



LITERACY COUNCIL FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

EMPOWERING ADULTS THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

In This Issue

[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
CORNER](#)

[International Literacy Day](#)

[Unity Campaign for
Frederick County](#)

[Fall Class Schedule](#)

[Reflections from a New
Tutor](#)

[Tutor In-Services & Coffee
Chats](#)

[Become a Literacy Council
volunteer tutor!](#)

[Grants Awarded This Past
Year](#)

[Endow Maryland: Tax
Incentive](#)

September 2016

Executive Director's Corner - Laurie Fisher



Literacy Changes Everything ...

September is a great month for us to get the word out about the importance of literacy as a fundamental issue in our community. Beginning with **International Literacy Day** on September 8th (see FNP Op-Ed below), the **Unity Campaign for Frederick County** September 14-25 which focuses on meeting the basic needs in our community (article follows) and ending with **National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week** -- we are reminded that literacy transforms lives nationally and here at home.

The goal of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (Sept. 26 - Oct. 1) is to work side-by-side in every state, territory, and district to heighten public awareness, strengthen alliances, leverage resources, and increase the number of people who understand the vital role adult education and family literacy plays in our nation's well-being. Advocates across the country use this opportunity to elevate adult education and family literacy nationwide with policymakers, the media, and the community.

At the local level we do the hands-on work to serve more people in our community facing a range of literacy challenges. Earlier this month we launched our fall schedule of conversation, writing and basic English classes, tutor information sessions, tutor workshops and in-service opportunities. Thanks to support through grants and donations we have a large library of wonderful and current teaching and learning resources. Drop by and visit the Literacy Council office and see all the changes that are taking place! Our five study rooms are now equipped with new large white boards and our new classroom is in almost daily use!

Join us to help to change lives through literacy ... Become a tutor, make a financial contribution or reach out to someone you know who needs help but is afraid to come forward. Help make all the difference in someone's life.

Join Our List



NEW OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday:
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed Saturdays &
Sundays

If you can't get to the office on weekdays, please contact the office to make arrangements to pick up your tutor materials at a local library branch.
staff@frederickliteracy.org

(301) 600-2066

Teach the parent; reach the child. Support adult literacy and family programs.

#AEFLWeek



LITERACY COUNCIL Board of Directors 2016-2017

Beth Lowe
President

Caroline Gaver
President-Emeritus

Catherine Cox
Vice President

Sandy Doggett
Secretary

Richard Adams
Director

Kimberly Duncan
Director

Patricia Hanberry
Director

Richard Haney
Director

Margaret Teahan
Director

John Tisdale
Director

LITERACY COUNCIL Office Staff & Volunteers

Laurie Fisher
Executive Director

Diana Halleman, *Office
Manager/Vol. Coord.*
Elizabeth Derr
Sarah Matthews

Volunteer

International Literacy Day - Literacy is an economic and community issue



Caroline Gaver -
Photo courtesy of the
Frederick News-Post.

On September 8th we celebrated International Literacy Day. This is a good time for all of us in Frederick County, including business and government leaders, to recognize that literacy is an important issue in our community.

We're used to thinking of illiteracy as a problem in other cities or other countries. But illiteracy is a major problem right here at home. In Frederick County, about 10 percent of our population over 18 lacks a high school diploma, about 17,000

adults are functionally illiterate, and about 8,000 immigrants are unable to speak English well.

ProLiteracy, a national literacy advocacy organization, points out that adult literacy can change everything. Every important social issue - health, gender equality, poverty, crime - is affected by low literacy. When individuals learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they have the power to lift themselves out of poverty, lower health care costs, find and keep sustainable employment, and change their lives and those of their children.



Catherine Bly Cox.

In the United States:

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves. These children are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years, or drop out.

Of adults with the lowest literacy levels, 43 percent live in poverty. 70 percent of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels. Low literacy costs the U.S. at least \$225 billion each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

An excess of \$230 billion a year in health care costs is linked to low adult literacy. Nearly half of American adults have difficulty understanding and using health information. They can't read their doctors' instructions or the directions on their prescriptions. Lack of understanding also impedes adults' abilities to make appropriate health decisions and increases the likelihood that they'll incur higher health costs.

About 50 percent of the 2 million immigrants that come to the U.S. each year lack high school educations and proficient English language skills. This severely limits their access to jobs, further education, and citizenship, and increases their vulnerability to living in poverty.

75 percent of state prison inmates did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate. Research shows that inmates who are educated are 43 percent less likely to return to prison.

When adults are able to access literacy programs, they get better jobs, buy health insurance, attain citizenship, get a driver's license, become able to buy a car or home, and can communicate with their children's teachers to assist in

Coordinators:

Linda Crough
Adult Basic Education

Catherine Coundjeris
ESL Co-Coordinator

Freida Pryor
ESL Co-Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, 1-4 p.m.
September 25, 2016

Unity Campaign Olympiad

Frederick Indoor
Sports Center



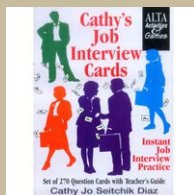
Contact: Laurie Fisher
(301) 600-2066

Join our Literacy Council
team!!

Sponsorship Opportunities
Available!!

New Tutor & Student Resources Available:

Come see our newest
materials on display!



Colorfully-illustrated and
beautifully-written books
from the
Calico Illustrated Classics
collection are now
available for loan to our
students.

their education, helping to assure that the next generation will be literate. Their accomplishments increase our quality of life as a community.

Here in Frederick County, the Literacy Council provides free one-on-one tutoring as well as English conversation classes to adults over 18. All of our 100+ tutors and teachers are volunteers. They are doing great work, but we need more volunteers to help expand our service to the community. We would be happy to come talk to your group about not just the numbers, but the deep satisfaction of making a permanent difference in an individual's life. It is such a joy to see a student learn to read, get a job, become a citizen, or begin volunteering in her child's school! We also offer information sessions and free tutor training. Contact the Literacy Council of Frederick County at www.frederickliteracy.org or 301-600-2066 to register for an upcoming information session or a tutor training workshop.

*Caroline Gaver, President Emeritus
Catherine Bly Cox, Vice President*

Adapted from a Sept. 7 Op Ed article in the Frederick News-Post

Unity Campaign for Frederick County September 14-25, 2016



The Literacy Council is proud to be one of 19 local non-profits participating in the 2016 Unity Campaign for Frederick County!

The [Unity Campaign for Frederick County](#) is committed to providing those in need with access to basic resources. With an extensive number of supporters from a variety of backgrounds, the campaign's mission is to ensure that everyone in our communities has what they need to live a successful life.

Now is a great time to give.

When you donate to the Unity Campaign September 14 through 25, matching funds will multiply your gift. In addition, the Ausherman Family Foundation will match 100% for new Literacy Council donors.

Please consider supporting literacy and the gift of a tutor by making a donation online [HERE](#) through the Unity Campaign designating the Literacy Council or by mail.

Checks should be made payable to the Unity Campaign and mailed to:
The Community Foundation, 312 E. Church Street, Frederick MD 21701

If you have already made a contribution, thank you for your gift.

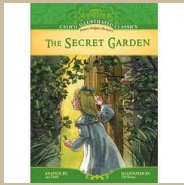
Support from the Unity Campaign helped the Literacy Council transform the lives of more than 200 adults this past year in Frederick County.

You are making a real difference.
Together, we are changing our community
by changing one life at a time through literacy.

Together, we can end illiteracy in Frederick County.

Thank you for making your gift through the Unity Campaign.

[DONATE](#)



Come check out our [resources](#) in the Council's Library!



ProLiteracy Launches New Website: www.proliteracy.org

For our tutors and adult learners - check out the latest resources and literacy facts!

ProLiteracy's Fall 2016 [Notebook](#) available - Resources for the Adult Educator

Literacy Council's Annual Report

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

Your Contribution is Our Community's Future

Consider supporting a cause that is important to you with a planned gift.



The 2016 Unity Campaign all culminates in the Unity Olympiad at Frederick Indoor Sports Center from 1-4 p.m. Sept. 25. Please plan to come cheer us on!

Let's Celebrate ...

THANK YOU TO OUR UNITY OLYMPIAD SPONSORS!! Silver Medal

Catherine Cox & Charles Murray

J. Maurica Travillian & Sandy Doggett

*In Memory of Our Parents: Lloyd & Annie Travillian
In Honor of Our Parents: Carroll & Nan Doggett*

Bronze Medal

Richard & Paula Haney

Platinum

Gaver Farm



Sincere thanks to the Ausherman Family Foundation for providing matching funds for new donors.



Interested in joining our Literacy Council Olympiad Team?

Contact Diana Halleman, (301) 600-2066, staff@frederickliteracy.org

Fall Conversation, Beginning Writing and Health Literacy - Staying Healthy Class Schedule

Registration required: contact the Literacy Council office at (301) 600-2066 or Diana Halleman at staff@frederickliteracy.org.

[Literacy Council Office](#)

Create your legacy by giving the Gift of Literacy.

The Community Foundation of Frederick County can help you with [planned giving](#) resources.

Consider a gift to the Literacy Council's [Betty Seligmann Literacy Endowment Fund](#).



CFC & Frederick County Campaigns

CFC: 42954
MCC: 1471

The Literacy Council participates in the Frederick County & FCPS Combined Charities & Chesapeake Bay Area CFC Charity Campaigns.

Please use these codes for donors who wish to designate their contribution to our organization.



Specify 42954 on your CFC pledge.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TODAY!

DONATION

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

*Literacy Council of Frederick County
110 East Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701*

Matching funds are also available for new donors thanks to a grant from the **Ausherman Family Foundation**.



Your generous contribution

Student-Led Conversation Class:

New members are invited to join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for informal chats, student presentations as well as short grammar and idiom lessons. Students are invited to give presentations on their first year in the United States, their culture, customs, and history, or book reports on books they may be reading in English. Although at times students will share a taste of their cuisine with us, we ask that you bring your lunch.

Beginning Writing 1 Class: Beginning September 6, 2016, 9:30-11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. The class focuses on writing strong paragraphs and correct grammar usage.

Beginning Writing 3 Class: Will be held September 7th through November 23rd on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The class will concentrate on developing strong sentences and clear and precise paragraphs. Basic grammar and sentence structure will be reviewed. Tutors are asked to recommend students who are advancing in their conversational English and who would like to improve their written communication skills.

Conversation Class: Beginning September 6, 11 a.m. -2 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Advanced Conversation Class: Beginning September 7, 10-11 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Urbana Senior Center

Conversation Class: Beginning September 6, 10-11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Frederick Memorial Hospital

Health Literacy: Staying Healthy: Beginning September 26, 6:30-7:45 p.m. on Mondays. Intro and basic vocabulary, Basics/ making appointments, Forms and Health History, Medicines/allergic reactions, Chronic diseases, Healthy choices. Registration deadline 9/19.

"Reading With My Mom" Reflections from a New Tutor, by Britta Kallevang

When I was in high school, my mother volunteered at a literacy organization based in our hometown of Independence, Missouri. She worked full time, was active at church and my high school band booster club. It's not like she needed a hobby or anything. What motivated her to prepare lessons and meet with her student each week was a deep love for books and learning. "Books are our best friends," she said on many occasions. I rolled my eyes, of course, though I knew what she meant. Books are the gateway to whole worlds and stories about people, real and imagined. When I was little, we read Charlotte's Web, Velveteen Rabbit, Jeremy Fisher, The Neverending Story and many, many others before bed. I fell in love with books through my mother's love for them.

This spring, some twenty years after my mom's stint as a literacy volunteer, I moved to Frederick from Seattle. I'd experienced some set-backs and my family in Frederick welcomed me to come live with them until I could get back on my feet again. It's hard to start all over again.

Having arrived at this juncture in life, I found myself scrambling to remember basic life skills. I thought maybe I could volunteer as a way to get to know the community, and give myself purpose while I got settled and looked for work. It didn't take a lot of reflection to realize that I wanted to begin tutoring. The ability to read and write are tools we often take for granted. Language fluency is power, a skill-set I believe we all deserve.

When people ask how I found the Literacy Council, I have to laugh. I just Googled it! I knew what I wanted to do, and just needed to find out if those services were available here in Frederick. Caroline Gaver responded to my inquiry and encouraged me to attend the next tutor training, which was less than a week out. I'm so glad I went, not just because completing the training afforded me the chance to start tutoring, but because I got to know the other tutor trainees. It was energizing to be around others who shared my passion for literacy. Only a couple of weeks later, I met my first student.

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.

LITERACY FACTS

72 % Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves.

43% Of adults with the lowest literacy levels, 43 percent live in poverty.

One in Six

Every year, one in six young adults—more than 1.2 million—drop out of high school.

\$230 Billion

An excess of \$230 billion a year in health care costs is linked to low adult literacy.

\$225 Billion

Individuals at the lowest literacy and numeracy levels have a higher rate of unemployment and earn lower wages than the national average.

75% Seventy-five percent of state prison inmates did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.

Two Thirds

Adult education is in critical need for services. A decline in federal and state funding in the past 10 years has resulted in programs serving only a fraction of the adults in need. Currently, two-thirds of adult education programs are struggling with long student waiting lists.

More people, especially prospective tutors, need to know about us and the invaluable opportunities we offer. There's always a waiting list of students who need tutors. Spread the word!

Fall Schedule: Tutor In-Services & Coffee Chats

TUTOR IN-SERVICE TRAININGS

The Fall Tutor In-Service trainings will be held the third Wednesday of each month from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Literacy Council office beginning September 14th. The topic for the first September and October sessions will be:

"How to Determine and Increase Reading Comprehension, 1 and 2"

TUTOR COFFEE CHATS

September 28th On the 4th Wednesday of each month beginning, we will have an informal coffee chat for tutors. Join us with any questions, concerns, advice on materials to use, etc.

This is an opportunity to share your successes and stories with other tutors and get to know one another. The Coordinators will be present.

Please call the office at 301-600-2066 to RSVP, or by email: staff@frederickliteracy.org

ESL Coordinator Freida Pryor is available in the Literacy Council office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to meet with tutors from 9-10 a.m. to discuss their progress with their student(s). Call Diana Halleman to schedule an appointment (301) 600-2066.

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

Upcoming Dates:

Tutor Information Sessions:
(Literacy Council Office, 110 E. Patrick St. Frederick)

- Saturday, Oct. 1, 10-11:15 a.m.

Tutor Training Workshop:

- Saturdays, September 17 & 24, 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Frederick*
- Saturdays, October 15 & 22, 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Hagerstown*

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



Congratulations to our newest tutors!

Grants Awarded This Year *Thank you!!*

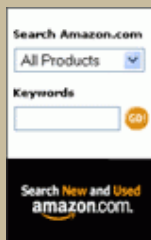
*Ausherman Family Foundation
Delaplaine Foundation
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Community Foundation of Frederick County
Helen J. Serini Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
ProLiteracy - National Book Fund Grant
Rotary of Carroll Creek
Staples Foundation
State Farm Companies Foundation Good Neighbor Grant*

**ADULT LITERACY
CAN CHANGE
EVERYTHING**

*United Way of Frederick County
Unity Campaign for Frederick County
William E. Cross Foundation
Women's Giving Circle
Yelp Foundation*

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 the Literacy Council, 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 us!

Endow Maryland: Maryland Tax Incentives

Help build the Literacy Council's endowment fund while taking advantage of tax incentives!



Beginning January 1, 2016, donors making gifts through The Community Foundation of Frederick County will receive a 25 percent Maryland tax credit for gifts of \$1,000 and up to \$5,000 in addition to the Federal charitable deductions allowed for the gift. To learn more, call the [Community Foundation](http://www.cofre.org) at (301) 695-7660.

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.

