



# LITERACY COUNCIL FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

EMPOWERING ADULTS THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

## Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

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### Executive Director's Corner-Laurie Fisher



#### The Gift of a Tutor

On May 12th, adult students, tutors, other volunteers and members of the Frederick County community attended the Literacy Council of Frederick County's 2nd Annual Celebration of Achievement. Among the many special accomplishments that were recognized, two interrelated events took place during the program which are of special significance when considering the importance of the Literacy Council's service to our community.



*Silvia Muñoz  
Moreyra*



*Caroline Gaver, Photo courtesy of Kurt  
Holter, Photographer*

First, former student and now tutor Silvia Muñoz Moreyra shared her story "A Journey to Learn English" as the evening's speaker. Silvia spoke eloquently of the steps of her journey, and the role that the Literacy Council and her tutors played a long way.

Second, the Literacy Council recognized Caroline Gaver, President of the Board of Directors, for her 40 years of volunteer service. I am sharing several passages from Silvia's remarks because her story is also about Caroline's story.

are a lot of good resources such as Smell This Story, Taste this Poem from The Academy of American Poets. You can sign up to receive a poem a day from contemporary poets and classical poets as well as get complete lesson plans by going on poets.org. Other instructional material that we are highlighting is the biography, Clara Barton Civil War Hero and American Red Cross Founder. The lesson plan ideas include skills such as identifying and using compound words, using quotation marks appropriately and the discussion of comprehension questions and sentence order. Enrichment involving trips to Glen Echo, Maryland or the Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick is encouraged.

### GREAT JOB!

Thank you to the Celebration Event Committee members Catherine Cox, Keri-Ann Henson and Beth Lowe!



Literacy Council Joins The 2015 Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Charities Campaign CFC Code: 42954

The Literacy Council has been accepted for inclusion in this year's 2015 Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Charities Campaign! Our CFC code is 42954 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

"Thank you, Literacy Council of Frederick County and thank you to my tutors Freida, Denise, and Irene. Learning about a culture that is not mine enriches me and transforms me as a person. With you I learned more than just English. As time passes, I feel that my English improves. I can now communicate and I feel everything makes more sense. I am who I am here in Frederick because of you, because of your dedication, your patience and love. You transform our lives when you give us a tutor."

**The gift of a tutor.** This is about Caroline's story. Caroline Gaver has spent 40 years making the gift of tutors possible for thousands of adults in Frederick County, service which continues today (note 927 hours in 2014!). Caroline first became a tutor in 1975 because she knew people who could not read. She soon became a trainer of new tutors and was instrumental in forming literacy councils in Washington and Garrett Counties and in training tutors in Carroll and Allegheny Counties in Maryland and in Loudon County, Virginia.

Silvia's journey, like so many other adults struggling to gain proficiency in English really shows what Caroline's service means in the ability to transform lives. Described as "the heart of the Literacy Council," and "a tireless advocate," Caroline shared that she has remained with the organization for so long because of the great work done by volunteers in helping adults improve their lives through learning to read or to speak English, and the wonderful, dedicated people who choose to volunteer for this work.

Caroline's dedication also extends throughout other areas of the organization. She has served in every volunteer position available, including terms as board president or vice-president that have exceeded 20 years. In 2012 she was awarded the Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism Award.

As the Literacy Council enters its 52nd year of providing services to our community, it is about the journeys along the way that our students and tutors are making together that transform lives. That is certainly something worth celebrating. Thank you, Caroline and Silvia, and also our many dedicated tutors and students for making the Literacy Council part of your journey.

## Second Annual Celebration of Achievement

A wonderful evening was spent May 12th at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center honoring the many accomplishments of the Council's adult students and the service of tutors and other volunteers. The event was sponsored by Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc., Frederick County Bank, and Richard and Ann Adams.



About 30 Literacy Council adult students were recognized for their achievements--everything from learning to read and write, learning English, obtaining U.S. citizenship and Maryland driver's licenses, getting jobs, entering GED programs at FCC, enrolling in college-level English classes, learning basic computer skills and how to write a resume and advancing to the second level book for learning to read. In one instance, a student earned a registered massage therapist accreditation from the

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 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](http://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

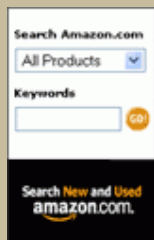


JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

### 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.

State of Maryland and in another, the student got a library card and is now reading novels. Students applied for health insurance, opened bank accounts, read to their children, helped with homework, voted for the first time and obtained citizenship.

What was clearly on display as awards were presented was the bond that has developed between students and their tutors. The tutors repeatedly referred to the determination, dedication and hard work of their students, and there were frequent embraces as the awards were presented. Some students and tutors have been together for years and close friendships have developed. If the program lasted a bit longer than scheduled, it was largely because the tutors wanted to make sure the audience clearly understood just how special their students are.

The progress that can be achieved was apparent in the remarks of Silvia Muñoz Moreyra originally from Peru, who first came to the Literacy Council as a student and is now a tutor teaching English. She talked about the fear and uncertainty she felt learning a new language. She attributed her success to the "dedication, compassion and love" of Freida Pryor, her tutor and long-time ESL (English as a Second Language) Coordinator who has contributed an estimated 5,750 hours of her time.

Local business owners were presented with the Literacy Council's new Business & Industry Partner in Literacy awards recognizing their support for workplace literacy initiatives. Chef Mario Sanchez represented Phil Bowers, of Fountain Rock Management Corporation, in accepting the award.



Denise Dertzbaugh, a long-time



*Mario Sanchez & Denise Dertzbaugh*

volunteer tutor and instructor conducted a 10- week class at Brewer's Alley for kitchen workers from five downtown restaurants to help them learn workplace vocabulary.

Weiyl Luo, owner of Magic Foot Spa, was recognized by tutor Martin Cole for enabling her employees to have English tutoring while at work.

Scott Grove of Grove Public Relations, LLC, received special recognition for his contributions to helping the Literacy Council develop tools and resources to increase its outreach to the community.



*Martin Cole & Weiyl Luo*

At the close of the evening, Board Member Ric Adams announced the Literacy Council's new Giving Societies, scheduled to launch this fall. These Giving Societies will 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 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 has had a profound impact on Frederick County.



## Volunteer Service Awards

Thirty-five of the Literacy Council's 125 tutors were also recognized for their service ranging from 100 hours to the 40 years of Council President Caroline Gaver.

### 100 Hours

George Conly  
Jo Ann Hare  
Janet Houck  
Cate Jones  
Medha Joshi  
Patrick Kennedy  
Maria Kummerfeldt  
Eleanor Monnet  
Jeff Trehwitt  
Georgia Wells

### 500 Hours

Martin Cole  
Dorinda Shepley

### 800 Hours

Catherine Cox

### 2900 Hours

Sandy Doggett

### 200 Hours

Linda Crough  
Sherry DeFrancisci  
Elizabeth Ferguson  
Mary Pat George  
John Tisdale

### 600 Hours

Lisa Myers

### 900 Hours

Keri-Ann Henson  
Doris Vierbuchen

### 4100 Hours

Denise Dertzbaug

### 400 Hours

Susan Birch  
Catherine Coundjeris  
Sr. Alice Matthews  
Irene Romersa

### 700 Hours

Kathleen Rodkey

### 1200 Hours

Ronald Adams

### 5750 Hours

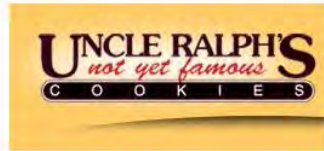
Freida Pryor

Several other long-term volunteers were also recognized:

17 Years: Kate Bufter  
26 Years: Elizabeth Derr  
31 Years: Elizabeth Brady  
36 Years: Joyce Routzahn  
40 Years: Caroline Gaver

The Literacy Council's 152 volunteers donated over *17,000 hours* last year to help 254 adult residents learn to read and to speak English!

Thank you to Our In-Kind Sponsors!



New Conversation Class Led By Students



A new Literacy Council conversation class is much more than just an opportunity for students to improve their English.

Held the first and third Tuesday every month from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., the class is also a chance for participants to assert their leadership potential and make new friends. The topics discussed at each class are chosen by a five-member student coordinating committee. Maria Kummerfeldt is the class advisor who helps with pronunciation, sentence structure and the meaning of words when assistance is requested.

"The class is very much an informal neighborhood coffee klatsch," said Kummerfeldt, a Literacy Council tutor with more than 100 hours of experience with students. "People are coming together to be with each other as friends. They are open, welcoming and encouraging. The class has been developed by the student coordinating committee with an

outline of activities to keep the meetings interesting as well as a venue to improve conversation in English."

Seham Shokry from Egypt, a member of the student coordinating committee, sees the twice-monthly meetings as "a chance to speak [and interact with friends] and not just listen." She stressed that a wide array of topics for conversation in English has been chosen by the students, ranging from favorite foods and colors to discussions about the students' home countries and life in the United States. Questions and comments from all of the students are encouraged.

Kummerfeldt said conversations about the home countries and life in U.S. will be recurring topics with a focus on the American way of life, traditions, holidays and history.

For Shokry, the new conversation class is an opportunity to make new friends, as well as improve her English. "Most students don't have jobs yet and they spend a lot of time alone," she said. "We left friends and family behind [to come to the United States]. We need to have new friends. I need people around me."

Her sentiments are clearly shared by many Literacy Council students. Twelve to 15 attended the first two classes and participation is expected to grow. By unanimous agreement, each class has doubled from 1.5 hours to 3 to allow more topics to be discussed in English.

Kummerfeldt said the class has become "a brown bag get-together." Students have also brought in and shared food from their countries. The first two sessions featured dishes from Egypt, Thailand and Mexico.

Every student is encouraged to participate in class discussions and activities no matter how difficult participation may be for some. "We don't worry about mistakes," said Shokry. "We support [every student] and listen [to what they have to say]."

## Welcome To Our New Board Member, Patricia Hanberry!



Patricia Hanberry was the Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Association of Frederick County for 14 years, until her retirement from that position last fall. Prior to her career as a mental health administrator, she worked as a management consultant, as a Peace Corps volunteer, and as a Model Cities Day Care social worker. She received a Master of Arts degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

Pat is an active member of the Frederick County community. She has served on several non-profit and health-related committees as well as the board of the

Rotary Club of Frederick County. She is currently a member of the alumni board of the School of Social Service Administration of the University of Chicago. She's active in her church - singing in the choir, volunteering for the Family Homeless Shelter, and serving on several committees. She has worked in Nigeria as part of Rotary International's Polio Plus campaign, and in Biloxi and New Orleans to help with housing rehabilitation following Hurricane Katrina. Last but not least, she is now also tutor with the Literacy Council of Frederick County.

Pat travels widely for both work and pleasure, has lived in Brazil and Japan, and speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese. We are so

grateful that she is now working with us at the Literacy Council!

## New Tutor In-Service Events Planned for June!

**Tutor In-Service: Topic: Mobile Assisted Language Learning Tools - Wednesday, June 10, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Please join the Literacy Council for an in-service on using technical resources that can be accessed from your student's smart phone or laptop. We will discuss how to make tutoring more personalized, more interactive and more fun using Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) tools. Sherry DeFrancisci, Coordinator, Basic Education Program, will lead this in-service.

**Tutor In-Service: Coffee & Chat with Fellow Tutors - Wednesday, June 17 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.**

Please join fellow tutors to share experiences and socialize. Sherry DeFrancisci will lead this in-service.

**Location:** Literacy Council Office  
110 E. Patrick Street in Frederick

**RSVP to Diana Halleman** (301) 600-2066 or [staff@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:staff@frederickliteracy.org) by June 8th & June 15.

Thanks to the tutors who responded to our recent survey to gauge interest for Tutor In-Service Sessions. Most respondents were enthusiastic about having in-service sessions, including attending informal "coffee chats" to share experiences and socialize with other tutors. Most people selected the Council office as a good place to have the sessions, and more than half indicated willingness in attending a webinar and some a conference call. Weekday mornings were a popular choice for the meeting time to start. Many tutors surveyed said they would be interested in how to make their lessons relevant to students' lives and in learning how to use resources such as websites, books, newspapers and magazines in their tutorials. If you have any topics to suggest or would like to lead a session, please contact us at [staff@frederickliteracy.org](mailto:staff@frederickliteracy.org).

## Now 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. In addition to sessions conducted in April and May at the Council office, sessions were held at the Middletown United Methodist Church and the Thurmont Regional Library. Additional sessions are currently being scheduled in July and August.

- Wednesday, July 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Council office in Frederick
- Saturday, July 11 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at the Brunswick Library
- Wednesday, August 5 from 7 to 8:30 Council office in Frederick
- Saturday, August 1 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at the Urbana Library

After attending one of these sessions, participants receive instructions for completing some on-line training followed by six hours of in-person training. An orientation session and completion of the online portion are prerequisites for the in-person training.

The May Tutor Training Workshop was held in Hagerstown. The June Workshop will be on



Wednesday, June 3 and  
Wednesday, June 10, 6:00 -  
9:00 pm at the Council Office.

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, like the graduates of our recent training, pictured here. We are also seeking volunteers to help conduct Tutor Information/Orientation sessions. 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](#). Additional training sessions in Frederick and Hagerstown will be held in September and October, 2015, with dates and other details to be announced.

## Update on the Literacy Council's New Online Library System!



Follett Destiny®

If you have come into the Literacy Council Office recently, you might have noticed the bookshelves with the orange dots on them and wondered why the dots were there. Those tiny dots represent the progress being made on converting the Council's library from the index card system to a digital one. 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, Reference and Grammar.**

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. In the coming months, every tutor and student will be provided with an identification code and password along with directions for using the system.

## 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](#) for next year 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.

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