



LITERACY COUNCIL FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

EMPOWERING ADULTS THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

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September 2015

Executive Director's Corner - Laurie Fisher



International Literacy Day

September 8 is International Literacy Day.

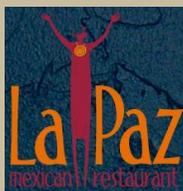
First established in 1965, setting aside a special day worldwide helps us to highlight this issue that is both global and local. Approximately 775 million people are functionally illiterate. This means they lack the basic reading and writing skills to manage daily living and employment tasks. Let's bring this issue closer to home. 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 impact of illiteracy - limited opportunities for employment or income generation, higher chances of poor health, propensity towards crime or dependence on social welfare or charity can be found wherever illiteracy is found. This challenge prevents many members of our community, our neighbors, from earning enough to meet basic needs - food, shelter, and medical care - for themselves and their families.

International Literacy Day gives us the opportunity here in Frederick County to highlight the challenge of illiteracy facing our community. More importantly, however, it helps us to focus on finding and implementing solutions. The work of the Literacy Council of Frederick County - 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 so they can be able to provide for their families, support their children's education and contribute to the well being and prosperity of our community.

We cannot carry out our work, however, without the support from our national advocates, our community and our volunteer tutors. We are excited to announce three grants that have just been awarded to the Literacy Council that will be instrumental helping us to meet the

Please join us!!
Wednesday, Sept. 30th
5-8 p.m.
Location: *La Paz*
(upstairs bar)
[Register online today!](#)



Join us for our first ever
"Sundae Scrabble" in
March 2016!

WATCH FOR THE FINAL
DATE!

Please join us in March 2016
at the Delaplaine Visual
Arts Education Center for
an afternoon of Sundae
Scrabble! More details to
come soon. If you are
interested in joining the
planning committee,
helping to sponsor the
event, or you have ideas
for sponsors, raffle or silent
auction items contact Diana
Halleman:
staff@frederickliteracy.org



Fall Issue of
ProLiteracy's Notebook
Now Available:

[Notebook: Resources for the Adult Educator](#) is a 16-page resource designed especially for teachers and tutors. It is published three times per year as a benefit for [ProLiteracy](#) members. Each article in Notebook describes a ready-to-use teaching idea related to reading, writing, listening and speaking, numeracy, or a practical application of literacy skills. Most articles contain reading material and/or worksheets that can be photocopied for students to use. In some instances, additional worksheets are made available online for tutors and teachers who want to do additional work on the topic. Each issue also contains an inspirational story about a learner or an instructor as well as a resources section that lists events or links to valuable

growing needs in our community in the coming year. ProLiteracy's National Book Fund is providing us with new high-quality educational materials and resources. The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is helping us to increase our outreach, recruit new tutors and reach more students throughout the county. And the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek is helping us with resources to begin a new health literacy initiative to help improve the health outcomes for our students.

Our dedicated tutors working tirelessly with their students are the other "heroes" in confronting the challenge of illiteracy. They are transforming the lives of Frederick County residents one success at a time. I invite you to read the following article about Cho Cho, whose life has been transformed by the compassion and dedication of her tutor, Sandy Doggett. And I challenge everyone reading this article to reach out and invite one friend or acquaintance to consider becoming a Literacy Council tutor. What better way to celebrate International Literacy Day than to be part of transforming lives here in Frederick County with the gift of a tutor?

Literacy Council Student Awarded Car From Second Chances Garage

Cho Cho Lwin has learned to be patient. It took her more than a decade to secure a coveted green card to immigrate to Frederick from the troubled Asian nation of Burma, also known as Myanmar, and she took the test to get a Maryland driver's license five times as she sought to pass an exam in a language she was still learning.



Now, she has picked up her first car from the low-cost vehicle program of Second Chances Garage (SCG), a volunteer organization that provides affordable vehicles to low-wage workers "making their way toward self-sufficiency" while receiving assistance from a SCG program partner.

SCG solicits vehicle donations, makes the necessary repairs and then places the refurbished cars with applicants referred by partners, which include the Literacy Council of Frederick County.

Lwin is a Literacy Council student learning English and the first Council recipient of an SCG vehicle. A resident of Frederick for almost two years, Lwin is excited to have improved transportation. "I always take the bus [to my job]," she said. "And in the winter, it is very cold when I have to wait for it. Now, I can drive to work."

Having her own vehicle will also help her save money when she works on holidays and opens potential new employment opportunities. She works holidays when buses don't run and when she has to take taxis to work, the cost is \$12 each way -- a tough dilemma when your hotel housekeeper salary is \$8.35 an hour. When she cannot afford to spend the money, it takes her two hours to walk home.



Having greater mobility -- she no longer has to find a job on a bus route -- allows her to explore better employment and the prospect of working two jobs. Lwin now has a better chance to accomplish one of the key things that brought her to the United States -- a need for greater economic security. In Burma, though she had a college degree in math, she only made \$30 a month as a hotel front

teaching resources.

Tutor Lesson Plan

For the month of September we are highlighting the biography of Dolley Madison, her life and times as written by Joanne Mattern. It is part of a collection of biographies about the First Ladies produced by ABDO Publishing Company. It is written in simple English and is a great book for basic students and beginning ESL students to use. Students will sharpen basic skills in vocabulary, reading comprehension and grammar by close reading of the material, completing sentences, playing games, and identifying parts of speech in the text. The students will engage in an enrichment activity by writing sentences about their personal responses to Dolley Madison's quotation, "Our hearts understand one another."



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

The Literacy Council has been accepted for inclusion in this year's 2015 Chesapeake Bay Area CFC, Maryland Combined Charities. Please use these codes for donors who wish to designate their contribution to our organization.

Thank you for helping
us change more lives in
2015!

► **DONATION**

The Literacy Council transformed the lives of 254 adult Frederick County residents this past year. Demand for services continues to grow, and your support helps us to meet our goal of changing the lives of even more students this coming year.

Will you support us with a

desk clerk. Now that she is in the United States, she hopes to eventually support her parents still in Burma. Another key goal is living in greater security. "I feel safe in the U.S.," she said, alluding to the strife in Burma in recent years.

She has decided to pursue her dreams in Frederick and recently turned down a higher-paying job in Baltimore. "I'm happy here with my friends," said Lwin, an active participant in the events and tutoring sessions of the Asian American Center of Frederick.

"Cho Cho is an inspiration to me. She came alone not knowing anyone in the U.S. I met Cho Cho in 2014 in the ESL class that I teach. She stood out as someone who is anxious to improve her English and her financial prospects. Her determination and hard work will help her meet her goals. Having her own car will expand her job possibilities." Sandy Doggett, Literacy Council Tutor

For Second Chances Garage, Lwin's new car is yet another example of how it helps deserving low-wage area residents achieve more secure independent living. Since its low-cost vehicle program began five years ago, more than 50 vehicles have been given to qualified applicants referred by SCG partners, which also include Advocates for Homeless Families, Frederick County Community Action Agency, the Frederick County Health Department, Frederick County Workforce Services and the Mental Health Association of Frederick County. In addition to placing cars with applicants referred by partners, SCG also sells low-cost vehicles to the general public and sponsors a Reduced-Cost Auto Repair Program for low-income residents.



For more information about Second Chances Garage and its programs:
www.secondchancesgarage.org

Unity Campaign 2015: September 23-October 4



We've been invited again this year to be part of the Unity Campaign! The Literacy Council is honored to be one of the 20 non-profits in Frederick County that will benefit from this community-wide fundraising action. The Unity

Campaign for Frederick County supports organizations that provide basic human needs and services for at-risk children and youth.

In September, Frederick County residents will receive a blitz of publicity about the work of the 20 non-profits and the needs of the people we serve. They'll be asked to make contributions to the Campaign between September 23 and October 4 - online, at Frederick County Bank offices, or at their places of worship. Donors will be free to specify that they are contributing to one or more individual participating organizations or to the Campaign as a whole. Work is underway now to raise matching funds, so that each Campaign donation will be magnified.

Last year we discovered that, in addition to raising money, the Unity Campaign brought the Literacy Council closer to other community organizations that help many of the same people whom we tutor now or hope to reach in the future. An example is our new partnership with

donation?
Your contribution will enable people in our community who are eager to learn to read or to speak English and become an integral part of our community, to have the help they need to succeed.

You can make your generous donation easily and safely either at www.frederickliteracy.org or by mailing a tax-deductible donation directly to the Literacy Council of Frederick County, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. No matter how you give, we are grateful for your generosity and support.

Together, we are changing our community by changing one life at a time through literacy. Together, we can end illiteracy in Frederick County.

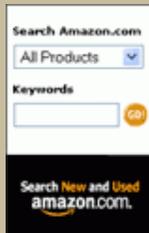
Join Our List



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.

Second Chances Garage, whose director we got to know through working on the Campaign together. One of our students recently received the gift of a much-needed used car from him. We're in the midst of planning our piece of this year's campaign. You'll be hearing more! In the meantime, we invite you to stay in touch with what's happening through our [website](#), on our [Facebook page](#), and/or through the [Unity Campaign website](#) and [Facebook page of the Unity Campaign](#).

New English Language Learners Book Club! Literacy Council Partners with Frederick County Libraries



The Literacy Council and Frederick County Public Libraries are partnering together as part of the "[Latino Americans: 500 Years of History](#)" programming initiative to organize a three-part book discussion series featuring selected books focused on themes related to Latino American culture, including the immigrant experience, family dynamics, art, history, and politics. Registration is required. Books are available for loan at the Literacy Council office. Light refreshments will be served.

This initiative has been made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). More than [200 grantees around the country](#)-libraries, museums, state humanities councils, historical societies and other nonprofits selected through a competitive application process are receiving funding, resources and support to host festivals, collect oral histories, facilitate informed discussions and hold other public events about Latino American history and culture between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016. All events held at the CBA Public Library, CBA Community Room. Contact Laurie Fisher, Executive Director, at lauriefisher@frederickliteracy.org for more information.

Register Online for the Book Discussion Series:

[Wednesday, September 16, 6-7:30 p.m.](#)

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

[Wednesday, October 21, 6-7:30 p.m.](#)

The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child by Francisco Jimenez

[Wednesday, November 18, 6-7:30 p.m.](#)

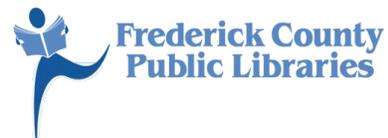
To be announced

Documentary Film Showing & Discussion:

[Part 1: Thursday, September 10, 6-8:00 p.m.](#)

[Part 2: Thursday, October 8, 6-8:00 p.m.](#)

[Part 3: Thursday, November 12, 6-8:00 p.m.](#)



Tutor & Student Field Trips: Frederick Memorial Hospital

Many thanks to Literacy Council volunteer Nan Principe-Crockett for providing a new field trip opportunity for tutors and students at FMH in August and September. The program covers a review of words and

vocabulary related to healthcare in the U.S., a tour of the public areas of the hospital, an explanation of how to make appointments, get an interpreter, which doors to use, the kinds of care that are available, and offsite services (Rose Hill Plaza, Crestwood, etc. and other satellite facilities). Questions are addressed about getting healthcare services, emergency or otherwise. If you are interested in attending a future field trip to FMH, contact Diana Halleman at (301) 600-2066 or staff@frederickliteracy.org.

Tuesday Student-Led Conversation Class



The members of the Student-led conversation class attended a field trip to the Visitor Center and the Creamery on July 28 and to FMH in August. We have had student presentations on Egypt, Mexico, Ecuador, China and Brazil. The class is enriched with

mini-presentations on students' experiences in their First Year in the U.S. The Tuesday Conversation Class is open to all students and tutors who would like to attend. We meet the first and third Tuesday of every month.

New Teaching & Learning Materials!

Mid America Books has been supplying schools and libraries with reinforced hardcover books and e-books with



beautifully colored illustrations for over 20 years. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Literacy Council has now been able to purchase over 100 hardcover and 85 e-books for use by our tutors and students. The reading levels range from grade 3-9.

You can search the site and view the books by genre, subject, interest, reading level, etc. at www.midamericabooks.com. The e-books are accessible from school, home, or anywhere with an Internet connection 24 hours a day seven day a week. This offers the students the ability to read the book for homework or pleasure when convenient for them. It also is an opportunity for reading with their children and family. Flipping page animation replicates real-life book reading and the linked Table of Contents makes for quick navigation. Students of all ages and reading levels find the interface very user-friendly.

There are thousands of titles to look at online. If you find one that you are particularly interested in for your student, email me at fpryor@comcast.net and I can order it for your use, either hardcover or e-book. The Literacy Council office now has these books, both formats, listed in our new [Literacy Council's library management system](#) for ease in finding availability. Some of the subject and interest categories are: Animals, Arts, Biographies, Careers, Heroes, Geography, History, Plants, Myths and Legends, Sports, Science, etc.

I encourage you to use these wonderful books with your student, either as a lesson or just for their or your pleasure reading. To access the e-books:

<http://my.abdodigital.com/>
Username ID: Esl110student
Password: 110Patrick14

Please take a look!
Freida Pryor, ESL Coordinator

Check out the Literacy Council's Online Library for the Latest Resources!



We are fast approaching the end of the library project and expect to have all our "in-house" books cataloged and in the system by this fall. At that point in time, an email notice will be sent to all tutors advising you to contact the staff for your password and individual ID for accessing the system. You will be able to check on the availability of books without making a trip into the office!

Every day, new books are added to the system and eventually, tutors and students alike will be able to check out books in the office, view new offerings over the web, search for materials online and even place a "hold" on some of the more popular offerings.

Currently, tutors and students can view some of the offerings 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 and see some of the books LCFC now has. To do this, simply type in a key word (like mathematics, for example) and click on the button that says "keyword" - your options and materials will pop up on the screen and you can click on each one and view them individually. If they are in the LCFC library, it will tell you how many copies are available or what the wait time is for that copy. You can do the same thing with the other buttons: "Title", "Author", and "Subject". The "Series" button will have entries in the near future. Some suggested topics to enter in the "keyword" category include: Dictionary, Laubach Series, Mathematics, Phonics, History, Reference and Grammar.

PLEASE BRING US YOUR BOOKS! To help us in our quest to keep track all of the materials, if you have outstanding books that have been in your possession for some time, please consider bringing them in for bar coding and entry into the system. We would like to complete this process by early fall, if possible.

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, September 12, 2015, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., Literacy Council office, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick
- Monday, September 14, 2015, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m., Literacy Council office

Upcoming Tutor Training Workshops:

- Saturday, September 19 and 26, 2015, 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., C. Burr Artz Library*
- October 17 and 31, 2015, 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., in Hagerstown*

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

For any questions, please call our office at 301-600-2066 or send us an [e-mail](#). To register for an Orientation session and Tutor Training Workshop, please [click here](#). Consider helping the Literacy Council meet the continuing need for literacy training in our area by becoming a Certified Tutor. You'll be joining an elite group of dedicated volunteer tutors who are transforming lives each day.



VOLUNTEER NEEDS FOR THE LITERACY COUNCIL

Have you ever had the urge to volunteer and just do something fun and different? The Literacy Council has a number of opportunities to volunteer and one of them may be perfect for you! Contact Diana Halleman, Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator at (301) 600-2066 or staff@frederickliteracy.org.

Current volunteer needs include:

- **Tutor Orientation Coordinator** - Organizing the schedule and venues for tutor orientation/information sessions, scheduling presenters, tracking people who sign up for orientations, preparing sign-in sheets for class day and name badges; ensuring that equipment is available and in working order.
- **Tutor In-Service Program Coordinator** - Organizing presenters, programs and field trips, tracking those tutors who sign up to participate in the in-service programs; preparing name badges; ensuring that equipment, materials, etc. are in working order and available the day of the program.
- **Office Staffing "On-Call" Volunteer** - this would be someone who is trained in our office procedures/activities and who could fill in when staff needs to be out of the office. Training and orientation would be required. Advance notice generally provided.
- **Event Staffing Volunteers** - these volunteers would be available to staff the LCFC table at community events; duties would entail distribution of materials and answering questions as needed. Advance notice always provided.
- **Health Literacy Program Committee** - members needed to help create/plan the health literacy curriculum/program and how it will be implemented (i.e. individually or classroom); may also include outreach work to other nonprofit agencies to recruit students.
- **"Sundae Scrabble" Planning Committee** - this is a committee aimed at planning a relaxed scrabble event as a fundraiser for LCFC, including event planning, recruitment of sponsors/prizes, ticket sales, event setup and cleanup, etc.

Leadership Giving Societies Announced!

"Businesses, Individuals, Foundations and Organizations giving generously to empower adults to achieve personal and economic goals through literacy and English language proficiency"

This fall, the Literacy Council will launch its new **Giving Societies** program to recognize businesses, foundations and individuals who step forward as philanthropic leaders to advance the mission of helping adults to achieve personal goals and integrate more fully into the community through improved literacy and English language proficiency.

The Giving Societies program includes businesses, foundations and

organizations which have given \$1,000 or more annually as well as individuals who have given \$500 or more annually. Contact Laurie Fisher, Executive Director, at lauriefisher@frederickliteracy.org for more information.

The establishment of the Giving Societies is in honor of the Council's long-time President Caroline Gaver, and our founding members Kay Mackley and Dolly Engle, whose commitments to empowering adults through English language proficiency have had a profound impact on Frederick County.



NEW GRANTS AWARDED!! Thank you to our donors!

Dollar General Literacy Foundation:

The Literacy Council was recently awarded a \$9,000 grant to partner with other organizations to identify gap areas and develop strategies to improve access for adults in need of literacy programs as well as to increase outreach to recruit new tutors.

National Book Fund:

Thanks to a \$2,000 grant award from ProLiteracy's National Book Fund, multiple new educational materials have just arrived at the Literacy Council office for tutors and students! This fund provides adult education and literacy programs throughout the United States with grant awards to help purchase high-quality educational materials and resources needed to support their literacy initiatives. This is the 20th anniversary of the National Book Fund. Over the last 20 years ProLiteracy has distributed more than 1,500 grant awards totaling more than \$2.9 million. Over 305,000 adults, youth, and children improved their reading skills as a result of this initiative, and more than 33,000 tutors and literacy volunteers have received the resources they need to provide direct literacy instruction to students. New Readers Press, the publishing division of ProLiteracy, provides the books and materials for the National Book Fund. These books are high-quality instructional materials specially written to meet the needs of adult literacy students, instructors, and trainers.

Rotary Club of Carroll Creek:

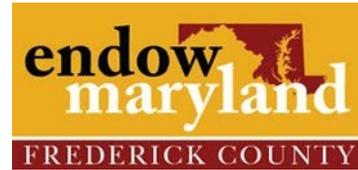
Thanks to a \$2,500 grant from the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, the Literacy Council will be purchasing new health literacy materials for use by tutors and students as part of a new health literacy initiative to help improve the health outcomes for our students.

There is a direct connection between adults with low literacy skills and limited access to health care for themselves and their families. New data available from ProLiteracy, our parent organization, tells us that, *"Patients with low literacy skills have a 50 percent increased risk of hospitalization. Low literacy also affects U.S. health care costs and can often mean the difference between life and death for patients. Nearly half of American adults have difficulty understanding and using health information, according to the Center for Healthcare Strategies. This lack of understanding impedes their ability to make appropriate health decisions and increases the likelihood that they'll incur higher health costs."*

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 of Frederick County | 110 E. Patrick St. | Frederick | MD | 21701