



July/August 2013

**Feature Articles:**

- **Citizenship Corner Coming Soon**
- **Violence, Crime and Literacy**
- **APU Student Liaison Search**

**To contact us:**

The Literacy Program  
Azusa City Library  
729 N. Dalton Avenue  
Azusa CA 91702  
(626) 812-5266

Or email:

literacy@ci.azusa.ca.us

**Staff & Volunteers**

Literacy Coordinator:  
Cathay Reta

Literacy Assistant:  
Ginger Antunez

Literacy Council Chair:  
Daisy Hernandez

APU Student Liaison:  
Position Vacant

If you do not wish to receive future issues of this e-newsletter, please let us know at

literacy@ci.azusa.ca.us

## Citizenship Corner: *Coming Soon*

“What is the supreme law of the land?”  
“What does the constitution do?”  
“What is an amendment?”

You will be able to learn the answers to these questions, and more, at the **Citizenship Corner** coming to the library in September. The Corner will include books, pamphlets, study cards, DVDs, and all kinds of information to help community members learn about the citizenship process and to help prepare for the citizenship interview. Even if you are already a citizen, there’s nothing more inspiring than brushing up on the history of our country and how our government works, — except to help someone else brush up on that history to become a U.S. citizen. That is most inspirational!



Interested? At the same time we open our Citizenship Corner, we will be launching **Grassroots ESL**, our new community-based English tutoring program. If you speak English and would like to help others to improve their English skills to become a U.S. citizen, to get a job promotion, to help their children with schoolwork or to just speak English more freely with neighbors, please contact The Literacy Program:

(626) 812-5266 \* literacy@ci.azusa.ca.us

We would like to discuss your potential involvement in the program.

## Violence, Crime and Literacy: What’s the Connection?

Did you know that —

- 60% of America’s inmates read below a fourth-grade reading level (U.S. Department of Education)
- 70% is the recidivism rate for inmates who do not receive literacy help in prison — but if inmates do receive literacy help while incarcerated, their rate of returning to prison drops to 16% (Penal Institution Records)
- 85% of all juvenile offenders have reading problems (U.S. Department of Education)
- 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare (One World Literacy Foundation)

*“The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure.” — Department of Justice*

This certainly gives us something to think about, especially at a time when California’s prisons are overburdened and inmates are being released and returned to their communities by court order. Learning to read better can make a huge difference for someone re-entering the community.

Just ask Ruben, a recent student of The Literacy Program. When he was released from prison last year, he came to the library to enroll in The Literacy Program. He had begun learning to read better while in prison and was happy to find he could continue those studies at the Azusa Library, using the same books he had used in the prison’s educational program. While his initial goals were to improve his skills to be able to get a good job, his greatest desire was to be

able to read to his grandchildren. That is something he was never able to do with his own children. It put a big smile on Ruben's face — and ours — when he was able to read "Curious George" to his granddaughter.

## **WANTED: APU Student Liaison**



We congratulate Jonathan Munson on his graduation from APU, and we thank him for developing the role of APU Student Liaison for The Literacy Program.

As our first Liaison, Jonathan demonstrated just how important and how effective this position can be. The Liaison is our connection to Azusa Pacific University students. The Liaison keeps us aware of student body activities, helps to distribute information to students, and participates in the Azusa Literacy Council.

Do you know an APU student who might be interested in taking on this volunteer role? Please contact The Literacy Program for a job description and to discuss the details further.

Our next tutor training workshop will be scheduled soon. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, contact the literacy office:

(626) 812-5266  
literacy@ci.azusa.ca.us



## **Happy Summer!**

Stay tuned for new program developments in the Fall!  
There are many new and exciting plans in the works, including:

**Health Literacy Learning, Level 2**  
**Reading Horizons**  
**GrassRoots ESL**