Hi, just a reminder that you are receiving this email because you expressed interest in The English Center. You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

The first step towards success in American language and life is learning English. The English Center offers classes for all levels of proficiency.

The English Center is not for profit. We accept your donations of time and money.

The English Center offers classes at several locations in the Oakland area. You may contact admissions to register at any of our locations. You may also call (510) 836-6700.

English Center Classes Start Again on October 27
The Admissions office is busily recruiting students for the Fall sessions. The English Center participated in the China Town Street Fest, Xicana Moratorium Day, Dia Del Salvadoreño, Ethiopian New Year, and Dia de la Raza. Thank you for your participation in these fun events. The English Center is happy to announce that classes will be offered at Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation starting October 27.

Do you want to study at the English Center? You may contact admissions to register at any of our locations. You may also call (510) 836-6700.
**English Center** volunteers generate energy for the community. See how students and volunteers build community together to "give back." In this issue:

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- Confidence Workshop Success
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**Volunteer Tutors and Students Work for Achievement**

**Volunteers give 200+ hours each month to the English Center**

Tutors come to help students with homework and share experiences. Students seek out their help, ask questions, and direct their own learning. Tutors develop communication skills and cultural sensitivity. Teaching assistants improve classroom culture, assist small groups, and help the teachers in multiple ways. Many volunteers are gaining the experience they need to find jobs in language teaching. Read the [Value of Volunteering](#) to learn why people volunteer in our culture.

To become a volunteer job coach, tutor, teaching assistant, or for special projects, contact [Janice Tolman](#), Volunteer Coordinator.
Jim Duncanson and Thusijini Kumarasamy have met for regular tutoring every week for three months. Mr. Duncanson says, "One-on-one tutoring is sheer teaching joy, especially with a bright, eager student like Thusijini. It has been a delight to see her blossom from a shy girl to a confident, bubbly young woman."

Asadullah Rezaei asked tutor Erin LaNinfa to help prepare for his oral presentation on the amusement park Great America. Each member of his class presented on a cultural activity. In Azerbaijan, Asadullah sold home textiles. Erin is completing her degree in Business and expects to complete her Masters in teaching soon after.

Paul Herzmark, retired biologist, tutors at the English Center. He also travels to study French and Chinese. "How can we make learning a language more fun and engaging?" asks Paul. "Let's make it authentic." Paul makes us all smile during walk-in tutoring with his great teaching ideas. If we have questions about genetic modification or world geography, we ask Paul.

Tania Macdonald, retired architect, has tutored students at the English Center for more than five years. She has lived and worked in Europe and the Middle East. Here she is visiting the market in Bukhara, Uzbekistan in 2013. Working with students from around the world and exploring each other’s cultures is one of the rewarding aspects of tutoring for her.

Volunteers increase teacher effectiveness. In May 2014, Nora Mitchell began assisting in April Shandor's classes. Nora is studying in a TESOL certificate program at UC Berkeley Extension and is bringing her skills into grammar class as part of her academic and professional development. April and Nora enjoy working together, and the students appreciate the additional perspective and knowledge they gain from having a second teacher in the classroom.
Saturday Workshop on Communication: "It's All About Confidence"

Corporate Trainers inspire hearts and minds. Students, alumni, staff, new teachers, and volunteers learned from professionals in global communications. We thank the presenters who generously volunteered their time:

- Liz Archibald, Global Corporate Communications, CISCO Systems, Inc
- Fatima Aineb, English Center Career Coach

Liz Archibald demonstrated the power of nonverbal communication—posture, voice, and handshake. She presented videos and told inspiring stories of immigrants who are now corporate leaders. She is a world-class corporate trainer.

Fatima Aineb shared her own SWOT analysis to help us consider our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. She used two ballpoint pens to help us understand marketing strategies. Fatima speaks five languages and brings her knowledge of technology and culture to the English Center. She teaches beginning and advanced computer classes.

Panelists Coach the Job Search

The Summer Career Panel Discussion was a success because four people volunteered to speak to us about their experience. The speakers were: Jessy Chen, a financial analyst; Ana Maria Robles, a health services caregiver; Peining Chang, a social worker; and Meera Babu, a technology manager. Jessy and Ana Maria used to be students at The English
Former students and community members volunteer to give real-world advice

Mock Interviews Prepare for that Dream Job

Students from level 3 career classes practice interviewing for their dream jobs with interviewers from the local business community, who have generously volunteered their time to give our students authentic experience. Thank you, volunteers, for your expertise: Domingo Vazquez, OTX; Johnny Fuery; Harold Dees, Unity Council; Beatrice Lee, DHTI; Serom Kim Sanftner, EBI; Dennis Timmons, Marcy Jackson, and John Tang.

The last interview event was held on August 12, 2014. The candidates were bursting with nervous excitement, and enjoyed showing off their "dress for success" outfits. How could anyone resist hiring them? The English Center Career Interview Event is coming around again in December. Contact Eric Bellis, Career Education Coordinator to volunteer as a mock interviewer.

Ahmed Alghani, an international student from Saudi Arabia, watches as Executive Director John Tang considers his resume during the mock interview.

Career students feel relieved and confident after the interview competition. Maria Gonzalez, far left, won first prize and received a job offer after her interview.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO MAKE A DONATION
CTI Delivers Training to the Community

Corporate Training for Industry, a department at the English Center, delivers customized training to corporate clients and community organizations all around the Bay Area. New courses and workshops include Desktop Operating System and PC Support, Wide Area Network Connectivity, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and Cloud-Based Computing. For more information, contact Lynne Wilkins, Director of Corporate Training for Industry.

Director's Corner: New Partnerships and New People

Partnership with STRIDE
Next year the Stride Center will become an active partner with the English Center. To make this a reality, the English Center lab will become a Prometric testing center, which will serve as the certification testing site for all of Stride Center's A+ Training program participants. COMPTIA's A+ certification demonstrates a person's proficiency for providing computer hardware and operating system technical support. Hundreds of clients go through Stride Center's A+ training each year. Additionally, the English Center is working on a revamp of the Career Readiness Program (CRP). The new CRP program will include courses on computer and network technical support. Stride Center will play a role in the new program and will provide 225 hours of training on A+ coursework. This will be combined with 675 hours of coursework provided by the English Center that will include VESL training and other computer tech support training courses.

Welcome Rebecca Wee, New Director of Admissions
Ms. Rebecca Wee will be joining the English Center this month, taking on the role of Director of Admissions. Ms. Wee has certainly traveled an interesting road to get to the English Center. She came to the United States as a foreign student from Malaysia. Valuing education, Rebecca decided to earn two degrees, in Journalism and Business Administration and Marketing. She also completed a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults and a certificate in
Biomanufacturing. Her employment background includes stints at IBM, where she was project manager, and Bayer Pharmaceuticals, where she worked as a biological analyst. Rebecca has spent the past four years at the Oakland Private Industry Council, where she worked as the Program Oversight Manager and MIS Manager. She brings her ability to manage web development projects and database development projects. Her fluency in Mandarin will complement the various ongoing projects at the English Center. We welcome Rebecca to the English Center.

Community English Leads to Civic Participation

Public Speaking and Mock Elections
More than 50 students compared the candidates running in the November elections. Each student has videotaped a presentation on candidates' backgrounds, qualifications and positions on the issues. Televised debates and campaign advertisements enabled authentic literacy and critical thinking.

Then the English Center hosted mock elections to practice voting. Who won in the English Center elections? The democrats, but not all by overwhelming leads. Kashkari, a son of immigrants, captured a lot of interest.

Students are also sampling citizenship questions and writing letters to elected officials. Finally, the students will make informed decisions about their future as U.S. citizens. To learn more about becoming a U.S. Citizen, visit USA.gov.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO MAKE A DONATION

Student Activities: Arts and Culture
Free day at the de Young
Community English Class Basic 1-2 had a great time at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. They took BART and Muni from the English Center. "All the students were very helpful," says their teacher, Hazel Crawford, especially Sanduijav (top center) who kept us heading in the right direction when we got turned around in the park, and Alddo (lower left) who kept us on time!"

A Day of First Experiences
After a trip to the Asian Art Museum, students and some family members visited the Marin Headlands in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. "For some, this was their first trip to a museum and a first time crossing the Golden Gate Bridge. The weather, as usual, was glorious," says their teacher, Julia Tran.

Photography and Active Learning
John Klein took evening students to explore Jack London Square and practice grammar. There was time for their teacher, who is also a professional photographer, to take a group portrait in front of the Lady Washington merchant ship.

Eat Real Food Festival
Ariel Ky took her evening students to the food festival in Jack London Square. They visited stalls with food from around the world: Vietnam, Brazil, Jamaica, Thailand, and even Louisiana. Students practiced their English with people working at displays. They learned that going to festivals is a good way to learn about American culture and practice English! But then students had to write sentences about the festival for homework.

Fall Events: English Center Traditions
The City of Oakland will provide a tour of City Hall on October 23. Students expect to see the mayor's office and enter the council chambers to practice addressing City Council.

Halloween: Students will be invited to carve pumpkins and join other traditional festivities on
Halloween, October 31.

**Thanksgiving:** The English Center will host a Thanksgiving dinner for students, teachers, staff, volunteers, and friends on November 26.

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**Completion Ceremony Summer 2014**

**Dr. Liu Honors Graduates**
To inspire hope and hard work among staff and students, **Dr. Liu**, Dean of Academic Affairs at [DeVry University](http://www.devry.edu), told his own story of immigration and the American Dream.

**Master of Ceremony**
**Laura Marsh** served as Master of Ceremony. Laura is completing her **MA-TESOL degree at San Francisco State University**, and is a highly skilled presenter and teacher. She brought us together and kept things lively.
Maria González: “Take the Bull by the Horns”

Good morning fellow classmates, teachers, tutors and staff. My name is Maria González and I am honored to be speaking to you all on this very special day. Some time ago, we began this program not knowing what we got ourselves into. We did not know that we would be planting flowers at Jack London Square, interviewing with professionals, or that we would be doing so many hours of homework. Something that we also might not have known is that this would be one of the best opportunities in our life to become better members of society.

Let me share with you what this program has meant to me. I had always wanted to improve my English as an adult, however because of my long work hours, I did not put it as a priority. Earlier this year when my job’s plant closed, I decided the time was now. I started my courses knowing that I had a lot to learn, and I quickly realized that it would not be easy. But I did not become worried because there is such an amazing group of people here at the English Center that has been here for me every step of the way.

The staff is always so welcoming and friendly. Thank you, teachers for empowering us to do better each and every day. Thank you, tutors for being so warm and helpful all of the time. I also want to personally thank my family for being my backbone through this experience.

For those of you who have some time left here at the English Center, just remember that this is a privilege. Everything that you are participating in here is to better yourself. Show interest, be on time, do your homework. What you put in is what you take out.

In closing, I would like to thank again all members of the English Center, family members, and friends who have supported all of the students along this rewarding journey. And students, like the career book says, don’t be afraid to TAKE THE BULL BY THE HОРNS. Thank You
Families Come to Graduation

Thavarasa Family
Tharmika and Sijantha and their brother Saseevan, originally from Sri Lanka, all excel in their classes together at the English Center.

Newlyweds
Arnoldo 'Christopher' Guzmano brought his new wife Patricia to the graduation ceremony. Christopher studied business in Ecuador and completed his classes at the English Center.

Parents Study Together
Parents and full-time students, Asadullah Rezaei and Tarana Karimova brought their proud daughter, Lala to the ceremony.

Gonzalez Family
Three generations came to watch Maria González receive awards and give her speech.

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The mission of the English Center is to realize the participation of international women and men in the social, political and economic opportunities of the 21st century world. Through English language,
technology and career readiness training, we will foster cross-cultural communication and career advancement, enabling non-native speakers of English to achieve their fullest potential.

MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

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