

Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

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International Literacy Day Adult Education & Family Literacy Week

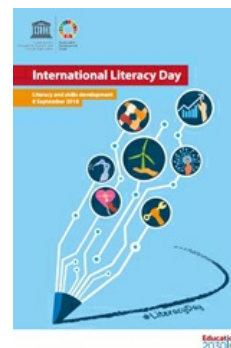
September provides us with renewed opportunities to highlight the importance of literacy and fundamental issues in our community and country.

International Literacy Day (September 8), Adult Education and Family Literacy week (September 23-29) and our own Unity Campaign for Frederick County (Sept. 11-23) help us to think globally and act locally.

International Literacy Day will be celebrated around the world. This special day highlights integrated approaches that can support the development of literacy and skills, to improve people's lives and contribute to equitable and sustainable societies.

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week raises public awareness about the importance of adult education and family literacy. Its goal is to leverage resources that support basic education programs for the 36 million U.S. adults with low literacy skills.

You can work locally to help adults who need help learning to read and write or to speak English. Check out the multiple opportunities highlighted in this newsletter for you to get involved!



JOIN us and become a new volunteer ...

TRAIN to be a new tutor ...

REGISTER to attend a fall class ...

DONATE to the Literacy Council or the Unity Campaign

...

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THESE PROGRAMS POSSIBLE!

Join Our List



**Literacy Council
Annual Report**

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



Adult Education & Family Literacy Week

National-coalition-literacy.org

LITERACY COUNCIL Board of Directors 2018-2019

Catherine Cox, Ph.D.
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Caroline Gaver
Board Member-Emeritus

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Secretary

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Director

Darrell Batson
Director

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Director

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Director

April Lee
Director

Beth Lowe
Director

Karen Richey
Director

Niki Thrash
Director

Hon. John Tisdale
Director

Geordie Wilson
Director

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!!

*Please join us in welcoming our four new members to the
Literacy Council's Board of Directors!*



*Darrell Batson (upper left),
Carmen Hernandez, M.D. (upper right)*

Karen Richey (lower left) and Niki Thrash (lower right)



LITERACY COUNCIL

Office Staff

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

Volunteer Office

Unity Campaign for Frederick County
Help us reach our goal of \$20,000 this year!!

*The Literacy Council is
proud to participate in
the Unity Campaign for
Frederick County!*



Unity Campaign

POWERED BY UNITED WAY OF FREDERICK COUNTY

The Unity Campaign supports the more than one in three households in

Staff

Lisa Myers, Treasurer
Doris Vierbuchen,
Assist. Treasurer
Linda Crough
Rosibel De Cano
Julie Katsirubas
Sarah Matthews

Volunteer Coordinators:

Lynn Bruton
*Basic Literacy Program
Coordinator*

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

Freida Pryor
Materials Coordinator

Caroline Gaver
*Tutor Training
Workshops Coordinator*

Frederick County that struggle to afford basic human necessities. 31 nonprofit partners and sponsors are working together to support our most vulnerable neighbors.

Please consider donating to the Literacy Council through the Unity Campaign **September 11 through 23**. 100% of your contribution will come directly to support our adult literacy programs. During the Campaign your gift will be augmented by the Campaign's Incentive Match Sponsors. (We are so grateful to them!)

Online contributions to the Literacy Council can be made [HERE](#)

You can also send your donation by mail by downloading and printing this [pledge sheet](#).

*Thank you for helping us to reach
our goal of \$20,000!*

Fall Class Schedule: Civics, Computer, Conversation, Health, Pronunciation & Writing



Check our website for detailed [class descriptions](#). Download the current class schedule [HERE](#). Contact the Literacy Council office at (301) 600-2066 or staff@frederickliteracy.org for more information about eligibility, availability and registration. Space is limited. Classes are taught by Literacy Council volunteers.

Drop-In Computer Support for Students: (Literacy Council Classroom)
Mondays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (Ongoing)

Computer Class - Beyond the Basics: (Literacy Council Classroom)
Mondays 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Sept. 10 - Dec. 10)

Conversation Classes: (Literacy Council Classroom)
Mondays: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Oct. 1 - Nov. 19) (Beginner)
Tuesdays (1st & 3rd): 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Sept. 18 - Dec. 4) (Student-Led)
Wednesdays: 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. (Sept. 12 - Nov. 28) (Advanced)
Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (Sept. 13 - Dec. 6, no class 2nd Thurs. of each month) (Intermediate-Advanced)

Tuesdays: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Sept. 11 - Nov. 6) (Beginner) (Computer Lab at C. Burr Artz Library)

Tuesdays: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. (Runs continuously, all adult ages welcome) (Urbana Senior Center, 9020 Amelung St.)

Wednesdays: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (Sept. 5 - Nov. 14) (Urbana Regional Library, 9020 Amelung St.) (register through library)

ESL Civics Class: (Literacy Council Classroom)
Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Sept. 20 - Nov. 8) No class on 10/25

Health Literacy Class: (Frederick Memorial Hospital)
Wednesdays: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Oct. 10 - Nov. 14)

Pronunciation Classes: (Literacy Council Classroom)
Tuesdays: 2:15 - 3:15 p.m. (Sept. 11 - Oct. 30) (Beginning)
Thursdays: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. (Sept. 13 - Nov. 1) (Advanced)

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.*

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!



Writing Classes: (Literacy Council Classroom)

Writing 1: Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

(Sept. 18 - Dec. 4)

Writing 2: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Sept. 19 - Dec. 5)

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.

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.)

Become a Literacy Council Volunteer!!

Tutor Information Sessions:

- Friday: September 7, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.,
Literacy Council Office - 110 E. Patrick St.)
- Saturday: September 22, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.,
Trust Conference Room, C. Burr Artz
Library)



*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.

Learn more [HERE](#) and [REGISTER](#) today!!

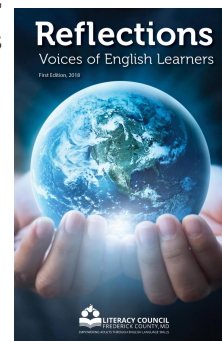
Reflections - Voices of English Learners The Literacy Council's new Literary Magazine

Reflections - Voices of English Learners is the first student Literary Magazine of the Literacy Council of Frederick County and will debut in September. Its genesis came from Catherine Coundjeris' Writing Classes and provides an opportunity for students to produce authentic and important work where their voices can be heard by a larger audience.

Volunteer tutor Julie Heifetz joined Catherine to co-author the publication and helped to recruit graphic artist, Betsy Maymon, who generously donated her skills. We now have over thirty contributors with the support of our tutors.

With the support of the Board of Directors, the Council plans to produce a yearly magazine. So, students please start thinking about submitting your work for the next one! You can begin by signing up for Writing 1 (starting Tuesday, September 18, 2018 9:30 to 11:00 or Writing 2 starting Wednesday, September 19, from 11:30 to 1:00).

Thank you to Curious Iguana Bookstore for hosting a "launch event" on Tuesday, September 25. For more information, contact Catherine at ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org.



Fifth Annual Celebration of Achievements - Congratulations to our Students & Volunteers!

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

[June Network News](#)

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

Your Contribution is Our Community's Future

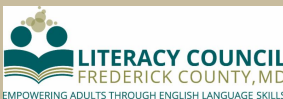
Consider supporting a cause that is important to you with a planned gift.



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

On June 11th, the Literacy Council celebrated the accomplishments of its adult learners and the service of its volunteers.

Celebration of Achievements

June 11, 2018

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner opened the evening by thanking the Literacy Council for its 55 years of service to the community and declaring June 11 "Literacy Council of Frederick County Day," stating, "On behalf of the citizens of Frederick County, I join the Literacy Council in celebrating 55 years of providing educational services to adult learners and ensuring a bright future for our county."



Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner

Frederick County Bank, sponsor of the event, and Leidos Biomedical Research were awarded the Council's Business & Industry Partners in Literacy Award for their ongoing support.



Linda Roth, Marty Lapera and Cathy Alexander accept the Business & Industry Partners In Literacy Award on behalf of Frederick County Bank

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

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



Frank Blanchard accepts the Business & Industry Partners in Literacy Award on behalf of Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc.

Congratulations to our Students & Volunteers!!

Students received awards for multiple achievements during the past year, such as becoming U.S. citizens, passing the test for a Maryland driver's license, volunteering in a school or other community organization, improving English language skills in order to obtain a better job, completing a writing or conversation class, or attaining a higher reading level.



Certificates were also presented to the following volunteers for contributing many hours of service to our adult learners:

100: Betty Bennett, Laura Bennett, Holly Bohman, Julie Katsirubas, Mary Kitsos, Niev Lindbloom, Ron Lindstrom, Elaine Luttrell, Patrick McLister, Jean Miller, Karen Nagy, Lavonne Randonovich, Margo Smariga, Chris Smith, Meg VanLent, Beth Zang

200: Richard "Ric" Adams, Walter Bell, George Faini, James French, Gus Guglielmo, Julie Heifetz, Paul Jenkins, Katherine McCullum, Nicholas Monnet, Margaret Perry, Joyce Routzahn *, Jennifer Smith, Patricia Wynne

300: Stephanie Finamore, Richard Haney, Valerie Jean, Andrea Kane, Scott Kiser, Stephanie Parchment, Theresa Smith

500: George Conly, Margaret Convey, James Grissom, Beth Lowe, Sarah Matthews

600: Rene Ferretti, Maria Kitch 700: Irene Romersa

900: Linda Crough 1100: Kathy Fay 1300: Lisa Myers, Doris Vierbuchen

1400: Catherine Cox 1500: Jeff Trewhitt 1700: Martin Cole

1900: Marianne Dacey 2000: Catherine Coundjeris 5000: Hours: Denise Dertzbaugh 9300: Freida Pryor

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.

**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

20 Years: Kate Bufter 29 Years: Elizabeth Derr 34 Years: Elizabeth (Liz) Brady
38 Years: Joyce Routzahn 43 Years: Caroline Gaver

*Certificates that were not picked up that evening
can be collected at the office!*

Thank you to our event sponsor!

FCB
FREDERICK
COUNTY BANK

Elizabeth H. Seligmann Award Presented to Volunteer Marianne Dacey

On June 11, at the 5th annual Celebration of Achievements, Marianne Dacey was honored with the Elizabeth H. Seligmann Award.

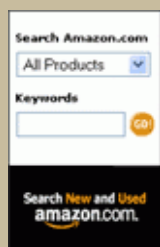
The Literacy Council established this award in honor of Betty Seligmann, who served the Council in various capacities for 33 years. It is to be awarded for sustained and significant contributions that, like Betty's further the goals and objectives of the Literacy Council.

Marianne began volunteering with the Literacy Council in 2003, when she completed tutor training. In addition to tutoring, she almost immediately became a member of the tutor training team. An invaluable resource and mainstay of the team, she shares her extensive knowledge as a reading specialist and an adult ESL instructor.

Over the past 15 years, Marianne has tutored many students and helped to train other tutors. She partnered with Denise Dertzbaugh, to design and instruct the Literacy Council's Restaurant English classes for kitchen workers at downtown Frederick restaurants and Dutch's Daughter.

This spring, Marianne designed and instructed a new Civics class which will be offered again this fall. This 10-week class included field trips to Carroll Creek Linear Park's Community Bridge; C.Burr Artz Public Library and the Maryland Room; The Statue of John Hanson; City Hall (with a special visit by Mayor Michael O'Connor); The Visitor Center; Backstage tour of the Weinberg Center for the Arts; and The Civil War Museum of Medicine.

Congratulations Marianne!!!



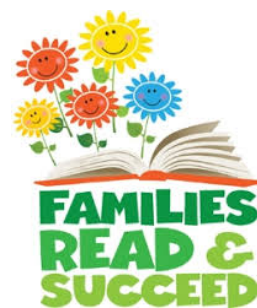
to get to the Council's Amazon page when you want to do your online shopping. The rest is automatic and painless! Thanks for supporting us!



Literacy Council & Library Outreach: Summer Parent/Child English Class & Playgroup

Together with the Children's Services librarians at the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick, Literacy Council tutors led an innovative conversation class for adult English language learners. The pilot class met on four Wednesday sessions in the community room at the library. The children's librarian introduced and read a children's book, provided age appropriate activities for the children ages 0-5, and supervised the children while the caregivers were able to participate in a conversation circle with other adults.

This class and playgroup was held in the same room to keep parent and child in the same space. It is our hope to offer another series of classes with the library at a later date. Many thanks to ESL Program Coordinator Holly Bohman for coordinating this class, tutors David Allerton and Vanda Yamakenko, and our library team members Beth Heltebridle and Philip McCarty!



Summer Book Club Success!!

We had a fine turn-out of tutors and students for our summer Book Club! The group met four times in July and August. Selections included Reyna Grande's *The Distance Between Us* and Ying Chang Compestine's *Revolution is Not a Dinner Party*. Lively discussions were held about the elements of storytelling as well as the political connections seen in the world around us and how these authors tackled many subjects in their memoirs.



Enthusiasm was high and the group even branched out and added a book: *Red Scarf Girl* by Ji-Li Jiang to compare with Compestine's work. Feedback was very positive and we are planning another Book Club soon. Please share any suggestions for future books with Catherine Coundjeris at ccoundjeris@frederickliteracy.org.

Many thanks to the wonderful team at **Curious Iguana Booksellers** for helping to secure the books and the **Women's Giving Circle** for grant funding for teaching and learning resources.

REVIEW OF ESL SERIES - ENGLISH - NO PROBLEM

This 5 level adult ESL series is an excellent supplement for the Laubach series for students who have some English language basics. Students build

language and life skills, develop critical thinking skills, and increase cultural awareness. Four themes across each book include home, school, work, and community. The graphics relate to each lesson and are very well done. They are an invaluable addition to this series. Each level consists of:

- Student Text Book with accompanying audio CD
- Student Workbook- matches each lesson and can be used for homework and/or review
- Teacher's Guide
- Student placement test using Casas Correlation
- Reproducible Masters for lessons
- Vocabulary cards
- Free downloads from New Readers Press

First level is titled "Literacy" and is used for non-speakers or low beginners. As the student finishes each book and passes the evaluation test, they move up through Levels 1,2,3 and 4 which is for high intermediate learners.

Key instructional practices embodied in ENP reflect current "best practices" and understanding of what is most effective with adult learners , research in second language acquisition, and the instructional standards currently most prominent in the field.

The following pedagogical approaches address the stated needs of learners and teachers supported by a rich body of research.

- Interactive. Opportunities for students to talk and listen, read, write, and reflect through problem-solving exercises, role playing and other activities which require them to apply what they are learning.
- Communicative. One of the targets of learning a language is communication, not just the objective of study.
- Problem-posing and Problem-solving. Learning is centered on issues that are interesting and meaningful to learners; a strong point for this series.
- Encouraging Cultural Literacy. Learning about U.S. culture with small talk so students can participate in their community with confidence. Excellent opportunities in this series.

All the books and materials are on the LCFC bookshelves. Please look them over and give the series a try. I highly recommend it!

Freida Pryor, Materials Coordinator

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE ROUTZAHN & ELIZABETH DERR

The Literacy Council recently lost two wonderful volunteers, Elizabeth Derr and Joyce Routzahn who passed away earlier this summer.

Long-time Literacy Council volunteer and all-around remarkable woman Joyce Routzahn died on June 13, 2018, at the age of 88.

Joyce began volunteering with the Literacy Council in 1976, after becoming certified as a tutor. She was an elementary school teacher who tutored many children as well as our Literacy Council adult students - she often worked with as many as six adults simultaneously. Over the years she tutored more students than she could count and was still tutoring a student as recently as December. She was respectful of each one, very patient, and was devoted to helping them all. She tutored students at all levels, but she had a special gift for working with the developmentally disabled.



Soon after beginning with the Council, she became a tutor trainer, helping to train hundreds of new tutors until finally retiring from training, but not from tutoring and promoting literacy, at the age of 80. She said that when she hit that milestone, she thought it was time to stop. Not only did she train here in Frederick County but in surrounding areas as well. She regularly helped in Hagerstown, and she and Betty Seligmann made many

overnight trips to Pennsylvania, Virginia and the far western counties of Maryland to conduct 2-day weekend workshops for councils that had no trainers.

Elizabeth Derr passed away on July 14, 2018. Elizabeth volunteered for the Literacy Council continuously since she began as an office staffer in 1988 until reluctantly retiring, at the age of 88, in 2016. She became a tutor in 1989 and worked with several students. Soon after, she became the Supplies Chairman, responsible for keeping track of and ordering all of our supplies and teaching materials, a collection of over 5,000 items used by our 1300+ tutors and 260+ students, a job she did until retiring.

Elizabeth's service was special not only because of the length of time, 28 years, but because of the quality of her work. You could count on her to be there every week for her shift and to know how to handle whatever was needed. She was the go-to person for anything you needed to know about the office, and she was the one who could find what you were looking for, from a book to a paper in the file cabinet. She kept track of our books and supplies and reminded us of upcoming needs. She tracked down sources of tutoring materials, finding the best deals on them, and kept them all organized. She made it much easier for all the rest of us to do our work.



Both Joyce and Elizabeth were recipients of the Council's highest honor, the Elizabeth H. Seligmann Award, which is given only occasionally, for sustained and significant contributions furthering the goals and objectives of the Literacy Council, consisting of outreach to others and reflecting distinctive qualities.

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 Community Impact Partner
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.