



LITERACY COUNCIL
FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

Literacy *lifts* Lives

Summer 2022 Issue

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Building Connections: Parent Literacy Program

In collaboration with the Judy Center, an organization connecting students and their families to educational resources, the Literacy Council works with parents to help them build English language skills that will support their children’s education. Weekly English classes for parents are offered at Butterfly Ridge and Waverley Elementary Schools.

Bringing a free English conversation class to parents at their children’s school can eliminate common barriers including limited financial resources, lack of transportation, and navigating an unknown space to gain education. These classes were well received by the staff and participating parents and there is hope to continue during the next school year.

In addition, community outreach events, back to school night events, parent/child playgroups, and food drives all provide new ways to connect parents to the resources they need to support their children.

Lynn Bruton, Literacy Council Volunteer Instructor, shared feedback from the Waverley class, saying, “Parents stated that their chief aim in learning English was to become an advocate for their children at school, and to be able to take on a more significant role in contributing to the school and the larger community. They also serve as role models for their own children, demonstrating the important principle of lifelong learning. The parents quickly formed new friendships and enjoyed improving their English, as well as sharing stories and experiences with their new classmates.”

It involved—the school, the agencies, and especially the parents—are looking forward to starting another successful session this fall.



Refugee Welcoming Committee of Frederick

Refugee Welcoming Committee of Frederick and Literacy Council To Support Resettled Afghan Adults

The Literacy Council is working with the newly formed Refugee Welcoming Committee of Frederick by recruiting, training, and matching volunteer tutors with Afghan families who are resettling in Frederick County. Local churches have referred volunteers to the Literacy Council to participate in the organization’s tutor training workshops. Volunteer tutors are always needed for students of all backgrounds.

Help Us Welcome Our Newest Team Member

We are excited to welcome Maggie Clingman as a part-time Development Coordinator! Maggie will be coordinating the Council’s development work with the Development-Marketing-Communications Committee and Executive Director.



PICTURED

Plamondon Hospitality Partners associates receive recognition for completing the Spring 2022 session of workplace classes.



Workplace Program Expands for Hospitality Associates

Hospitality associates from five Frederick hotels participate in weekly classes as part of the ongoing collaboration between Plamondon Hospitality Partners (PHP) and the Literacy Council. This spring, a third class was added to reach even more PHP employees.

In addition, two weekly classes for ProList employees who work in manufacturing and assembly roles were conducted this past year. The Literacy Council continues to explore interest from other employers in a wide range of sectors. Reaching employees directly at the job site increases accessibility for learning opportunities.

Tutoring Program

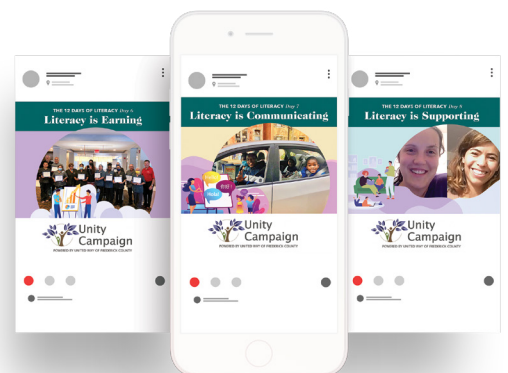
Over 100 Literacy Council volunteer tutors are working, often behind the scenes, to meet weekly with adult learners individually or in small groups, both in person and virtually. The challenges of the past two years have led everyone to adapt to new ways to connect.

Four volunteer Basic Literacy and ESL Coordinators are instrumental in matching tutors and students together, providing guidance and serving as a huge source of support. Tutor Trainers and staff worked closely together this past year to increase the frequency of Volunteer Information Sessions and Tutor Training Workshops, while simultaneously integrating participant feedback to strengthen the process and enhance available learning resources.

Unity Campaign, 12 Days of Literacy

The Unity Campaign, held in March, raised critical funds for essential services in Frederick County through a community-wide platform for the local nonprofit community.

The “12 Days of Literacy” helped to connect literacy as a critical skill for family survival.



Reflections Literary Magazine Publishes 4th Edition

"I believe that we all love the Literacy Council because it allows us to achieve our dreams, no matter the size of the dream."— Silvia M.

The fourth edition of Reflections: Voices of English Learners literary magazine debuted in January, featuring nine of the 25 authors reading their work to an audience of fellow authors, volunteer tutors, Board Members, and Reflections sponsors.

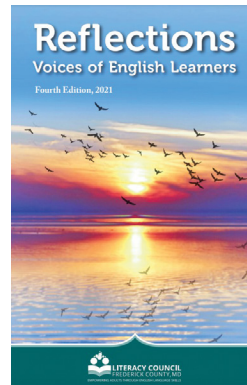
Darrell Batson, Board President, recognized the significant accomplishments of the student contributors to this inspiring publication.

"I am always surprised by the students who want to share these heartfelt memories which can be so emotional. These students are truly brave human beings in every sense of the word," said Holly Bohman, ESL Coordinator.

"We shared our stories, some of our precious memories, our journey on learning English, and other topics in a brave and honest attitude," said author Jacqueline B.

All four editions of Reflections can be viewed at: <https://www.frederickliteracy.org/about-us/what-we-do/reflections-magazine/>

Thank you to our Reflections sponsors: Curious Iguana, Catherine Cox and Charles Murray, and Jane and John Ketchem.



PICTURED ABOVE

Student authors share their stories with an audience of tutors, Board Members, and staff.

PICTURED LEFT

Reflections: Voices of English Learners, Fourth Edition, 2021 cover art.

Volunteers Honored at Appreciation Events and Presentation of Highest Volunteer Award

The Literacy Council's entrance was transformed into a curbside celebration to thank volunteers who have donated their time over the past two years by working as tutors and class instructors to support adult learners and their families.

Doris Vierbuchen received the Council's highest volunteer honor, the Elizabeth H. Seligmann Award, in a surprise occasion witnessed by her family members who were secretly waiting outside. This award recognizes volunteers who have made sustained and significant contributions to the goals and objectives of the Literacy Council.



PICTURED

Doris Vierbuchen, joined by her family and Executive Director Laurie Fisher, receives the Elizabeth H. Seligmann Award.



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Scrabble®



FOR LITERACY

Scrabble Mania for Literacy launched on April 27 at a new location at Olde Mother Brewing Company!

After two years, it was exciting to be back in person again for Scrabble's annual event and our second with Game Master Chris Sparks from SurelockedIn Escape Games! Sixteen teams competed in a fast-paced word play "Scrabble with a twist"! Congratulations to our winning teams!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & OUR AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS!

Caroline Gaver
Literacy Council Board
Member Emeritus
& Joel Gaver



PLAMONDON HOSPITALITY PARTNERS

Celebrating 25 years of service



The Frederick News-Post



Sharon Jacko, Lt. Col., USMC (Ret.)
Literacy Council Board Member