



# 4 Words Frederick

## Each One Teach One

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### Literacy Council of Frederick County

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Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 10am - 4pm

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### Caroline Gaver Awarded the Prestigious Wertheimer Fellow Award - Our Champion of Adult Literacy

Contributed by Sandy Doggett

The Community Foundation of Frederick County sponsors the annual Wertheimer Fellow award. These awards are given to an elite group of volunteers who are recognized for hours of service that they give to the local community. They leave a lasting legacy in everything they do. Caroline Gaver was selected for this very special award for 2012.

Caroline will be honored at the annual Community Foundation dinner in November and her contributions to the Literacy Council are described in the October 2012 Frederick Magazine. In addition Caroline will use the \$10,000 award to increase the impact of the Betty Seligmann Literacy Endowment Fund for the Literacy Council.

Caroline has been volunteering with the Literacy Council for 37 years. She has held many roles over the years including: president, board member, tutor, tutor trainer coordinator, vice president, fundraiser, and grant writer. Dr. Greg Powell, who nominated her, refers to her as our "Champion of Adult Literacy". He goes on to say, "There has been no greater advocate and no harder worker for adults who suffer the stigma and humiliation of not being able to read and write in their native English or who struggle to fit into the Frederick Community because they need to learn English as a second language."

We are all very proud of Caroline's contribution in keeping the Literacy Council vital after almost 50 years of service to the community. She has been our leader and champion of change to keep the Literacy Council services relevant to the changing needs of our community in the twenty-first century.

Excerpt from Dr. Powell who nominated Caroline for this award.

"Caroline joined the Literacy Council of Frederick County two years after its inception in 1963. Since that time, the Council has helped more than 7500 English and non-English speaking adults learn to read and write and to speak English. Currently, the Council maintains more than 100 volunteers – all trained in part by Caroline. "

*As editor of this newsletter, I know that Caroline would rather not have such attention focused on her and her photo and name so celebrated in this issue. The board and volunteers of the Council want to share with our readers and the rest of the community just how important she is to this organization and therefore to the community as the Council directly benefits people in the Frederick area.*

Melanie Gettier



Caroline Gaver, President, LCFC  
Photo courtesy of Community Foundation

Read more about this award and Caroline on the next page.

## Caroline Gaver, Champion of Adult Literacy

**The Literacy Council of Frederick Co. welcomes new students needing help.**

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

[www.frederickliteracy.org](http://www.frederickliteracy.org)



**Caroline Gaver awarded the Wertheimer Fellow Award**

**“A tireless advocate for the Council ...”**



Nominator: Dr. Gregory Powell, Powell Management Resources and Frederick Psychology Center,

*(Dr. Powell worked with our board to create organizational standards and helped us to develop a strategic plan so the Council can better suit the needs of the community. This was sent to the Community Foundation to describe Caroline.)*

Caroline Gaver has volunteered for 37 year with the Literacy Council of Frederick County as an inspiring and tireless leader of the organization. To those who work closely with her, Caroline is described as:

“Awesome. I don’t know what we’d do without her.”

“Compassionate, understanding, and always willing to listen to new ideas.”

“A great boss.”

“The heart of the Literacy Council.”

“A tireless advocate for the Council who has worked to do whatever job needs doing to keep the doors open and the mission moving forward.”

“Caroline has the most unusual talent for dealing with volunteers. She makes each volunteer feel needed and wanted and, most importantly, makes him/her feel that he is doing a good job. She respects and utilizes each individual's talents. She does not act like a "boss" but manages to keep everything running smoothly.”

These views are shared by all who have worked with Caroline at the Council. She has served in every volunteer capacity, including tutor, trainer (of tutors), Training Coordinator, Vice President of the Board, and President of the Board. Her terms as either President or Vice President have totaled over 20 years.

Caroline joined the Literacy Council of Frederick County two years after its inception in 1963. Since that time, the Council has helped more than 7500 English and non-English speaking adults learn to read and write and to speak English. Currently, the Council maintains more than 100 volunteers – all trained in part by Caroline.

They provide free, one-on-one basic literacy tutoring to English-speaking adults as well as English as a Second Language tutoring to foreign speaking residents of Frederick County. At any given time, there are more than 120 students enrolled in the Council’s programs.

In 1979, Caroline was a member of the first English as a Second Language training class and became one of the Council’s first ESL tutors. In 1992, Caroline co-founded a tutor training program at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown. Caroline has continued working in that program over the past two decades. She also took a leadership position in forming the Literacy Council in Hancock (MD), the Literacy Council of Washington County, and the Garrett County Literacy Council.

More recently, she has been involved with fundraising and grant writing activities that have raised over \$22,000 for the Literacy Council in the past year. She also led the organization in a leadership transition process which included strategic planning, board recruitment, and committee development to strengthen the organization as she prepares to step down from her role as Board President and the widely acknowledged leader of the Council.

There has been no greater advocate and no harder worker for adults who suffer the stigma and humiliation of not being able to read and write in their native English or who struggle to fit into the Frederick community because they need to learn English as a second language. Caroline is humble and unassuming on the surface, but passionate in her commitment to the Council’s mission and a dynamo in getting results. I can think of no one more deserving of a Wertheimer Award than the “Champion of Adult Literacy” in Frederick County and Western Maryland, Caroline Gaver.

*The Community Foundation is dedicated to connecting people who care with causes that matter to enrich the quality of life in Frederick County now and for future generations.*

Check out their website [www.cffredco.org](http://www.cffredco.org).

To see their article about the award go to the news and events/press releases section.



Caroline Gaver, President

## Interview with ESL Student and Tutor

Interview with Roxana, ESL student, and Frieda Pryor

### **Roxana, how did you find out about the Literacy Council?**

I learned about the Literacy Council from my friend, She had a tutor in her house because she had four daughters. I learned a little English in my country of El Salvador.

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

I grew up in San Vicente, El Salvador with my grandparents. My grandfather paid for me to go to school and my Grandmother took care of me. I finished high school in El Salvador. After high school I got a job as a secretary with my uncle's electronic company. They sold computer chips for electronic equipment. They also repaired electronic equipment. With my money, I went to the University to study business for 3 years. While I was working at my uncle's, I learned about the business.

Then, I got another job as a secretary at a hospital. I worked there three years. Then I got married and immigrated to the USA in 1999 because my husband was already a U.S. citizen. We lived in Silver Spring MD for 5 years. Then we moved to Frederick in 2004. We have 2 sons who were born in the USA.

### **Was it difficult when you first began working with your tutor?**

Yes. I needed more practice in talking and expressing what I mean. I still think in Spanish and I need to think in English to be able to speak more fluid.. I am working to express myself because I now like to have friends, new things, and increase my vocabulary. Now, I want to find a job helping people.

### **Have you noticed any improvements in your day-to-day life since working with tutor?**

Yes. Because I feel more secure to express my thoughts. I am not afraid anymore to talk. I try to talk more slowly, thinking only in English. I try and remember everything I have learned with my tutor.

Now, I am a volunteer at my son's school, learning day to day talking and speaking more English.

(Roxana has been with her tutor for 1 year.)

### **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?**

I would tell them do not be afraid to express yourself in English. It is a good experience because the tutors are experienced and very friendly. They care about you and take time to talk with you about your problems. I am grateful to the Literacy Council for their help and to my tutor, Freida Pryor, for an exceptional job to prepare me to get my U.S. Citizenship last July 24<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore.

### **Freida, how did you first get involved with us?**

I was asked to be the Treasurer by a Board member nine years ago because I had computer skills in accounting. After I was there for a few months and witnessed the great work the council did, I decided to become a certified tutor. I had retired from teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade Life Science in Montgomery County after 30 years and I missed teaching itself.

### **How often do you two meet?**

Roxana and I meet twice a week. On Mondays we have a social get together at my home or wherever and on Thursdays I meet with her at the Literacy for a formal lesson. This year, we studied for her test to become a U.S. Citizen which she did on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Since then, we are concentrating on conversational English, writing, and any personal matters that require an understanding of English.

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

I would say that the Literacy Council is the place to come for it is so friendly. The tutors are there because they want to help those who want to assimilate into society in Frederick. We are experienced, patient, and understanding. It certainly isn't for the pay...only the passion.

### **What aspect do you find most rewarding?**

That is difficult to pinpoint. The whole experience is rewarding for me. I am hooked on tutoring! I love seeing her blossom into a confident woman because of her improved English. She now feels that she can apply for a job since both of her sons are in school full time. I feel it is my privilege to teach her and I look forward to meeting with her each session.

*Included are Roxana's written responses in her own words, unedited.*



“Thank you , Literacy Council of Frederick, for the time and hard work you do for all the people of Frederick. You are in my heart always.”

- Roxana



### **Freida's advice for new and future tutors?**

Be patient with yourself. Learn along with your student and listen to their wants and needs. You will find that the reward is well worth the effort you put into this great journey with your student. Keep in contact with the Council and other tutors and learn all you can from their success and failures. All of us grow along with those we are teaching.

- Freida



## Attention Tutors — Helpful Information!

**TUTORS:** If you need to pick up tutoring materials outside of our office hours, we can now leave them for you at the library's Adult Reference Desk on the 2nd floor of the C. Burr Artz Library. Just call or email our office by 3 p.m. Monday – Friday and tell the office staff what you need. The materials will be put in an envelope with your name on it and left at the reference desk for you to pick up anytime during library hours. And as before, if you want to pick up your materials at another branch, call the office and ask for the materials to be sent by library courier to that branch. 301-600-2066.

### Literacy Statistics Worldwide

According to [UNICEF](#), "Nearly a billion people will enter the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names and two thirds of them are women."

*The Literacy Council has a proven track record of economic responsibility. Check our website to see how many books, or what materials your gift can buy.*

### ESL News

by Freida Pryor

#### ESL Report (as of the beginning of October)

Active tutors - 86, Waiting tutors - 0,  
Change since last report - Active tutors +20, Waiting tutors - 6  
Active students - 142, Waiting Students - 0, Student groups - 5

#### New Class

On September 23 at 10am, we had our first Tutor In Service Training Class on conducting a Conversation Class. We formed one more group which will meet every Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm at the LCFC office. The instructor is Mary Polglase. If any of your students could attend this class, or the one that meets on Thursday mornings from 10am-11:30 am in the LCFC office with instructor, Denise Dertzbaugh, please email me at [fpryor@comcast.net](mailto:fpryor@comcast.net) and I will enroll them. All our ESL students benefit from more conversation in English.

#### In-Service Class

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, we had an Inservice Class at 10-11:15am in the LCFC office. The topic was: "How To Use News For You and Easy English News In Your Lesson" These are newspapers are delivered to the office and are free to you and your students. They are excellent teaching tools and the students really like them! Along with current news, they have crosswords, idioms, jokes, activities, etc. I really encourage you to use them.

#### Recruiting New Students

A letter was sent by Diana Halleman to all principals and guidance counselors in schools in Frederick County telling of our services and requesting that individuals call us with names of families, custodians, cafeteria workers, etc. who would like a tutor. We received 8 responses on the very same day that the email went out to the counselors!



## Committees Begin Work

On June 18, 2012 our Board of Directors approved our new Strategic Plan. The plan charters 10 committees to enhance the work of the board. By assigning the tasks to committees, we can involve more people in the work of operating the Literacy Council.

Several of the committees have already met and started their work. Dennis McKinney is the chair of the Finance Committee and they have reviewed the financial status of the Literacy Council and are looking at methods and procedures to make us stronger financially. The Grants Committee, led by Sandy Doggett, is happy to welcome 2 new members who are recent college graduates, Carla Clarke and Isabella Garcia, as well as new volunteer Stanley Schweinfurth. The committee has submitted 2 grant proposals to the Community Foundation and has plans to submit several more this fall. The Governance Committee, led by Beth Lowe, is considering whether we should align our fiscal year with the calendar year. This committee is also deciding if we should separate the bylaws from our constitution. Keri-Ann Henson is the leader of the Annual Meeting and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration. Her committee decided not to combine the two events. The tentative date for the Annual Meeting will be May 7, 2013. The committee is exploring exciting options for our Anniversary Celebration in the fall of 2013 and hopes to use it as a Fundraiser as well. We look forward to hearing reports from the committees that have yet to meet.

Several committees are still looking for more members. Please consider joining the Grant Writing, Fundraising and Marketing Committees. Each committee will meet approximately once a month.

## New Tutors from Fall Workshop - Congratulations!

New tutors certified on 9/22/2012 :

Jackie Abraham  
Carole Baltzell  
Hermine Bernstein  
Alyson Bradfield  
Deborah Brown  
Carla Clarke  
Sharon Duke  
Allison Fischbach  
Isabelle Garcia  
Joyce Hunt  
Nancy Hutchins

Anastasia Jantz  
Patrick Kennedy  
Tina Lamont  
Dam Le  
Lorraine Roberts  
Elizabeth Robinson  
Stanley Schweinfurth  
Kaleb Shissler  
Lyuba Sidorova  
Patricia Staggs  
Carol Topchik  
Virginia Warwick



- Newly certified tutors in front of the Community Room at the C. Burr Artz Library



### Successful Fall Training

On September 15 and 22, a successful tutor training workshop was held in Frederick at the Community Room at the C. Burr Artz Public Library located in downtown Frederick.

23 volunteers completed the 14 hours of required training. That was an unusually high number of graduates from a tutor-training workshop. Caroline Gaver remarked, "The biggest news about it is that we now have a number of tutors waiting for students for the first time in about 20 years. Students who apply for tutors soon should be placed very quickly."

The trainers were Caroline Gaver, Marianne Dacey, Kate Bufter, Mary Pat George, and Alice Brouillet.

The was another training held in Hagerstown on October 13 and 20, 2012. Training will be held in Frederick again next spring on April 6 and 13, 2013. If you would like to register for training to become a tutor, register on our website or call 301-600-2066. Tutors commit to meet with a student for 1-2 hours once or twice a week on a regular basis. The only qualifications are to be literate and fluent in English, be 18 years or older and have a desire to help others. Tutoring an adult is a very rewarding experience. If you want to help right away and not wait until April, there are volunteer opportunities in our office and special projects and events that you can assist with.



Certified 10/20/12 in Hagerstown but will serve here in Frederick:

Carla Colon  
Bud Corazza  
Katie Cox  
Robert Gramm  
Angela Jordan  
Hilary Kruger  
Frances Lynch  
Kit McCullough  
Patrick McLister  
Mary Ann Morgan  
Melissa Walker  
George Waxter  
Patricia White

### Student Successes

Two of our students (and new citizens) Jin Wan and Roxana Flores were featured in an article in the Gazette on Oct. 25 about voting for the first time. Enjoy reading it! Go on-line to "Gazette.net" then look for "voting for the first time".

### Literacy Statistics and Juvenile Court (USA)

85 percent of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.

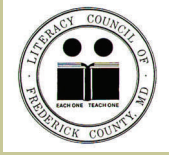
One of many reasons we are grateful for our hard-working volunteers.



#### In memoriam:

Edith Klein, a long-time volunteer, passed away in September. Her daughter, Natalie Boyles, informed the Council. Edie had moved away years ago. She was a sweet person and certainly made a difference with her work in literacy.

**Return Service  
Requested**



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

Phone: 301-600-2066

Email: [info@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:info@frederickliteracy.org)

## **2012 Board of Directors**

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

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[www.frederickliteracy.org](http://www.frederickliteracy.org)

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***HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE FOR NEEDY  
CHILDREN IS COMING SOON.  
CHECK OUR WEBSITE, FACE-  
BOOK, OR CALL US FOR  
DETAILS.***



Literacy Council  
of Frederick County  
110 E. Patrick St.

## **Support Literacy**

Make your tax-deductible donation to  
The Literacy Council of Frederick Co.  
and make a meaningful difference in  
someone's life.

301-600-2066 [www.frederickliteracy.org](http://www.frederickliteracy.org)