

Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

Through others, we become ourselves.

L. S. Vygotsky



All Faculty and Staff
Holiday Potluck
Friday, December 16, 5:00-7:00, Green Valley

Vol. 5 No. 16

The Winter's Tale Issue

Dec. 7, 2005

Holiday Dance Big Success

Over 300 in attendance

About 7:00 o'clock last Thursday night a pounding shower of cold rain had just hit the streets of Watsonville. A D.J. was finishing setting up in the very large and empty Watsonville High School cafeteria. A few of us had rushed over from Green Valley to help set up for the dance; there had been more "incidents" at Green Valley and we were feeling pretty depressed. By 7:05 a few students had straggled in, mostly younger men. By 7:10 there were about 20 men and 2 women and I had considerable doubts that this dance wasn't going to be very festive. By 8:00 there were over 300 adult students, families, friends, filling the cafeteria, dancing and laughing. Teachers also were unusually active, bouncing and moving to the every changing rhythms. The "SOS" kids got a line dance going which had 30-40 dancers moving in perfect synchronization in a startlingly joyful display of grace and beauty. One old, tired director of an adult school felt so grateful to be here, in Watsonville, working in adult education, with these people. It was a night of shared community. People left with holiday smiles and walked out on Lincoln St., the skies clear and full of stars.



Above, no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't make her dance.

A distinguished group of dancers.

Often we work day after day with people and don't know their stories. In the spirit of the season, here is a very human story behind a familiar face.



CAN YOU GUESS WHO THIS SUCCESSFUL ADULT STUDENT IS?

This is his story told in his own words

I was born in Moss Landing, Ca in 1958 and am 3rd generation. I attended school K-8th grade, where I participated in school band, choir and sports in the 6th grade. Our choir teacher/principal made it possible for us to see the Vienna Choir Boys from Switzerland at the Marines Memorial in San Francisco. To our surprise, their choir teacher invited our choir to participate the next day Sunday to sing with them at mass at the Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. It was like singing with angels in the 8th grade.

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<http://www.adultlearnerpersistence.org/>

Register for the California Adult Learner Persistence Project

The California Adult Learning Persistence Project helps adult educators explore ways to improve their programs. The project is self-directed and open-ended. Because each agency has unique circumstances and interests, there is no single “prescription” that will suit all situations. Educators can explore concepts on their own, discuss ideas with other educators in their community or region, or engage in dialogue with other participating educators by posting comments or questions to the listserve.

Local agencies that choose to register for the project will be able to record the strategies and activities they implement at their local sites and keep a record of the successes, barriers, and lessons that they learn. This information will help document the types of research-based practices being explored by agencies in California.

Certified Nursing Assistant Graduation December 6, 2005

Sonia Morrison, Director, CNA Program



Roy's Story

singing with the angels. Robert Lewis Stevenson High School in Pebble Beach was giving me an athletic scholarship as the quarterback on the football team but my mother said no. So I started the 9th grade at Alisal High School where we were bused every day. There were no buses for after school activities, so I had to hitch hike every night to get home about 10-11pm. I did my home work under the street lights.

In my junior year, I started to lose interest in school due to not being able to compete with other kids socially or economically. We were very poor at home. We lived on the Frank Capurro Ranch for free. I was headed down the wrong road where the sign dead ends to no where. That's when I decided to follow my best friend, Perry Ramirez, into the United States Marine Corps. I graduated 4th in my class of forty recruits. We started with sixty squad leaders. There, we got our orders to go to Okinawa Japan, a very beautiful island, for six months. While I was in Okinawa, I attended night class for three months to study for my high school diploma at the Hubeyaki High School run by civilians on Camp Schwab. We had to deploy so I never finished up.

We caught float to other countries I had only read and studied about in my geography class. We got to train in the jungles of the Philippines, Thailand, Guam and the mountains of Korea. We went to the 38th parallel, the one that separates the North and South. In the winter time we got off the ship in Yokusha Japan for two months and were stationed at Camp Mount Fuji that we got to climb before our battalion left for Australia, Hong Kong and finally back to Okinawa Japan. After twelve months, we rotated back to the States. I was only seventeen years old at that time but looked older. I did my last year and a half at Camp Pendleton, where I was qualified to do many jobs for the Marine Corps. I didn't realize that the hardest part was yet to come. When I separated from the Corps a few days later, I bought this 1956 Ford pick up and drove it back to Watsonville with all my worldly possessions, which weren't much. My mother had moved from Moss Landing to Castroville with my grandmother so I had no home to come to. I lived out of my truck at the beach for six months alone and sometimes scared looking for any kind of work. I took a test to become a night custodian for the P.V.U.S.D. and was hired to work at the Rolling Hills Middle School. Meanwhile, I had heard about G.E.D. and went to investigate. That's when I met Natalie and Linda. The test was given in a portable office on Lincoln Street by the high school.

This was my second chance to obtain something I wanted so bad to prove to myself. I wanted this more than any thing else I have written about before. I was starting to lose self esteem. It was the happiest day of my life and proudest when I did pass. Who knows where I'd be now if it weren't for this program,. I am a product of Adult Ed. I became the head custodian of Adult Ed many years ago. We are an institution that has helped the community come through our halls and doors to give them the hope to better themselves, to attain certain documents to proceed to a higher educational level of their choosing, to give them confidence and self esteem and hope. That's what the Adult Ed did for me. I would like to thank all of you staff. You folks are the finest group of well-organized educators and classified staff in the district. I am proud to be your custodian.

Sincerely, Roy Valdez



WAAE Calendar - December, 2005

WAAE Nursing Assistant Program Graduation (pictures on page 2)

*Please join instructors, graduates, staff, friends and family for a delicious
potluck and fun activities!*

December 6, 6-8 pm in the Boardroom at 294 Green Valley Road

Student Ceramics Exhibit and Bake Sale

Wednesday, December 7, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m



ESL Awards Ceremonies (Day and Night)

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11:00am and 7:00pm

*Student Updates, and
Student Satisfaction Surveys for All Programs Due
Friday, December 16*

All Faculty and Staff Holiday Potluck

Friday, December 16, 5:00-7:00, Green Valley



*Parent Outreach Network
Monday, December 19, 1:00 - 3:00, Green Valley*

*Spring Semester Begins
Tuesday, January 3, 2006*

Late breaking news: over a year ago Kim Iwasko wrote to Microsoft Corp. to ask if they would be willing to help with the tech. needs of a poor adult school. She got a telephone call this morning from Microsoft offering to talk to us about our needs. What a great holiday present! Congratulations to Kim on this outreach.