



**Literacy Council of
Frederick County**

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The LCFC Newsletter Returns after Hiatus

Where have we been?

Greetings literacy community! We are excited that spring has finally sprung! We haven't published a newsletter in a while but that's because the Literacy Council of Frederick County has been going through considerable changes.

We were sad to loose our former president Phuong Huynh at the end of 2010, but happy for her and her growing family who relocated out of state. We miss her but wish her well and congratulate her and her husband on their new baby girl.

We are grateful to our Acting President, Caroline Gaver, who has been leading us during this exciting time of transition and creativity for the Council. Her longtime experience with the Literacy Council of Frederick Co. has been invaluable.

In the meantime we have been hard at work forming different committees and strategic plans to become a more proactive organization to better serve the community.

Diana Halleman. Read more details in the articles Website Revamped and Office Manager.



Two other newsworthy items include our revamped website (same address) and our new Office Manager,

This photo is used on our new website. It is the current board as of April 2011. (Tracy Lucas is not pictured.)

Website Revamped

We are proud to announce our new and improved website, www.frederickliteracy.org. Through HandsOn Frederick, formally Volunteer Frederick, we connected with a fantastic web designer, Alex Valderrama. The committee, Caroline Gaver, Freida Pryor, and Melanie Gettier, worked closely with Mr. Valderrama to create the

Council's new site which is extremely informative and easy to navigate.

Our goal is for more people to find us who might need our help or might want to be a part of our organization.

The new design is more detailed and informative to the general

public and more helpful with resources and tools to better serve our volunteer tutors.

Please peruse our new site. There is probably some information or history you might not have known about the Council!

www.frederickliteracy.org



Many professionals are encouraged by their employers to volunteer.

"No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars or sailed an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit."

Helen Keller US blind & deaf educator (1880-1968)



"Parents need basic literacy skills to raise healthy families."

Proliteracy's Women in Literacy Initiative

Certified Tutors—Graduates from 2010

March 2010:

Kini Allen
Mary Baird
Sandra Doggett
Theresa Gaffney
Jane Gasda
Jim Heslin
Janet Houck
Shawna Laurance
Susann Linton
George Mooney
Karen Perry
Jill Sellars
Elizabeth Smead
Wanet Tyson

April 2010:

Jenni Allnut
Michelle Perry
Joey Pasterkiewicz

September 2010:

Stacey Budd
Harriett Burchill
Jenna Caruthers
Laurel Kircher
Sarah Kleinhanzel
Marilyn Noel
Caroline O'Connell
Benjamin Pegler
Sarah Plante
Carly Psioda
Louis Stewart
Emilia Toro
Maude Valentine
Lacey Walker



Certified Tutors—Recent Graduates

October, 2010:

Sharon Adams
Ashley Holler
Heather Keels
Anna Maslowicz
Bryan Patchan (Basic)
Melissa Van Schaick

March/April 2011:

Sally Alt
Debra Anthony
Brian Blough
Katherine Chaconas
Brooke Coleman

March/April 2011 cont:

Sophia Dobransky
Lori Hartman
Kit May
Nancy Morris
Bryan Patchan (ESL)
Sheli Radoshitzky
Rochelle Simonen
Samantha Wiener
Sally Chakola



Socio-economic Issues Linked to Illiteracy

The United States ranks **fifth** on adult literacy skills when compared to other industrialized nations. Adult low literacy can be connected to almost every socio-economic issue in the United States:

~ More than **65 percent** of all state and federal corrections inmates can be classified as low literate.

~ Low health literacy costs between **\$106 billion** and **\$236 billion** each year in the U.S.

~ **77 million Americans** have only a 2-in-3 chance of correctly reading an over-the-counter drug label or understanding their child's vaccination chart.

~ Low literacy's effects cost the U.S. **\$225 billion** or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

Interview with Basic Coordinator, Keri Ann Henson

What has been the most surprising thing you have learned about illiteracy since taking on this task?

I am always surprised by the stories behind the faces of illiteracy and the way our adult students have found ways to cope and function. I am humbled by the experiences of our students and ultimately, I am surprised that we as a society accept illiteracy.

Is there a “typical” student?

I would say that there is a wide range of profiles, but there are some common circumstances of our students. I have evaluated students as young as 18 and older than 65, but all of the students have fallen through a very large hole in our education system, often they feel alone in their struggle and what is most heartbreaking is that they almost always say that they know they are not stupid, but that they feel stupid.

Have you witnessed any success stories yet in your time being coordinator?

I have been coordinator for less than a year, so I am still learning a lot about the process of evaluating a student and then matching him/her to a compatible tutor. However, within this process there are successes. Anytime a student walks in our door determined to learn, when a person from the community decides to volunteer their time and become a tutor and when a tutor and the student are learning from their time together, these are all steps forward and ultimately successes.

How can an adult make it through life not knowing how to read?

I think for those of us who learn how to read early in life it is very difficult to understand how a person can make it through school and then get a job without knowing how to read. What I hear from the students is that they develop skills that allow them to function. For some it is developing a photographic memory, getting good at asking friends, family and co-workers for help.

Ultimately the burden becomes too much and this is usually when they seek help. I have had students come in and just reflect on how tired they are and that they no longer care who knows, they just want to learn how to read.



Keri Ann has taught in D.C. public schools as well as elementary school age children in Kenya. While raising her family she volunteers as the Basic Coordinator for the Literacy Council.



Tutor finds teaching very rewarding

“...students come in and just reflect on how tired they are and that they no longer care who knows, they just want to learn how to read.”

Board Books: Recommended Books by Board Members

Review by Catherine Bly Cox

“International in flavor, as befits the Literacy Council these days.”



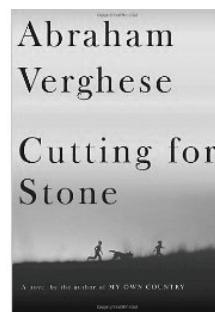
Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese is one of the best books I have read in years. Verghese is an ethnic Indian physician who grew up in Ethiopia and then immigrated to the U.S. He has

been known in the past for his non-fiction about practicing medicine in small-town America; this time he has ventured into writing fiction.

Cutting for Stone's first-person narrator is Marion Stone, the child of an Indian nun who died in childbirth — Sister Mary Joseph Praise—and a British surgeon, Thomas Stone. Marion and his twin brother, Shiva, are raised by doctors at a medical mission outside Addis

Ababa, and Marion becomes a surgeon like the father he has never known.

The book depicts revolution-torn Ethiopia and, later, an impoverished hospital in the Bronx with loving detail. It is full of flawed and eccentric characters whom Verghese also portrays with great love.





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We're on the web
www.frederickliteracy.org

Each One, Teach One & Each One, *Reach* One

Each One, Reach One!

Please check out our new website www.frederickliteracy.org, and tell your family, friends, and co-workers.

Let's embrace a familiar sounding motto, "Each One *Reach* One", by telling someone who might not know about the Council to take a look at our website. Thanks to Marianne Dacey, one of our trainers, who came up with that brilliant phrase!

**Do you know of someone who might need our help?
Call 301-600-2066**



Literacy Council office on East Patrick St. in downtown Frederick, MD.

Office Manager

We welcome Diana Halleman who is our new Office Manager, to the Literacy Council community. Diana is currently fulfilling many administrative duties and community outreach for the Council. She comes to us from HandsOn Frederick, formerly Volunteer Frederick, where she was the Community Liaison for Volunteerism. The office now has more predictable hours. Thank you, Diana!