

FALL 2020

Palo Alto Adult School Community Newsletter



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Imagine how isolated you would feel if you were unable to communicate in the language of the country you lived in. Language is essential to successful integration and participation in the local community. For English language learners who have recently arrived in the U.S., English as a Second Language (ESL) classes provide them with the opportunity to learn English to achieve their personal and professional goals.



ESL Voices introduces the **Palo Alto Adult School ESL program**. This issue features the Writing Academy.

“Write for Life –“ Palo Alto Adult School's Writing Academy

Palo Alto Adult School offered writing classes for its ESL students for years before the launch of the Writing Academy (WA). The early classes addressed a variety of needs. We focused on writing required for work, grammar, and vocabulary. However, we felt improvements were needed.

The classes focused more on goals, rather than the skill level of the students participating. We had a mixture of students, some needing help at a basic level with grammar and sentence structure, while others wanted to learn the more advanced skills of how to structure and organize more complex or lengthier content.

Our students' goals were often different, and related to their language skill level. Those at the beginning level needed writing to fill out basic work reports or to compose simple emails. Advanced students wanted to write more complex pieces for a blog, a newsletter, or to even publish in professional magazines.

Students often didn't know how the skills they learned in one class connected or carried over. To address these concerns, PAAS launched the Writing Academy in the Fall of 2011. Students were divided into three fundamentals of writing classes: sentence-writing, how to write a paragraph, and the principles of essay-writing, preparing students for English 1A, the basic undergraduate English composition class at US colleges.

Today, over 1500 students have moved through the doors of the WA. Currently, the Academy offers five classes: two levels Thursday evenings and three levels Friday mornings, 3 times a year. Each session lasts 10 weeks and the classes are taught by 5 teachers.

As evidenced by our students' feedback and the ever-increasing enrollment, we feel we have hit upon a winning formula. The Writing Academy, by all indications, is serving its diverse adult population well, preparing them for the writing demands they face at work or college. We are excited about what the Academy has accomplished so far and look forward to further expanding and refining our formula as time goes on.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Academy can email Alex Scott, the ESL Coordinator at ascott@pausd.org.

PreSchool Family Pivots to Safely Support Families



Due to Covid-19 health considerations and regulations, classes for the fall of the 2020 school year will not meet in person. If you are interested in learning about our ten-week online programs planned for this fall, please visit our website and fill out a form. We will be in touch if space is available to join these classes. Thank you.

Principal Shannon Coleman, PreSchool Family at Greendell

PreSchool Family was designed to provide parent education, play-based learning for children, and age-specific strategies and activities to support the healthy growth of the whole family. Even without a global pandemic, families encounter questions about parenting they hadn't anticipated. PreSchool Family's strong community of teachers and parents has always provided a network of resources for families, and that remains true today, even during this health crisis. This fall the school has adapted to provide three new virtual classes that safely support and educate families with young children, from infants to four-year-olds.

The classes are for:
Parents of babies and toddlers
Parents and children 2 and 3 years old
Parents and children 3 and 4 years old

Each program provides a series of parenting classes covering topics from sleep, separation, motor skills and cognitive development to limit setting, peaceful conflict resolution, temperaments, family routines, positive discipline and discussions to address parents' most urgent questions. Curated readings, and videos are provided to explore topics in more depth.

A series of care package activity kits are provided throughout the ten-week program because play is the way the children learn best. Special instructions in either written or video form enhance parents' learning and help them engage with their children in new and creative ways.

Additional videos with song, finger play, science projects, and dance are included for the older children's programs. Children in the 3- and 4-year-old program also participate in short group Zoom classes throughout the week.

The teaching team will be producing videos for each of these classes so families may use these resources as their schedule allows. One-on-one parent teacher remote conferences provide yet one more element of care by allowing time to discuss family-specific questions with a child development expert.

All of the programs are designed to meet the developmental stages of each age group and provide community and educational resources for families until we are all able to safely meet in person again. If you would like to know more about these programs, please visit PSF.PAUSD.ORG for the most up to date information. – **Registrar, Patty Germanow**

Crafts, Hobbies & Interests

HISET Upholstery Music
Woodworking
Arts-and-Crafts
Career-Training
Health-and-Fitness
Business-and-Finance
English-Enrichment
Creative-Writing
ESL Photography
Citizenship
Nature Genealogy
Birding

The Adult School offers courses in creative writing for those with a literary inclination. Students interested in writing and presentation skills, can enroll in our Writing Academy program and choose from a variety of classes offered in four different levels.

Featured:

CREATIVE WRITING and AROUND THE WRITER'S BLOCK

Chana Feinstein, Instructor



Chana Feinstein has some big shoes to fill. When her beloved mentor Burt Liebert passed away in 2018, Chana took over his *Creative Writing* class, and then added her own polish with the *Around The Writer's Block* class. She kept Burt's tradition of providing weekly snacks for the class, as well as his round table style of going around the room hearing each student's piece, followed by gentle feedback. So, the *Creative Writing* class is still going strong, with old and new students alike. Her *Around The Writer's Block* is an even more specialized course, providing specific pointers for anyone interested in unleashing their written potential. When Chana realized that there wasn't a lot of research on helping people with unblocking techniques

she had the perfect idea for a new writing class and thus created *Around The Writer's Block*. She is also currently working on a book on the same subject.

Chana has been inventing stories and songs since before she could hold a pencil. She has enjoyed working as a teacher and coach to undergraduates and adults in a variety of fields for many years, and has a special passion for teaching about writing. She won a half-dozen awards and published across genres in non-fiction, poetry, and fiction, with upcoming work in Defenestration, Rise Up Review, and Every Day Fiction. In her former professional work, and as a Master's researcher in Psychology and Public Administration (SFSU & USC), she focused on researching how to help people make the changes they want in their lives, mentoring and training at non-profits as a Director and consultant. She attended the Mills Creative Writing Program, and other professional conferences, and continues to develop her skills and increase her toolbox of techniques she can provide her clients and students.

Professional Background:

- Workshops: Catholic Charities, Jail (Change, Life skills & Motivational), and others.
- MPA, USC; MA (in progress, all but thesis) Social Psychology (studies and lab research focusing on self-change interventions).
- Taught SFSU undergraduates, jail inmates, and others.
- BA, Phi Beta Kappa, Mills College, Psychology with honors.
- Member, Theatre Bay Area & International Center of Women Playwrights.



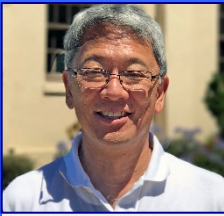
Burt Liebert passed away peacefully at home on Dec 24, 2018 with children and grandchildren at his side. During his life he gave back in many, many ways, including 14 years teaching high school, 16 years as a college professor, and decades teaching adult education. He taught his last Creative Writing class at the Palo Alto Adult School on Nov 14, 2018. Predeceased by his wife of 64 years Margie, and survived by his older sister, Betty Moore, 4 children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Burt is greatly missed by the Adult School and his students

Burt Liebert

Sept. 17, 1925 - Dec. 24, 2018

Article written by: Natalie Skelton

Dave's Almanac



Dave Hoshiwara
Adult School Principal

Dear Adult School Community,

The decade of 2020 was greeted with a bang and recently we had a full roster of activities for the new year! I am thankful to report that we finished our mid term WASC visit and we received the comment – “The visiting committee has not identified any new critical areas during this progress visit.” That is a great relief!! We received many thoughtful commendations. Thanks to all of you who made this possible! The leadership team met in March to review the WASC visit and discuss the findings of the team.

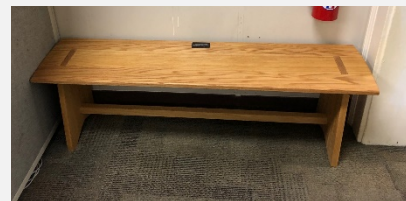
Earlier that month, the funding for our Federal program was up for renewal, and that grant was submitted just prior to the arrival of the WASC team.

Finally, towards the end of March, a state review of the Adult School was performed. Needless to say, a large amount of energy has been expended to reach these various deadlines.

I don't mean to bore you with these different deadlines, but I am excited to say that these projects gave me the opportunity to see and observe many parts of the Adult School that were unfamiliar to me and for that I am grateful! You are the ones who are the grassroots of the Adult School and without all of you, we wouldn't be here!

In addition ...

The PALY office of the Adult School was recently blessed with the addition of a beautifully crafted bench for students to use while waiting for services!





Editor's Corner

Natalie Skelton/ Editor

Thank you to Robert Glenister, former Editor

I'd like to extend my gratitude and thanks to my impromptu mentor, Robert Glenister. He graciously sat down with me to show me the ropes and to pass on the important duties of editing our Adult School Newsletter. I very much look forward to working with everyone in putting together ideas, notices, and articles, and whatever else you might need. I hope to serve our community as well as Robert did!

A little bit about me ...

I graduated from Santa Clara University (go Broncos!) with a B.A. in Theatre Arts and a minor in English. I've worked in arts and education for most of my adult life, and have published a bit of writing here and there. I love dogs and jazz, and most importantly, I love working at PAUSD as the Summer School and Adult School Secretary.

Please note: Due to Covid19, the Adult School main office currently has limited office hours. Please call the office to make an appointment to visit the office. We ask all visitors to wear a mask upon entering the building. Thank you all for your cooperation and support.

Cathy Zander Tribute

1947 - 2020



On August 15, and with great sorrow, we said farewell to our beloved PAAS Art Teacher (since 2014), Cathy Zander.

In her own words:

My love of art started at a very young age. At eight years old, I would get on a bus, by myself, every Saturday morning for an hour long ride to take art classes in the Cleveland Museum of Art. I would sit for hours on a little stool with a pad of paper and pastels and try to capture the paintings on the walls – most often the Impressionists. By twelve years old, I had made my mind up – I wanted to be an artist and an art teacher! I never wavered from that conviction. By thirteen, I was holding art camp for the neighborhood children in our basement. By sixteen, I was teaching art at the large local YMCA. I received a BA and teaching credential in Art Education. I went to graduate school at Purdue University and received an MA in Art Education. On graduating, my husband and I moved to Palo Alto, CA. Over many years, I have taught art classes, in many media, for all ages, from young children to senior citizens, for galleries, art stores, schools, rec departments, workshops and private lessons. My styles vary as widely as the media I use, and I draw inspiration from everything around me. Exploring colors is a dominate theme in most of my artwork. When asked what my favorite color is, I'm likely to reply, the whole rainbow!" My individual art works vary from serene landscapes to playful twists on a theme (like unexpected puns). I am very eclectic in my work and many people are surprised at the variety, saying, I didn't know you did that!

Cathy passed away on August 15, 2020 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). She is survived by Paul Albert Zander, her husband of 51 years; her children Virginia (Craig) Joplin and David Zander; and grandson Julian Anderson. She will be greatly missed. www.cathyzander.com

