



# LITERACY COUNCIL FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

EMPOWERING ADULTS THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

## Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

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THANK YOU FOR  
MAKING YOUR YEAR-  
END TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
GIFT TODAY!

► **DONATION**

Donations can be made  
online by clicking the  
DONATION button or  
mailed to:

*Literacy Council of  
Frederick County*

Issue: 07

December 2015

### Executive Director's Corner - Laurie Fisher



#### Giving Thanks for the Gift of Literacy

For 52 years and over 8,000 adults later, the Literacy Council has been providing Frederick County adults with vital literacy programs and the need continues to grow.

An estimated 14% of the U.S. population and 11% of Marylanders do not read well enough to understand a newspaper or fill out a job application. 13% or 17,000 Frederick County adults have difficulties reading and writing in English. The work of the Literacy Council - teaching reading to native English speakers with poor literacy skills and English to immigrants - has a direct impact on all who live in Frederick County.

As a result of generous support from individuals, businesses and foundations, our programs are steadily expanding to meet the basic human need of literacy in our community. Between 2010-2015, the number of adults served by the Literacy Council has grown by 87%. Our 120 volunteer tutors contributed 14,000 hours of their time serving more than 200 Frederick County adults last year, working tirelessly with their students in locations throughout the county. These individuals are our "heroes" in confronting the challenge of illiteracy. They are transforming the lives of our neighbors and their families one milestone at a time.

Our donors are also heroes in our campaign for literacy in Frederick County. Your financial contributions make it possible to support our tutors with innovative teaching and learning resources for the adults we serve, develop new literacy programs to meet educational gaps in our community and offer expanded tutor orientation and training opportunities. In the new year we plan to focus on the continued growth of our programs by recruiting more tutors and collaborating with the nonprofit and business communities to find and implement solutions to reach more people in need.

Thank you for giving the gift of literacy. As a result, our neighbors

110 East Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

Matching funds are also available thanks to a grant from the Ausherman Family Foundation.



*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.*

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Sunday, March 6, 2016  
2-5 p.m.

Join us for our *first*  
SCRABBLE® Mania for  
Literacy



Delaplaine Visual  
Arts Center, Frederick

[More Information](#)

[Become a Sponsor](#)

*\* Register by January  
15, 2016 for special  
table pricing!*

### Literacy Council's Annual Report

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015  
[Available online!](#)

**WE'VE MOVED  
DOWNSTAIRS!**  
Stop by and see  
our "new" office &  
classroom!

Winter Open House  
Wednesday, January 6

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

can better provide for their families, support their children's education and contribute to the well being and prosperity of our community. Investing in literacy programs is an investment in Frederick County's future.

*Together, we can end illiteracy in Frederick County.*

## President-Emeritus Caroline Gaver Receives Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award

The Literacy Council's long-time president, Caroline Gaver, received the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award in Annapolis on October 26 presented by Mrs. Yumi Hogan, Maryland's First Lady. Of the 15 awards presented, Caroline received the only Lifetime Achievement award for Maryland. This award recognizes an individual who has exhibited a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and community service. Nominees must have made a substantial and long-term sustained impact in the community as a result of their service effort



Photo: Governor's Office Photo Gallery

Caroline has contributed over 28,300 hours of service in various roles and has trained about 2,500 volunteer tutors for Frederick County and 500 in surrounding counties. These tutors have helped over 8,000 adults. Currently, the Council supports over 100 tutors all trained in part by Caroline. Last year they contributed over 14,000 hours and provided free, one-on-one basic literacy tutoring and life skills to over 200 adults. She has served in every volunteer position available, including terms as board president or vice president exceeding 20 years. She was also instrumental in helping to form Literacy Councils in Washington, Carroll and Garrett Counties.

"Caroline has been the linchpin of the Literacy Council. Only in the last four years has the Council employed staff. While her leadership has inspired others, most remarkable is her devotion to maintaining the organization. She has raised funds, sought board members, appeared before organizations to promote the work of the Council and attended to the mundane but necessary details that are essential to the existence and success of an organization. The vitality and effectiveness of the Literacy Council today are primarily due to Caroline's vision and dedication to the cause of literacy."

John Tisdale, Board Member

In addition to this prestigious award, Caroline also received the Daily Point of Light award in October.



Weinberg Center for  
the Arts

**Marlee Matlin &  
Henry Winkler**

Thursday, March 10,  
2016 | 7:30 PM

**the  
frederick speaker series**

Tutors are encouraged to attend this upcoming event at the Weinberg! Actors, best-selling authors, and advocates for diversity awareness, Henry Winkler and Marlee Matlin will share their experiences. Henry Winkler endured a childhood struggle with undiagnosed dyslexia and found a kindred spirit in the profoundly deaf actress.

[FOR TICKET  
INFORMATION](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
May 3, 2016  
Annual Celebration of  
Achievements!!

**Please join us!!**  
Tuesday evening  
May 3rd, 2016

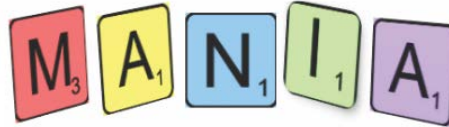
**Location:**  
Delaplaine Visual



Photo courtesy of the Frederick News-Post.

Please Join the Literacy Council for our first  
**SCRABBLE Mania for Literacy!**

**SCRABBLE®**



A lively event to benefit the LITERACY COUNCIL of Frederick County

Sunday March 6, 2016  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a fun afternoon of ...  
▪ SCRABBLE® ▪ Beverages  
▪ Hors d'oeuvres ▪ Silent auction

Delaplaine Visual Arts Center  
40 South Carroll Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

Individual seat: \$50.00  
Table of four: \$200.00\*

*\*Register by January 15, 2016 and take advantage of the  
pre-sale table price of \$180.00!*

Sponsorship Opportunities are Available

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

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

**Why I Tutor Ya Ya Musah, by Jeff Trehwitt**

Patience's voice cracked a bit when she shared how gratifying it has been to see her husband advance from learning the alphabet to learning to read and write words and sentences.

She was not the only emotional one. As a few tears came to my eyes, I

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to our new  
President of the Board,  
Board Member & Basic  
Education Coordinator!



**Beth Lowe**  
President, Board of  
Directors

Beth is an Analyst in  
Enterprise Change  
Management  
State Farm Insurance.



**Kim Duncan**  
New Member  
Board of Directors  
Kim is the Program  
Director for Adult Basic  
Education, Continuing  
Education and Workforce  
Development,  
Frederick Community  
College.



**Linda Crough**  
Basic Reading  
Coordinator

Linda is a member of the  
Literacy Council's  
volunteer office staff

thought, "This is what it is all about. I'm doing something constructive for someone else and it's paying off. I'm helping to improve someone's life." I vowed a little over a year ago when I retired to avoid becoming a couch potato. I was determined to do something in the community that would help other people.



Training to become a reading and writing tutor for the Literacy Council of Frederick County took 14 hours and by July 2014, I had my first student. Today, with the recent addition of two more, I have five students.

Ya Ya Musah -- Patience's 36-year-old husband -- became my third student almost a year ago. Unlike my other students who are learning English as a second language, Ya Ya already speaks English, but needed to learn to read and write. Since he works long hours and travels up to 150 miles a day as a package delivery driver, I tutor him three times a week after work. I have gotten to know him and his family -- including one-year-old son Elijah and new-born daughter Laila -- very well over the last year.

I was not able to attend his son's first birthday party, but had the pleasure of participating in the celebration of Laila's birth. And what I know is this is a family that deserves a comfortable happy life. And for Ya Ya, learning to read and write is a goal he must achieve to be a good father. He wants to be there for his children when they need help with their reading and writing. He wants them to be proud of him just as he is proud of them.

It is an honor to be part of his effort as his reading and writing tutor. I dare say I am as happy -- perhaps even happier -- as I was achieving the highlights of my past career. Life in retirement is as interesting and fulfilling as I had hoped it would be!

Read more about Ya Ya's journey in our [Annual Report](#).

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

We are taking the show on the road! Thanks to a new Tutor Information/Orientation format we are expanding our outreach into different locations in Frederick County to attract volunteers interested in becoming tutors. Sessions were recently conducted at the Middletown United Methodist Church, the Thurmont and Brunswick Regional Libraries.

### Upcoming Tutor Orientation Sessions:

- Saturday, January 16, 2016, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m., Urbana Library
- Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m., Literacy Council office, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick

### Upcoming Tutor Training Workshop:

- Saturdays, January 30 and February 13, 2016, 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., C. Burr Artz Library\*

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

For any questions, please call our office at 301-



and tutor.

### New Resources for Tutors & Students

Several new books have been added to the Literacy Council's library thanks to a recommendation from one of our tutors:

[A City Through Time: From Ancient Colony to Vast Metropolis](#) and [A Street Through Time: A 12,000-Year Walk Through History](#). Both books are illustrated by Steve Noon and present a colorful representation of traveling through history. The artwork is colorful and draws you into the story offered. For history lovers and early readers, these books might prove very appealing. Check them out next time you are in the office.

Other new arrivals include:

[English Pronouns and Prepositions](#) by Ed Swick and [2000+ Essential Verbs: Master Verbs and Speaking Fluently](#).

A new section of the library for cookbooks is also being set up. Please take a look at all our new resources!



Literacy Council Joins  
2015 CFC & Maryland  
Charities Campaigns  
CCC: 0745  
CFC: 42954  
MCC: 1471

The Literacy Council is  
participating in the 2015  
Frederick County & FCPS  
Combined Charities,

600-2066 or send us an [e-mail](#). To register for Orientation sessions and Tutor Training Workshops, please [click here](#). Help the Literacy Council meet the continuing need for literacy training in our area by becoming a Certified Tutor!



### Literacy Council & Frederick County Public Libraries Host Latin American Book Club Discussions

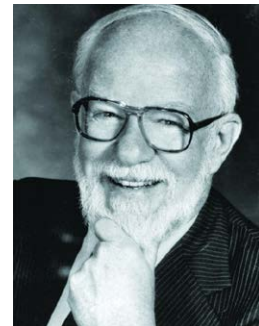
Thanks to support from an American Library Association grant entitled "Latino Americans: 500 Years of History", the Literacy Council and Frederick County Public Libraries led three Book Club discussions.



Members of the Literacy Council's Tuesday Conversation Class met on numerous occasions to prepare for the book club. Books discussed included: Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, Francisco Jimenez's *The Circuit*, and the *Island of Dreams* by Jasminne Mendez. Librarian, Elizabeth Bowen and tutors Silvia Muñoz-Salomon and Catherine Coundjeris worked together to lead the groups in lively discussions.

### Dr. Robert Laubach: Literacy Pioneer Passes Away at 96

Pioneer in adult literacy education and New Readers Press founder, Dr. Robert S. Laubach (Dr. Bob) passed away peacefully on September 11 at the age of 96. Dr. Bob was an inspiring guest speaker of our Literacy Council on two occasions.



Kevin Morgan, president and CEO of ProLiteracy commented, "It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Bob - we will all miss him greatly. Dr. Bob devoted his life to adult literacy and will be remembered for his many contributions over the past 80 years. His legacy will live on in the weekly newspaper for adult learners, *News for You*, as well as the other adult education content he helped pioneer."

Dr. Bob and his late father Dr. Frank C. Laubach are credited with teaching more than 100 million adults to read and write in more than 200 languages. Dr. Bob helped his father after Laubach Literacy Inc., was founded in 1955 in Syracuse, NY. Laubach Literacy became one of the founding organizations of ProLiteracy Worldwide in 2002. Dr. Bob developed literacy primers in local languages and organized literacy programs in more than 60 countries. In 1959, Dr. Bob began publishing [News for You](#), a weekly news source for adult new readers, still in publication today. Just a few years later, he founded [New Readers Press](#), the publishing arm of [ProLiteracy](#), which develops and publishes instructional materials for adult learners and adult education teachers. Today, New Readers Press has over 400 educational titles that help adults learn how to read, write, and do basic math.

Dr. Bob's legacy of literacy will live on through the thousands of literacy organizations, tutors, trainers, volunteers, and students who continue to work toward his dream of a world where everyone can read and write.

Thank you for supporting the Literacy Council this year!!

Chesapeake Bay Area CFC  
& Maryland Combined  
Charities Campaigns.  
Please use these codes for  
donors who wish to  
designate their  
contribution to our  
organization.

### Join Our List



JOIN OUR  
MAILING LIST

### 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 LCFC, 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 LCFC.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Literacy Council and 19 other nonprofits during this year's Unity Campaign for Frederick County -- which supports organizations that provide basic human needs and services for at-risk children and youth. Teams from each nonprofit came together the final day of the campaign to compete and celebrate (see our team below!).



### New Grants Awarded!

Ausherman Family Foundation  
Community Foundation  
Delaplaine Foundation  
Frederick County Community Partnership Grant  
Helen J. Serini Foundation

Thank you to everyone who attended our Cocktails for a Cause event in September at La Paz restaurant. In December, the Literacy Council of Frederick County was selected to benefit from the Yelp Foundation online fundraiser. Thank you for your votes which put us in second place!



### Literacy Council Library: Check it out!



Tutors and students can view the resources available by going online to the Literacy Council's Library. This will bring up a catalog screen that anyone can view without a password or identification code. From this screen, you can explore the books in our library.

Simply type in a key word (like mathematics, for example) and click on the button that says "keyword". Your options will pop up on the screen and you can click to view them individually. If they are in the LCFC library, it will tell you how many copies are available or the wait time. You can do the same thing with the other buttons: "Title", "Author", and "Subject". Some suggested topics to enter in the "keyword" category include: Dictionary, Laubach Series, Mathematics, Phonics, History, Reference and Grammar.

Tutors & Students: PLEASE BRING US YOUR BOOKS! To help us in our quest to keep track of our materials, if you have outstanding books that

have been in your possession for some time, please bring them in for bar coding and entry into the system.

## Endow Maryland: New Maryland 2015 Tax Incentive

Help build the Literacy Council's endowment fund while taking advantage of a new 2015 tax incentive! Visit [The Community Foundation of Frederick County's](#) website to learn how a \$1,000 donation can be made at a net cost to you of only \$430.



Funding for the incentive is limited, so eligibility is on a first come, first served basis. The Community Foundation is accepting [Endow Maryland Intent Forms](#) now. 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.

### Literacy Council Joins 2015 CFC & Maryland Charities Campaigns

CCC: 0745

CFC: 42954

MCC: 1471

The Literacy Council is participating in the 2015 Frederick County & FCPS Combined Charities, Chesapeake Bay Area CFC & Maryland Combined Charities Campaigns. Please use these codes for donors who wish to designate their contribution to our organization.