



# LITERACY COUNCIL FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

EMPOWERING ADULTS THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

## Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

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### Join Our List



### Literacy Council's Annual Report

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016  
[Available online!](#)

OFFICE HOURS:

Spring 2017

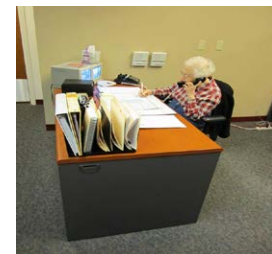
### Executive Director's Corner - Laurie Fisher



### *National Volunteer Week - April 23-29 Celebrating Literacy Council Volunteers!*

National Volunteer Week was first established in 1974, as a way to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers. Here at the Literacy Council, our more than 100 active volunteers last year contributed over 12,000 hours to our community. Throughout our 54 year history serving Frederick County, we simply could not provide our literacy programs without your dedication and commitment.

This issue I want to especially recognize **Elizabeth Derr**, one of our office volunteers who retired earlier this year after volunteering weekly in the office for an incredible **28 years!** Thursday mornings every week are Elizabeth's time in our office to help support our teaching materials library - restocking the shelves, taking inventory, ordering materials and helping to keep track of what is needed for our students and tutors. We are really going to miss you!!



Elizabeth Derr,  
Volunteer  
Extraordinaire!

The Literacy Council is fortunate to have many "Elizabeths" who know what it takes to run a nonprofit and serve our community seven days a week. Whether you are volunteering in the office, coordinating our programs, tutoring your students weekly, serving as a member of our board of directors, training tutors, helping with community outreach, maintaining our computers, supporting our Scrabble Mania for Literacy fundraiser, writing grants, or any of the many other volunteer tasks, we couldn't meet our community's needs without you!

Thank you for giving your time, your compassion, your commitment to making the world and our community a better place one adult and one family at a time, through literacy. As we know, teaching someone to read or speak English makes a lasting impact on your student, their family and our community.

*Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.*

*~Author Unknown*

Monday - Friday:  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed Saturdays &  
Sundays

If you can't get to the office  
on weekdays, please  
contact the office to make  
arrangements to pick up  
your tutor materials at a  
local library branch.  
[staff@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:staff@frederickliteracy.org)

(301) 600-2066

### LITERACY COUNCIL Board of Directors 2016-2017

Beth Lowe  
*President*

Caroline Gaver  
*President-Emeritus*

Catherine Cox  
*Vice President*

Sandy Doggett  
*Secretary*

Richard Adams  
*Director*

Kimberly Duncan  
*Director*

Patricia Hanberry  
*Director*

Richard Haney  
*Director*

Margaret Teahan  
*Director*

John Tisdale  
*Director*

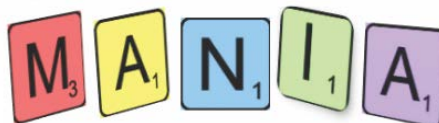
### LITERACY COUNCIL Office Staff & Volunteers

Laurie Fisher  
*Executive Director*  
Diana Halleman



## Second SCRABBLE Mania for Literacy a Big SUCCESS!

# SCRABBLE®



A lively event to benefit the LITERACY COUNCIL of Frederick County

March 4, 2017

### *Let's Celebrate ...*

22 Teams

43 Silent Auction items

18 Sponsors

Almost \$8,000 raised for literacy programs!!

### *Thank You to Our Sponsors!!*

#### Triple Word Sponsors

Digital Bard

Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.

#### Double Word Sponsors

Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Shockley Honda

#### Triple Letter Sponsors

Bartlett Tree Experts

First United Bank & Trust

Gaver Farm

Lawyers Signature Settlements

Plamondon Companies, Inc.

Woodsboro Bank

#### Double Letter Sponsors

Jean Peterson Design

Wonder Book and Video

#### Table Sponsors

Curious Iguana Booksellers

PNC Bank

Pryor's Nursery

Sandy Spring Bank

Office Manager/Vol.  
Coord.

Linda Crough  
Holly Bohman  
Julie Katsirubias  
Sarah Matthews  
Volunteer Staff

**Volunteer  
Coordinators:**

Linda Crough  
Sarah Matthews  
Adult Basic Education  
Co-Coordinators

Catherine Coundjeris  
Freida Pryor

English as a Second  
Language (ESL) Co-  
Coordinators

Please note new email  
addresses below for our  
Coordinators!

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017  
6:30 p.m.

**Our Fourth Annual  
Celebration of  
Achievements**

Delaplaine Visual Arts  
Education Center



Contact: Diana Halleman  
(301) 600-2066  
[staff@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:staff@frederickliteracy.org)

Tutors, other volunteers  
and students, make your  
reservations by June 5!

Sponsorships are also  
available!

Tutor & Student

Hamp Tisdale, Literacy Council Board Member

**In-Kind Sponsors**

Catherine Cox  
Digital Bard  
Frederick News-Post  
Grove Public Relations, LLC  
Imagination Design  
Merryhaus Design

*You sponsorship is expanding literacy programs for  
Frederick County ...*



Our winning team from Curious  
Iguana Booksellers!



Our Second & Third Place  
Winners!



Interested players, sponsors and Silent Auction donors for next year's  
2018 Scrabble MANIA for Literacy:

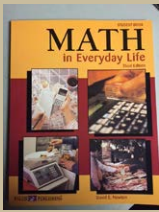
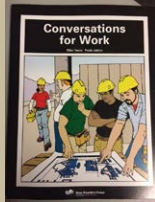
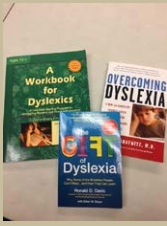
Contact Diana Halleman: (301) 600-2066 or [staff@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:staff@frederickliteracy.org)

**Spring Conversation, Beginning Writing, Computer  
Literacy Class Schedule**

Registration required: contact the Literacy Council office at (301) 600-  
2066 or Diana Halleman at [staff@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:staff@frederickliteracy.org).

Conversation Classes:

## Resources Available:



Come check out our [resources](#) in the Council's Library!



## ProLiteracy

ProLiteracy Launches New Website:  
[www.proliteracy.org](http://www.proliteracy.org)

For our tutors and adult learners - check out the latest resources and literacy facts!

[April Network News](#)

[March Network News](#)

ProLiteracy's Winter 2017 [Notebook](#) available - Resources for the Adult Educator

Your Contribution is Our Community's Future

Consider supporting a

## Literacy Council Office:

- Mondays: 10 - 11:30 a.m. (Beginner)
- First & third Tuesdays: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Student-Led) \*
- Wednesdays: 10-11 a.m. (Advanced)
- Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Beginner)

## Taney Avenue Senior Center:

- Wednesdays: 12:30 p.m. (REGISTER AT SENIOR CENTER, age 50+).

## Urbana Senior Center:

- Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

*\* Student-Led Conversation Class: New members are invited to join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for informal chats, student presentations as well as short grammar and idiom lessons. Students are invited to give presentations on their first year in the United States, their culture, customs, and history, or book reports on books they may be reading in English. Although at times students will share a taste of their cuisine with us, we ask that you bring your lunch.*

## Beginning Writing Classes: (Literacy Council Office)

**Beginning Writing 1:** May 16 through July, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Focus on writing strong paragraphs and correct grammar usage.

**Beginning Writing 3:** May 17, through July on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Focus on developing strong sentences and clear and precise paragraphs. Basic grammar and sentence structure will be reviewed.

*Tutors are asked to recommend students who are advancing in their conversational English and who would like to improve their written communication skills. Contact: Catherine Coundjeris: [ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org).*

## Beginning Computer Literacy Class: (Literacy Council Office)

- Mondays, June 5 - July 24, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Know someone who is interested in learning more about becoming a Literacy Council volunteer tutor?

## Tutor Information Sessions:

- New dates coming soon following the May workshop.

## Tutor Training Workshops:

- Saturdays, May 6 & 13, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Frederick\*
- Saturdays, September 30 & October 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Hagerstown\*
- Saturdays, October 14 & 21, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Frederick\*

\* Completion of an orientation and a two-session workshop are required for Tutor Certification.



Congratulations to our newest tutors!

## New Email Addresses for our Volunteer Coordinators

Adult Basic Education  
Volunteer Co-Coordinators

Linda Crough: [lgcrough@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:lgcrough@frederickliteracy.org)

cause that is important to you with a planned gift.



Create your legacy by giving the Gift of Literacy.

The Community Foundation of Frederick County can help you with [planned giving](#) resources.

Consider a gift to the Literacy Council's [Betty Seligmann Literacy Endowment Fund](#).



CFC & Frederick County Campaigns

CFC: 42954

The Literacy Council participates in the Frederick County & FCPS Combined Charities & Chesapeake Bay Area CFC Charity Campaigns.

Please use these codes for donors who wish to designate their contribution to our organization.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TODAY!

[DONATION](#)

Donations can be made [online here](#) or mailed to:

Literacy Council of Frederick County  
110 East Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

Sarah Matthews: [smatthews@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:smatthews@frederickliteracy.org)

English as a Second Language (ESL) Co-Coordinator  
Catherine Coundjeris: [ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org)

Freida Pryor: [fpryor@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:fpryor@frederickliteracy.org)

## Using Technology to Teach ESL - Computer Literacy Class By Tutor Gus Guglielmo



Gus Guglielmo, Laurie Fisher, Ken Oldham, President & CEO, United Way of Fred. Co.

Thank you to the United Way of Frederick County for awarding the Literacy Council a grant for the purchase of laptop computers.

It is impossible to imagine the world we now live here in the United States without technology. Our daily lives are thoroughly permeated by computers to a degree most people don't truly see. It must be somewhat of a cultural shock for newcomers to our country how much the 'computer' is involved in American lives.

Thus it was our goal to carry out an ESL conversation class whilst also teaching basic computer competency. The students were all selected as being essentially computer illiterate and having a modest understanding of the English language. My goal as the instructor was two-fold; I wanted to instill in each student the courage to learn on their own about personal computers and enable them to understand the language of technology that is essential in our daily lives.

I feel after a 12 week course that each of my students now has the courage to operate any computer they sit in front of. They have learned that it is only a tool that can be mastered with thought and practice. I used the 'Socratic' method from the onset to get each student to feel comfortable asking questions which in turn I showed them how to use the computer to answer the questions without me. Although the students have come a long way from the onset of the class we have a long way to go in both the study of English and the breadth of uses a computer can do. All of my students have asked me to teach a continuation of this course. I have seen them all grow with English and the PC. I look forward to working with them further in 2017.

## Suds and Laundry - Laundromat Literacy By Tutor & Coordinator Sarah Matthews



We like to think that all of our literacy initiatives are done face-to-face with our clients, but sometimes we reach clients in a roundabout way. One of those is done in partnership with the Fourth Street Laundromat. They have a wide assortment of books that we have collected over time there in the laundromat as a form of a lending library. The books were originally collected by a Girl Scout troop for this project.

It is filled with children's books, young adult books, and adult books, both fiction and non-fiction. We stock the books as needed but to our surprise and delight other books come and replace them. It's great to see kids in the laundromat reading the books instead of being on an electronic device. As we've looked at our laundromats to expand to, we have found that other community organizations also sponsor the same type of activity. Literacy is beloved by many!



Student Writings  
Shared by Coordinator & Tutor Catherine Coundjeris

Your generous contribution enables people who are eager to learn to read or to speak English have the help they need to become an integral part of our community.



The following examples of student work are from the Council's Writing 2 class which focuses on writing structurally accurate paragraphs, including topic sentences, supporting details, and concluding sentences. Students learn elements of style and grammar and work on punctuation.

This semester they have written rough drafts, have edited their work and revised their work to complete a final copy. They have learned that writing is a process with many steps and that published authors also must revise their work several times with the help of an editor before publication.

#### LITERACY FACTS

**72 %** Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves.

**43%** Of adults with the lowest literacy levels, 43 percent live in poverty.

**One in Six** Every year, one in six young adults—more than 1.2 million—drop out of high school.

**\$230 Billion** An excess of \$230 billion a year in health care costs is linked to low adult literacy.

**\$225 Billion** Individuals at the lowest literacy and numeracy levels have a higher rate of unemployment and earn lower wages than the national average.

**75%** Seventy-five percent of state prison inmates did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.

**Two Thirds** Adult education is in critical need for services. A decline in federal and state funding in the past 10 years has resulted in programs serving only a fraction of the adults in need. Currently, two-thirds of adult education programs

Learning English. By Teresa -Learning English well is very important to me. I left my hometown to come to the U.S. working for a better life. I must learn English well because I need to know the U.S. laws, culture, and history to become a qualified citizen. I agree with the American Constitution and values, and I believe I should have the ability to get a good job and achieve the "American Dream". I lived in China for what seems fifty years ago. Now I came to the U.S. I want to spend a different life here. It is my hope to find out what I can do and help others starting a new life.

The Magic Cherry Blossoms. By Jacqueline - Daily routine life is boring, unless it is refreshed by some sort of activities and entertainment. My husband and I, in an attempt to break the boring cycle in which we live, are planning to visit Washington D.C. to enjoy the Cherry blossoms next weekend. Though we have been there before, still it's worth seeing again. The cherry trees are a gift from the people of Japan to the people of the U.S., as a gesture of friendship and good will. They were planted along the tidal basin in 1912. Since then, the number of the trees has increased and propagated through the National Mall and the Memorial Parks. They are diverse and fascinating trees. They usually bloom in March. The blossoms go gradually from white to a pale pink, creating a gorgeous scene that lifts one's spirits and gives one the feelings of joy, love, and peace. People of different age groups, gather annually to experience the glamorous cherry blossoms.

They enjoy strolling along the Tidal Basin with friends and families chatting, laughing, and taking extraordinary photos with blossoms. It seems to me that everyone becomes a photographer when cherry blossoms bloom. As one wonders around watching happily the beautiful flowers, one will come across several monuments and landmarks, which also are worth visiting, for they remind people of the American Heroes who ruled, fought, sacrificed their lives and did their best to create a great America, and achieve the American Dream. Folk always enjoy the cherry blossoms not only because of their magic beauty, but because they inspire them to renew their spirits.

Learning English. By Maria - I came to live in the U.S. because my country has a civil war. In this country people speak English that's why I needed to learn to speak and to write and to communicate my ideas in English. I learned to speak basic English in my high school in Colombia. It was hard for me to understand when someone said something in English because American people speak too fast. I registered to take English grammar, listening, and speaking in the college because I had the most important thing to do was to get the American Citizenship. I studied with my sons every day: American History, American Civics, and we reviewed the many, many questions. I passed the test; it was a beautiful and stressful day because I thought that my nerves betrayed me if the person would ask me one question I did not understand. Now I am happy because I got my citizenship and happy because I understood everything! Right now I continue to improve my English and I learn many new things every day.

#### Ever Consider Leading a Conversation Class? By Tutor Veronika "Ronnie" Poklemba



After attending tutor training several years ago I decided I would like to try offering an English conversation class. It turned out the Senior Center in Urbana had requested a class like this as they have many members from different countries.

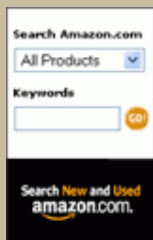
The class is also open to non-senior center members who are interested in attending. I use *Easy English News* and *News*

are struggling with long student waiting lists.

## ADULT LITERACY CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there is an easy way to help the Literacy Council and do your online shopping at the same time? Amazon.com has a program to help nonprofits where a portion of your monies will go back to the organization designated. To help the Literacy Council, you need only use this link



to get to the Council's Amazon page when you want to do your online shopping. The rest is automatic and painless! Thanks for supporting us!

for You, both newspapers available at the Literacy Council office and developed to help people who are trying to learn to speak English. (I generally pick up many copies at a time so I don't need to come into the office frequently.) I usually identify in one class what we will be reading in the next class, giving people the opportunity to take the newspaper home if they want to prepare (some do).

We meet once a week on a regular basis and people come when they are available. I have a couple of people who have come regularly for several years, and others that come and go. I initially was doing the reading, thinking this would help people hear correct pronunciation. One of the students suggested that they take turns reading, and I provide guidance on correct pronunciation. As new students come in we explain that the goal of providing correction is to improve their English pronunciation. All seem comfortable with this approach. Occasionally students attend who are just beginning to learn English and are not ready to read. They seem to just want the opportunity to listen to English being spoken. I had a gentlemen recently who I thought was in this category until after a week or two, he asked if he could read; and he does quite well. There are often surprises. The regulars are very welcoming to new members and often offer direction and support. The Newspapers we use focus on current events, the U.S. Government and U.S. history; as well as lighter material. These articles provide a lot of opportunity for further discussion and questions. Sometimes the students suggest which article they would like to read.

As time has passed it has become the norm for us to start out asking how each others' weeks have gone, and sharing anything of interest; such as a family gathering or other special event. Much like we all do when we get together with friends. I have found this experience quite enjoyable allowing me to learn more about other cultures; and it really does not take any preparation (don't tell anyone). Recently one of the regulars obtained her U.S. citizenship, and another student will take her test in soon. I like to think that some of the articles we have read and discussed in class on U.S. history and government help them to achieve their goal of citizenship. It really has been rewarding. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys chatting with people!

## New Classic Literature Project!!

We are starting a new project for our ESL and Basic Literacy students who are at a higher level and would like to do additional work to improve their English and reading.

We are seeking donations of literature books at the ninth grade reading level or above such as the classics: *Farewell to Arms*, *East of Eden*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *Les Miserables*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *A Moveable Feast*, among others. More current works of art such as *The Kite Runner*, *The Distance Between Us*, *Lovely Bones*, *The Book of Unknown Americans*, *The House on Mango Street*, *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *The Giver* and *The Island of the Blue Dolphin* would be most welcome. We are also taking suggestions for additional book titles!



A Lesson Plan will accompany each text, and students will be able to check out the book with the lesson plan and do a self-guided study. Eventually a book club can emerge from this group of students. Also, let us know if anyone is interested in leading a book discussion with the student body. Contact Catherine Coundjeris, [ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org).

## Workplace Literacy Program - Congratulations to our Spring Graduates!



Congratulations to Ayse Meze and Pistarro's employees! Thank you to business owners Phil Bowers and Nezhil Pistar for partnering with the Literacy Council to provide this opportunity to your employees.

### *In Memory of Anita Jones, Literacy Council Volunteer*

Anita Coronel Jones, 90, of Frederick, died Sunday, March 26, 2017 at Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center. Anita was a teacher at Middletown High School for 25 years until retiring in 1986.



Anita began volunteering with the Literacy Council in about 1991, recalls Caroline Gaver, President-Emeritus. She helped with tutor training for at least 10 years, and was English as a Second Language program coordinator for at least five years. "One of the neat things she did at tutor training workshops was to bring her student in for a live tutoring demonstration."

She was a regular office staffer for many years and was officially the staff coordinator from 2004 - 2010. She was of course fluent in Spanish, so she was one of our translators for ESL students.

Thank you, Anita, for your many years of service to our community and the Literacy Council. We send our sincere condolences to Anita's family.

### *Grants Awarded This Year Thank you!!*

*Ausherman Family Foundation  
 Delaplaine Foundation  
 Community Foundation of Frederick Count  
 Frederick County Community Partnership  
 Helen J. Serini Foundation  
 Nora Roberts Foundation  
 ProLiteracy - National Book Fund  
 Rotary of Carroll Creek  
 Staples Foundation  
 State Farm Companies Foundation Good Neighbor  
 United Way of Frederick County  
 Unity Campaign for Frederick County  
 William E. Cross Foundation  
 Women's Giving Circle*



## Endow Maryland: Maryland Tax Incentives

Help build the Literacy Council's endowment fund while taking advantage of tax incentives!

Beginning January 1, 2017, donors making gifts through The Community Foundation of Frederick County will receive a 25 percent Maryland tax credit for gifts of \$1,000 and up to \$5,000 in addition to the Federal charitable deductions allowed for the gift. To learn more, call the [Community Foundation](#) at (301) 695-7660.



The Literacy Council's [Betty Seligmann Literacy Endowment Fund](#) is an eligible fund for this tax break. While the Council is always in need of current funding, if you are interested in also ensuring needed funds in the future, you can do so by contributing to this fund.

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