



LITERACY COUNCIL FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

EMPOWERING ADULTS THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

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Literacy Council Annual Report

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

[Available online!](#)

LITERACY COUNCIL

Spring 2018

Executive Director's Corner - Laurie Fisher



I thought it appropriate to share this tribute from our affiliate organization ProLiteracy in honor of Barbara Bush and her lifetime of commitment to literacy.

A Tribute to Barbara Bush

Last month we truly lost an icon in literacy with the passing of Barbara Bush at 92. While there have been other champions for literacy, Barbara Bush was in a league of her own. Mrs. Bush was different than others who have promoted the value of literacy and importance of reading - she always went further. Not content with being the nation's great "cheerleader" for literacy, as she used to say, she took it a step beyond by seeking support and new allies in the effort to expand literacy programs everywhere.

She was tireless in her efforts to influence, persuade, and sometimes cajole others of importance to take on this vital cause. She was instrumental in pushing federal departments to do more. She pushed corporate leaders and celebrities to "get behind the cause." She would host breakfast, lunch, and dinner meetings to ask public and private thought leaders what they could do to help promote the issue. They rarely left without having made a new commitment to literacy.

Her efforts were successful and led to a litany of new and innovative programs and initiatives to promote adult and family literacy. She pushed for additional funding from both the public and private sector, and donated the proceeds of her books to literacy programs including ProLiteracy and predecessor organizations, Laubach Literacy and Literacy Volunteers of America.

She will be missed, not just as the selfless promoter of literacy that she was; not just for the tireless advocate for students, programs, and volunteers; not just for her work to put more resources into the hands of programs; but also as the personification of what our issue means and what it can be. Her legacy needs to be continued in the work we do to make literacy the nation's most important issue. She would expect nothing less.

**PLEASE JOIN US on Monday, June 11
Fifth Annual Celebration of Achievements**

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Patricia Hanberry, M.A.
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Director

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Director

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LITERACY COUNCIL

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Executive Director
Diana Halleman
*Office Manager/Vol.
Coord.*
Kim Brown
*Workplace Literacy
Coord.*

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Doris Vierbuchen,
Assist. Treasurer
Linda Crough
Julie Katsirubias

Volunteer Coordinators:

Lynn Bruton
*Basic Literacy Program
Coordinator*

Please join us on Monday,
June 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Delaplaine Visual
Arts Education Center to
celebrate the many
accomplishments of our
adult students and the volunteer service of our volunteers!

Celebration of Achievements

June 11, 2018

Please RSVP by June 4: [REGISTER HERE](#) or call Diana Halleman at (301) 600-2066, staff@frederickliteracy.org.



Thank you to our event sponsor!

FCB
FREDERICK
COUNTY BANK

Spring Class Schedule: Conversation, Writing, Computer Literacy

Download our class descriptions and schedule [HERE](#). Contact the Literacy Council office at (301) 600-2066 or Diana Halleman at staff@frederickliteracy.org for more information about eligibility, availability and registration. Space is limited.

Conversation Classes: (Literacy Council Classroom)

Mondays: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Until July 9) (Beginner)
Tuesdays (first & third): 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Until June 19) (Student-Led) *
Wednesdays: 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. (Until May 30) (Advanced)
Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Ongoing) (Intermediate-Advanced)

* *Student-Led Conversation Class: New members are invited to join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month for informal chats, student presentations as well as short grammar and idiom lessons. Although at times students will share a taste of their cuisine with us, we ask that you bring your lunch.*

Tuesdays: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. (Urbana Senior Center, 9020 Amelung St.)

Writing Classes: (Literacy Council Classroom)

Beginning Writing 2: Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. (Until June 26). Focus on writing strong paragraphs and correct grammar usage.

Beginning Writing 3: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Until June 27). Focus on developing strong sentences and clear and precise paragraphs. Basic grammar and sentence structure will be reviewed.

Holly Bohman
Catherine Coundjeris
Karen Nagy
*English as a Second
Language (ESL)
Coordinators*

Evonne Rogers
Classes Coordinator

Our Mission

The Literacy Council of Frederick County teaches adults the reading and other English language skills they need to provide for their families and to contribute to the well-being and prosperity of our community.

Our Values

Sustaining our organization through responsible financial stewardship, sound management, and community engagement.

Teaching a parent in order to educate a family.

Educating our students in a learner-centered format with compassion, confidentiality, and respect.

Producing a safer, healthier, economically stronger, and more vibrant community through adult literacy.

Sustaining, empowering, and energizing a passionate, strong, dedicated volunteer base.

Our Vision

A community where literacy is attainable for everyone.

Tutors are asked to recommend students who are advancing in their conversational English and who would like to improve their written communication skills. Contact: Catherine Coundjeris: ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org.

Beginning Computer Literacy Class: (Literacy Council Classroom)

Mondays: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. (Until June 18)

Drop-In Computer Help: (Literacy Council Classroom)

Mondays: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. (Until June 18)

English as a Second Language Class: ESL 4 Class at the Asian American Center of Frederick**
Thursdays: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Contact AACF for more information.)

Note: Pronunciation classes will begin again in the fall.

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

Tutor Information Sessions:

- Saturday: June 9, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Walkersville Branch Library (2 South Glade Road, Walkersville)
- Friday: June 22, 10:00-11:15 a.m., Literacy Council Office (110 E. Patrick St.)
- Saturday: July 14, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Thurmont Library (76 E. Moser Road, Thurmont)
- Friday: July 20, 10:00-11:15 a.m., Literacy Council Office



Congratulations to some of our newest tutors!

Tutor Training Workshops:

- Saturdays: September 15 & 22, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Frederick*
- Saturdays: September 29 & October 6, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Boonsboro*

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

COMING SOON THIS SUMMER: Parent and Child Beginning English Conversation Class & Playgroup, Book Club

- Parent and Child Beginning English Conversation Class and Playgroup*** (in collaboration with FCPL) - August 1, 8, 15, 22 - Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 p.m. Held at C. Burr Artz Library
- Book Club - June 27, July 11, 18, and 25th - Wednesdays 1:00 -2:00 p.m. (at the Literacy Council Classroom)

Contact the Literacy Council office at (301) 600-2066 or Diana Halleman at staff@frederickliteracy.org for more information about eligibility, availability and registration. Space is limited.



2018 Scrabble Mania for Literacy - Thank YOU!!

OFFICE HOURS:

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

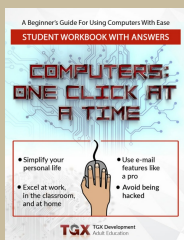
Closed Saturdays &
Sundays

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

Tutor & Student
Resources Available:



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



 **ProLiteracy**
www.proliteracy.org

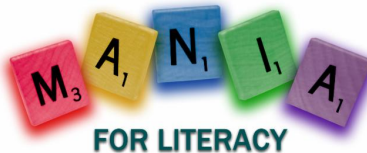
For our tutors and adult learners - check out the latest resources and literacy facts!

[May Network News](#)

ProLiteracy's Spring 2018
[Notebook](#) available -
Resources for the Adult
Educator

Your Contribution is
Our Community's Future

SCRABBLE®



*Congratulations to our
winning teams!*



First Place!!

Second Place!!

Thank You to Our Sponsors!!

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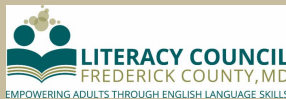
Consider supporting
a cause that is
important to you
with
a planned gift.



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](#).



Frederick County
Combined Charities
Campaign

The Literacy Council
participates in the
Combined Charities
Campaign for Frederick
County Government, the
City of Frederick
Frederick County Public
Schools.

*Thank you for
your support!*



THANK YOU FOR MAKING
A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT
TODAY!

 **DONATION**

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Our many Silent Auction Donors

Tutor In-Service: "Using Children's Literature with Adult Students"



On December 6, 2017 Holly Bohman and Catherine Coundjeris presented a tutor in-service on using Children's Literature with Adult Students.

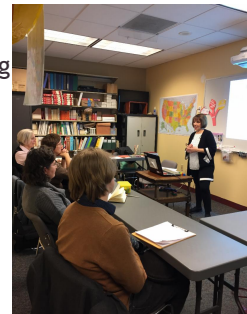
The reasons for employing children's literature ranged from experiencing lighthearted fun to being exposed to rich language not heard in daily speech. Understanding cultural identities and appreciating cultural references in context were also discussed.

Criteria were given on choosing effective literature for individual students. A wide range of picture book genres were examined with activities and strategies offered for tutors to use with their students who could then explore deeper understanding and comprehension of a variety of texts. A detailed book list was also provided.

For more information, please contact Holly Bohman at hbohman@frederickliteracy.org or Catherine Coundjeris at ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org

Tutor In-Service: "Engaging with Manipulatives"

On Wednesday April 11, volunteer tutor and career teacher, Helen Noonan, demonstrated how to use manipulative objects to reach students who are learning to read or who are learning English language skills. Many of these manipulatives were teacher-made and previously utilized by Helen for her students' benefit. These included word wheels and word slides, interactive timelines, and many types of word puzzles. Tutors who attended this in-service learned the importance of adding the kinesthetic learning modality into their lessons.



Simple additions like taking a walk with students or having students physically tap syllables on fingers or on forearms add to their learning experience.

Helen taught the group how to construct materials which students physically manipulate thereby assisting in the learning process. Tutors also participated in a make and take opportunity.

A demonstration of these manipulatives is now on display at the Literacy Council Office, along with samples and instructions for tutors!

Donations can be made
[online here](#) or
mailed to:

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

Your generous
contribution 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

Help Support Our Classic Literature Project!!

Earlier this year we launched a new project for our ESL and Basic Literacy students who are at a higher level and would like to do additional work to improve their English and reading.

We are seeking donations of literature books at the ninth grade reading level or above such as the classics:

Farewell to Arms,
East of Eden,
Grapes of Wrath,
Les Miserables,
The Great Gatsby, and
A Moveable Feast, among others.



More current works of art such as

The Kite Runner,
The Distance Between Us,
Lovely Bones,
The Book of Unknown Americans,
The House on Mango Street,
The Hunger Games,
Divergent,
The Giver and
The Island of the Blue Dolphin would be most welcome.

We are also taking suggestions for additional book titles!

A Lesson Plan will accompany each text, and students will be able to check out the book with the lesson plan and do a self-guided study. Eventually a book club can emerge from this group of students. Also, let us know if anyone is interested in leading a book discussion with the student body. Contact Catherine Coundjeris, ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

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.

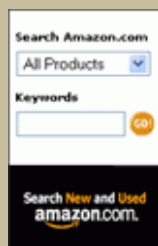
**ADULT
LITERACY CAN
CHANGE
EVERYTHING**

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.

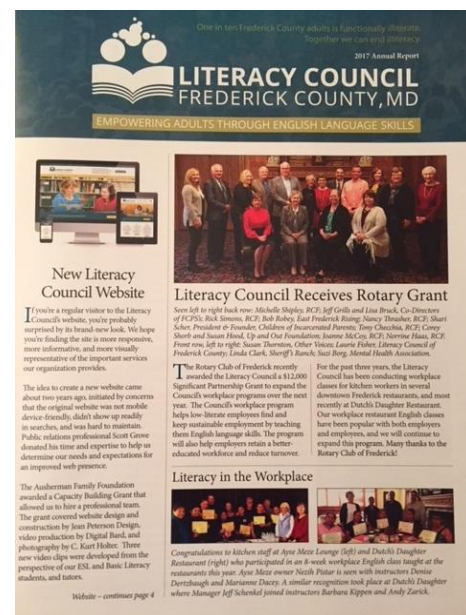
To help the Literacy Council, you need only use this link



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!

We invite you to review our [2017 Annual Report](#) which can be viewed on our website.

If you are interested in receiving a copy by mail, please contact the Literacy Council Office at info@frederickliteracy.org.



Grants Awarded This Year Thank you!!

**Ausherman Family Foundation
Delaplaine Foundation
Frederick County Community Partnership
Helen J. Serini Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
ProLiteracy - National Book Fund
Rotary Club of Carroll Creek
Rotary Club of Frederick
State Farm Companies Foundation Good Neighbor
United Way of Frederick County
Unity Campaign for Frederick County
William E. Cross Foundation
Women's Giving Circle**

Endow Maryland: Maryland Tax Incentives

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

In 2018 donors making gifts through The Community Foundation of Frederick County will receive a 25 percent Maryland tax credit for gifts of between \$500 and up to \$50,000 in addition to the Federal charitable deductions allowed for the gift. To learn more, call the [Community Foundation](#) 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.