



4 Words Frederick

Each One Teach One

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Literacy Council of Frederick County

110 E. Patrick St.

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301-600-2066

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Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 10am - 4pm

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Meet Our New 2012 Board

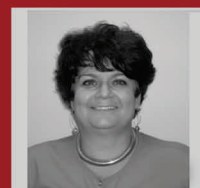
2012 Board of Directors



Caroline Gaver



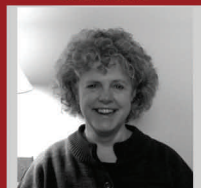
Sandy Doggett



Tracey Lucas



Lisa Myers



Catherine Cox



Keri Ann Henson



Freida Pryor



Melanie Gettier



Denise Dertzbaugh



Beth Lowe



Dennis McKinney



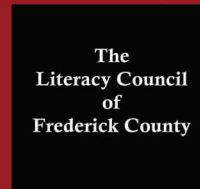
Randy Naefe



Bryan Patchan



John (Hamp) Tisdale



The
Literacy Council
of
Frederick County

2012 Board of Directors

* New to the Board

President: Caroline Gaver, 1st Vice President: Tracey Lucas,
2nd Vice President: Sandy Doggett, Treasurer: * Lisa Meyers,
Secretary: Catherine Bly Cox, Basic Coordinator: Keri Ann Henson, ESL Coordinator: Freida Pryor,
Corresponding Sec'y.: Melanie Gettier, Director: * Denise Dertzbaugh, Director: Beth Lowe,
Director: * Dennis McKinney, Director: Randy Naefe,
Director: * Bryan Patchan, Director: * John (Hamp) Tisdale,

Literacy Council Adopts Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Plan

The Literacy Council of Frederick County welcomes new volunteers as well as new students needing help.

**For info.
301-600-2066,**

www.frederickliteracy.org.



On June 18, 2012 our Officers and Board of Directors adopted new guiding documents for our organization. Through a generous grant from the Ausherman Family Foundation, we were able to hire a consultant, Dr. Greg Powell, to lead us through the process of developing these new documents. Many thanks to the board members, students, and tutors who talked with Dr. Powell about our successes and opportunities for improvement at the Literacy Council. Through hours of discussions we updated our mission to read:

Mission—To assist adults in Frederick County in attaining the reading, writing and English-speaking skills needed to achieve personal goals and integrate more fully into the community.

Vision— By promoting literacy, the Literacy Council of Frederick County empowers people to live more fulfilling lives. By training volunteer tutors, we provide free, individualized instruction to adults in need of essential reading, writing, and English language skills.

Core Values—We believe in:

Providing learner-centered instruction with compassion, confidentiality, and respect.

Recognizing the power of our passionate and dedicated volunteers.

Educating a parent in order to educate a family.

Creating a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community through the ripple effect of adult literacy.

Engaging with our community.

Sustaining our organization through: 1.) Responsible financial stewardship of resources, 2.) Sound management practices, and 3.) A strong volunteer base

We also developed a strategic plan for our next five years. Thanks to all the board members, tutors and students who contributed to this process. A special thanks to Keri-Ann Henson, Caroline Gaver, Beth Lowe, Tracey Lucas, and Sandy Doggett who met with Dr. Powell three additional times to pull all the data collected into the final documents. We are looking for committee members who can help us reach our goals. All of these committees have open spots: Fundraising, Grant Writing, Marketing and Publicity, Nominating, Facilities, Annual Meeting and Personnel. If you would like to serve on one of these committees, please call the office at 301-600-2066.

Student Successes

*We love celebrating the success of our students and we are proud of all of them, Basic and ESL. Our Basic program students find it especially hard to step forward to acknowledge an award or achievement because they felt so much shame in not being able to read. It takes a great amount of courage for many to sign on for help with our program. We are always willing to announce the achievements of **all** of our students if we hear about it from their tutors.*

We are proud to announce that one of our students, Rosa Arias, recently passed her citizenship exam. Sheli Radoshitzky is tutoring Rosa. We wish her much success in the future.

We are also proud to announce that Ling Yu has successfully completed 4 Early Childhood courses at FCC. She earned the 90-hour state Day Care Certification.

A Student Story By Her Tutor: Sheli Radoshitzky

Rosa is from El Salvador. I started tutoring Rosa on April 2011. When I first met Rosa her reading and comprehension capabilities were already advanced. However, her speaking, writing, and especially grammar capabilities were lagging behind. Therefore, during the first 6 months of tutoring we focused heavily on Grammar, Vocabulary building, Writing, and Computer skills. I also included listening, reading, speaking and pronunciation elements in each lesson.

In the last six months we have been working on her Naturalization test. My aim was to teach her the tools to be able to apply for the test and find study materials independently. She downloaded the application form and filled it out herself, with me as a bystander for any essential questions. She obtained a book to study for the civic test and we worked through it progressively, making sure Rosa understood the material, built up the necessary vocabulary, and felt comfortable with the exam format. Next I made flash cards for the 100 questions of the civic test, as well as flash cards for the reading and writing vocabulary. Each week I tested her over the questions, and prepared sentences for reading and writing to practice the English part of the exam. I also prepared overviews of all the civic information pertaining to US history, federal and state organization, and US geography using clear and simple flowcharts and similar tools. This helped Rosa significantly in seeing the whole picture and to pass the test. Rosa is a wonderful, sociable, and hard-working person. It has been extremely rewarding to work with her.



**ESL
Happenings -**

**Congratulations
to
Rosa Arias
and
Ling Yu**

Interview with ESL Tutor and Student

Interview with tutor, Susan Birch, and student, Jin Wan.

Susan, How did you first get involved with us?

I volunteered with the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, and when I moved to Frederick in 2008, I decided to sign up with the local Literacy Council. Having been a former English teacher and editor, volunteering with the Literacy Council has been a perfect fit for me.

How often do you and Jin meet? What kinds of things do you work on?

Jin and I meet once a week for 2 hours. We are working with the *Laubach Way to English* series, including its skill book and workbook; *Patterns in Spelling*; and idioms of the day from the EnglishClub.com website. To help improve her written communication skills, we go over e-mail messages that Jin sends to me, correcting spelling, grammar, and syntax. Jin also compiles lists of “problem words” that we go over in order to improve her pronunciation of words and build her vocabulary. We discuss various topics from the local newspapers and newscasts. We also occasionally read items from *News for You*.

Do you and Jin have any specific goals that you are working towards?

In 2010, I worked with Jin on studying for the U.S. citizenship test, which she passed. She became a U.S. citizen. Recently, we worked on her application for voter registration; she now has her voter registration card and plans to vote in the fall election. Our current goal is to study for the TOEFL test since she wants to work toward receiving a bachelor’s degree here in the U.S. On a continuing basis, we work on the following goals: improving fluency in English, improving written communications, improving pronunciation of words, increasing vocabulary, and improving reading skills.

Susan, what would you say to other people in the community who wish they had a better command of the language but feel uncomfortable asking for help?

They really should not hesitate to ask for help. Volunteers with the Literacy Council want to help! The tutors enjoy language and working with students of various backgrounds.

Do you have any advice for people just now being trained to become a tutor - or to those maybe considering it?

I would encourage people to become tutors.

It is a very rewarding experience. Regarding advice for people now being trained to become a tutor, I would recommend that they start with what the student wants to learn and focus on that. The students may have specific goals that they want to achieve. The tutors can then add formal texts and structure to the lessons. Developing a close friendship with Jin and learning about her culture have been very rewarding for me.

Jin, how did you find out about the Literacy Council?

I found out about the Frederick Literacy Council through my friend and contacted them about the English class. I was so lucky to get my tutor, Susan, within one month.

Tell us about your background – where you grew up and what kind of education/schooling you had.

I grew up in Sichuan, China, and graduated from the Sichuan Conservatory of Music with a major in vocal.

Have you noticed any improvements in your day-to-day life since working with Susan? What kinds of things do you work on together?

I have learned a lot of English since I began working with her in February 2009. I have gained more confidence in myself. I definitely feel that my English has improved so much. We have become so close to each other after having studied together for more than 3 years. She is so generous and very committed to our work. She has encouraged me to do things I like, has helped me set my life goals, and has supported me in many areas of my life. We have studied lots of topics like politics, American history, Western cultures, etc. In our sessions, we have practiced speaking, listening, reading, and writing. She is very patient and corrects my English in a very kind and professional way.

Our next mission is for her to help me achieve high scores on my TOEFL test. I also want to work toward getting a bachelor’s degree in the U.S. We’d also like to travel together to China some day.

What would you say to other people in the community who wish they had a better command of the language but feel uncomfortable asking for help?

If you want to study English, don’t hesitate to ask for help. The Literacy Council is a good place to begin because you get your own tutor who works with you at your own pace.



- Susan Birch and Jin Wan

“Developing a close friendship ... and learning about her culture have been very rewarding for me.

- Susan



- Susan Birch with Jin Wan and her sons, Jerry and Iven.

“She is so generous and very committed to our work.”

- Jin Wan



“...this initiative will improve the quality of life for two of the fastest growing segments of our population, seniors and those wanting to learn or improve their English.”



The Literacy Council has a proven track record of economic responsibility. Monetary gifts go directly to books and materials, or to running our operation. There is no wasteful spending. Your tax deductible donation does a great deal to spread literacy. Check our website to see how many books, or what materials your gift can buy.

Senior Recruitment Initiative -

Volunteers Hermine Bernstein and Doris Vierbuchen Spearhead the Outreach Effort

Volunteer Hermine Bernstein has begun an initiative with the Council to reach out to senior groups and living facilities in an effort to partner interested retirees with our students. She strongly believes there are many seniors in our community who would love to participate in an important activity such as tutoring, and she plans to take the message about this opportunity to them. She believes that by attracting more seniors to the benefits and rewards of tutoring, this initiative will improve the quality of life for two of the fastest growing segments of our population, seniors and those wanting to learn or improve their English.

Hermine and long-time volunteer Doris

Vierbuchen plan to set up a series of introductory meetings at senior centers, adult communities, retiree organizations, and possibly churches and synagogues. The Department of Aging is excited about partnering with us, and will be helping with contact information and promotion. If you are part of a group or community that you think might be interested in hosting a meeting, please let Hermine know.

She can be reached at fredherm2@comcast.net, or you can call the

Council office at 301-600-2066 and leave a message for her.



Doris Vierbuchen
LCFC Volunteer

Grant Success: Dollar General Literacy Foundation & The Wish You Well Foundation

Our grant committee has been diligently writing grants to find additional funds to grow our organization. Recently, we were awarded two grants from national organizations that support literacy initiatives. These two grants will provide \$10,000 to support our programs.

Caroline Gaver, President, stated, “Our goal, with the help of the grants from Dollar General and Wish You Well Foundation, is to increase our outreach effort in the community in order to gain additional volunteers to help more people needing to improve their literacy or language skills.”

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awards grants to organizations in communities served by Dollar General. The literacy grants support nonprofit organizations that provide literacy services such as adult basic education, GED preparation, English language acquisition or programs for youth who struggle with reading. For more information on the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and a complete list of grant recipients, visit www.dgliteracy.org.

The Wish You Well Foundation supports family literacy in the United States by fostering and promoting the development and expansion of new and existing literacy and educational programs. For more information about the foundation go to <http://www.wishyouwellfoundation.org>

By the end of these grants we hope to have:

1. 50 new tutors that have been trained and assigned students.
2. 50 new students that have been tested, evaluated, assigned a tutor and will have begun working toward their specific goals.
3. Wait times between first contact and testing and evaluation reduced from one month to one week or less.

www.frederickliteracy.org

Annual Meeting



Pictured left to right bottom row are: Sandy Doggett, Caroline Gaver, Doris Vierbuchen, Keri Ann Henson, Denise Dertzbaugh (New); Top row left to right: Melanie Gettier, John Tisdale (New), Catherine Cox, Beth Lowe, Lisa Myers (New), Tracey Lucas, Frieda Pryor, Bryan Patchan (New), Dennis McKinney (New), Randy Naefe (not pictured)

The Literacy Council of Frederick County recently held its annual meeting and awards ceremony. Dr. Jorge Ribas, President & CEO of Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc. Washington, DC spoke at the event and highlighted the importance of literacy as a fundamental key to economic growth. The Council celebrated its growth as an organization and the fact that their students are blossoming. The Council elected a record number of new board members. Each member has impressive professional and community experience. They are a dedicated group who has a busy agenda for the year. The Board is excited for another year of supporting literacy in the Frederick community.

Awards



Pictured left to right:
Ron Partyka, Brecca Faust, Kate Bufter, Ruth Breuning, and Kathleen Rodkey.

Many volunteers give so much of their time to teach adults to read and write, and (in the ESL program) speak English. One method of awarding volunteers is to recognize how many hours they have given to the Council. The adjacent list shows the volunteers and the "level", or amount of hours each of them has reached in giving their time to the Literacy Council of Frederick Co.

It is hard to adequately express how grateful we are for their dedication.

- 4,000 hours** - Kate Bufter
- 3,000 hours** - Denise Dertzbaugh
- 1750 hours** - Sr. Mary Augusta von Drehle
- 1,500 hours** - Freida Pryor
- 1,000 hours** - Sandy Doggett, Marianne Dacey
- 900 hours** - Alexis Matthews
- 800 hours** - Ronald Adams, Kathy Fay
- 700 hours** - Katy McRae
- 600 hours** - Ronald Partyka, Peggy Neeb
- 500 hours** - Maria Arthur, Catherine Cox, Yonnas Kefle, Doris Vierbuchen
- 400 hours** - Keri-Ann Henson,
- 300 hours** - Kathleen Rodkey, Mary Polglase, Mary Frances Trunk, Dorinda Shepley
- 200 hours** - Susan Birch, Wendy Buckham, Andrea Dyjak, Herman Green, Bryan Patchan, Suellen McGovern, Irene Romersa, Sushila Bhattacharjee
- 100 hours** - Ruth Bruening, Peter Krogh, Denise Lynch, Katherine Mullen, Dixie Sterling, Patricia Williamson, Dawn Metcalf, Jennifer Diamond, Brecca Faust, Dave Baker, Michelle Perry, Elaine Zacheis



Caroline Gaver, President, Dr. Jorge Ribas, Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Frieda Pryor, ESL Coordinator

Special Notes of Thanks

We are glad Dr. Jorge Ribas came to speak at our meeting. He was a dynamic speaker who underlined what our tutors are doing is improving people's lives in a profound way since literacy creates many more opportunities for people.

We'd also like to recognize Frederick Friends Meeting for letting us rent their space on very short notice for our meeting due to a scheduling glitch with a previously reserved location.



It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



We are growing and blossoming as a result of hard-working volunteers.

**Return Service
Requested**



Literacy Council of
Frederick County
110 E. Patrick St.
Frederick, MD 21701

Phone: 301-600-2066

Email: info@frederickliteracy.org

**We're on the web
www.frederickliteracy.org**

 **PROLITERACY**

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***IMAGINE BEING
UNABLE TO READ
FOR PLEASURE -
OR, UNABLE TO
READ TO
YOUR KIDS.***



Literacy Council
of Frederick County
110 E. Patrick St.

Free Workshop

September 15 & 22, 2012
Frederick

October 13 & 20, 2012
Hagerstown

2 days required for certification
301-600-2066 www.frederickliteracy.org

**Register
Now**