



4 Words Frederick

Each One Teach One

Volume 48, Issue 1

January 24, 2012

Literacy Council of Frederick County

110 E. Patrick St.

Frederick, MD 21701

301-600-2066

www.frederickliteracy.org

info@frederickliteracy.org

Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 10am - 4pm

Sign Up for the Read-A-Thon



The Literacy Council of Frederick County in participation with [Frederick County Public Libraries](#) is excited to host its second [In Love with Literacy Read-a-Thon](#). Everyone from ages 1 month to 100 years is eligible to participate in this fun and meaningful activity that culminates with a community event on Saturday, February 11, 2012, 10:30am – 4pm.

There is still time to register for the Read-a-Thon that is happening now. Participants can request pledges from friends and families to sponsor their reading time (or people can simply pledge a flat fee donation). Every dollar raised will be used to buy books and other program materials for students and volunteer tutors with the Literacy Council.

The Read-a-Thon concludes on February 11, 2012 with an all day celebration from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be refreshments at the celebration as well as some surprises like KEYOTE from the Frederick Keys. We will also have an awards ceremony in the afternoon with prizes for the most donations raised, most time spent reading and most books read. The top prize is a brand new KINDLE e-reader!! Every participant who raises at least \$20 will also receive a tote bag. All donations/pledges are due in our office on or before February 11th. Online registration is now open at www.frederickliteracy.org. 301-600-2066.

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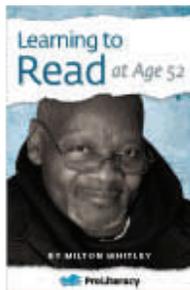
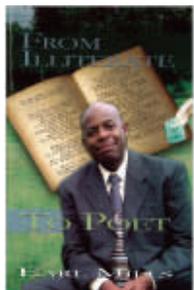
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Two Adult Learners Celebrate Reading by Publishing Books

Press Release from ProLiteracy in Dec. 2011



Earl Mills learned to read in his 40s. Milton Whitley learned to read at age 52. Now, both men are published authors. Mills' book, *From Illiterate To Poet*, is a collection of 50 of his poems on topics ranging from literacy to his deep religious faith. While Mills always had an early interest in poetry, his learning to read opened up a deep well of powerful poems.

Whitley's autobiography, *Learning to Read at Age 52*, details his life story from a difficult childhood, problems in school, and coping with addictions to the joys of his new life, which resulted

from learning to read.

"Milton and Earl are examples of how transformative literacy can be," says Mark Cass, vice president of community engagement at ProLiteracy. "For most of their adult lives, both men hid their inability to read or write from those around them. They also harbored self-doubt, even as they longed to gain this vital skill. Milton held down a variety of jobs; Earl has had a long career in manufacturing as he raised and supported a family. Learning to read and write has brought each of them even more than they thought it would. Being able to publish their own writing now is a true celebration and shows the importance of education for everyone."

Mills' book can be purchased at JasherPress.com or at Amazon.com and Whitley's book is available through the [Literacy Council of Montgomery County](#).



Seventy-seven million Americans have only a 2-in-3 chance of correctly reading an over-the-counter drug label or understanding their child's vaccination chart.

Proliteracy

The United States ranks fifth on adult literacy skills when compared to other industrialized nations.

Proliteracy — basic literacy facts, 2011

Workshop Happenings

Workshops for 2012 are scheduled. Mark your calendars and spread the word.

Frederick:

March 24 & 31
and Sept. 15 & 22

Hagerstown:

April 14 & 28
and Oct. 13 & 20

In the last newsletter we had requested some new trainers for workshops. Caroline Gaver says that we have three people who have expressed interest in becoming trainers. She will hold a trainer meeting before these next workshops.

Workshops are free, but registration is required.

Spread the Word....Literacy!

Do you know of someone in your community who needs our help? We have flyers in the office with our contact info. that we can mail to you if you would like to pass some out. Or, perhaps you know of a business where there might be workers needing reading help. We can mail our flyer to them .

The flyer mentions that tutoring is private. Remember, many people who need help are embarrassed to ask for it, so the fact that we offer *private* tutoring is paramount.

For any questions or requests for flyers, call or email us. 301-600-2066.

info@frederickliteracy.org

The Search is On - LCFC Board of Directors

Have you ever thought about how the Literacy Council operates or wanted to have a hand in it? Now is your chance!

A few people are retiring from our board of directors. Therefore several opportunities have become available to be part of this community-oriented organization. These positions are up for election this May.

The Board meets 5 times a year, plus the Annual Meeting. This is a "working board" and members are expected to participate on various committees to facilitate management of the council as well as coming to the regularly scheduled meetings. Much of our business between meetings is conducted by email. The time commitment for most positions is between 25 and 50 hours per year.

We are especially in need of a new Recording Secretary and a new Treasurer. If you have the book-keeping or accounting skills but not quite enough time, our current Treasurer is willing to help by continuing with some of the day to day "clerical" duties of the job.

It's a nice group of people working for a common worthy cause. We hope you'll consider volunteering some time to participating on the Board. You are needed. To let us know you are interested, or to get more information, write to info@frederickliteracy.org, or you can call the office at 301-600-2066 and leave a message for Caroline.

Basic and ESL News

The numbers of students and tutors, and matches are constantly in flux in that people move, or students' work hours sometimes prevent them from meeting with their tutors.

Basic Coordinator, Keri Ann Henson, tells us that we currently have 22 matches (This number is slightly down from November's numbers.) Three students have recently been evaluated and one is officially waiting for a tutor. Statistics show us that many more adults are illiterate in this area and are not receiving help. Increased out-reach efforts are being made. We need your help too! (See front page of this newsletter.)

Frieda Pryor, ESL Coordinator, says that there are 68 active tutors with 101 students. There are presently 12 students on the waiting list. There are Conversation Classes that regularly meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The tutors who teach these sessions are Denise Dertzbaugh, and Irene Romersa, Dorinda Shepley, and Andrea Davis.

We appreciate all of our tutors, Basic and ESL, and these four as well, who continue to make a meaningful difference in our community every day. Thank you!

Interview with Office Manager, Diana Halleman

What has been the biggest surprise for you working here at the Literacy Council?

Initially, I was surprised that more people did not know about us and that we actually had tutors waiting for students in the basic program. However, things are changing and we now have a waiting list for basic students as well as ESL. I also was not aware of how great the need is for our services.

What kinds of calls and inquiries do you get on a weekly basis?

We get calls primarily asking about cost and what we can offer a potential student and some about volunteering, especially when we start getting closer to a training class. We are also starting to get calls about referrals from other local agencies.

What kind of interaction do you have with potential students?

Usually, I do their testing (ESL) and

evaluation (Basic) and learn a little about their background when they come to LCFC. After that, it is usually just "chit chat" when they come in to meet their tutor to study.

What are 3 of your favorite things about this job?

- 1) I love the variety of people I meet and the fact that I am able to offer them "hope" about their needs and encourage them.
- 2) I enjoy interacting with a number of board members and tutors who are in the office regularly and we often share ideas and suggestions.
- 3) The challenge of writing grants and doing the testing/evaluation of students.

Do you ever come across inspiring stories of people who are asking for help?

Well, recently I learned that one of our students, Pouv Judd, has started her own nonprofit to fight illiteracy in her village back in Cambodia. It is called "Cambodia Reads" and I find that inspiring.

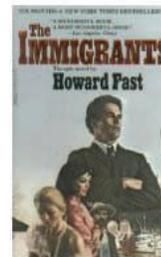
Grants/Awards

A grant was awarded by the Community Foundation for a projector, screen, and a second easel for the upstairs meeting area. An award was received on Jan. 9 from the Nora Roberts Foundation, and a donation from St. Mary's Chapter of All Saints Episcopal Church was awarded to us as well.

We are grateful that these organizations see the work we do as important.

Book Drive

The Holiday Book Drive for needy children was a success. Dancing Bear Toys helped to promote the drive as well and were once again a drop-off location for the books. Students from Frederick High also helped to coordinate a collection for the children/youth affiliated with Advocates for Homeless Families. New books were donated for 24 children ranging from 2yrs old to 17years old. Each child received an age appropriate book, and then there were many extras donated as well for an estimate of over \$375 worth of new books.



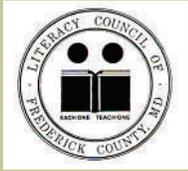
Board Books: What We Are Reading

by Caroline Gaver, President

The Immigrant series by Howard Fast was written between 1977 and 1997 and is a series of 6 books that follows one family, early immigrants to San Francisco, through the years 1891 – 1985. It weaves in the major historical events and trends throughout these years and the effect they had on this family. The books are "The Immigrants", "Second Generation", "The Establishment", "The Legacy", "The Immigrant's Daughter", and "An Independent Woman".



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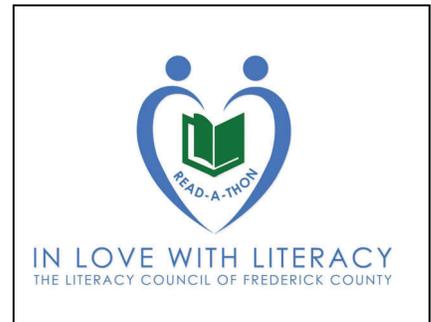
Read-A-Thon

Do you love reading?

In Love with Literacy Read-A-Thon.

Sign up now and join us on February 11, 2012
at the C.Burr Artz Library for the celebration.

www.frederickliteracy.org



Literacy Council office on East
Patrick St. in downtown
Frederick, MD.
www.frederickliteracy.org

Thank you to the sponsors who helped to make this
community event possible,

The Gazette,
Frederick News-Post,
Pryor's Nursery,
Frederick Memorial Regional Health Care System,
Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce,
and
Friends of Frederick County Public Libraries.