

The Literacy Circle

Camarena Memorial Library | Fall 2024

850 Encinas Ave. Calexico, CA | (760) 768-2170 | <https://calexicolibrary.org>

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10 YEARS AS A VOLUNTEER: AN INTERVIEW

Jaqueline Lopez



Jaqueline has been a library volunteer for the past 10 years as a tutor for the Adult Literacy Services program. Continue reading to find out more about this amazing woman native to the Imperial Valley. Her experience helping adults in our community reach their reading and writing goals as well as what has inspired her to do so.

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LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH!

Whether you're upgrading your skills, scouting for knowledge and information, or connecting with other heroic readers, a library card is your key to an arsenal of resources. Spark your creativity as a builder or programmer by tinkering in your library's STEAM Lab programs; mine the library's stacks and databases for new stories and adventures; kickstart your critical thinking skills to defeat the deceptions of misinformation lurking online. Hitting the road? Use your library card to fuel your mind with books, e-books, audiobooks, and park passes.

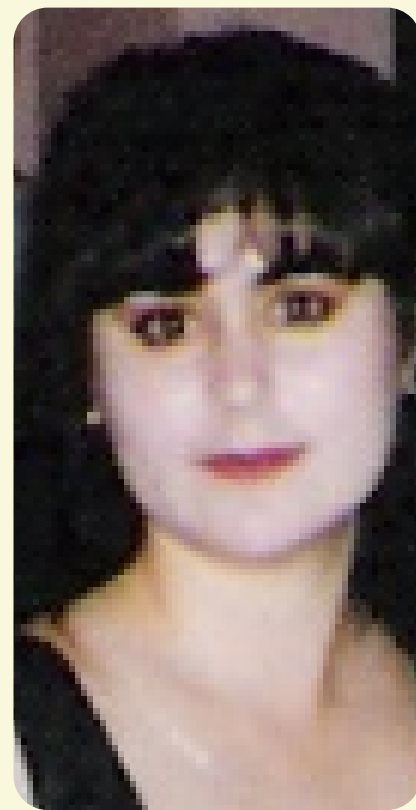
Continue reading for more information!



10 Years as a volunteer: an interview

What inspired you to become a tutor/volunteer at the library?

I grew up in the Imperial Valley, a rural, economically depressed area where few young people finished high school, much less thought about going to college. This example of inequity has steered me towards a career goal in which personal success means performing a service to others, particularly communities in dire need of representation here in the United States. For most of my adult life, I have remained very active in the community as a volunteer. Over the past several years, I worked with Camarena Memorial Library in promoting the Adult Literacy Services Program. As a volunteer for the literacy program, I have taught students basic reading and writing skills. During the Covid-19 pandemic I stepped up to help the Adult Literacy Services Program by continuing to teach English in real-time via the Zoom Meeting Room. Moreover, I never thought I would be teaching online, but Zoom classes are quite rewarding.



What is your favorite part of being a tutor?

One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering for the Adult Literacy Services Program is seeing how students evolve and quickly develop English language skills. As a volunteer, I have the capacity to affect the character and educational development of many individuals. The most significant action that one can take as a volunteer is to help inspire not one, but dozens of students. All students deserve a safe learning environment to be able to express their views, to gain new innovative ideas, and insights. I really enjoy being around students; I intend for my classes to be enriching to my students and of utmost value for their immediate and long-term educational goals.

Do you remember your first learner?

I remember all of my students. In fact, I have kept in touch with a couple of the students. I first signed up as a volunteer for the Adult Literacy Services Program in August of 2013; however, I was not given my first student until February 2014. In fact, I have taught several students English as a second language ever since: Rosalba Garcia (2/8/2014-8/14/2016), Beatriz de Anda (11/3/2016-1/26/2017), Guadalupe Maldonado (3/30/2017-5/7/2017), Barbara Sanchez (5/25/17-8/23/18), Carmen Aguilar (12/12/18-3/2019), and Lidia Ortega (12/11/2019-Present).



10 Years as a volunteer: an interview – continued

What is the longest you have tutored one of your Learners?

Lidia Ortega has been registered with the Adult Literacy Services Program for over 4 ½ years. She is highly motivated to improve her language skills, and has made tremendous progress in the last few years. I am confident she will excel in all her future endeavors.

Do you remember a success story about one of your learners that was especially rewarding to you?

For example, my first learner, Rosalba Garcia, spoke very little English when she signed up with the program; however, after 2 1/2 years of English classes at Camarena Memorial Library her vocabulary increased tremendously. Ms. Garcia even went on to enroll in the Nursing Program at Imperial Valley College. The Adult Literacy Services Program is responsible for many success stories.

How do you feel about being a volunteer for the past 10 years?

I heard somewhere that I was the longest-serving volunteer for the Adult Literacy Services Program; I don't know if that is correct, but I have served the program diligently for numerous years. The staff members at Camarena Memorial Library are very nice and friendly. In my ten years of volunteering in a public setting, I have strived to make a positive difference in the lives of students, library staff, and local community members. I appreciate comments and feedback from my students and feel very comfortable with the prospect of working with individuals from different backgrounds. Moreover, I hope to awaken passion among students and curiosity for learning

What would you say to the people reading this out there to encourage them to sign up as volunteers or learners?

I really believe in the Adult Literacy Services Program. I have seen many students benefit tremendously from this program. I encourage community members to volunteer at Camarena Memorial Library; individuals who desire to improve their English language skills should consider signing up for the free classes offered by the program. Volunteerism not only makes a remarkable difference in people's everyday lives, but it also strengthens ties with the community. Students enrolled in the program can gain a sense of purpose, and learn valuable communication skills to help them advance their careers.



Library Programming

FAMILY NIGHTS

Fiesta Mexicana Family Night | Thursday, September 12 @ 5 PM
Halloween Family Night | Wednesday, October 30 @ 5 PM
Christmas Family Night | Thursday, December 19 @ 5 PM



NEW PROGRAM ALERT! ARTSY ADULTS

Join us the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm, let your creativity flow & create an art piece to take home



TEENTOBER

Teens are invited to join us during the first 4 weeks of October for different activities and enjoy arts & crafts, games, snacks and books @ 3:30 pm
Ages 13 - 18



Red Ribbon Week - Special Event

Join us for a special presentation on Thursday, October 24 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM



Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Scheduled for Monday, November 4 @ 6:00 at City Hall

SCAN THE QR CODE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO, RESOURCES & CALENDAR



Library Card Sign-up Month

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month this September with Camarena Memorial Library and the American Library Association! We're inviting everyone to discover the incredible resources and opportunities available at your local library by signing up for a library card.

This year, we're thrilled to have Optimus Prime from the TRANSFORMERS as our special ambassador, highlighting that there's more than meets the eye at our library. Whether you're looking to enhance your skills, find valuable information, or connect with fellow avid readers, a library card unlocks a world of possibilities.



Special Event: Get Your License to Read

Join us on Thursday, September 19 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm and get or renew your library card by a Calexico Police officer!

Check out a book and get to know our police officers



LITERACY CIRCLE

BOOK RECOMMENDATION SPECIAL!



Comics Plus

GUERRILLA GREEN BY OPHELIE DAMBLÉ

"PLANT...EVERYWHERE!" Ophélie is a thirty years old city-dweller who's joined the guerilla gardening movement fighting for decades to bring more green back into cities that increasingly resemble concrete jungles. Now she's putting the guerillas' motto into action by reviving the true spirit of her city and showing everyone the true nature of their world! Cookie Kalkair & Ophelie Damblé explore the real world of the guerilla gardening movement that teaches us the principles of making our cities more beautiful and sustainable places, one plant at a time.



Libby by Overdrive

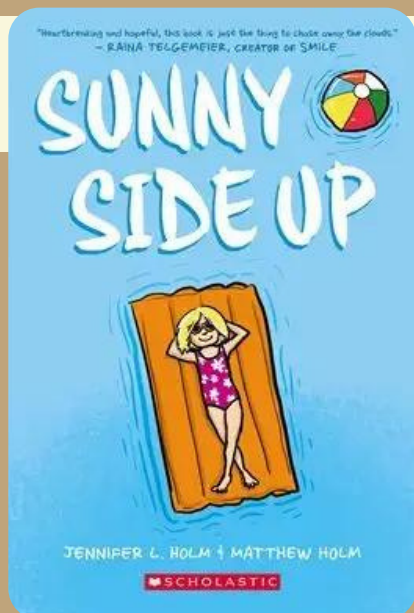
MY SISTER, THE SERIAL KILLER BY OYINKAN BRAITHWAITE

"Femi makes three, you know. Three and they label you a serial killer."

Korede is bitter. How could she not be? Her sister, Ayoola, is many things: the favorite child, the beautiful one, possibly sociopathic. And now Ayoola's third boyfriend in a row is dead.

Korede's practicality is the sisters' saving grace. She knows the best solutions for cleaning blood, the trunk of her car is big enough for a body, and she keeps Ayoola from posting pictures of her dinner to Instagram when she should be mourning her "missing" boyfriend. Not that she gets any credit.

Korede has long been in love with a kind, handsome doctor at the hospital where she works. She dreams of the day when he will realize that she's exactly what he needs. But when he asks Korede for Ayoola's phone number, she must reckon with what her sister has become and how far she's willing to go to protect her.



Hoopla

SUNNY SIDE UP BY JENNIFER L. HOLM

When is a summer vacation not really a summer vacation?

Sunny Lewin has been packed off to Florida to live with her grandfather for the summer. At first she thought Florida might be fun -- it is the home of Disney World, after all. But the place where Gramps lives is no amusement park. It's full of . . . old people. Really old people. Luckily, Sunny isn't the only kid around. She meets Buzz, a boy who is completely obsessed with comic books, and soon they're having adventures of their own: facing off against golfball-eating alligators, runaway cats, and mysteriously disappearing neighbors. But the question remains -- why is Sunny down in Florida in the first place? The answer lies in a family secret that won't be secret to Sunny much longer. . .

PARENTING CORNER

PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOPS

Workshops for families with children between 1-3 y/o
All Tuesdays @ 5:00 PM in October

Space limited. Please contact us to sign-up or to get more information



PARENT WORKSHOPS

Stress Management workshop in Spanish will be offered on
Tuesdays at 10:00 am (Sep 10, 17 & 24)

Contact us for more information on how to sign-up & for upcoming dates



FAMILY LITERACY NIGHTS

Participants of our adult literacy services and their families are invited to our literacy nights for an evening of activities the last Monday of each month @ 5:00 PM

SEP 30 | OCT 28 | NOV 25 | DEC 30



UPCOMING LITERACY EVENTS

LIBRARY LEARNERS BOOK CLUB
SEP 17, OCT 15, NOV 19 & DEC 17
5:30 - 6:30

JOIN IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

LET'S TALK CONVERSATION GROUP
FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

5:30 - 6:30

JOIN IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

LITERACY ANNOUNCEMENT

OUR WAITLISTS FOR BOTH ESL AND
CITIZENSHIP CLASSES ARE OPEN!

CALL US AT

(760) 768-2170 OR (760) 768-7480
TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON HOW
TO BE ADDED!

Highlight Dates

SEPTEMBER 8 :
INTERNATIONAL LITERACY
DAY

SEPTEMBER 15 -21 :
ADULT EDUCATION & FAMILY
LITERACY WEEK

OCTOBER 20 - 26 :
NATIONAL FRIENDS
OF THE LIBRARY WEEK

Online Resources

LEARNING UPGRADE

For adults in our Literacy Services
program
For students in junior high & high
school

[Interested in knowing how they work? Contact us!](#)

BRAINFUSE HELPNOW & VETNOW

For adults looking for job search
tools
for students looking for online
tutoring

[Visit our website online resources tab to learn more!](#)

LCBR Special - Resources

GUERRILLA GREEN

180 Pages

You need: library card number & your
pin

MY SISTER, THE SERIAL KILLER

Audiobook duration: 4hr 15min
You need: library card number

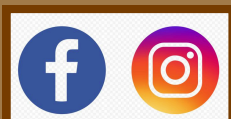
SUNNY SIDE UP

225 Pages

You need: email account & your
library card number

Access these resources through our
website or download the apps!
<https://calexicolibrary.org/resources>

FOLLOW US ON



Facebook: @camarena.memorial

Instagram: @camarenalibrary

for pictures and updates!



CAMARENA MEMORIAL LIBRARY



“I guess there are never enough books.”

-John Steinbeck, American author and the 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature winner