	4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

CONTACT

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Learners' Writing

My Son Mohammed by Kateba

I would like to tell you about my son. My son's name is Mohammed. He is the best, the best son to me. He is very good. He takes good care of me and of all of my family. He takes care of us. He is a man who is very happy, very intelligent, and has a good heart for all the family. He is my son and my best friend. He sees me when I am not happy. He looks in my eyes when I feel sad. He takes care of us, so he is in my heart. I love him from all my heart.

My Name by Kim Ly

When I was born, my father gave me the name "Lil Fen." It means a flower that has a good smell and is very fancy even though it is not very beautiful. I love this name in Chinese. But I was born in Vietnam and when it is translated into Vietnamese, it means sadness and a bad smell. Luckily, the doctor who delivered me did not know what to write on the birth certificate because my father spoke Chinese. Therefore, she gave me *her* name on my birth certificate. I did not like the name of Kim because it was just like Vietnamese even though Kim means rich, gold and strong in Vietnamese.

Since I came to the United States, I have to use Kim as my proper name. I started to love the name Kim because it is easy for people, and it's similar to an American name too. Now I feel happy to have inherited the doctor's name.

My Name by Hannah Park

My Korean name is Hanna. It means the same as the Hannah that comes out of the Old Testament, Samuel's mother's name. I love the name. Hannah couldn't bear any babies, so she was very sad and cried every day. She prayed to God at church heartily day and night. Finally, she bore her first son named Samuel. She and her husband were quite happy. I adore her. She didn't give up her hope. She was victorious.

My Name by Judy

My Chinese name is Jiadi. My mom named me. In Chinese my name means "add a boy." My mom's wish was to get a boy for my family. In my mom's generation, it was very important. I have an older sister. My grandfather, my grandmother, my mom, my dad and everyone thought I was a boy, but I am a girl! They felt disappointed. During the seventies in China, every family should have at least one boy. If they didn't get a boy, everyone thought the family was not strong, and nobody took care of the family. Unfortunately, I don't have a young brother. My mom treated me like a boy. I didn't even wear a skirt. I walked very fast. I acted like a boy. When I was a kid, I didn't like my name. I felt it was unfair. Why I must be a boy and why does my sister have a beautiful name? Her name means "add more wisdom." Every girl had a beautiful name. Why was my name so weird? When I grew up, my mom totally understood me. Now my mom says, "I am lucky. I got two girls." I don't feel it is unfair anymore. I like the name. Jiadi makes me feel special.

Cat’s Eyes

By James

Cat’s eyes
Talk about people’s easy change
Cat’s eyes are morning eyes and afternoon eyes
Light eyes all different.



Walking Along the Beach

By Cathy Chen

Walking along the beach
Blowing is the sea breeze
Enjoy the relaxing life

My Dog Oscar Constantly Barks

By Carmen Chu

My dog Oscar constantly barks
Outside the fence of my front yard
Seeing the postman delivering mail

Big Bird on the Fence

By Afaf

Big bird on the fence
Standing like a prince
Unafraid of me

My Flowers Sleep in Winter

By Judy

My flowers sleep in winter
Wake up in spring
Blooming now

The Birds Sing a Song

By Kim Ly

The birds sing a song
The wind sounds like music
A peaceful morning at the lake.

When I Go to the Beach

By Kateba

When I go to the beach
I see many fish in the water
They make me very happy





Alameda Reads learners accomplish great things!

- **Hawa:** Passed the United States Citizenship test; learned how to call representatives
- **Yunia:** Passed the United States Citizenship test; practiced speaking on the phone
- **Anh:** Started classes at Alameda Community College
- **Alex:** Improved his workplace vocabulary
- **Vu:** Prepared for a job interview... and got the job!
- **Andrea:** Passed the Police Academy exam, and is now a police officer!
- **Jessica:** Learned how to fill out workplace forms and practiced for the GED exam
- **Hue:** Read the Easy Voter Guide before the 2016 Election
- **Kim:** Read a biography about Rosa Parks
- **Ryan:** Practiced reading blueprints and construction drawings
- **Alonso:** Practiced writing emails and reports for work
- **Ana:** Learned how to send emails to family members
- **Helen:** Learned how to make flyers on Microsoft Word
- **Carrol:** Learned how to use a dictionary app on her phone
- **Billie:** Learned how to use apps on his tablet
- **Kateba:** Learned vocabulary that helps her talk to her doctor.
- **Hyunji:** Completed her second ESL course at Alameda Community College



Thank You

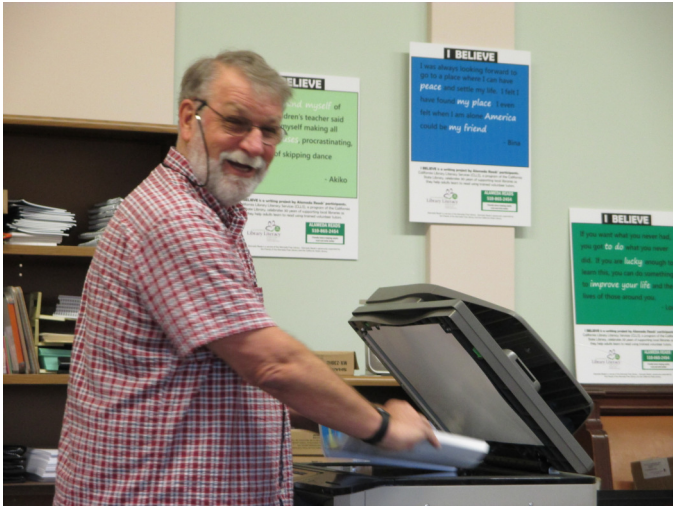
Alameda Reads would not be possible without the help of our generous donors & funders. Thank you to the people and organizations who support adult literacy!



- *Melissa donated a shipment of delicious Clif Bars*
- *Christine brought in plenty of 2017 calendars for learners*
- *Alice and Bob donated a new coffee maker and a generous supply of coffee*
- *The Friends of the Alameda Free Library continues to support Alameda Reads*

Tips for Successful Learning

Volunteer Joe Brandt recently led a workshop for other volunteers. Part of his presentation came from the book, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*, which provides concrete techniques for becoming a more effective learner. Here are some takeaways from the book you can apply to tutoring:



Joe Brandt is a stellar volunteer!

1. Take one pass at a subject and then take a quiz.
2. Lots of short quizzes are better than a “final test.”
3. Switching between different topics while studying is better than focusing on only one topic.
4. If you are using flash cards, mix them up once in a while.
5. You learn more by trying to solve the problem than being given the answer immediately.

The book offers many more suggestions for learners and tutors alike.

To find out more about *Make It Stick*, check out the book from our office collection, or visit www.makeitstick.net.

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Hello and Goodbye

Starting this June, Amy will be leaving Alameda Reads. She and her family have received a special opportunity to move to Northern Italy, where her husband will be studying farming programs in Italian and Austrian schools. Though she will miss everyone at the program, she is excited about this new experience. We are very fortunate to have Barb Papik stepping in as Program Coordinator. Many of you already know Barb from the Alameda Reads office.



Amy Prevedel and Barb Papik pose for a quick picture.

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Welcome New Volunteers!

Our program exists because of the dedication of community volunteers. Alameda Reads trains volunteers who make the program work by tutoring adult learners, assisting in small groups, preparing for events, and more.

Do YOU know someone who enjoys being with people and has a few hours to spare? Please ask them to contact Alameda Reads or visit www.alamedareads.com to fill out a volunteer registration form.

Our next volunteer training session will be in Fall 2017.



March 2017: Eleanore Chisholm; Sabrina Dupont;
Stephanie Hwang; Pamela Ivie; Claire McLaughlin;
Miriam Mackey; Chris Martin; Ann Varni

October 2016: Anne Beavers; Carol Bowers;
Christine Buck; Alison Denny; Natasha Isajlovic;
Robert McAndrews, Mary Jude Peterson

May 2016: Molly Cossette, Michael Henning, AnJu
Hyppolite, Christine Loehrlein, Linda Saejang, Deborah

Read Write Learn

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